

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

July 28, 2021

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



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

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

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 28, 2021,

We bring you in today's Connecting the second of three installments by our colleague **Peter Arnett** on his experiences covering the civil wars in Afghanistan – timely as the United States is on the verge of pulling out troops and ending its longest foreign conflict. Part One appeared in Monday's Connecting.

In Part 2, Arnett covers the CIA retreat from Afghanistan and a raging civil war producing violent Islamic terrorism that spills over its borders and into America itself.

“It has not been easy to do,” Arnett said. “Searching through old photo files and documents of my long-ago journalism to better understand our world today meant dredging up memories of worthy acquaintances no longer with us and of events that seem much less significant today than they did at the time I covered them. But then journalists can only hope to write the first draft of history, while those who follow try to make sense of it all.”

Electronic Tears of Thanks: Our newly minted 95-year-old colleague, **Gene Herrick (Email)**, shares: "How does a very proud and humble old man shed tears of appreciation electronically? That is what I am doing now. Why? Because, 22 of my colleagues on Connecting sent me the most complimentary, and warm e-mails for my 95th birthday. Two from foreign countries. They talked about my AP experiences during my 28 years with The Associated Press. I am so thankful for these friends, most of whom I have never met personally. Thank Y'all for your love."

Got a story or memory to share? Send it along...

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

How Afghanistan's civil war became America's longest foreign conflict



IN 1993 WHEN PETER ARNETT revisited Afghanistan for CNN nearly four years after the Russian War was over, much of traditional life in the countryside seemed restored, but a brutal civil war, began when the United States pulled all support from its former Mujihadeen allies in 1992, was destroying Kabul, the capital.

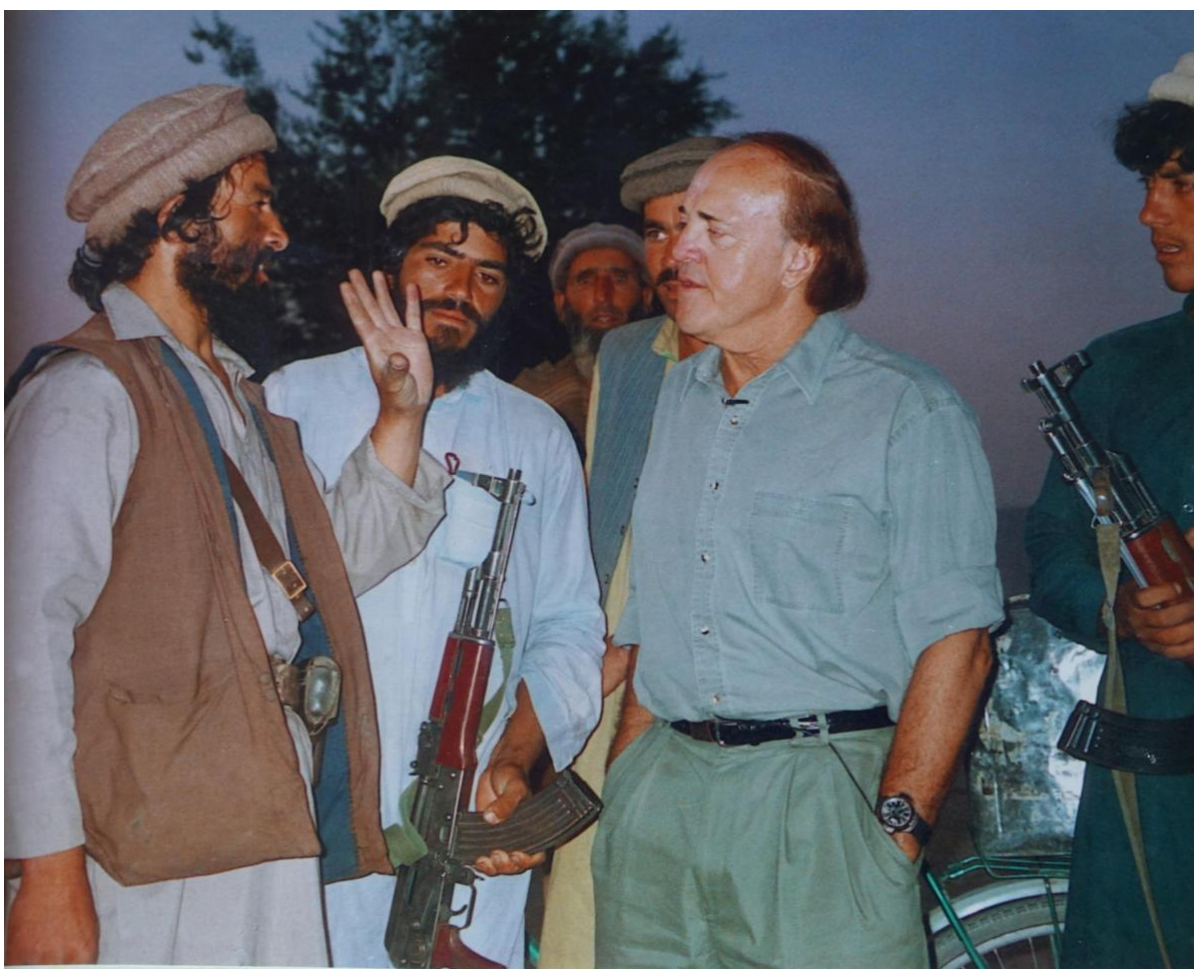
Peter Arnett (Email) - In late summer of 1993 after a two-year break to write my autobiography, I was assigned by CNN to join an investigative team seeking connections in Afghanistan to the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, an act of spectacular terrorism that American officials charged was part of a wider conspiracy by Islamic radicals to launch attacks on the mainland United States. A terrorist truck bomb loaded with over 1,300 pounds of urea nitrate was detonated under the north tower, killing six people and injuring over 1,000. Some of the Arab bombing suspects had fought in Afghanistan's guerilla war against the Russians in the 1980s, and CNN's plan was to produce an hour-long document tentatively named "Afghanistan: Terror Nation?"

I was met at Kabul airport by CNN producer Peter Bergen on his first visit and British cameraman Peter Jovenal who'd made numerous trips with the Mujihadeen during the Russian war. On our short drive to our hotel, we were stopped at a dozen roadblocks by soldiers who poked rifle barrels into our taxi as they checked our identities and cadged cigarettes and money. It was authorized robbery. Even the traffic cops were armed. Bergen commented, "People wear guns here like they do wristwatches back home."



A ONCE MAGNIFICENT ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM sedan from the late 1920s, once part of the collection of the the late King Ammanula, had been dragged for scrap to the back yard of the destroyed Kabul Museum, with bullet holes in the door, seats torn out by soldiers to sleep on, and the engine cannibalized. Most diplomats had fled Kabul when the civil war erupted the previous year and no western embassies remained.

When the Soviet Military pulled out in 1989 the Afghan guerillas had come down from the mountains to conduct a bloody squabble over the spoils of victory. Kabul was sliced like a pie into opposing military camps. Each faction had found reason to attack each other, and large sections of the city had been destroyed. The handsome century-old carpet bazaar where I had shopped on my last visit was in ruins. As we explored the city in our first few days, I was astonished at the checkerboard pattern of military occupation. The main highway near the customs house was in the hands of the moderate Jamiet-i-Islami faction, but a stone fence paralleling the road a cornfield-distance away was controlled by an arch-enemy, the fundamentalist Hezbi-i-Islami. A similar pattern existed throughout most of the city. Roads to and beyond the National Zoo were in the hands of opposing factions, while a third faction, the National Islamic Front, held the zoo with a large detachment of soldiers. When we entered the compound, we saw that its main purpose had become a military strong point. The few animals that remained there were thin and bedraggled. A lean tiger nervously prowled its cage. A large black bear hurled itself at me as I peered through the steel bars, and I slapped away its reaching paw with my camera.



AFGHAN SOLDIERS, guarding the field headquarters of the extremist Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, express angry comments over American Middle East policies to Peter Arnett while he awaits for an interview with their leader. Hekmatyar was the CIA's most favored Afghan guerilla leader during the Russian war, receiving many millions in aid, but he'd never hidden his distaste for western society and viewed neighboring Iran and "brother Islamic "countries, as the best model for Afghanistan to rebuild.

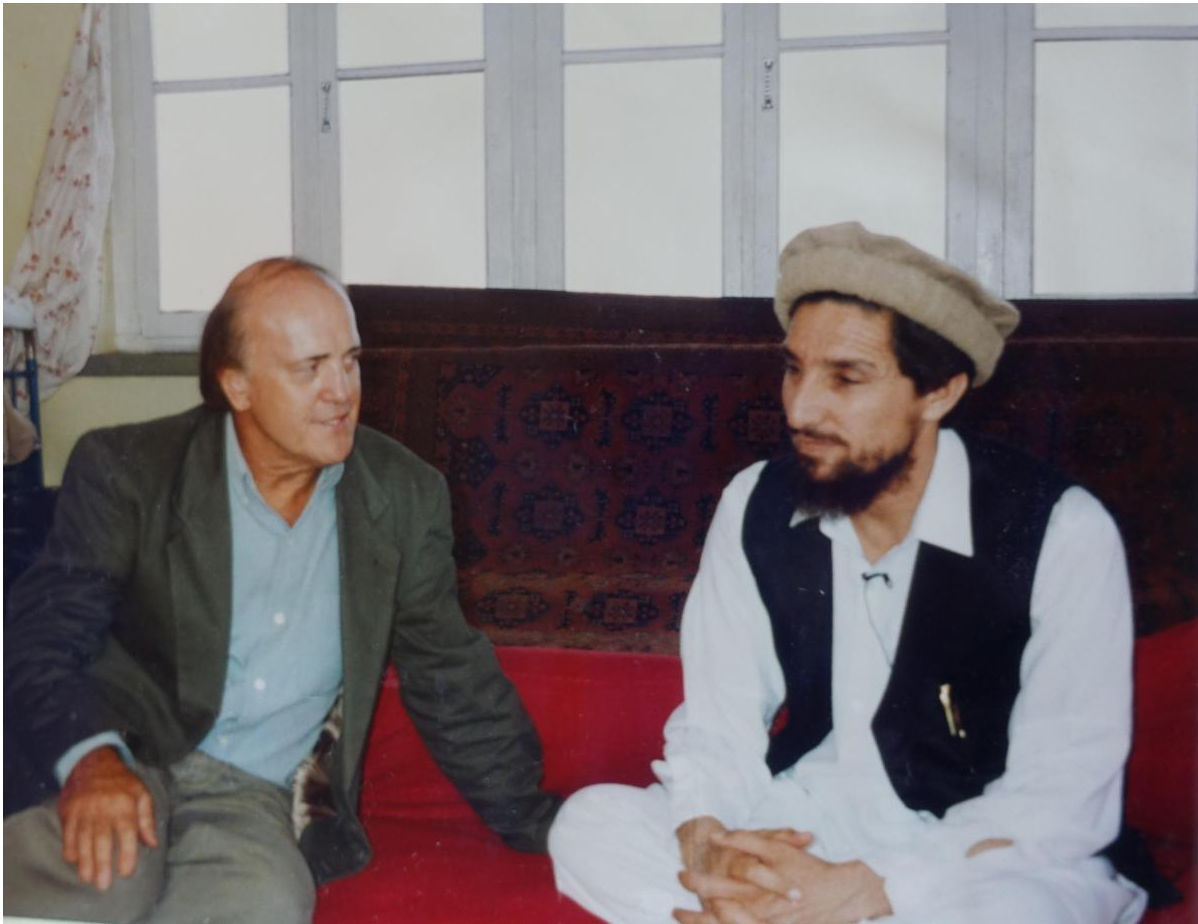
We knew that interviewing the fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar would be an important "get" for our investigation. He was known to have used Arab volunteers in his Afghan units during the war, and the major suspects in the World Trade Center bombing included ethnic Arab veterans. Hekmatyar had been named prime minister in the unstable Afghan political scene, but he had never ventured to his Kabul office for fear of assassination. His headquarters in Charasayab was almost in sight of Kabul in the foothills of a former government military camp but it may as well have been in a different country. It was the sharp end of a sizeable wedge of territory to the south and west. It was like a stick poking into the heart of the capital, aggravating the open wound of civil war. We drove to it over a dusty highway garnished with empty oil drums, rusting cargo containers and abandoned wooden shacks. I saw that artillery pieces and rocket launchers in the bunkers and outposts now had their barrels pointed toward the city and not away from it. At regular intervals these weapons would pound the capital with thousands of shells as Hekmatyar turned up the screws in the civil war.

We were told we could have an interview with him after his evening prayers. An aide said they were familiar with CNN and followed our news reports via satellite dish. Another aide startled me by complaining about critical remarks he'd heard that Ted Turner's wife Jane Fonda had made about Islam and asked what I was going to do about it. I assured him he must be mistaken, and gave him CNN's home address and suggested he write for a retraction. Hekmatyar was a Pashtun, the majority race in Afghanistan, which had long enjoyed good relations with neighboring Pakistan. This helped him win preferential treatment over other tribal leaders when billions of dollars in American aid was being distributed by Pakistani intelligence officers. In our interview, Hekmatyar did not surprise, adjusting his tightly wound turban and flowing robes and launching into an attack on his former patrons, the CIA. "The CIA and other Western intelligence agencies are responsible for our instability," he asserted, offering praise for support from neighboring Islamic Iran. He vowed to continue attacking Kabul and it was clear that Afghanistan's long night of turmoil was far from over. And Hekmatyar did advance our terrorism investigation, admitting he had met in Peshawar with the most notorious suspects of the Trade Center bombing, the blind Egyptian cleric Omar Abdel-Rahman. and he expressed sympathy for the sheik and predicted "he will be exonerated." Not so. In October, 1995, Abdel-Rachman, known widely as The Blind Sheik, was convicted in Federal Court of seditious conspiracy along with nine others and sentenced to life imprisonment. He died in prison in 2017.



PETER ARNETT, with interpreter, interviews President Burhanuddin Rabbani in 1993 at the former Kabul Palace, a once handsome building pockmarked with shell fire. Afghanistan did have a government of sorts, but the political arrangement had no practical significance. Power was in the hands of the armed factions of the seven major political groups. Rabbani was sustained in power by the military forces of his defense minister, Ahmed Shah Massoud.

I had met Rabbani a decade earlier while he was in exile in Peshawar, a soft-spoken theologian with a flowing white beard who described himself as an Islamic moderate. The ornate Afghan palace interview room where I met him this time around had a large bookcase with a 36-volume edition of the writings of George Washington and the United Nations year book for 1953. An antiquated Russian telephone occasionally jingled. Rabbani headed the Jamiat-i-Islami party composed of ethnic Tajiks, the tribal group dominant in Afghanistan's north. The president complained that his government was unable to function because it had no funds. He appealed for the return of Western embassies to Kabul and the resumption of economic aid. And he blamed the Islamic fundamentalists for the continuing war. Independent Afghan war lords were also contributing to the chaos. Along one highway west of Kabul we had noticed two dozen trucks loaded with United Nations food aid that had been hijacked the previous week and were parked behind a war lord's military compound.



AHMED SHAH MASSOUD, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL Afghan military commander, pictured here during an interview at his headquarters with Peter Arnett, in 1993, had become a legendary figure at home and abroad for his battlefield skills. He was named by the Wall Street Journal as "The Afghan Who Won the Cold War", referring to the global significance of the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan for the subsequent collapse of the Eastern Bloc. Massoud was the subject of Ken Follett's best-selling 1986 novel "Lie Down with Lions" about the Soviet-Afghan war, and was Minister of Defense in the phantom Kabul government. He presented himself to Arnett as a leader the world could deal with, a moderate eager for close relations with the west. Massoud became an avowed enemy of Osama Bin Laden when the Al Qaeda leader rose to prominence during the later Taliban regime. He was assassinated two days before the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center during an interview by Bin Laden agents posing as TV journalists whose camera equipment was seeded with explosives.

We met Ahmed Shah Massoud in a carpet-bedecked room over the east gate of the crumbling royal palace in Jabal-al-Saraj north of Kabul. A strong wind rattled the windows, blowing away the heat of summer and hinting at the severe winter ahead. Massoud was a man of slight built and modest bearing. He wore a black waistcoat over his loose-fitting white cotton robes and a pakol perched on his head, the traditional woolen hat that had become his trademark. Massoud had the narrow features and light skin of the Tajik people who dominate northern Afghanistan. I was eager to talk with him. He had generated more ardor amongst my journalism colleagues than any revolutionary soldier since North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap. Just as Giap had frustrated American designs on Vietnam, so had Massoud humbled the Soviet superpower by defying the massive forces mobilized against him and capturing his nation's capital.

He spoke French well but preferred to converse in Dari through an interpreter. I asked him to compare Afghanistan's struggle with Vietnam and he laughed. "We had the more decisive victory. After Afghanistan there was no Soviet Union. But after Vietnam there was still the United States of America." He told me he had watched CNN's coverage of the 1991 Gulf War via satellite dish and asked, "Why didn't the Americans kill Saddam Hussein?" I responded that Saddam had hidden amongst his followers in Baghdad just as Massoud had escaped repeated Russian assassination attempts in his Panjsher valley hideout.

Massoud described his former ally and now principal enemy, the Islamic fundamentalist Gulbudden Hekmatyar, as having been "made into a Frankenstein" by receiving preferential CIA weapons during the war, allowing him to turn against the United States. He grew more animated as our meeting progressed, promising that with political stability and Western aid his forces could move against Afghanistan's drug trade and the emerging terrorist training camps. We ended our interview with enthusiastic handshakes and embraces. But I did not forget the chaotic situation in Kabul; I figured Massoud's goals were far distant.



CNN PRODUCER PETER BERGEN makes nice with Afghan soldiers manning a roadblock near Kunduz. A few days earlier en route to an interview, a group of soldiers stopped his taxi near Charikar, and one of them, a long knife clamped between his teeth, reached into the vehicle and searched Bergen's pockets and clothing. He removed several hundred dollars worth of local currency. But Bergen's leather briefcase was so jammed with schedules, briefing notes and clippings that the thief missed the main prize, several thousand dollars worth of cash and travelers checks hidden in their midst.

We drove off the Kabul plateau en route to Jalalabad and the Pakistan border on the last part of our trip. The route was famed for its spectacular beauty, the road descending down precipitous gorges and following bubbling streams. But it was a deathtrap for the Russian military convoys that were required to negotiate the highway to supply border garrisons during the war. In one long stretch I counted 43 destroyed tanks and trucks, their rusted carcasses pushed off the road or lying in the ravines below, victims of daredevil guerillas who scaled the surrounding mountain peaks to blast them with rockets. On some canyon walls were the outlines of painted graffiti in the Russian alphabet, Cyrillic. We made a stop at some roadside cafes where the Kabul River disappeared over the spillway of a power plant. I walked across the road for a closer look at the surging waters and noticed the strong smell of human excrement. The riverbank was clearly a favored rest room for passing travelers who had no other choice. I didn't recall ever having seen a public lavatory in Afghanistan and could find few private ones. The smell of human waste was often in the air.

We arrived in Jalalabad early evening dusty and tired, drinking in the lush landscape. We had entered an oasis fed by the Kabul and Kunar rivers, with towering palm trees and green, wooded farms. Jalalabad was the principal city of Ningrahar province and was once the royal winter capital and the center of ancient Buddhist culture. But we were told by the desk clerk at the cavernous Hotel Spinhar to avoid the streets after dark. He said the city was more dangerous than Kabul. The perils in Jalalabad were more pernicious than the open warfare of the capital. The city's community of international aid officials were being targeted by Islamic fundamentalists resentful of what they saw as outside interference. Five United Nations workers had been brutally murdered earlier in the year. Most Western residents fled the region when it was learned the suspected assailants were a dozen Arab militants who were receiving terrorist training in Afghanistan to fight for international Islamic causes. After their arrest the militants had been quickly released, and further enquiries dropped. Western aid officials presumed that the weak local authorities had abandoned the case to avoid a confrontation with the Arabs influential benefactors. A few weeks later, another several hundred militant Arabs had entered the province after being expelled from neighboring Pakistan. They were believed to have joined fundamentalist terrorist training camps.



PETER ARNETT RELAXES WITH heavily armed Afghan militia guarding the Pul-e Khumri compound of the governor of Baslan province, Jaffer Naderi, an Ismaili from a prosperous religious sect headed by the Aga Khan known for its more liberal social attitudes. Naderi had spent some time in New Jersey in his early twenties and spoke fluent English. He complained about his difficulties with the central Government in Kabul. "The other day the minister of communications couldn't hear me on the telephone and turned me over to an assistant. Imagine, a deaf minister of communications," he said.

I left Afghanistan feeling none of the excitement of my first visit a decade earlier when I had first been with the Mujhadeen fighters, caught up in the fervor of their unequal struggle, buying into their dream that the defeat of the Russians was a goal whose realization would bring peace and reconciliation. This visit had punctured that illusion. The collapse of the Soviet Empire, the end of the Cold War, had not brought harmony to Afghanistan, merely conflict and criminality. And the United States would soon reap a bitter harvest from the seeds of Islamic revolution it had helped sow.

Newspapering runs deep for son of longtime AP Austin correspondent

Soll Sussman (Email) - Graham Keever, son of longtime AP Austin correspondent Jack Keever, was quoted in the Austin American-Statesman's [celebration of its 150th birthday](#):

Newspapering runs deep for some readers

A certain number of our readers come from dyed-in-ink newspaper backgrounds.

"My dad worked for The Associated Press for about 25 years," Graham Keever wrote. "So, as one might imagine, when I was young our house was filled with newspapers. We took the Statesman. We took the Austin Sun. We took something specific to the Legislature and local politics, the name of which I have forgotten. We may have received one of the Dallas or Houston papers in the afternoon."

He picked up the habit early and stuck with it.

"When I was in college, I spent the Monday through Friday mornings of the week of the Texas-OU game rounding up copies of the Statesman, Dallas Morning News, Dallas Times Herald, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Daily Texan to ensure I didn't miss even the tiniest nugget of coverage," Keever wrote. "I continue to read the Statesman because I think it provides an honest window on the world. ... I can trust the content and I believe the reporters are concerned with the truth."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Jack Keever covered three decades of Texas history for The Associated Press, including Charles Whitman's deadly shootout from the University of Texas Tower in 1966. He joined the AP Dallas bureau in 1961 before being transferred to Austin. He covered sports, then branched out into the political sphere, writing about the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination, 15 sessions of the Texas Legislature, 11 governor's races and political campaigns for other state offices. He retired from AP in 1992 and then taught journalism at Austin Community College until 2000, receiving an award for excellence in teaching from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development. He died in 2004 at the age of 66.)

Inside a KKK murder plot: Grab him up, take him to the river



A guard tower stands behind the entrance to the Reception and Medical Center, the state's prison hospital where new inmates are processed, in Lake Butler, Fla., Friday, April 16, 2021. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

By JASON DEAREN
The Associated Press

PALATKA, Fla. (AP) — Joseph Moore breathed heavily, his face slick with nervous sweat. He held a cellphone with a photo of a man splayed on the floor; the man appeared dead, his shirt torn apart and his pants wet.

Puffy dark clouds blocked the sun as Moore greeted another man, who'd pulled up in a metallic blue sedan. They met behind an old fried chicken shack in rural north Florida.

"KIGY, my brother," Moore said. It was shorthand for "Klansman, I greet you."

Birds chirped in a tree overhead and traffic whooshed by on a nearby road, muddling the sound of their voices, which were being recorded secretly.

Moore brought the phone to David "Sarge" Moran, who wore a camouflage-print baseball hat emblazoned with a Confederate flag patch and a metal cross. His arms and hands were covered in tattoos.

A nervous, giddy chuckle escaped Moran's mouth.

"Oh, shit. I love it," he said. "Motherf----- pissed on himself. Good job."

"Is that what y'all wanted?"

“Yes, hell yeah,” Moran said, his voice pitched high.

It was 11:30 a.m. on March 19, 2015, and the klansmen were celebrating what they thought was a successful murder in Florida.

But the FBI had gotten wind of the murder plot. A confidential informant had infiltrated the group, and his recordings provide a rare, detailed look at the inner workings of a modern klan cell and a domestic terrorism probe.

That investigation would unearth another secret: An unknown number of klansmen were working inside the Florida Department of Corrections, with significant power over inmates, Black and white.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

- Plus a generous bonus event!

You are invited to attend the Sept. 18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Co-hosts are Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at heidgerd@flash.net

Please register by Monday, Aug. 2, which is also the deadline to get the reduced AP Connecting Reunion rate at the group hotel (see below). Pay your own way for events Saturday, Sept. 18, and Sunday, Sept. 19.

There's also a generous bonus event, hosted by David and Ellen Sedeño, on Friday night, Sept. 17 (see below). All events are casual attire.

Registration List: (will be updated):

- Amanda Barnett
- Barry Bedlan
- Betsy Blaney
- Joei Bohr & Mark Woolsey
- Sally Carpenter Hale & Rick Hale
- Mike & Sondra Cochran
- Pam & Frank Collins
- Schuyler Dixon
- Katie Fairbank
- Mike Graczyk
- Stephen & Andrea Hawkins
- Diana & Paul Heidgerd
- Mike Holmes
- Brent Kallestad
- Dave & Darlene Koenig
- Mark Lambert

- Terri Langford
- John & Eileen Lumpkin
- Scott McCartney
- Steve & Teri Mace
- Evan Ramstad
- Charles & Barbara Richards
- Rod Richardson & Kia Breaux Richardson
- David & Ellen Sedeño
- Kelley Shannon
- Ed & Barbara Staats
- Jamie Stengle
- Terry Wallace & Liz Eaton

Group Events: A Tex-Mex dinner Saturday night, Sept. 18, and going to the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19, at retractable-roof Globe Life Field in Arlington. Baseball tickets are \$45 each and must be reserved in advance via Diana. Details on the registration form.

Bonus Event! Friday night, Sept. 17:

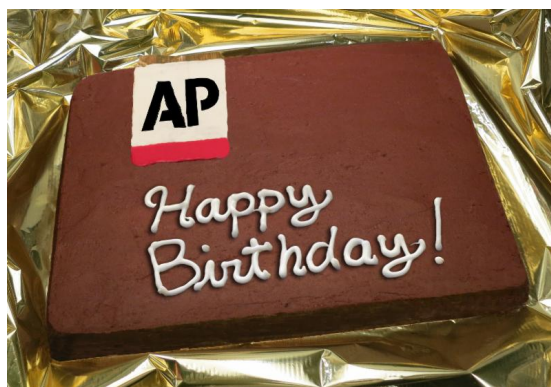
David and Ellen Sedeño of Dallas have graciously offered to host and pick up the tab (for reunion early arrivals or those who live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) for dinner Friday night at their family's BBQ restaurant: Meat U Anywhere BBQ in nearby Grapevine. For more information or to confirm for Friday night, email david@meatuanywhere.com

Group Hotel:

SpringHill Suites Dallas DFW Airport South/CentrePort, rates \$109-\$114 per night, plus taxes & fees, AP Connecting Reunion rate is available Sept. 15-20. Please make your reservation by Aug. 2. Details on the registration form.

See you in September!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Paul Bowker - bowkerpaul1@gmail.com

Jackie Hallifax - kanonany60@gmail.com

Mark Huffman - mark@26thstreetmedia.com

Jim Suhr - jim.suhr@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Hearing exposes TV viewers to blunt language, racial slurs (AP)



A video of the Jan. 6 insurrection is displayed during the House select committee hearing on the Jan. 6 attack on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 27, 2021. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post via AP, Pool)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — People who watched the first day of a House investigation into the Jan. 6 uprising at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday were exposed to the sort of blunt language, including profanity and racial slurs, rarely heard on daytime television.

The hearing featured emotional testimony from four police officers who defended the Capitol and video clips of violence and mayhem. It was shown live widely, but not uniformly, on several television networks.

Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn, who is Black, said one rioter cursed him and called him the n-word, a phrase that was repeated and even chanted at him. Dunn didn't mask any language while describing it. Networks warned of graphic material in onscreen messages.

In initial accounts of Dunn's testimony, The Washington Post, The New York Times and The Associated Press all mentioned the slur but did not spell it out. CNN's website linked to a video with the headline, "Capitol police officer recounts rioters calling him the n-word." The video itself, after warning of graphic language, used Dunn's full quotes.

Cable networks CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC carried the hearing, lasting more than three hours, in full. ABC pre-empted daytime programming to air most of it but not CBS and NBC. Instead of compelling their local stations to carry it, those networks said it was optional.

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

-0-

Trump Is Gone, but the Media's Misinformation Challenge Is Still Here (New York Times)

By Marc Tracy

Inside a room at the Cannon House Office Building on Tuesday, witnesses testified to their experience on Jan. 6, when an armed mob egged on by President Donald J. Trump breached the Capitol. It eventually reached the Senate chamber, where senators had been certifying Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s victory under the gavel of Vice President Mike Pence, whom some of the rioters chanted that they wanted to hang.

But outside the room, prominent Republicans have painted a very different, significantly misleading picture of that day.

On Tuesday morning, Representative Elise Stefanik of New York falsely blamed Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker, for the breach, saying she had ignored evidence that the Capitol's security might be compromised in favor of her own "partisan political optics."

Last month, Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, a leading G.O.P. purveyor of misinformation, downplayed the attack with the false claim that the rioters had stayed "within the rope lines" inside the Capitol.

And this month, Mr. Trump falsely suggested that law enforcement officers had been the only ones with firearms and said that "the doors were open."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

For Journalists Considering a Move to Teaching (University of Florida)

What You Need to Know Before You Start

A time comes for many journalists when they think, “I’ve had a good run in this career, and now maybe I should transition to full-time teaching at a university.” Journalism schools and programs definitely need experienced journalists as teachers — but universities have been changing, and requirements for hiring are not what they were 20 or even 10 years ago.

This article will cover salary, education requirements, and workload. At the end, you’ll find a list of common terms used in academic job ads and a few links to academic job listings in journalism and communication.

Salary

The dream is that you’ll have the same salary or higher while working only nine months a year. University salaries are lower than you probably imagine, so you might need to sprinkle some reality on that dream — especially if you’re currently working in a big city and have 20 years’ experience.

It can be hard to get information about the salary before you’re selected for an interview. Don’t expect more than \$60,000/year to start unless you have unusual qualifications and can negotiate a special deal with the dean or director of the school. Smaller schools pay less. Larger schools don’t always pay more.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.



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 adamyemans@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 28, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 28, the 209th day of 2021. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 28, 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

On this date:

In 1540, King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing, which had limited people to one pound of coffee every five weeks since it began in Nov. 1942.

In 1945, the U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2. A U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1989, Israeli commandos abducted a pro-Iranian Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim cleric, Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid (AHB'-dool kah-REEM' oh-BAYD'), from his home in south Lebanon. (He was released in January 2004 as part of a prisoner swap.)

In 1995, a jury in Union, South Carolina, rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in 2024).

In 2015, it was announced that Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Naval intelligence analyst who had spent nearly three decades in prison for spying for Israel, had been granted parole. Tom Brady's four-game suspension for his role in using underinflated footballs during the AFC championship game was upheld by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

In 2017, the Senate voted 51-49 to reject Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's last-ditch effort to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul with a trimmed-down bill. John McCain, who was about to begin treatments for a brain tumor, joined two other GOP senators in voting against the repeal effort.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire at a popular garlic festival in Gilroy, California, killing three people, including a six-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, and wounding 17 others before taking his own life.

Ten years ago: The body of the military chief of the Libyan rebels' National Transitional Council, Abdel-Fattah Younis, was found dumped outside Benghazi along with those of two top aides. The president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Rev. Howard Creecy Jr., died in a fall in his Atlanta home seven months after taking office; he was 57.

Five years ago: Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia, where she cast herself as a unifier for divided times as well as an experienced leader steeled for a volatile world while aggressively challenging Republican Donald Trump's ability to lead.

One year ago: President Donald Trump issued a stout defense of the disproved use of a malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, to treat COVID-19, hours after social media companies took down videos shared by Trump, his son and others promoting its use; Trump also retweeted several attacks on the credibility of Dr. Anthony Fauci, a leading member of the White House coronavirus task force. One of the nation's largest teachers' unions, the American Federation of Teachers, authorized members to strike if their schools planned to reopen without proper coronavirus safety measures. Mourners braved coronavirus fears and brutal heat to pay respects to the late Rep. John Lewis, the first Black lawmaker to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. Major League Baseball suspended the Miami Marlins' schedule for the rest of the week, after a coronavirus outbreak infected half the team. "Watchmen," an HBO series cloaked in superhero mythology but grounded in real-world racism, received a leading 26 Emmy nominations.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 90. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 80. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 78. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 76. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 75. Actor Linda Kelsey is 75. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 74. Actor Sally Struthers is 74. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 72. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 67. Former CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 64. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 60. Actor Michael Hayden is 58. Actor Lori Loughlin is 57. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 56. Former hockey player Garth Snow is 52. Actor Elizabeth Berkley is 49. Singer Afroman is 47. Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 45. Actor John David Washington is 37. Actor Jon Michael Hill is 36. Actor Dustin Milligan is 36. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 35. Rapper Soulja Boy is 31. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd (TV: "The X Factor") is 28.

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