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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Aug. 4, 2021,

The announcement of the top leader of The Associated Press has happened only 14 times in the 175-year history of the news cooperative.

So history took place Tuesday morning when AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** announced to AP staff worldwide that he was retiring and that **Daisy Veerasingham** - its executive vice president and chief operating officer - will become AP's next president and CEO, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

More history was contained in the announcement:

Veerasingham (pronounced veer-uh-SING-ham) will become the first woman, first person of color and first person from outside of the United States to lead the AP.

Here is Pruitt's announcement to the staff:

After nearly a decade as CEO, I will retire at the end of the year. Working at AP with so many talented people has truly been a great honor. Our mission to advance the power of fact-based journalism has never been more important. At the same time, it feels like the right moment to pass the baton.

There is no better person to lead AP into its next chapter than Daisy, with whom I've worked closely. She has the experience, judgment and values to be an outstanding leader of the AP.

I encourage you to read the attached [press release](#) announcing Daisy's appointment, which will go out shortly.

Throughout her career, Daisy has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to AP's news values and unwavering support for our mission. She recognizes the critical role AP plays throughout the world, and she respects the important work our journalists do each day in pursuit of the facts.

Daisy has demonstrated terrific leadership during her 17 years with the AP. She has grown revenue, diversified our customer base -- especially internationally -- and introduced new business models. She also led the transformation of AP's video business, including our multichannel live video offering. Daisy has a deep understanding of how AP operates and a clear vision for AP's future.

Daisy has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer since February, overseeing all AP departments. Previously, as senior vice president and chief revenue officer, Daisy guided our global revenue operations through the pandemic and upheaval in the news industry. As senior vice president for international revenue, she was responsible for all content licensing and marketing across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australia, along with GMS and our video business.

A true trailblazer, she will become the first woman, first person of color and first international citizen to lead the AP.

Please join me in congratulating Daisy on her appointment as the 14th leader of The Associated Press in its 175-year history.

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Emilio Morenatti profile: I commend your attention to an Q-and-A interview of AP photographer **Emilio Morenatti** ([Email](#)) by a reporter for El Pais, a daily newspaper in Spain. Our thanks to Valerie Komor for spotting and sharing.

The story notes that Emilio, AP's chief photographer in Spain and Portugal who recently won a Pulitzer Prize for his photos of the elderly and homeless in Barcelona during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic, is proud that, after all the restrictions he had to work around in order to take them, his photos were displayed as part of a state tribute to Covid victims.

Morenatti's leg was blown off in 2009 by a bomb in Afghanistan when he was accompanying US troops on a mission that he was advised against going on, and in concluding the interview, he notes: "Thank you, but, you know, I would give up the

Pulitzer to have my leg back and be able to use two legs again. I'd even burn my work. It might contradict everything I've just said, but that's how I feel."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP appoints Daisy Veerasingham as agency's president and CEO



By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press appointed Daisy Veerasingham, its executive vice president and chief operating officer, as the news cooperative's president and CEO on Tuesday, setting her up to replace the retiring Gary Pruitt at the beginning of next year.

She will become the first woman, first person of color and first person from outside of the United States to lead the AP in its 175-year history.

Veerasingham, 51, is a first-generation Briton of Sri Lankan descent. Her appointment speaks to the changing portrait of the AP, where 40% of the company's revenue, double what it was 15 years ago, is now generated outside of the United States.

She'll be tasked with continuing to diversify income sources. The AP, caught in the same financial vise as most of the media industry, saw its revenue drop to \$467 million in 2020, down more than 25% in a decade.

Veerasingham said she's determined to maintain the AP as a source of fact-based, nonpartisan journalism, and to fight for freedom of the press and access to information. The AP produces roughly 2,000 news stories, 3,000 photos and 200 videos every day, reaching more than half the world's population.

"These are values that are core to the AP since its founding 175 years ago," she said in an interview. "I think that they are actually more important today."

Pruitt, 64, has led AP since 2012. The company has won six Pulitzer Prizes under his leadership, two of them this year, and had three other finalists for journalism's top award in 2021.

He's currently working with Veerasingham to find a successor to Sally Buzbee as the AP's executive editor, an appointment expected in a month or two. Buzbee was named executive editor of The Washington Post this spring.

"I'm most proud of the fact that the journalism at the AP excelled as we met the challenges of the marketplace," Pruitt said. "AP is in a strong financial position to look forward to the future with confidence and continue to provide a foundational news report to the world."

The AP's board of directors appointed Veerasingham in a meeting last week. She was named AP's executive vice president and chief operating officer earlier this year after two years as chief revenue officer. Steven R. Swartz, board chairman and president and CEO of Hearst, called her a proven leader with a deep understanding of how AP operates and a clear vision for the future.

Veerasingham joined AP in 2004 as a sales director for AP Television News in London. She eventually became responsible for content licensing and marketing in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australia, leading the company's expansion efforts.

She has also led the expansion of AP's video business into a fully digital operation that can provide live video on a multichannel basis.



BEIJING, Jan. 27, 2015 (Xinhua) -- Daisy Veerasingham, senior vice president of the Associated Press, addresses the awarding ceremony of the World Media Summit (WMS) Global Awards for Excellence 2014 in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 27, 2015. (Xinhua/Chen Yehua) (zlx)

As its core business of selling news to newspapers and broadcasters began shrinking, the AP has broadened its licensing efforts to other areas, like business and academia. It has also built a business licensing old photos and video, the latter through the purchase of a company that owned old movie newsreels.

AP also makes money by providing studio space and news equipment to organizations, selling news software and election vote-counting and surveys. Further diversification efforts are underway, including offering customized news reports and managing video for auctions held by companies like Sotheby's, Veerasingham said.

"The AP is probably on the most solid footing it's been on for a very long time," she said. "I don't think the world needs to worry about the future of The Associated Press. Do we have challenges ahead? Yeah, we've got to diversify our revenue and we've got to stabilize revenue in our core. But I think that is something we can actually do in the next three years because of the financial strength we've built."

Like many other companies, AP is expected to head back to offices in the next few months, although a hybrid approach that includes working from home will be in place at the start.

One of the things working through the pandemic taught her about AP "is that we are capable of much more than we thought we were," she said.

Veerasingham worked in marketing jobs at LexisNexis and the Financial Times before joining AP. A trained lawyer, she has not worked as a journalist.

Upon retirement, Pruitt said he planned to split time between California and New York, and looks forward to taking classes at the University of California-San Diego.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Click [here](#) for link to AP news release.

AP General Agents, General Managers, and CEOs

1849-51	Alexander Jones, General Agent
1851-66	Daniel Craig, General Agent
1866-83	James W. Simonton, General Agent
1883-93	William Henry Smith, General Manager
1893-1921	Melville E. Stone, General Manager
1921-25	Frederick Roy Martin, General Manager
1925-48	Kent Cooper, General Manager
1948-62	Frank J. Starzel, General Manager
1962-75	Wes Gallagher, General Manager
1975-84	Keith Fuller, General Manager
1984-2003	Louis D. Boccardi, President and CEO
2003- 2012	Thomas Curley, President and CEO
2012- 2021	Gary Pruitt, President and CEO
2022-	Daisy Veerasingham, President and CEO

(Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Emilio Morenatti: ‘I would give up the Pulitzer to have my leg back. I’d even burn my work’



Photojournalist Emilio Morenatti in Madrid. BERNARDO PEREZ

By LUZ SÁNCHEZ-MELLADO
EL PAIS

Emilio Morenatti gets off the high-speed Barcelona-Madrid AVE train with his camera at the ready, even though he's not on a job. The camera, he says, is his third arm. Dressed in a polo shirt and long pants, it's impossible to tell he is missing his left leg.

Morenatti's leg was blown off in 2009 by a bomb in Afghanistan when he was accompanying US troops on a mission that he was advised against going on.

The chief photographer for the Associated Press in Spain and Portugal is now waiting for a visa to enter the US and collect the Pulitzer Prize for his photos of the elderly and homeless in Barcelona during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic. Morenatti says he is proud that, after all the restrictions he had to work around in order to take them, his photos were displayed as part of a state tribute to Covid victims. If he feels at all bitter about the obstacles that were put in his path, it doesn't show.

Question. Is the revenge sweet?

Answer. In a way, yes. The authorities that asked for the photos are the same ones who denied us photographers access to hospitals and cemeteries. I could have refused them, but I am more interested in exposing the hypocrisy. We live in an aseptic society that doesn't want to see certain things. But I think with this pandemic, there's been a click. Something has changed. If this means making people think, I feel I have done my job.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

Searching for the five W's

Charlie Hanley ([Email](#)) - I suspect I'm not the only Connector aroused by Norm Abelson's apt and very funny observation yesterday that the straight news lead seems to be fading into the mists of journalistic antiquity ("Greta Groine awoke to the nervous twittering of birds. ..."). It must have been sometime between the Joe Durso bylines and the Tyler Kepner bylines that I stopped scanning the NYTimes sports pages to learn what happened yesterday. Instead of who won, by how much and how, we were now treated to an intro about the utility infielder who had a bad spring, was taken under the wing of a kindly manager, spent overtime in the batting cage every summer's day, while Mom anxiously watched from the stands, and then... and then... go to the jump page ... Grand Slam!

The occasional feature-y approach adds spice to news pages, of course. And, yes, it was turned to because of competition from broadcast, the Internet etc. But, boy, it sure has been overdone, especially by our paper of record here in NYC.

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Bruce Handler ([Email](#)) - Wonderful stuff from Norm Abelson on "poetic" intros to news stories. But he didn't have to make it up!

Long ago, while visiting the NY Foreign Desk on home leave, I was fortunate to witness this impromptu seminar from our beloved, one-of-a-kind (now deceased) foreign editor, Nate Polowetzky.

Nate picked up some wire copy and in his inimitable, lathered-up, Bernie Sanders style began shouting to anyone who was within 15 feet of him:

"London (AP)--Ahmed stared forlornly at the pavement, as his footsteps splashed in the darkening puddles forming in the rain-swept mist of the waning daylight...

"(Crank up the volume)...AND THEN IT'S NOT UNTIL THE 4TH GRAF WE LEARN THAT NEONAZI SKINHEADS ARE RUNNING AROUND ALL OVER TOWN BEATING UP PEOPLE OF PAKISTANI DESCENT!!!"

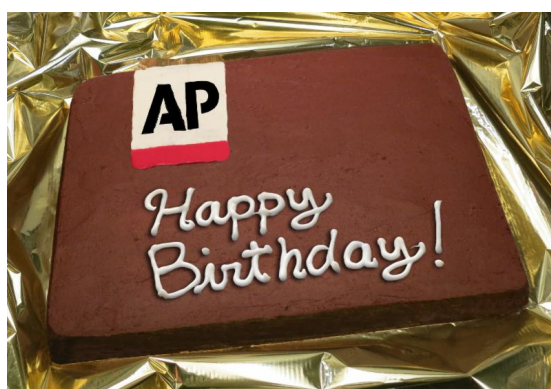
Priceless! Moral of the story from the Polowetzky School of Journalism: There's a middle ground between a well crafted descriptive lead and "state police said Monday."

Gathering of Indiana Connecting colleagues



Jack Ronald ([Email](#)) - Here's a photo from lunch on Tuesday at Club Soda in Fort Wayne. From left are Ed Breen, photojournalist and former managing editor of the Marion Chronicle-Tribune; Jack Ronald, retired editor and publisher of The Commercial Review in Portland, Indiana; Julie Inskeep, retired publisher of the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette; and Craig Klugman, retired editor of The Journal-Gazette. Great food and great conversation. All four are members of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. And Julie is a former member of the AP Board of Directors.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bob Petsche - rpetsche@kc.rr.com

Stories of interest

NY report details CNN's Chris Cuomo's role advising brother (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN anchor Chris Cuomo appeared to offer advice on a statement by his brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, addressing allegations of sexual harassment, according to a report issued on Tuesday.

The CNN prime-time personality testified to investigators looking into his older brother's behavior. His name appears four times in the 165-page report issued by New York Attorney General Letitia James as one of several outside advisers who were "regularly provided with confidential and often privileged information" that impacted the government despite having no "formal role, duty, or obligation to the State."

The report's appendix included a copy of an email sent Feb. 27, 2021 by Chris Cuomo to his brother's advisers on a suggested public statement that the governor never intended to offend anyone or cause harm with his behavior. It was not clear whether Chris Cuomo had composed the statement himself or was reacting to suggestions by others.

Read more [here](#).

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On the bus or off, Venezuela journalists try to deliver news (AP)



Juan Pablo Lares, right, holds a cardboard frame in front of his associate Maximiliano Bruzual who reads their newscast "El Bus TV Capitolio" to commuters on a bus in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, July 31, 2021. Two decades of governments that see the press as an enemy have pushed Venezuelan journalists to find alternative ways to keep citizens informed. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and JUAN PABLO ARRAEZ

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — After boarding a bus in Venezuela's capital, Juan Pablo Lares sits in front facing the passengers, turns on a microphone and speaker, and delivers the news while a colleague holds a black cardboard frame around his face to mimic a television screen.

"Good morning! This is the newscast of El Bus TV Capitolio," he reads from his script to the passengers, most of whom listen carefully while others brush past him to get on or off at their stops. The news he delivers is not always flattering to Venezuela's socialist government.

That rudimentary news delivery system is one of several ways journalists are fighting to preserve press freedom in the South American nation. Media in Venezuela, like in other countries, have been struggling to stay afloat, but their difficulty is not just dwindling advertising revenue.

They face mounting pressures from a government trying to control the flow of news, including fines over criticism of officials and barriers to purchase of newsprint. This has left millions with access to information largely through state media.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

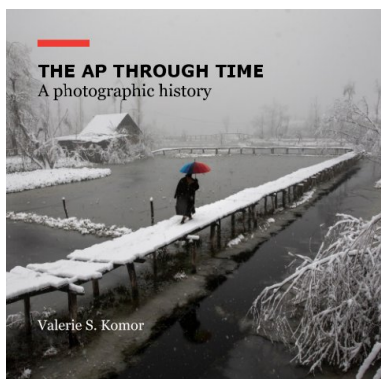
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.

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 - Aug. 4, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 4, the 216th day of 2021. There are 149 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History

On August 4, 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

On this date:

In 1735, a jury found John Peter Zenger of the New York Weekly Journal not guilty of committing seditious libel against the colonial governor of New York, William Cosby.

In 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard had its beginnings as President George Washington signed a measure authorizing a group of revenue cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

In 1892, businessman Andrew Borden and his wife, Abby, were axed to death in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. Lizzie Borden, Andrew's daughter from a previous marriage, was accused of the killings, but acquitted at trial.

In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany for invading Belgium; the United States proclaimed its neutrality in the mushrooming world conflict.

In 1916, the United States reached agreement with Denmark to purchase the Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1972, Arthur Bremer was convicted and sentenced in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to 63 years in prison for his attempt on the life of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace (the sentence was later reduced to 53 years; Bremer was released from prison in 2007).

In 1993, a federal judge sentenced Los Angeles police officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating Rodney King's civil rights.

In 2009, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In 2019, a masked gunman fired on revelers enjoying summer nightlife in a popular entertainment district of Dayton, Ohio, leaving nine people dead and 27 wounded; police said officers shot and killed the shooter within 30 seconds of the start of his rampage.

Ten years ago: A Texas jury convicted polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs of child sexual assault in a case stemming from two young followers he'd taken as brides in what his church called "spiritual marriages." (Jeffs was sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: Speaking to reporters at the Pentagon, President Barack Obama vigorously denied that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran was ransom to secure the release of four Americans jailed in Tehran. During a practice session on the eve of the Rio Olympics, South Korean gymnast Lee Eun-ju took a smiling selfie with North Korean gymnast Hong Un Jong in a warmly received scene captured by journalists.

One year ago: Nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been improperly stored for years in the port of Beirut, Lebanon, exploded, killing more than 200 people, injuring more than 6,000 and devastating nearby neighborhoods; it was one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded. After months of criticizing the practice, President Donald Trump urged voters in the critical swing state of Florida to vote by mail, even as the Trump campaign and Republican officials sued to block a Nevada plan to automatically send voters mail ballots. Virgin Atlantic, the airline

founded by British businessman Richard Branson, filed for protection in U.S. bankruptcy court.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Tina Cole is 78. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 77. Football Hall of Famer John Riggins is 72. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 66. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 66. Actor Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 63. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 63. Actor Lauren Tom is 62. Former President Barack Obama is 60. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly & Ryan") is 60. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 59. Actor Crystal Chappell is 56. Author Dennis Lehane is 56. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 53. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 53. Actor Michael DeLuise is 52. Former race car driver Jeff Gordon is 50. Rapper-actor Yo-Yo is 50. Country singer Jon Nicholson is 48. R&B singer-actor Marques (MAR'-kus) Houston is 40. Britain's Duchess of Sussex, the former actor Meghan Markle, is 40. Actor Abigail Spencer is 40. Actor/director Greta Gerwig is 38. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 36. Rock singer Tom Parker (The Wanted) is 33. Actors Dylan and Cole Sprouse are 29. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a



while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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