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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 12th day of May 2021,

It was a bittersweet moment for many of us Tuesday morning when a News Alert appeared on our computer and mobile screens from The Washington Post with the headline: **Sally Buzbee of the Associated Press named executive editor of The Washington Post, the first woman to lead the newsroom.**

Buzbee has been the AP's executive editor since 2017, rising to the top position in News after beginning her career 30 years earlier as a legislative relief newswoman in the Topeka bureau, working with Correspondent **Lew Ferguson** and the fulltime Topeka staff. (Back in that era, most statehouse bureaus were allowed to add what were called relief positions to augment staff during a legislative

session. Those positions often were a springboard to a fulltime AP position.)

Topeka was the springboard for **Sally Streff Buzbee** – who was hired into the Kansas City bureau in 1988 after graduating from the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas where the late **Tom Eblen** recommended her to me for AP consideration. I had the privilege as Kansas City bureau chief to hire her into both the TK and KX positions. From Kansas City, after she and her husband **John Buzbee** took time away to back-pack internationally, she returned to AP in Los Angeles and San Diego, under Chief of Bureau **Andy Lippman**, and was on her way from there.



When AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** and COO **Daisy Veerasingham** followed the Post announcement with a note to staff, their statement echoed what many of us thought, that “Sally’s departure is, of course, bittersweet for the AP. We are sorry to see her go. At the same time, we are happy for her as she takes this next step in her career. We know Sally will do an excellent job at the Post and look forward to seeing her succeed there.”

It takes a village, so they say, and there were many along the way who were integral in the career and development of this fine woman, whose mettle was tested in each of her AP jobs but nothing that challenged her inner strength like the illness and death of her husband John in 2016, leaving her with the challenge of raising their two daughters, Emma and Meg, while directing the most important news bureau in Washington. (Want to know more about John and the kind of man he was? Click [here](#).)

Join me in wishing her the best. And if you’re a fellow Jayhawk, or not, a Rock Chalk Jayhawk salute to Sally. We would welcome your favorite memories of working with her.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP’s Sally Buzbee named exec editor of The Washington Post



Associated Press Executive Editor Sally Buzbee and other staff members gather to celebrate at AP headquarters in New York, Monday, April 15, 2019. A team of three Associated Press journalists won a Pulitzer Prize in international reporting for their work documenting torture, graft and starvation in Yemen's brutal civil war. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Reenergized under owner Jeff Bezos, The Washington Post named Associated Press veteran Sally Buzbee as its executive editor Tuesday, making her the first woman in the paper's 144-year history to lead the newsroom.

She succeeds the retired Marty Baron in one of the most celebrated jobs in journalism, the same role held by the legendary Ben Bradlee when the Post helped break the Watergate scandal in the 1970s.

Buzbee, 55, has been with the AP since 1988 in jobs that included Washington bureau chief, and has been its senior vice president and executive editor since 2017.

The Post, bought from the Graham family by Amazon's Bezos in 2013, employs 1,000 journalists in 26 locations around the world, up from 12 places in 2013. Under Baron, who took over in 2013, it won 10 Pulitzer Prizes and was recognized for its hard-hitting coverage of Donald Trump.

In an interview, Buzbee stressed her commitment to diversity and to telling stories in a compelling way across many formats.

"The challenge of journalism everywhere is to meet audiences where they are and make our journalism as accessible and sharp and transparent as possible," she said.

“The Post has an extraordinary team that is in many ways on the cutting edge of figuring out how to do this.”

Fred Ryan, the Post’s publisher and CEO, pointed to her achievements and experience in leading a global news organization.

“In an extensive search that included many of the best journalists in America, Sally stood out as the right person to lead the Post going forward,” Ryan said. “She is widely admired for her absolute integrity, boundless energy and dedication to the essential role journalism plays in safeguarding our democracy.”

Buzbee flew under the radar in the much-watched search for Baron’s successor. In some ways that’s due to the AP’s standing in the business, both ubiquitous and somewhat invisible, since it sells its journalism to thousands of outlets that use it on their websites, front pages and broadcasts.

Yet with its 250 bureaus around the world and robust operations in video, text, audio and photography, running the AP is one of journalism’s most complex jobs.

Buzbee directed AP’s journalism through the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump’s presidency, the #MeToo movement, Brexit and protests over racial injustice. She emphasized breaking news in all formats and deepened the AP’s enterprise and investigative efforts.

Under her leadership, the AP won Pulitzer Prizes in feature photography and international reporting, and had six other Pulitzer finalists.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for The Washington Post AP story.

Click [here](#) for The New York Times story.

Click [here](#) for Poynter.org story.

A note to staff

‘Sally’s departure...bittersweet for the AP’; search for replacement begins

Gary Pruitt, President and CEO and Daisy Veerasingham, COO

The Associated Press

Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Sally Buzbee will leave AP at the end of the month to become executive editor and vice president of The Washington Post.

Sally has done an exceptional job leading AP’s news department since January 2017, directing our global news report throughout the Trump administration, the #MeToo

movement, Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, protests over racial injustice and the 2020 U.S. election.

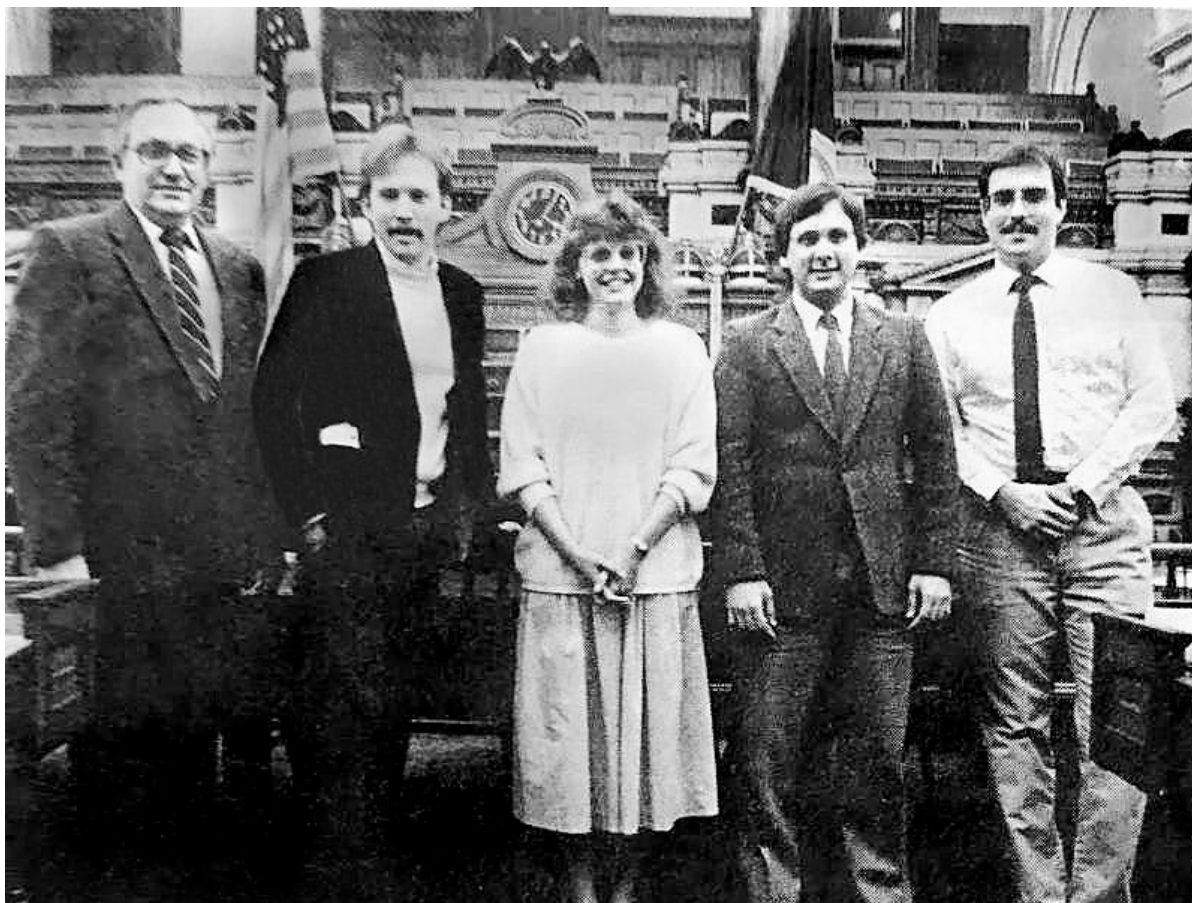
Sally's departure is, of course, bittersweet for the AP. We are sorry to see her go. At the same time, we are happy for her as she takes this next step in her career. We know Sally will do an excellent job at the Post and look forward to seeing her succeed there.

The search for Sally's replacement begins immediately. The AP executive editor position is one of the outstanding jobs in journalism, guiding our news report and journalists from nearly 250 locations in 100 countries.

We will conduct a robust search for the best person to lead AP's global news operations and coverage. Internal and external candidates will be considered. We expect the process to take a few months.

Two weeks ago, News announced management changes that realigned responsibilities under two managing editors. Until we select a new executive editor, Vice President and Managing Editor Brian Carovillano will lead our news report and Vice President and Managing Editor for Operations David Scott will handle news operations. Both will report to COO Daisy Veerasingham.

Lew Ferguson would be proud...



Sally Buzbee as a legislative relief staffer in the Topeka AP bureau in 1987, flanked by, from left: Correspondent Lew Ferguson, newsman Bill Vogrin, Sally, newsman John

Hanna and newsman Steve Robrahn. Hanna is now the Topeka correspondent, a position he has held for the past 22 years. Ferguson died in 2017.

Bill Vogrin (Email) - I have no doubt Lew Ferguson would be enormously proud of the announcement that Sally Streff Buzbee is the new executive editor of the Washington Post.

Sally was one of about 50 young writers who came under Lew's wing in the Topeka bureau and went on to great achievements in journalism. He liked to call the Topeka bureau his "finishing school" for young reporters.

Sally joined Lew, Steve Robrahn, John Hanna and me for the 1987 legislative session. There were five of us working in a cramped Statehouse office that we shared with the Topeka Capital-Journal team.

The Topeka AP bureau was a pressure-cooker during legislative sessions. But Sally was unfazed. In fact, she thrived, shrugging off the constant deadline pressures of the wire, the head-to-head competition with UPI and the rest of the thriving Topeka press corps and the over-amped male egos that surrounded her. (I plead guilty, as charged.)

I recall being impressed at Sally's intellect, her reporting skills and her composure as a college student. It was not easy to walk into that office with Lew, Steve, John and I wolfing at each other and at other reporters, lawmakers and lobbyists who dared walk in the door. She more than held her own.

Beyond all that, I remember her quick smile and her laugh. I'm proud, too, of all she has achieved.

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Henry Bradsher (Email) - When Sally Buzbee begins editing The Washington Post, let's hope she'll get the paper to begin identifying AP the proper way. It has always lower-cased the "The" of Associated Press.

Primary Lateral Sclerosis won't keep Dana Raker from covering her hometown

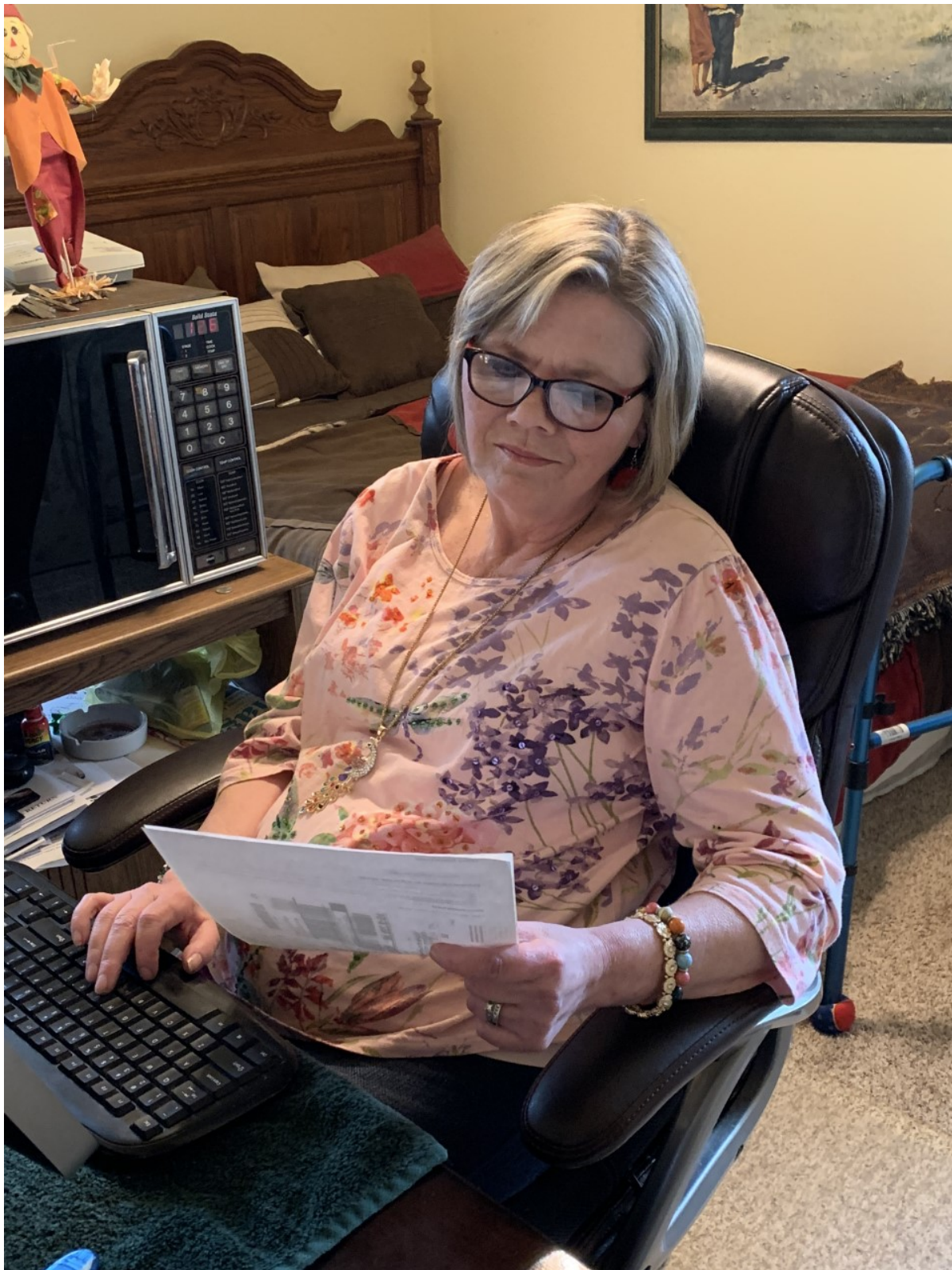


Photo by John Roberts

**By Matthew Barba
Missouri Press News**

As a profession, journalism has always attracted the passionate and tenacious, those who refuse to throw in the towel even when the odds (and the powerful) are against

them. But what do you do when the thing opposing you is yourself, or at least your own body?

Dana Raker is the editor of the Holden (Mo.) Image, where she has worked for the last 18 years. For half of that time, she has also contended with primary lateral sclerosis (PLS), a motor neuron disease that has often left her feeling down but never defeated.

"I was diagnosed with Primary Lateral Sclerosis nine years ago, in 2012. It is a neuromuscular disease that's very similar to [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis], except it doesn't have the certain death sentence that ALS carries. People can live many years with PLS, gradually losing motor functions over time," Raker said.



According to The Mayo Clinic, because ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, and PLS are both progressive motor neuron diseases, the latter is often mistaken for the former, which is much more common.

"It is a progressive disease, and some people progress slowly while others go downhill more rapidly," Raker said. "It is a very rare disease, and some of my doctors say mine is the only case they will see in their careers."

Read more [here](#). Dana Raker's email is - holdenimage@embarqmail.com

Retirement party honors Orlin Wagner



Kansas City photographer Orlin Wagner was honored Tuesday night by friends and colleagues to celebrate his 23 years with the AP. He retired recently after 53 total years in photojournalism.

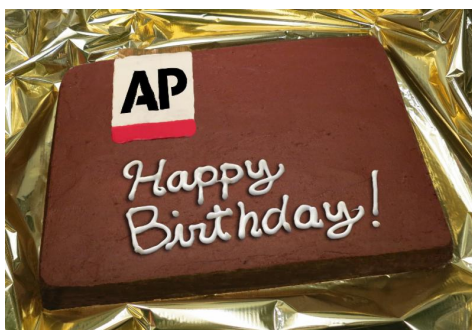
His colleague Charlie Riedel and Charlie's wife Denise hosted the gathering.

Orlin is shown with a gift from the group in his right hand, an NC2000e (combo of Nikon and Kodak) that was the earliest AP digital camera, and his own Sony A1 camera in his left hand (similar to Sony cameras now used by AP staff).

His email address is – orlinwagner@gmail.com



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Kristen Hare – kmhare46@knology.net

Welcome to Connecting



Ted Mendelsohn - mendelsohnt49@gmail.com

Dana Raker - holdenimage@embarqmail.com

Stories of interest

Sally Buzbee Can Do What Her Male Predecessors Never Figured Out (Politico)

By JACK SHAFER

Jack Shafer is Politico's senior media writer.

Thanks to Jeff Bezos' bottomless pockets and former Executive Editor Marty Baron's atavistic editorial powers, taking the top editor job at the Washington Post in the summer of 2021 is somewhat akin to stepping in as the manager of the 1928 New York Yankees. You have inherited a franchise spinning with so much positive momentum and cred that you needn't do much in the short term but activate the cruise control, tap the brakes to negotiate corners and avoid scraping the guardrails to be considered a success.

So, take care, but not so much care that people start calling you the caretaker. One reason you got the job is your relative youth: Today, you're the executive editor of the Associated Press and a youthful 55. Places like the Washington Post tend to pension off their top editors at 65, which gives you a decade to improve the paper and deserve a place in the history books alongside those of your esteemed predecessors Baron, Leonard Downie Jr. and Benjamin Bradlee. Not to get all Soviet on you, but a 10-year plan seems in order if you hope to "use the gifts the Internet gave us," as Bezos said when he bought the paper in 2013, and make the Washington Post America's top newspaper.

Read more [here](#).

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Harvard's New Media Database (Axios)

A new database from researchers at Harvard University finds that left-leaning non-profit-funded news outlets are typically more transparent about their funders than right-leaning, think-tank funded journals or newer conservative digital outlets.

Why it matters: "If journalism is about shedding light, isn't it our duty to ensure in this new digital proliferation that we understand who funds our news?" says Heidi Legg, a Research Fellow at Harvard University who helped lead the team putting together the database.

Details: The database from "The Future of Media Project" shows who owns and funds over 3,000 media properties of all shapes and sizes. in America.

Overall, the research finds that traditional media companies are consolidating nationally to survive while a new wave of digital players, often nonprofits with disparate ownership groups, are focusing more on reaching niche audiences.

The big picture: Despite confusion around who owns the media, there does seem to be a broad consensus in U.S. about which outlets are considered "mainstream," even among partisans, according to [a new study](#) from Pew Research Center.

Go deeper: [Explore the Harvard database](#).

Shared by Richard Chady.

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Journalist Launches Environmental News Collaborative (Editor & Publisher)

By Evelyn Mateos

Coverage of climate change is more important than ever, but unfortunately, resources dedicated to this reporting are limited. Enter Floodlight (floodlightnews.org), a nonprofit environmental news collaborative, that aims to expose corporate and ideological interests from spreading disinformation and holding back climate action.

Floodlight was founded by Emily Holden, an investigative environmental journalist. She most recently served as the environment correspondent for the Guardian. Last fall, Holden pitched the idea for Floodlight to the newspaper and asked them to be the national publishing partner, which it immediately supported.

"The Guardian has been so creative in ways to expand its climate coverage and always been supportive of ideas like this that I've had in the past," Holden said. "So, it made sense to bring the idea to John Mulholland (editor of Guardian US)."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 12, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2021. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On May 12, 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.

On this date:

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.

In 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey; his wife, Elizabeth, was crowned as queen consort.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered. The two-week Trident Conference, headed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, opened in Washington.

In 1955, Manhattan's last elevated rail line, the Third Avenue El, ceased operation.

In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD).

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

In 1975, the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the Mayaguez, in international waters. (U.S. Marines gained control of the ship three days after its seizure, not knowing the 39 civilian members of the crew had already been released by Cambodia.)

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who attacked Pope John Paul II. (In 2008, the pope's longtime private secretary revealed that the pontiff was slightly wounded in the assault.)

In 1997, Australian Susie Maroney became the first woman to swim from Cuba to Florida, covering the 118-mile distance in 24 1/2 hours.

In 2002, Jimmy Carter arrived in Cuba, becoming the first U.S. president in or out of office to visit since the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power.

In 2008, a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake in China's Sichuan province left more than 87,000 people dead or missing.

In 2009, five Miami men were convicted in a plot to blow up FBI buildings and Chicago's Sears Tower; one man was acquitted. Suspected Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'-yuk) was deported from the United States to Germany.

Ten years ago: CEOs of the five largest oil companies went before the Senate Finance Committee, where Democrats challenged the executives to justify tax breaks at a time when people were paying \$4 a gallon for gas. A German court convicted retired U.S. autoworker John Demjanjuk of being an accessory to the murder of tens of thousands of Jews as a Nazi death camp guard. (Demjanjuk, who maintained his innocence, died in March 2012 at age 91.)

Five years ago: A divided U.S. Supreme Court blocked the execution of an Alabama inmate so that a lower court could review claims that strokes and dementia had rendered him incompetent to understand his looming death sentence. (A federal appeals court ruled in March 2017 that Vernon Madison was incompetent, and could not be executed.)

One year ago: House Democrats unveiled a coronavirus aid package totaling more than \$3 trillion, including nearly \$1 trillion for states and cities to avert layoffs and a fresh round of direct cash aid to American households. (The measure won House approval but Senate Republicans and the White House rejected it as too costly.) Dr. Anthony Fauci warned a Senate panel that cities and states could "turn back the clock" and see more COVID-19 deaths and economic damage if they lifted stay-at-home orders too quickly. German photographer Astrid Kirchherr, who shot some of the earliest and most striking images of the Beatles and helped shape their visual style, died at age 81 in her native Hamburg.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Burt Bacharach is 93. Actor Millie Perkins is 85. R&B singer Jayotis Washington is 80. Country singer Billy Swan is 79. Actor Linda Dano is 78. Actor Lindsay Crouse is 73. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 73. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 71. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 71. Singer Billy Squier is 71. Blues singer-musician Guy Davis is 69. Country singer Kix Brooks is 66. Actor Kim Greist is 63. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 63. Actor Ving Rhames is 62. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 60. Actor Emilio Estevez is 59. Actor April Grace is 59. Actor Vanessa A. Williams is 58. TV personality/chef Carla Hall is 57. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 55. Actor Scott Schwartz is 53. Actor Kim Fields is 52. Actor Samantha Mathis is 51. Actor Jamie Luner is 50. Actor Christian Campbell is 49. Actor Rhea Seehorn is 49. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 48. Country musician Matt Mangano (The Zac Brown Band) is 45. Actor Rebecca Herbst is

44. Actor Malin (MAH'-lin) Akerman is 43. Actor Jason Biggs is 43. Actor Rami Malek (RAH'-mee MA'-lihk) is 40. Actor-singer Clare Bowen is 37. Actor Emily VanCamp is 35. Actor Malcolm David Kelley is 29. Actor Sullivan Sweeten is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual place** a story assignment took you.



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