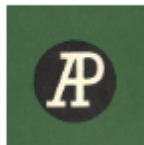


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Connecting

June 16, 2021

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MOMENT OF HISTORY: President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, arrive to meet at the 'Villa la Grange', Wednesday, June 16, 2021, in Geneva, Switzerland. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky). Click [here](#) for latest AP story.

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 16th day of June 2021,

Connecting brings you a story on the death of **Mary Pennybacker**, administrative assistant in the AP's Washington bureau who was beloved by those who worked with her for more than four decades. Our thanks to the writer, **Merrill Hartson**, who worked with Mary during his 45 years in Washington as a desk editor and supervisor.

The photo at right shows Mary in the bureau in 1990 and was shared by her friend **Margaret Callahan**, who worked with her from 1976-1984 and remained friends from then on. The two talked a week before Mary's death June 14 at a hospital, with her husband and two daughters at her side.



Two of the six Washington bureau chiefs who worked with Mary are Connecting colleagues and are quoted in Merrill's story. **Walter Mears**, longtime political writer and its CoB from 1977-1983, called her "essential to me and the bureau" and that "she made it

work." **Sandy Johnson**, CoB from 1998-2008, said Mary was "a queen bee" among administrative assistants and connected with all of them.

Thanks to those of you who shared memories of Mary, and if you'd like to contribute your own memories, please send them along.

A reminder that the third and final webinar celebrating AP's 175th anniversary, a series called "AP at 175: Conversations with History," will be held tomorrow. Its title: **AP correspondents bring home the world: Their history in their own words: Prof. Giovanna Dell'Orto in conversation with Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards John Daniszewski**. See below for signing info for the Zoom call.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Served in Washington bureau four decades **Mary Pennybacker – she of 'chipper British accent and easy laugh' – dies at 84**



AP Washington staff surprised Mary Pennybacker with a party on her 35th AP anniversary in 1996. At the time, she was administrative assistant to CoB Jon Wolman. (Photo: Scott Applewhite, courtesy of Corporate Archives)

By **Merrill Hartson** ([Email](#))

WASHINGTON - Mary Pennybacker, a problem-solving administrative assistant who served for more than 40 years for The Associated Press' bureau in Washington with "a chipper British accent and easy laugh," has died.

Pennybacker, who worked for a half dozen chiefs of bureau at the news agency's Washington office, the largest in the company's U.S.-based service outside of New

York Headquarters, expired Monday after a short hospital stay. The 84-year-old native of the United Kingdom joined the AP as a switchboard operator in 1961 but made her mark as the bureau's leading executive assistant, providing logistical backing for scores of reporters, editors, photographers, technicians and support staff.

Retired Associated Press Bureau Chief Walter R. Mears said Pennybacker "made it work."

"It would have run without me, but struggled without her," he said. "She spotted and fixed problems. She knew the people and helped with their individual problems."

For the staff, that translated to "go see Mary" if a short-notice airplane or hotel reservation fell through, or if an advance against expenses was needed. Or if just some rhetorical hand-holding or joke-telling would help.

"Mary helped me navigate my way around the bureau as a new hire here," said former economics writer Jeannine Aversa. "She took me under her wing."

Mary Rosina Pennybacker, who was born in London on March 25, 1937, was educated at The Marlborough School in Chelsea and Secondary School St. Thomas More. She came to the United States in 1957, moving to Springfield, Mass. Pennybacker was an assistant to broadcast manager Anthony Catella for a time in Washington before moving up to the chief administrative assistant job.

"The entire AP family knows that the administrative assistants were the heart and soul of the wire service," said former Washington Bureau Chief Sandy Johnson. "Mary was a queen bee in that regard, connecting with all the AAs in the system, especially with the advent of email. I recall with fondness her chipper British accent and easy laugh."

Pennybacker also presented to many in the bureau as unofficial consoler and comforter.

Mike Feinsilber, who jumped to AP after a long run at rival United Press International in Washington, said that "Mary was a friend from the first day I abandoned my territory ... and remained a helpful, good-natured friend every day thereafter."

Said retired special correspondent David Espo: "I'll never forget that laugh or her sense of humor. She was a gift to many bureau chiefs as well as us lesser beings."

Pennybacker is survived by her husband, John Pennybacker, of Owings, Md., two daughters, Karen Acton and her husband Mike, and Jennifer Jakowicz of Dunkirk, Md., and her husband Rich, a sister, Susan Oddy of London, three grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Funeral arrangements were not immediately available.

There was something about Mary...



ABOVE: A bridal shower for Mary Pennybacker, a New Year's Eve bride, as she unwraps wedding presents from bureau co-workers as CoB Marv Arrowsmith looks on. (Photo in the AP World Winter issue of 1971)

RIGHT: Mary (right) in early AP job as switchboard operator in 1966, with Helen McIntosh Thomason. (Photos courtesy of Corporate Archives)



Donna Abu-Nasr ([Email](#)) - Shocking and sad news about Mary. I worked in DC from 1996-1999 and Mary was my rock. She was a friend, a mentor and a refuge, someone with a big heart and a wonderful smile. May she rest in peace. My condolences to her family.

-0-

Ann Blackman ([Email](#)) - Mary was the heart of the AP Washington bureau. I once walked sobbing out of the COB's office into her adjoining one where she looked up, startled, and took me into her arms. "Who died?" she asked. Through a torrent of tears, I replied, "My first career. I just resigned to join Time magazine." Mary laughed and whispered into my ear. "Relax. You'll never really leave the AP family." And she was right. Mary knew all the bureau secrets and cared deeply about each of us.

-0-

Jim Clarke ([Email](#)) - Mary Pennybacker may have been the first AP employee I met in the flesh. I was working for The Energy Daily in DC and trying to get on the circular so that I could advance my career. Someone – it may have been Fran Richardson – told me I had to go to the DC bureau and see Dave Espo, who would administer the AP Newswriting test. I recall walking up to the bureau – it was then at 19th and K, I think, and being greeted by this stern-looking gatekeeper, Mary. I stammered something

about needing to see Mr. Espo to take the test, and her demeanor softened enough to let me pass.

This was the summer of 1992 – there were Nokia 286s on every desk – but he gave me the test on a typewriter. Thanks Dave!

-0-

Bob Daugherty (Email) - Outside of being a dear friend, Mary was often the source of early word when there was a potential problem. Her intelligence could include range from a problem with a staffer's expense account to bits of important office politics. Mary knew a lot of AP folks beyond Washington. In other words, she was a treasure.

-0-

Larry Margasak (Email) - I would love to stop in Mary's office for a chat or stop her to talk when she walked through the bureau. And that's in addition to the help she always would give you on expense reports and other administrative matters. A few minutes with Mary would make my day. With her wonderful British accent, I always felt like I was talking to a queen. And, in fact, I was. I'm grateful that we were Facebook friends after we both retired.

-0-

Robert Meyers (Email) - I am sad to learn of the death of our dear Mary Pennybacker. I send my deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

Unflaggingly positive, Mary was always calm and gracious in her work at the AP Washington bureau. When I transferred from London to the nascent State Photo Center in Washington, D.C., in 1997, she helped me navigate many of the administrative and logistical hurdles for my British wife, two young girls and myself. She was welcoming and incredibly skilled in every instance I had occasion to require her help. In getting advance money for assignments, negotiating bank exchanges and numerous episodes, working with Mary was the least of my worries in any case. There was no problem she couldn't solve in a few creative minutes.

After her retirement, it was great to catch on occasional lunches, at retirement gatherings and seasonal events.

A few years ago, we moved to Maryland from suburban Virginia and began exploring the amazing rivers south of D.C. by kayak. She'd often comment on social media that I should visit with her when I was in Charles County, MD. I was confused for awhile as GPS data and launch sites often confused my location, but I wrote back trying to plan such a visit around the long days on the water. We never made that connection and now I regret that, but remember the effervescent lady from London who kept the Washington bureau working.

She will be missed.

AP says it will no longer name suspects in minor crimes

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press said Tuesday it will no longer run the names of people charged with minor crimes, out of concern that such stories can have a long, damaging afterlife on the internet that can make it hard for individuals to move on with their lives.

In so doing, one of the world's biggest newsgathering organizations has waded into a debate over an issue that wasn't of much concern before the rise of search engines, when finding information on people often required going through yellowed newspaper clippings.

Often, the AP will publish a minor story — say, about a person arrested for stripping naked and dancing drunkenly atop a bar — that will hold some brief interest regionally or even nationally and be forgotten the next day.

But the name of the person arrested will live on forever online, even if the charges are dropped or the person is acquitted, said John Daniszewski, AP's vice president for standards. And that can hurt someone's ability to get a job, join a club or run for office years later.

The AP, in a directive sent out to its journalists across the country, said it will no longer name suspects or transmit photographs of them in brief stories about minor crimes when there is little chance the organization will cover the case beyond the initial arrest.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage, Myron Belkind.

Click [here](#) for AP Definitive Source blog, "Why we're no longer naming suspects in minor crime stories", by John Daniszewski, AP vice president for standards.

New-member profile: David Powell

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the Columbia Journalism School, David Powell ([Email](#)) joined the AP in 1975 as a vacation relief staffer in the New York bureau. He was then hired for an entry-level position in Miami by COB Reid G. Miller, who in 1976 transferred him to the Tallahassee bureau. There he covered state government and Florida politics for five years. He was named

correspondent in 1979 by Miami COB Tom Brettingen and was part of the AP team covering the 1980 national political conventions. After David left the AP in 1981, he worked at several Florida newspapers.

He earned a law degree in 1986 from Florida State University, where he was editor-in-chief of the law review, then practiced law in Tallahassee for 30 years. He had a statewide real estate practice representing large landowners and developers. One milestone was serving as lead counsel for Central Florida's Deseret Ranch and winning approval in 2015 for a 133,000-acre master plan on ranchlands in Osceola County. The plan, the largest ever approved in the state, permanently preserves half the planning area and will accommodate 500,000 residents in metropolitan Orlando by 2080.



In his work throughout Florida, David met many Cuban Americans and was moved by the stories of their lives. In 2016, he began recording interviews about their memories, first in Florida and then elsewhere, for an oral history book. He took "of counsel" status from his law firm in 2018 to work on the project full-time. The University of Miami recently acquired his interview recordings, transcripts, and workpapers for its Cuban Heritage Collection. The University of Florida Press will publish his book in February 2022 with the title *Ninety Miles and a Lifetime Away: Memories of Early Cuban Exiles*.

David and his wife Vicki Weber reside in Tallahassee.

Connecting mailbox

Re Anyone Care that Local News is Dead or Dying

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - A different perspective from Politico's is that media owners and outlets (certainly not limited to the U.S.) shrank local and most other news to save money before their readers, viewers and listeners purportedly "lost interest." That chain of events stems from the traditional business model - successful worldwide for decades until ending in the early 2000s - wherein news, photos, opinion and video were bundled into newspapers, magazines, TV and radio broadcasts and then sold or licensed to advertisers who really were paying for access to zip codes, home delivery, and disposable income for products the advertisers were selling.

News "consumers" rarely if ever were asked to pay more than a fraction of the actual cost. When abruptly they had to (because advertisers stopped), many refused (because there was no news of any kind that they valued, not limited to "local" news). And of course these days there are many new ways to access news, often at no cost at all, however dubious the quality or authenticity.

AP revenue traditionally came from news media, not advertisers nor readers, viewers or listeners. Yet it could hardly prosper when its subscribers or "members" were not. AP long considered its state and local news coverage to be a "gold standard." Having worked mostly overseas as a reporter, editor, bureau chief and finally a business manager in Europe and Latin America, I considered world news to be AP's "gold standard." In either case, AP has (been forced to) cut back significantly. Even a decade ago, AP (in my opinion) was producing content it was capable of funding vs. what international subscribers asked for (including news from and about their countries); and often pricing that higher than AP competitors charged for what the identical customer base - right or wrong - considered similar.

My grandfather edited The Advocate (Stamford, CT) through the early 1960s. He told me that his job was to put 25 cents of value into every newspaper that someone had to pay 25 cents for. Now Hearst-owned, it's still going strong in its 178th year.

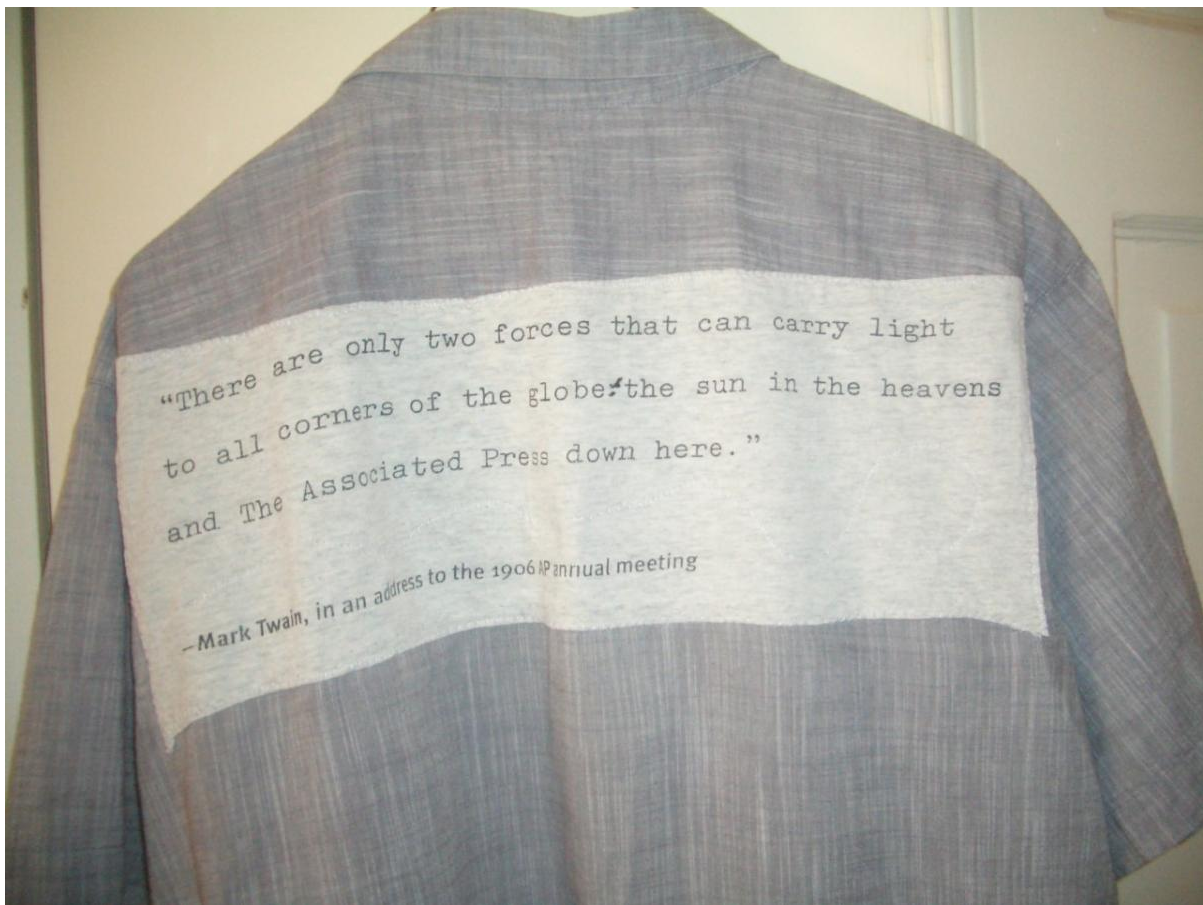
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AP Through Time – but baby pictures?

Lynne Harris ([Email](#)) - If any of your readers have ordered the book "AP Through Time: A Photographic History" and have not opened their package yet....please do so. I received my copy on Monday and when I started leafing through it, all I saw were baby pictures and the title page inside was "My Life As A Baby." Obviously, someone made a mistake. I contacted customer service at Blurb and got a very apologetic note back from a Christopher Brooks telling me he's already ordered another book for me and included a return UPS label so I could return the book I did get. Though the young child in the other book was very cute ... I'd rather have the AP book.

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Old AP t-shirts never die



Kent Prince (Email) - Old AP t-shirts never die; they get recycled. I wore out the collectible Mark Twain quote and wife Faye saved the pertinent parts by sewing them onto a \$4 Walmart shirt.

-0-

Happy experience with 175th merchandise



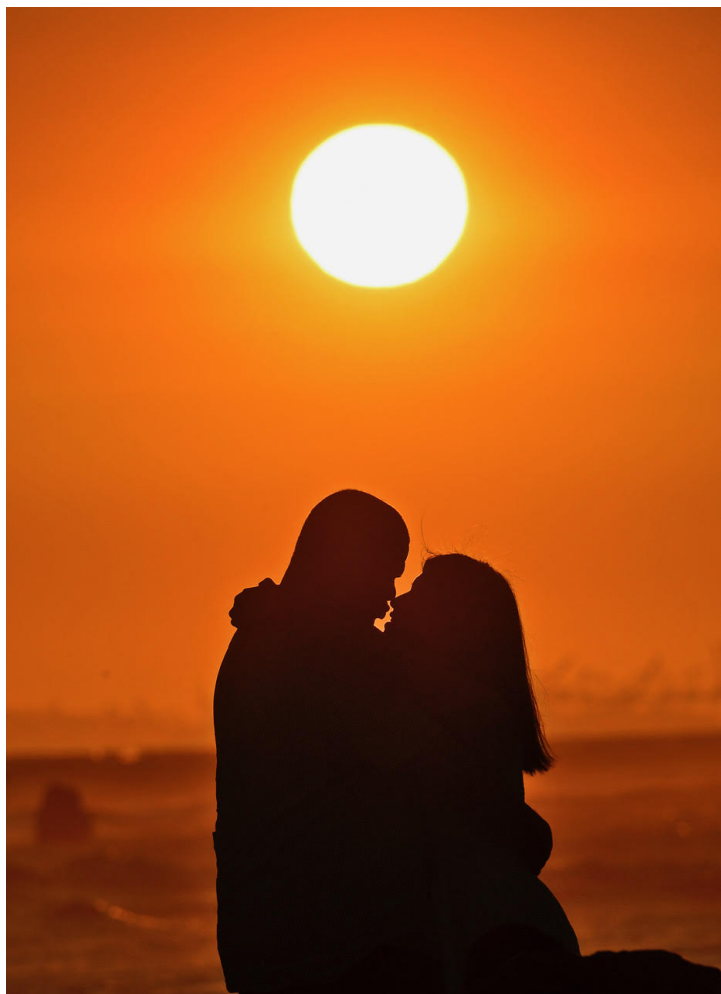


Sandy Hamm (Email) – on ordering merchandise from AP's London store: Boy, did this stuff arrive fast. Top quality. That's a "Large" sweatshirt on me. Thanks!

-0-

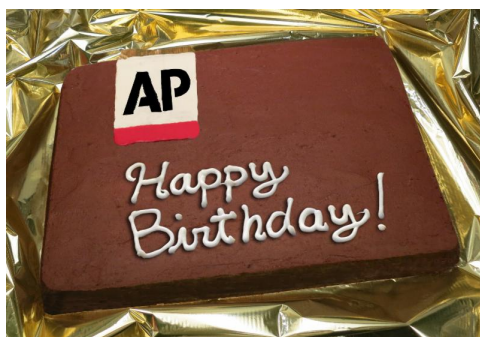
It's hot in SoCal





Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - Hot weather major heatwave forecast throughout Southern California. More people try cool off in Huntington Beach evening.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Ron Edmonds - redmonds3@cox.net

Mike Harris - Hapauto@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Sandy Colbert - SColbert@ap.org

Stories of interest

The Pulitzers didn't name a winner in editorial cartooning. That's unusual, but not unprecedented.

(Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

For the first time in 48 years, the Pulitzer Prize Board chose not to name a winner in Editorial Cartooning — a decision some are calling an insult to all cartoonists.

The Pulitzer Prizes announced Friday that Ken Fisher, drawing as Ruben Bolling; Lalo Alcaraz; and Marty Two Bulls Sr. were finalists in Editorial Cartooning. Winners were named in all 14 other journalism categories. The last time no award was given in Editorial Cartooning was in 1973.

Alcaraz, who was also a Pulitzer finalist last year, was preparing for a work Zoom call when he got a text that read, "You got robbed." Other messages poured in as he tried to figure out what had happened.

"I had to tell the folks on the Zoom, 'You know, I'm trying to confirm if I am a finalist on the Pulitzer, but I think there's no award. So I don't know what to say right now, so excuse me if I'm a little out of sorts here,'" Alcaraz said. "Because it was confusing. It's still kind of confusing."

It is fairly unusual — but not unprecedented — for the Pulitzer Board to decide not to name a winner in one of its journalism categories. Since 2000, the board has chosen not to give an award five times. No awards were given in Feature Writing in 2014, Editorial Writing in 2012, Breaking News Reporting in 2011, Editorial Writing in 2008 and Feature Writing in 2004.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Alexei Navalny, Social Media, and the State of the Free Press in Russia (Nieman Reports)

By ELIZAVETA KUZNETSOVA

On the morning of April 29, Russian opposition leader and blogger Alexei Navalny appeared in court via video link, fighting the second in a series of legal charges filed against him since the beginning of the year. His appearance was skeletal, having just ended a 24-day hunger strike to demand adequate medical care during his imprisonment in Penal Colony No. Two (IK-2) outside Moscow, one of Russia's harshest correctional facilities.

Upon his return to Russia in January, after recovering abroad from an assassination attempt involving Novichok poisoning, Navalny was detained and prosecuted in a hastily organized court proceeding at a local police station. Accusing him of failure to report regularly to the police while he was in a coma in Germany, the court jailed him for 30 days in the lead up to a February trial that resulted in a prison sentence of more than two years. A joint investigation by the Russian independent online newspaper The Insider, Bellingcat, CNN and Der Spiegel linked the Novichok poisoning to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB).

Read more [here](#).

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Here are the newsroom layoffs, furloughs and closures that happened during the coronavirus pandemic (Poynter)

By: Kristen Hare

A version of this article was first published on April 26, 2020. It has been frequently updated and reformatted since. It was last updated on May 27, 2021.

It's getting hard to keep track of the bad news about the news right now. But we have to. Here's our attempt to collect the layoffs, furloughs, and closures to journalism in the United States. Please send tips. We'll try to keep up.

In most cases, these entries link to previously reported stories. In some cases, where there are no links, we're relying on tips to help show the full impact of this pandemic.

One note: We haven't figured out a way to track the loss of work for freelancers, but please read more about how the pandemic has hurt their livelihoods here. One more note: Nearly a year after first publishing this piece, we adjusted the lead and headline

from “...layoffs, furloughs and closures caused by the coronavirus” to “...layoffs, furloughs and closures that happened during the coronavirus pandemic.” We want this list to reflect what happened to our industry, including layoffs that aren’t credited to the pandemic. We don’t yet know the full impact of the last year and want to capture as many changes as we can here.

Latest updates:

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Slovakia court tosses acquittals in reporter’s slaying

(AP)

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Slovakia’s Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a lower court’s acquittal of a businessman accused of masterminding the 2018 slayings of an investigative journalist and his fiancée.

A three-judge panel of the Supreme Court said the criminal court did not properly assess available evidence when it cleared businessman Marian Kocner and one co-defendant of murder in the killings of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kusnirova, both 27.

The judges said the Specialized Criminal Court in Pezinok evaluated the evidence without applying “elementary logic” in some instances and failed to consider it at all in others. They sent the case back to the lower court and ordered it to deal with all the objections. A date for the retrial has not been set.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Winfrey, Hearst have Black journalists tell elders’ stories

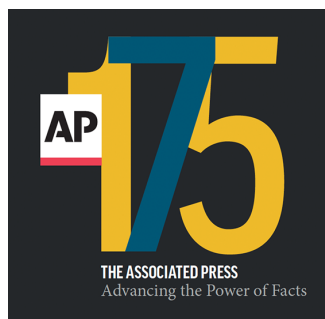
(AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey and Hearst Magazines are teaming up for interviews that pair young Black journalists with elders who include civil rights activists, celebrities and others sharing some lessons learned in life.

The project, “Lift Every Voice,” will be featured on Winfrey’s OprahDaily.com website and in magazines like ELLE, Good Housekeeping, Esquire, Runner’s World and Winfrey’s own O Quarterly.

Dionne Warwick, Patti LaBelle, Andre De Shields and the activist Claudette Colvin are among the people featured. While some material from earlier Hearst television stories is used, the interviewees are drawn primarily from the ranks of historic Black colleges and universities, with most of the portraits taken by Black photographers just starting in the field.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.



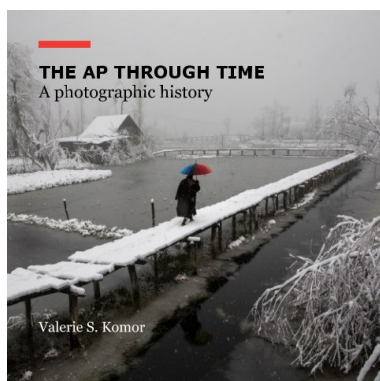
A special section celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos. The site can be reached by clicking [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad

outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

To celebrate AP's 175th anniversary, the Corporate Archives has organized "AP at 175: Conversations with History," a series of three webinars.

The final one is THIS THURSDAY!

AP correspondents bring home the world: Their history in their own words: Prof. Giovanna Dell'Orto in conversation with Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards John Daniszewski.

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Giovanna Dell'Orto, Ph.D., is a former newswoman with The Associated Press (in Minneapolis, Rome, Phoenix and Atlanta). Now Associate Professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota, she teaches and researches the interplay of news production, news content and international affairs. She is the author or senior editor

of six books on this topic, including an oral history of AP foreign correspondence from the Second World War to the 2010s, published by Cambridge University Press in 2015.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Meeting ID: 942 0998 6199

Today in History - June 16, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 16, the 167th day of 2021. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 16, 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

On this date:

In 1897, the government signed a treaty of annexation with Hawaii.

In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

In 1911, IBM had its beginnings as the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. which was incorporated in New York State.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

In 1955, members of Argentina's military bombarded the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires in a failed attempt to assassinate President Juan Domingo Peron and his Cabinet,

causing hundreds of civilian deaths, the same day Peron was excommunicated by Pope Pius XII for expelling two bishops from his country (however, the ban was effectively lifted in 1963).

In 1959, actor George Reeves, TV's "Superman," was found dead of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound in the bedroom of his Beverly Hills, California, home; he was 45.

In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova (teh-ruhsh-KOH'-vuh), 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; Tereshkova spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

In 1970, Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark, N.J., became the first Black politician elected mayor of a major Northeast city. Chicago Bears running back Brian Piccolo, 26, died at a New York hospital after battling cancer.

In 1976, riots broke out in the Black South African township of Soweto.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-ohs) signed the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties during a ceremony in Panama City.

In 1999, Kathleen Ann Soliah (SOH'-lee-ah), a fugitive member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, was captured in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she had made a new life under the name Sara Jane Olson. Thabo Mbeki (TAH'-boh um-BEH'-kee) took the oath as president of South Africa, succeeding Nelson Mandela.

In 2015, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign to become president of the United States with a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

Ten years ago: U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., announced his resignation from Congress, bowing to the furor caused by his sexually charged online dalliances with a former porn performer and other women. Osama bin Laden's longtime second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri (AY'-muhn ahl-ZWAH'-ree), took control of al-Qaida.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama traveled to Orlando, Florida, the scene of a deadly nightclub shooting that claimed 49 victims; the president embraced grieving families and cheered on Democrats' push for new gun control measures. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, in a livestream to his supporters from Vermont, said he would work with Hillary Clinton to transform the Democratic Party, adding that his "political revolution" had to continue and ensure the defeat of Republican Donald Trump. Walt Disney Co. opened Shanghai Disneyland, its first theme park in mainland China.

One year ago: Federal authorities announced murder and attempted murder charges against an Air Force sergeant, Steven Carrillo, in the fatal shooting of a federal security officer outside a U.S. courthouse in Oakland. (Carrillo also faces charges in the ambush killing of a California sheriff's deputy and has pleaded not guilty in both cases. Authorities said Carrillo had ties to the far-right, anti-government "boogaloo" movement.) President Donald Trump signed an executive order that he said would encourage better police practices; it would establish a database to track police officers

with excessive use-of-force complaints in their records. A statue of Christopher Columbus that stood in a St. Louis park for 134 years was removed; park officials said it had symbolized a “historical disregard for indigenous peoples.” British researchers reported the first evidence that a drug could improve survival from COVID-19; the drug was a cheap and widely available steroid (dexamethasone.) New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo gave the go-ahead for the U.S. Open tennis tournament to take place without spectators.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Eileen Atkins is 87. Actor Bill Cobbs is 87. Author Joyce Carol Oates is 83. Country singer Billy “Crash” Craddock is 83. Songwriter Lamont Dozier is 80. R&B singer Eddie Levert is 79. Actor Joan Van Ark is 78. Actor Geoff Pierson is 72. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Duran is 70. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 69. Actor Laurie Metcalf is 66. Actor Arnold Vosloo is 59. Actor Danny Burstein is 57. Model-actor Jenny Shimizu is 54. Actor James Patrick Stuart is 53. Rapper MC Ren is 52. Actor Clifton Collins Jr. is 51. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 51. Actor John Cho is 49. Actor Eddie Cibrian is 48. Actor Fred Koehler is 46. Actor China (chee-nah) Shavers is 44. Actor Daniel Bruhl is 43. Bluegrass musician Caleb Smith (Balsam Range) is 43. Actor Sibel Kekilli is 41. Actor Missy Peregrym (PEH’-rih-grihm) is 39. Actor Olivia Hack is 38. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: “American Idol”) is 34. Actor Ali Stroker is 34. Tennis player Bianca Andreescu is 21.

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com

[Visit our website](#)