

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

July 22, 2021

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this July 22, 2021,

I'm guessing that each of us has had a person or persons in our lives who made a huge difference in their AP careers.

Ron Thompson was one of those for me – and I am reminded of that with the sad news that the 35-year AP veteran died Monday night in Florida. We bring you a story on his career in today's Connecting and encourage you to share your own favorite memory of our colleague. Here's mine:

It was the fall of 1974 and I was a young news staffer in the Albany bureau – junior on the seniority ladder when out of New York came word of a major budget cutback that resulted in the loss of positions throughout the AP system. Albany lost a position and I as junior staffer, was to be cut. Linda and I had an infant daughter and the job market was horrible, so it was a trying time. Ron was deputy personnel director at 50 Rock at the time and he went to bat for me, with support from sports editor **Wick Temple** and

my immediate boss, CoB **Ed Staats**. They collaborated and found me an opening in St. Louis where someone with sports writing background was needed.

So my AP career that could have ended at one year turned into 36 years with the cooperative that included most satisfying work as a correspondent, bureau chief and regional vice president. When Ron joined Connecting at its outset, I was delighted and reminded him of how much I owed to him.

As **Ed Staats** noted in the obituary story, Ron played a major role in countless AP careers. Thank you, Ron.

Again, if you have a favorite memory of Ron, send us your story. And if there was a person(s) in your life who impacted your career, share that, too.

Finally, I highly recommend you read today's The Final Word and the account by **Jack Thomas** of The Boston Globe of the impact of learning he has not long to live and wondering how he should spend the time he has remaining. Remarkable, moving, poignant. And a question to you: If you had months to live, how would you spend them?

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Ron Thompson dies: He furthered countless careers in his 36 years with AP



Ronald E. Thompson, whose 35-year Associated Press career included assignments as a newsman, aerospace writer and New York headquarters executive including service as director of AP Communications and director of Labor Relations, has died. He was 83.

His wife Marie said he had been admitted two weeks earlier to Venice (Fla.) Hospital with pneumonia and died Monday night while under hospice care. "I was by his side with family and he was at peace," she told Thompson's former colleague Bruce Richardson. "We are all comforted by the fact he is now with God."

Connecting is awaiting word from his family on memorial services.

Colleague Ed Staats said he was "a stellar human resources executive in New York who played a significant role in countless AP careers. I am proud to have worked with Ron as a colleague and friend during all my years at AP."

Thompson was born and grew up in Paris, Texas, and got his first news experience at the Paris News, first as a carrier and later as a reporter and photographer. His pictures and news stories from Paris won first-place awards in Texas APME contests.

Part of the AP crew that covered the Gemini 11 manned mission in September 1966 stood outside the AP office in Cocoa Beach, Fla., to watch an unmanned missile launch. Left to right: Philadelphia Photo Chief Bill Achatz; Ronald Thompson, Houston; Howard Benedict; Baltimore Photo Chief Bill Smith; Tom di Lustro, New York Photos; Windy Jones, Tampa Teletype operator; and Bill Gorry, Washington Photos.



Photos courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Thompson joined the AP in Dallas in 1961 and for 18 months was night editor. He was on the Dallas news desk the day President Kennedy died. He was appointed San Antonio correspondent in 1963 and moved to the Houston Space Center in 1965 as an aerospace writer covering the Gemini space shots there and at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

Thompson was named news editor in New Orleans in 1967, under CoB Jim Mangan, and the next year transferred to AP headquarters in New York as a membership executive. He became assistant to Deputy General Manager Harry T. Montgomery in 1970 and was appointed a general executive in 1972 before becoming deputy personnel manager in 1974. He was named AP's director of communications in 1981, personnel manager and assistant general manager in 1984 and director of labor relations in 1988. He retired from the AP on March 1, 1996.

“In his administrative roles for the AP, Ron's gift was keeping the human elements alive in situations of conflict and bringing a resolution with no lasting scars on conflicted parties,” said Larry Blasko, who worked with Thompson. “In both his Personnel/Human Resources and Communications roles, he could lead discussions of complicated and critical issues around the land mines of ego and ambition that sometimes lurk on the corporate senior management roadway.”

Richardson said he first met Thompson when he transferred to New York in 1971 to work on a special project - the decennial revision of AP assessments.

“We worked under Deputy General Manager Harry Montgomery,” Richardson said. “At that time we were using new census data to calculate the shared cost of AP services for morning and afternoon newspapers. Ron and I along with the late Earl Martin worked in the department that set the rates paid by members. I was fortunate to work with Ron in several other departments and projects and happy to say he was a friend. I'm sure other fellow APers will have great stories about him too.”

Staats said it was “greatly due to Ron Thompson that I ended up working a 41-year career at AP. I bounced back and forth from print and broadcast in eight bureaus as well as AP headquarters and Washington Broadcast. Thanks to Dallas CoB Bill Barnard I was hired as a temp in Austin the summer of 1961 and quickly moved to Dallas when Ron was called to active service by his National Guard unit. After being ‘regularized,’ I was transferred a couple of years later to Houston and moved on to other assignments every 18 to 24 months. Ron was advancing in his career and I often sought guidance from him.”

I crossed paths with Robert Shaw

Jim Bagby (Email) - I'd love to say that I knew Robert Shaw, because he was a major factor in my AP career. The truth is I met him just once and had two phone conversations with him.

Without going into my life history, in 1971 I was a sports writer and editor for the Lawton (OK) Constitution and Morning Press. We had a staff big enough to cover four local high schools in baseball, basketball and football (make that FOOTBALL) at home and away, plus keep up with small school prep sports, boys and girls, in about a 100-mile area.

The sports editor generally was responsible for Cameron, the local college that in the late '60s and early '70s was transitioning from junior college to college (and later to its present status as university). And we all took turns covering home football games for the usually mighty Oklahoma Sooners, about 90 miles away in Norman.

For any sports-mad, newspaper-loving wretch, it was an ideal job in nearly every aspect. We covered everything football from junior high and junior varsity – complete with individual stats – to state championship games in several sports over the years. And I loved the desk part of the job, creating layouts of 9-column morning and afternoon sports sections, working in hot lead backshops to make those pages fit in time for press time and even getting to write an occasional column.

I'd joined the C-P staff in 1964, the same year I left Norman and my "studies" at OU to get married. But dropping out of school had its price, and sure enough I got drafted in 1967. Fortunately, I was assigned to Fort Sill back in Lawton. That allowed me resume studies at Cameron a few hours at time during Army life, and even get in some sports assignments.

That brings us to '71, when I completed my Army career in February, and my English degree at Cameron in the spring. Now Joann and I, with a delightful 2-year-old daughter, looked at life. You recall I loved ALMOST everything about the newspaper, which now welcomed me back fulltime – with a \$5 raise. To \$90 a week. My father, a lifetime newsman, suggested I take the AP test.

Sometime later, I called Oklahoma City Bureau Chief Robert Shaw. With very few questions, he said come on up. And he gave me the test – about which I recall almost nothing to this day. About a long, nervous week later, Mr. Shaw called and said I passed. And very warmly, he explained that there were no openings in OKC, and how the system works.

In July, Kansas City Bureau Chief Fred Moen called and offered me a job there. I reported for work on Aug. 31, 1971. And I stayed for the next 34 years.

This is a 'news that wasn't part of the news' story

Sue Price Johnson ([Email](#)) - On April 24, 1980, I awoke at my usual 4:30 a.m. to reports of the ill-fated Iran rescue mission ordered by then-President Jimmy Carter. My first thought was the fate of the first-responder NC military units that must have been involved.

I called New York GEN from home to ask if the military team involved had been identified yet because I was certain they were from North Carolina, but there was little information available as yet.

I headed in to open the RAL bureau and (after producing news summaries and weather) began calling every office I could in the Fort Bragg phone book to glean news of any recent deployments from the 82nd Airborne Division. I finally got a secretary who said, "Well, those Delta Force boys just shipped out a few days ago. That might be who you're looking for."

I called the AP's Pentagon office to suggest asking about the unit. Later that day, we all learned that the recently created Delta Force had, indeed, been involved.

My "scoop" wasn't necessary, since the Pentagon announced it anyway. But I was thrilled to get first word on the existence of something called Delta Force that became legendary not long after.

On working at New York General Desk

Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) – *former General Desk staffer who became news editor, bureau chief* – The New York General Desk has come up in recent Connecting issues and I thought I would offer my perspective as one who worked there and in bureaus.

I can't be an apologist for the GenDesk: there were too many people who passed through, both good and bad. Mostly good to very good. Some were undoubtedly too intense.

Most editors were solid professionals who were proud of the AP and proud of their craft.

Staffers in the bureaus didn't understand the pressure the GenDesk people were under. State stories were for state and regional consumption. In NY, when you pushed the button the whole world was watching. If you didn't ask the question -- be it attribution, spelling of names, etc. -- then you worried that some superior would find fault. Yes, you were a nuisance to the bureaus. But you would be the one getting the memo or the chewing out, not the state staffer.

Most of all we wanted to make sure we got it right. AP had a reputation to uphold, and we often felt we were the gatekeepers.

We were there when the buros needed us. I cannot tell you how many times a panicked staffer called worried about a bulletin kill or a situation they had never faced. Most NY people had the experience to calm down the staffer and right the ship.

Then there was the simple matter of volume. Bureaus often weren't discretionary in what they sent to NY. A huge percentage of the stories being sent for NY to filter were not worthy of national consumption. But a decision had to be made on what to use and what not to use. There was a misperception that NY had staff to spare. In most instances, we were as understaffed as the buros assumed they were.

I understand the frustration at the state bureau of receiving a rocket from NY demanding to know where our story was that was showing up UPI in the NY Times. Headquarters brass watched the Times religiously. If UPI showed with a story from Des Moines, then the GenDesk was asked: why don't we have it?

And in most cases we did. It was a story of less than national significance that either got passed or was sent in a briefs package and overlooked by the Times when it originally moved, usually days earlier. Times staffers were once quoted as saying they preferred AP, but they used a particular UPI story because it fit their hole. All The News That Fits, We Print. Go Figure.

More on attribution

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Once upon a time in NY Sports we had a night desk editor who felt it was necessary to add "... in American League baseball game." to the end of

every lede. (The same would go for every National Football League game, National Hockey League game, etc.).

That got shot down in a major-league hurry, so to speak, but we had fun with it for a while, writing (but never letting it get past the desk) occasional ledes like:

NEW YORK (AP) - Ron Guidry's seven-hit pitching and Bobby Murcer's three-run homer carried the Yankees to a 4-1 victory Wednesday over the Minnesota Twins in an American League baseball game, according to New York manager Dick Howser.

NY Times and matchers

Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) – I forget what time the NYT first edition would arrive at 50 Rock, but that interrupted many dinners with “where’s ours?” messages if they or another wire showed with something we didn’t have.

A flip side: it was apparently also very bad for an NYTer to get scooped by AP. There were a couple times in my Miami-Caribbean days when The Times used my stories (no byline, of course) their guy couldn’t match. So when going to some island hotspot, he started asking to get a room next to mine to help keep an eye on me, and otherwise shadowed me as much as he could.

In Cuba, he once was sitting next to me on the press bus as I was organizing my notes. He spotted the name of a Cuban Foreign Ministry official I had interviewed. He asked if I would trade a couple of those quotes for quotes he had from an unnamed “Western diplomat.” Uh, no. Not a good trade!

The return of lunch bunches



The revival/resumption/resurrection of northern New England AP-UPI-Journo lunches, July 21, 2021, the first since the plague, at the Post Restaurant in Penacook, N.H. Except as noted, all are retirees. Clockwise: David Tirrell-Wysocki (Concord-AP); New Hampshire State Rep. Dan Wolf (Concord-UPI); Holly Ramer (current AP-Concord); Martin Murray (New Hampshire Public Radio); Mike Recht (Concord-AP); Steve Taylor (former New Hampshire agriculture commissioner, Valley News, Portsmouth Herald, New Hampshire Times, News Election Service); Jane Harrigan (Concord-AP, Concord Monitor; University of New Hampshire professor); Adolphe Bernotas (Concord-AP).



Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - Every week since March of 2020, our AP colleague Edie Lederer has hosted a Zoom meeting for some journalists and kindred spirits to talk politics, life in the Pandemic and other subjects. Some of us have never met in person and this week we had a chance for the California contingent, Dodi Fromson, Nina Zacuto (a retired NBC network producer) and me to meet in person with Washington, D.C. journalist and political man-about-town Cragg Hines who was visiting Los Angeles. I knew Cragg for many years, having rubbed shoulders at the legendary Gridiron Dinner where he was a producer of the show and a performer whose booming baritone was a staple of the musical numbers. Today's lunch did not have musical accompaniment but it was a total delight. The place was a West Side L.A. Italian restaurant, Il Moro, where the menu was perfect for foodies, the ambience on the outdoor patio was California dreamy and the conversation a sublime bi-coastal potpourri. Photo shows, from left: Dodi Fromson, Cragg Hines, Nina Zacuto , Linda Deutsch.

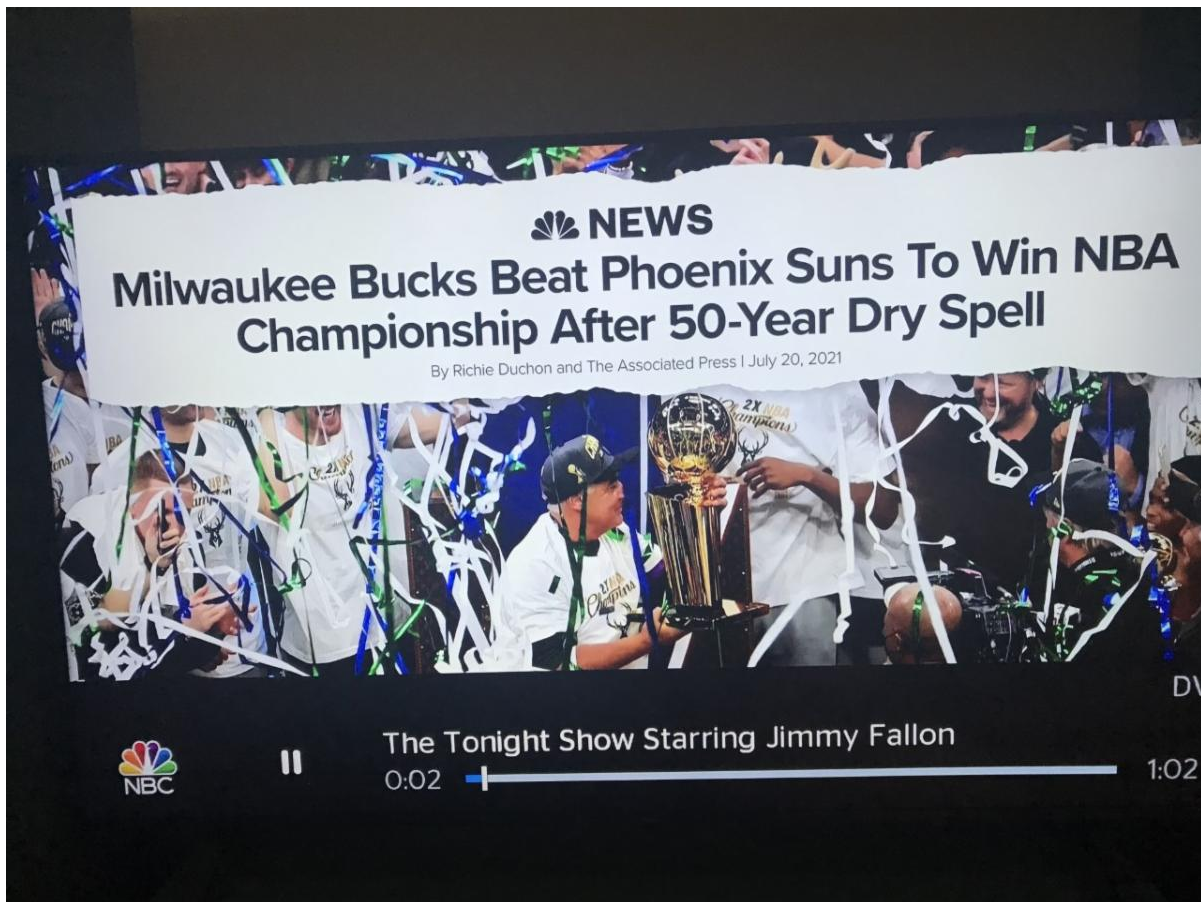
Juried photography show





Bill Kole (Email) - I'm tickled that two iPhone frames I made on Narragansett Bay here in Rhode Island -- "Misty Mariners" and "Let There Be Light" -- made it into the Plymouth (Mass.) Center for the Arts' juried "Step Into Summer" photography show. I'm attaching the photos, and here's a link to the show's online gallery for anyone who feels like they could use a little beauty and serenity.

AP on the Tonight Show



Spotted and shared by Bruce Lowitt

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Anderson – jma318@hotmail.com

Lindel Hutson - lh0722@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Dallas Morning News names veteran journalist to run newsroom (AP)

DALLAS (AP) — Veteran journalist Katrice Hardy has been appointed executive editor of The Dallas Morning News, becoming the first Black person to run the 125-year-old daily, the newspaper reported Wednesday.

Hardy, who also will be the first woman to hold the top job at the Dallas newsroom, will take up her duties next month. She succeeds Mike Wilson, who resigned last September after six years as the newspaper's top editor and is now deputy sports editor at The New York Times.

For the past 16 months, Hardy has been editor of The Indianapolis Star, the Gannett-owned daily that shared this year's Pulitzer Prize for national reporting with The Marshall Project, AL.com and Invisible Institute for their investigative collaboration, "Mauled: When Police Dogs Are Weapons."

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

-0-

Former News-Leader executive editor Dale Freeman, known as The Ozarker, has died. (Springfield News-Leader)

By Mike O'Brien/For the News-Leader

A giant of Ozarks journalism, Dale Freeman, has died. He was 94.

Dale was a newspaperman through and through, and immensely proud of it. His favorite plaything as a child was a toy typewriter. As a teenager he was a printer's devil in the backshop of his hometown newspaper, the Mansfield Mirror. After service in the Navy, he enrolled at the University of Missouri-Columbia and graduated from its School of Journalism while also playing on the Mizzou varsity basketball team.

Dale joined the Springfield Newspapers staff in the early 1950s and excelled as both a reporter and writer. He took a leave from the newspaper from 1956 to 1960 to serve as administrative assistant to Congressman Charlie Brown in Washington. Upon his return to Springfield, he resumed his newspaper career, serving as city editor of the afternoon Leader & Press, then chief editor of the entire newspaper operation here, which at that time also included the morning Daily News and the Sunday News & Leader. He also wrote a popular Sunday column appropriately titled "The Ozarker."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jean Maneke.

-0-

At The Buffalo News, a clash between an 87-year-old union and a new corporate owner (Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

Workers at The Buffalo News have been represented by a union for nearly a century and are very familiar with the collective bargaining process. But the current round of contract negotiations is unlike any in recent memory, union leaders say.

The Buffalo Newspaper Guild, which represents approximately 150 workers at the paper, has been bargaining its first contract with owner Lee Enterprises since February. During that time, the company has put forth proposals that the union says would devastate the paper, its workers and its readers.

Three proposals in particular have caused concern. The first advocates outsourcing the jobs of the paper's copy editors, page designers, customer service representatives and accounting department. In all, more than two dozen people would be affected. The second proposal allows the company to lay off workers without justification. The third aims to freeze union members' pension plans even though the current plan is overfunded.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

The Final Word

I just learned I only have months to live. This is what I want to say



A portrait of writer Jack Thomas at work in the Globe city room in 1979, taken by his colleague Stan Grossfeld.

By JACK THOMAS
The Boston Globe

AS A TEENAGER, I often wondered how my life would change if I knew that I would die soon. Morbid, perhaps, but not obsessed. Just curious. How does a person live with the knowledge that the end is coming? How would I tell family and friends? Would I be depressed? Is there an afterlife? How do you get ready for death, anyhow?

I've taken a college course in Kübler-Ross's stages of grief and written papers for philosophy classes about Deists, Darwinists, and the afterlife. Sometimes I agree with one side, sometimes another. I was raised Episcopalian, though I didn't turn out to be a very good one. Unlike Roman Catholics, Jews, and atheists, we Episcopalians are very good at fence-sitting. We embrace all viewpoints, and as a result, we are as confused as the Unitarians.

Several years ago, in pursuit of a degree at Harvard, I took a seminar in writing. We had to compose an essay each week and submit it to each classmate, so that each essay underwent scrutiny in class, not only by the professor, but also by 12 colleagues eager for the professor's approbation.

One week, I imagined that I had been told by doctors that I would die within a few months. In my essay, I pulled out all the stops. I described whom and what I'd miss. I hoped for a comfortable afterlife, and wondered if, after death, I could still hear favorite music, choose savory foods, and even whether the Globe would arrive on time.

The essay worked, perhaps because even then, at age 70, I was already an old fogey compared to my classmates. As I approached the classroom, I noticed a young woman holding the door open for me, and I quick-stepped so as not to detain her.

How could my wife have Alzheimer's? She was only 56.

We lost our dear friend to breast cancer. We wear her clothes and remember.

Too many Americans still can't talk about death, even after 15 months of pandemic.

"How are you, Jack?" she asked.

"Fine, how are you?"

"No," she said, tenderly. "I mean, really. How are you?"

I realized at once that she had taken the essay literally.

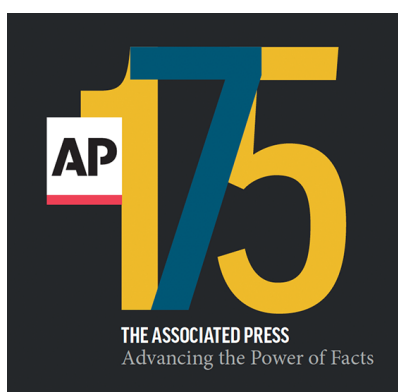
Fellow students, believing my essay to be truth, were laudatory and compassionate. Throughout the semester, thinking that I soon would die, classmates judged my writing with mercy. I never had the courage to tell them I was healthful.

Now, however, destiny is about to get even with me.

After a week of injections, blood tests, X-rays, and a CAT scan, I have been diagnosed with cancer. It's inoperable. Doctors say it will kill me within a time they measure not in years, but months.

As the saying goes, fate has dealt me one from the bottom of the deck, and I am now condemned to confront the question that has plagued me for years: How does a person spend what he knows are his final months of life?

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Kole, Scott Charton.



Celebrating AP's 175th

175th anniversary Polo shirts



AP is offering a variety of 175th anniversary merchandise, but one item that isn't available and that many staffers like is a Polo shirt. Adam Yeomans, AP's regional director for the South, has taken care of that. He recently ordered Polos for AP staffers in the South, a few members and retirees, other AP fans. Now you have the opportunity to order one of these limited-edition shirts emblazoned with the AP's 175th anniversary logo. The cost is \$30 per shirt, including shipping. Adult sizes are S, M, L, XL and XXL. The Navy Blue shirts are a 50/50 blend and tend to run a little large. If you'd like to order one, please email Adam Yeomans at adamyeomans@yahoo.com with your name, phone number, home address, and the size(s) and quantity by July 30. Adam says he will collect payment once the shirts are ready for shipping. He's trying to cover his cost; if there's anything left, he says he will donate it to the AP Employee Relief Fund.

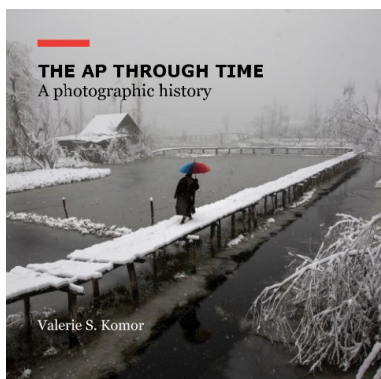
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.

Click [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.



Today in History - July 22, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2021. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln presented to his Cabinet a preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

On this date:

In 1587, an English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina.

In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

In 1937, the U.S. Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

In 1942, the Nazis began transporting Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp. Gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the

Atlantic seaboard.

In 1946, the militant Zionist group Irgun blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people.

In 1963, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in the first round of their rematch in Las Vegas to retain the world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1991, police in Milwaukee arrested Jeffrey Dahmer, who later confessed to murdering 17 men and boys (Dahmer ended up being beaten to death by a fellow prison inmate).

In 1992, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar escaped from his luxury prison near Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN'). (He was slain by security forces in December 1993.)

In 2011, Anders Breivik (AHN'-durs BRAY'-vihk), a self-described "militant nationalist," massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island youth retreat after detonating a bomb in nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II.

In 2013, the Duchess of Cambridge, the former Kate Middleton, gave birth to a son, Prince George, who became third in line to the British throne after Prince Charles and Prince William.

In 2015, a federal grand jury indictment charged Dylann Roof, the young man accused of killing nine Black church members in Charleston, South Carolina, with 33 counts including hate crimes that made him eligible for the death penalty. (Roof would become the first person sentenced to death for a federal hate crime; he is on death row at a federal prison in Indiana.)

Ten years ago: A jury in Cleveland convicted Anthony Sowell of killing 11 poor, drug-addicted women whose remains were found in his home and backyard. (Sowell was later sentenced to death; he died in prison in February 2021.) President Barack Obama formally signed off on ending the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

Five years ago: Democrat Hillary Clinton told supporters in a text message that she had chosen Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine as her vice-presidential running mate. A gunman opened fire at a mall in Munich, Germany, killing nine people before taking his own life. Thomas Sutherland, a teacher who was held captive in Lebanon for more than six years until he was freed in 1991, died in Fort Collins, Colorado, at age 85.

One year ago: The mayor of Portland, Oregon, was among those tear-gassed by U.S. government agents as he appeared outside a federal courthouse during raucous protests; Ted Wheeler and hundreds of others were objecting to the presence of federal police sent by President Donald Trump. Trump announced that he would send federal agents to Chicago and to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to help combat rising crime; the White House said the program would be expanded into Cleveland, Detroit and Milwaukee. California surpassed New York as the state with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases. Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser issued an

executive order making face masks mandatory outside the home; the order did not apply to “any employees of the federal government while they are on duty.” A tally by The Associated Press found that more than 60 Confederate statues, monuments or markers had been removed from public land across the country since the May 25 death of George Floyd. Twitter said it would crack down on accounts and content related to the far-right conspiracy theory QAnon.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is 98. Author Tom Robbins is 89. Actor Louise Fletcher is 87. R&B singer Chuck Jackson is 84. Actor Terence Stamp is 83. Singer George Clinton is 80. Actor-singer Bobby Sherman is 78. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is 78. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 75. Actor Danny Glover is 75. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 75. Actor-comedian-director Albert Brooks is 74. Rock singer Don Henley is 74. Movie composer Alan Menken is 72. Singer-actor Lonette McKee is 68. Jazz musician Al Di Meola (mee-OH’-lah) is 67. Actor Willem Dafoe is 66. Actor John Leguizamo is 61. R&B singer Keith Sweat is 60. Actor Joanna Going is 58. Actor Rob Estes is 58. Folk singer Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 58. Actor-comedian David Spade is 57. Actor Patrick Labyorteaux (LAH’-bor-toh) is 56. Rock musician Pat Badger is 54. Actor Irene Bedard is 54. Actor Rhys Ifans (rees EYE’-fan) is 54. Actor Diana Maria Riva is 52. Actor Colin Ferguson is 49. Actor/singer Jaime Camil is 48. Rock musician Daniel Jones is 48. Singer Rufus Wainwright is 48. Actor Franka Potente (poh-TEN’-tay) is 47. Actor Parisa Fitz-Henley is 44. Actor A.J. Cook is 43. Actor Keegan Allen is 34. Actor Camila Banus is 31. Actor Selena Gomez is 29. Britain’s Prince George of Cambridge is eight.

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