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Connecting

August 06, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Aug. 6, 2021,

From his desk at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, **Joe Somma's** work as a personnel executive in New York headquarters impacted AP staff worldwide during his 41-year career with The Associated Press.

We're sorry to relay news of his death Wednesday in Florida at the age of 87. He had enjoyed 23 years of retirement. If you have a favorite memory of working with Joe, please send it along.

As an AP bureau chief for 24 years, I worked closely with Joe from the field and he was one of those go-to people in New York that made my job - and that of my fellow bureau chiefs - easier to do. Always friendly, smart, helpful and concerned that I got what I needed from his department. I am glad we stayed connected through the newsletter.

We also bring you news in today's issue of an announcement by the AP Management Committee to AP staff that the previously announced Sept. 13 target date to return to offices has been delayed and that a new flexible schedule program will be initiated. The email notes the "vast disparity in pandemic conditions across our nearly 250 locations, and your health and safety remain paramount. That's why we also strongly encourage all employees to prepare for our return by getting vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available in your area."

Finally, one of AP's unsung war correspondents, **Yates McDaniel**, is the subject of a book to be released in October, titled "The Last One Out," and the book's author, veteran journalist **Jack Torry**, provides a recap for Connecting readers of a fascinating AP career. (Thanks to colleague **Kathleen Carroll** for alerting us to the book.)

I hope you have a safe and happy weekend.

Paul

Joe Somma, AP personnel executive for 41 years, dies at 87

Joe Somma, who helped track the hires, transfers, retirements and deaths of Associated Press staffers around the world in a 41-year AP career, has died at the age of 87.

Somma served as an AP personnel executive at AP headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza in New York from 1957 until his retirement in 1998. He died in Florida, said his nephew Richard Somma ([Email](#)), a 27-year AP veteran who works in the news department's Nerve Center in New York.

"The Joe Somma I knew and trusted and relied on was a quiet man who I never heard shout about anything but always ready, pencil in hand, to complete whatever task we gave him," recalled Lou Boccardi, AP president and CEO from 1984 to 2003.

"I remember well his lightly penciled 'S/B' -- standing for 'Should Be' -- his classic way of telling us that something in what he was ferreting out for us was amiss. No big show, no flashy red circles, no look-what-I-found. just Joe Somma setting things right. He served us well."



Richard Somma said his uncle "took a lot of pride in his decades-long career at the AP. While he was quiet and reserved, kind of like me, he was not afraid to express his opinions when something was wrong or needed attention. He was a hard worker, kind and generous, and will be missed by many people."

Somma "was a great guy and had a wonderful family," said retired Human Resources executive Bruce Richardson, who noted that Somma's work "was long before computers got involved but his department adapted well when computers entered the picture."

Evelyn Colucci-Calvert, AP retirement plan manager in New York, said she worked with Somma from the time she started with AP in 1973 until his retirement.



"Most of my dealings with Joe were done prior to the computer age," she said. "All new hires, deaths, transfers and retirement notifications were done on a yellow form called Addition-Deletion-Transfer. It's a shame Joe never got to share in our current data system, SAP. He would have loved it. No more paper."

Joe and his brother David (Richard's father) were twins. (Joe is at left, proudly wearing an AP jacket, in this photo of them.) David Somma worked for the Federal Aviation Administration at various airports including Teterboro Airport in New Jersey and Long Island MacArthur Airport until his retirement. Both were both deacons at Bethlehem Church, in Richmond Hill, Queens. Joe's wife Elizabeth was the church organist until her death in 2000.

Somma, a native of North Port, Fla., is survived by three children – Ruth Everhart, Beth Malave and Stephen Somma – and nine grandchildren.

Services are pending.

AP delays office reopening, introduces flex scheduling, encourages covid vaccinations

The Associated Press will delay its planned Sept. 13 target date to return to work in offices and will introduce a flexible scheduling program as the news cooperative continues to deal with the workplace impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in its locations around the world. Employees also were encouraged to prepare for their return by getting vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available in their area.

The announcement was made Thursday by the AP Management Committee in an email by Senior Vice President **Jessica Bruce** to staff worldwide.

It began:

The conditions imposed on us by the pandemic and our successful transition to working remotely sparked conversations about the future of work at AP and how we might create a more flexible workplace.

There is no question that our collective experience of the past 18-plus months will forever change how we do what we do. At the same time, we believe there are advantages to working together in person some of the time.

That's why -- when it is safe to do so -- AP will shift to a flexible, hybrid working model that includes a mix of in-office and voluntary remote work for most employees.

Before we get to those details, we want to let you know that we will not require employees to return to offices on Sept. 13, as we have said previously. It remains unclear when we will be able to return, given the continued change in pandemic conditions around the world. But once we can do so, we will provide you with at least 30 days of notice before the new policy takes effect.

Even when we've settled on a date for a return, it will apply only where local laws and regulations allow -- in those places where it is safe to be back at work at the office.

In the meantime, we will provide regular updates. The next will come in mid-September.

The change is due to the vast disparity in pandemic conditions across our nearly 250 locations, and your health and safety remain paramount. That's why we also strongly encourage all employees to prepare for our return by getting vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available in your area.

Now to our flexible work plans. Once we return, most employees will be required to work in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We plan to later add a third flexible day. Employees will work with their managers to schedule this additional in-office day, which can change from week to week.

Beyond those days, managers may require their teams to return to work in the office for projects, special events and major breaking news as needed. Staff whose jobs necessitate in-office work will continue to work from offices, as they have throughout the pandemic.

The AP Management Committee decided to move forward with this hybrid plan after months of discussions across the company, extensive surveys with managers and staff, and external research. We believe this approach embraces the clear desire by many employees for more flexibility while also ensuring we continue to provide outstanding journalism and services to our customers.

The email continued with further detail to the staff.

Connecting mailbox

'What-for grafs' and 'cosmic grafs'

Shirley Christian ([Email](#)) - To the laments of Norm Abelson, Charlie Hanley, and Bruce Handler for the death of traditional ledes I might add a few of my own experiences.

When I left The AP for The Miami Herald in 1979 one of the first things I learned in Miami was that we didn't so much write "ledes" as "what-for grafs." That is, tell people why they should want to read the story. And the what-for graf wasn't expected to go in the first graf. In fact, the (now defunct) Washington Journalism Review did an article on The Herald (very rich and growing richer then) and mentioned its habit of burying the lede deeper and deeper -- so deep that the lede on a front-page story often appeared on the jump page.

Seven years later, after I left The Herald for The New York Times, I learned the importance, in true Times elegance, of the "cosmic graf." I did a weekend piece from Washington trying to set forth where the Reagan Administration was headed in its policy toward Nicaragua, including what I thought qualified as a cosmic graf. But the Washington desk asked for a new one, and I tried again. When the story got to New York the foreign desk asked for a cosmic graft, and I tried again.

On Saturday afternoon, a churlish sounding copy desk editor called and said, "Don't you think we need a cosmic graft somewhere?" I said I had already written three, putting each new one above the previous. And he practically shouted: "Well, maybe we need a cosmic graf to explain all the other cosmic grafs!"

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Looking for Teletype printer paper

Joe Young ([Email](#)) – I am hoping to find any AP retiree who has saved some old paper used in the AP Teletype printers in the 50's up to the 80's or so. This is for an Indianapolis photographer working on a project with an artist. They can get current paper but this has brighteners in the paper and they need the old off-white machine paper. Please drop me a note if you have saved any: joseb.young3@icloud.com

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Teaching journalism

Paul Bowker ([Email](#)) - Tom Fenton's response to Journalism 101 teaching in Thursday's Connecting mentioned the use of an overhead to display students' stories, and that certainly brought back memories for me from my days at the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas.

My Reporting II professor at KU, Mike Kautsch, a highly distinguished teacher who would later become the school's dean and then a law professor, not only put students' work on the overhead twice every week, but his comments were made in bright red

pen. The comments were there for all to see. At times, there were more red comments than typewritten story. Ouch.

The worse, and common, indictment was Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z scrawled across the top in red, letting the writer and everybody else know how boring this story was.

The response was laughter (yes, I laughed loudly, every time) in the room, and damaged ego for the student. But also a lesson.

For me, all this was funny until the last day of the semester when, for the first time, one of my stories showed up on the overhead with the vintage Kautsch Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z in bright red above my byline.

What the hell?????

I never forgot that. If I wrote a boring story professionally even 30 years later, I deleted it and started over. No more Z-Z-Z-Z-Z for me.

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Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) - Re Tom Coyne seeking advice on teaching beginning journalism and Tom Fenton's input, adding from my experience from 6 years at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio:

— The Missouri Group produces an excellent textbook, "Reporting and Writing," frequently updated. It was in the 13th edition when I last taught two years ago. Loaded with exercises.

_ Started each class with a current events quiz, including state and local news, to stress that you need to be interested in the news. Gave a \$5 gift certificate to local bagel shop for top score.

_ Final exam was an in-depth enterprise story on an issue of concern to students; had to include a range of students, authorities, data or statistics; context. About a month out, students presented their proposed topic in class for vetting, questions. Sometimes they changed topics after that.

_ Couple guest speakers each semester; usually one journalist and one CorpComm type.

_ Went "around the room" to make sure every student participated. Also, usually had some Chinese students who were reluctant to speak, but they knew in advance they had to as part of the grade.

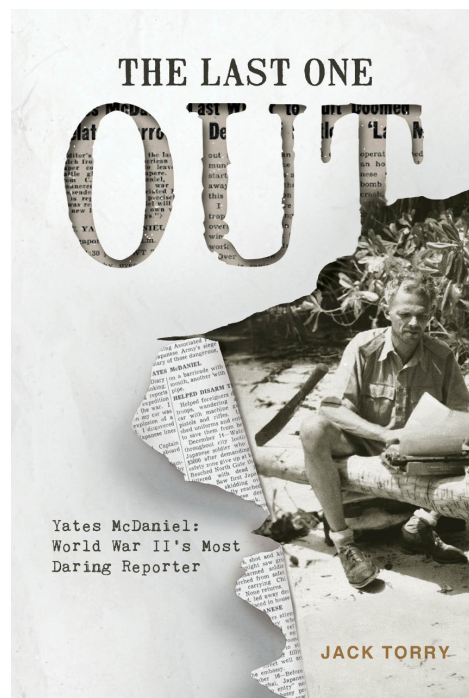
_ As Tom F notes, be gentle in critiquing. The old model of "tear apart, then rebuild" editing we went through isn't suitable.

Miami has a more holistic, less journalism-specific approach than my Ohio U alma mater, but Jon Gambrell, Lindsay Whitehurst and Amanda Seitz emerged from it to become very valuable AP staffers.

AP's Yates McDaniel: 'An old-fashioned reporter who strove for accuracy'



Yates McDaniel (left) and AP photographer Frank Noel in late 1941 on one of the balconies of the Cathay Building in Singapore, where Yates and his wife Natalie lived. Noel left Singapore in the second week of January 1942 aboard a freighter sailing to India. On Jan. 14, a Japanese submarine torpedoed and sank the freighter. Noel grabbed his camera and jumped in a lifeboat. Five days later, the lifeboat reached Sumatra. Noel took a photo of an Indian man in another lifeboat pleading for water. The photo won the Pulitzer Prize in 1943.



The “Last One Out” will be released in October by Schiffer Military Publishing and can be pre-ordered now on Amazon, Books-A-Million, and Barnes & Noble. Author Jack Torry is the former Washington bureau chief for the Columbus Dispatch and Dayton Daily News, where he covered politics, Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a journalism graduate of Ohio State University and the author of two other books – “Endless Summers, the Fall and Rise of the Cleveland Indians,” and “Henderson’s Light – Drinking,

Driving and a Deadly Encounter.” He also was a reporter in Washington, D.C., for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Toledo Blade. He lives in Leesburg, Va., with his wife, Sandra Torry, a former reporter for the Washington Post and retired editorial writer for USA Today.

Jack Torry ([Email](#)) - When C. Yates McDaniel died in Florida in 1983, few outside his family paid much attention. At age 76, he seemed like just another white-haired retiree whose final years passed with little notice amid so many other senior citizens in Florida. The only hint of his fame came in a brief obituary buried on the inside pages of The New York Times.

The obit suggested danger and bravery and a past far more exciting than almost anyone knew. Even those who had worked at desks alongside him in the 1960s at The Associated Press were startled to learn what McDaniel had seen, what he had survived, what he had done when he was a young man and the world was at war.

That anonymity, that reluctance to write his memoirs or tell spellbinding stories, is why he was forgotten by 1983, why his name is rarely mentioned in the pantheon of war correspondents, giants such as Edward R. Murrow and William L. Shirer of CBS, and Ernie Pyle of Scripps Howard.

This story is about the life of that remarkable reporter who followed the Pacific theater from its beginnings in the early 1930s in China to the savage struggle in 1945

to regain Manila. Yates McDaniel covered the Japanese attack on Shanghai in 1932, the fall of Tientsin and Nanking in 1937, and the collapse of Singapore in 1942. He landed with the 1st Marine Division on the shores of New Britain in 1943 and was among a handful of correspondents in the landing craft with Gen. Douglas MacArthur when the Allies landed in Luzon in 1945. He saw so much combat that one newspaper wrote that “probably no other man has been more closely and constantly in touch with our land operations against Japan” than McDaniel. The late Chinese American journalist Iris Chang considered him “perhaps the most daring” of the Western reporters who covered the pitiless Japanese massacre in Nanking.

Colleagues described him as stoic, scholarly, and a total pro. “Before anything else, Yates McDaniel was a journalist,” Australian press officer Athole Stewart wrote in 1943 after he and McDaniel escaped from Singapore. “It was his hobby and his profession. His stories have always been a jump ahead of his colleagues. His messages are simple statements of facts, and his deductions are uncannily accurate.”

He was an old-fashioned reporter who strove for accuracy. “Today we’ve got to tell the truth, the whole truth,” he would say. He understood the need for military censorship during wartime, but in his dispassionate style he fought the unreasonable restrictions imposed by British and American censors, once appealing directly to Gen. MacArthur about US Army limits on covering the burning of Manila in 1945.



Yates and Natalie at their wedding in April 1934. (They were married at the apartment of the US vice consul in Yokohama. Yates had grown up near Shanghai before earning a degree at Richmond College in 1927 and a M.A. in English at the University of North Carolina in 1929. Natalie had grown up in Japan. Yates spoke fluent Chinese while Natalie was fluent in Japanese.). Photo courtesy of Nancy Eills.

He had one soft spot: he hated covering news without his wife, Natalie, close by. “I do love you so much, you may not realize how deeply I love you, and how utterly lost I am without you,” he wrote her. They formed what today would be considered a modern marriage of equal partners. They escaped from the Japanese in Tientsin in the summer of 1937, enduring a miserable 18-hour drive in an ambulance to their home in Nanking, the ride’s monotony broken by Japanese bombs. She took messages, typed stories, helped him report, and—because she was fluent in Japanese—monitored Japanese-language radio news and interrogated Japanese prisoners. When

Hankow, now part of Wuhan, fell to the Japanese in 1938, she stayed with Yates until the end, before they joined a handful of other Western reporters on a flight to the relative safety of Japanese-occupied Shanghai.

McDaniel covered Asia at a time when people largely learned about the world through newspapers. Although radio and newsreels were cutting into the newspaper and magazine monopolies, the *Chicago Daily News*, *New York Daily News*, *Chicago Times*, *Life*, *Time*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Collier's* sent reporters abroad. F. Tillman Durdin, Martha Gellhorn, Arch Steele, Peggy Durdin, Hallett Abend, and Freda Uteley were among those covering the fierce fighting in China in the 1930s. The Associated Press and United Press were intense competitors in the battle to get a story first. "New York was most pleased that we beat United Press by four minutes" on a bulletin announcing an American landing in New Britain in 1943, Yates wrote Natalie.

The era stood in sharp contrast to today, when only a few newspapers maintain foreign bureaus. We are a poorer nation because of that.

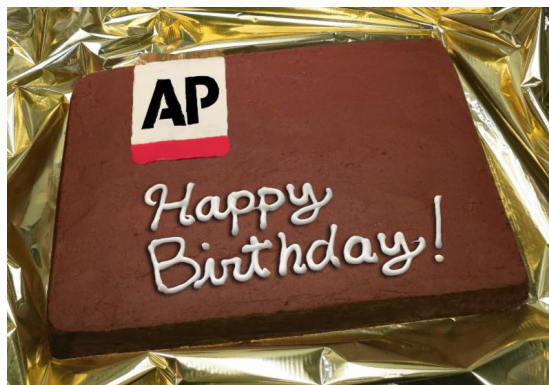
This book covers an ugly chapter in Japanese history. Today's Japan is a staunch US ally and a vibrant democracy and has nothing in common with the Japan of the 1930s. McDaniel and his colleagues covered in riveting detail the Japanese massacre in Nanking. By actually being in Nanking, McDaniel, Steele of the *Chicago Daily News*, Durdin of the *New York Times*, and Leslie Smith of Reuters offered readers around the world a vivid description of the savagery of Japan's invasion of China.

When the war ended, McDaniel's life as a foreign correspondent ended as well. For the next quarter of a century, he labored at desks in Detroit and Washington, producing relatively few of the impact stories he wrote from China, Singapore, and the Philippines.

I have tried to tell this story from McDaniel's vantage point. A good example is the sinking of the battleship *Prince of Wales* and battle cruiser *Repulse* on December 10, 1941. McDaniel, to his regret, turned down a chance to sail from Singapore with the *Repulse*, a move that prevented him from writing a first-person account of the battle cruiser's destruction. Instead, I focused on McDaniel reaching Singapore's naval base as survivors from the two great ships arrived in a driving rainstorm. The dramatic story of the sinking of the two ships has been told in detail by Colin Smith, Cecil Brown, O'Dowd Gallagher, Martin Middlebrook, and John Toland. I could not improve on what they have written.

In an effort for clarity, I decided to use the names of places in Asia as they would have appeared in newspapers in the 1930s and 1940s. To do otherwise would create endless confusion. Thus, I used Nanking instead of Nanjing, as it is known today; Tientsin as opposed to Tianjin, Batavia instead of Jakarta, Peking rather than Beijing, and French Indochina instead of Vietnam.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



David Sedeno - davidsedeno@sbcglobal.net

On Sunday to...

Jeff Baenen - jefflaurabaenen@comcast.net

Steve Crowley - scrowley727@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Served as national APME president in 1991

Ralph Langer, former editor of The Dallas Morning News, has died (Dallas Morning News)

By Maria Halkias

Ralph Langer, a retired editor and executive vice president of The Dallas Morning News who led the newsroom during one of the most closely watched daily newspaper wars of the 1980s and 1990s, has died.

Langer, 84, died at his home Thursday from complications that followed a broken hip, including a bacterial infection, according to Kathy Langer, his wife of 61 years.

He joined The News in 1981 as managing editor, became editor in 1983 and retired in 1998, covering two decades of some of the strongest growth for the industry and the paper. Langer and the late Burl Osborne, who was editor when Langer arrived, were at the top of a team of journalists who expanded sections, built up the newsroom staff, opened national and international bureaus, and led the newspaper to its first of nine Pulitzer Prizes.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Sargent.

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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.

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Washington Supreme Court to hear police public records case (AP)

By MARTHA BELLISLE

SEATTLE (AP) — The Washington Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case involving six Seattle police officers who were in Washington D.C. during the Jan. 6 insurrection and sued several people who filed public records requests to disclose the officers' names.

"It is abundantly clear that whether the identity of these officers should be revealed is an issue of considerable public interest," Michael Johnston, court commissioner, said in a ruling released Thursday.

Janet Thoman, who along with Neil Fox represents a law student sued by the officers, said they're pleased the court will decide the case.

"The public's right to information about those that serve us is of fundamental and urgent importance," Thoman said.

Blair Russ, an attorney for four of the officers, said they will fight to protect their rights at the state's highest court "regardless of whatever political beliefs they might have, and just as they do in the field every day for all of us regardless of our political beliefs."

Read more [here](#).



Celebrating AP's 175th

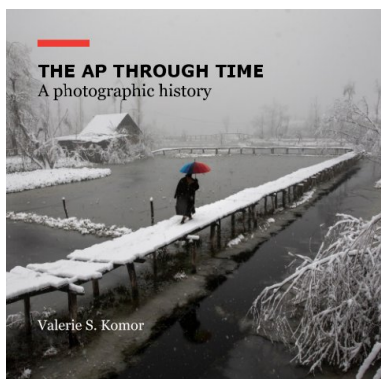
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 6, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 6, the 218th day of 2021. There are 147 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 6, 1945, during World War II, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths. (Three days later, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki; five days after that, Imperial Japan surrendered.)

On this date:

In 1806, the Holy Roman Empire went out of existence as Emperor Francis II abdicated.

In 1962, Jamaica, formerly ruled by Britain, became an independent dominion within the Commonwealth of Nations.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

In 1973, entertainer Stevie Wonder was seriously injured in a car accident in North Carolina.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo at age 80.

In 1986, William J. Schroeder (SHRAY'-dur) died at Humana Hospital-Audubon in Louisville, Kentucky, after living 620 days with the Jarvik 7 artificial heart.

In 1991, the World Wide Web made its public debut as a means of accessing webpages over the Internet. TV newsman Harry Reasoner died in Norwalk, Connecticut, at age 68.

In 1993, Louis Freeh won Senate confirmation to be FBI director.

In 2005, anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan, whose soldier-son, Casey, was killed in Iraq, began a weeks-long protest outside President George W. Bush's Texas ranch.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice by a Senate vote of 68-31. John Hughes, 59, Hollywood's youth movie director of the 1980s and '90s, died in New York City.

In 2013, U.S. Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan went on trial at Fort Hood, Texas, charged with killing 13 people and wounding 32 others in a 2009 attack. (Hasan, who admitted carrying out the attack, was convicted and sentenced to death.)

In 2015, "Hamilton," the hip-hop flavored biography about Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first treasury secretary, opened on Broadway. Jon Stewart bade an emotional goodbye after 16 years as host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

Ten years ago: Insurgents shot down a U.S. military helicopter during fighting in eastern Afghanistan, killing 30 Americans, most of them belonging to the same elite Navy commando unit that had slain Osama bin Laden; seven Afghan commandos also died. Deion Sanders, Marshall Faulk, Shannon Sharpe, Richard Dent, Chris Hanburger, Les Richter and NFL Films founder Ed Sabol were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: The White House released a version of President Barack Obama's 3-year-old guidance on the use of lethal force against terrorists overseas, laying out what it said were safeguards to minimize civilian deaths and errant strikes while preserving the capability to take quick action with drone attacks and other means. At the Rio Olympics, Hungary's Katinka Hosszu stormed to a world-record victory in the women's 400 individual medley on the first evening of the swimming competition. Brett Favre, Tony Dungy and Marvin Harrison were among an eight-member class inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Clarinetist Pete Fountain, a Dixieland jazz virtuoso, died in New Orleans at age 86.

One year ago: Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine skipped a scheduled meeting with President Donald Trump after testing positive for the coronavirus. (Three subsequent tests results were negative.) The government reported that nearly 1.2 million laid-off Americans had applied for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, just as a critical \$600 weekly federal jobless payment expired. An oversight board voted to demote Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales to captain after questioning how he handled multiple incidents, including ordering officers to fire tear gas and pepper

spray against protesters demonstrating over the death of George Floyd. (Morales chose to retire rather than accept the demotion.) Longtime presidential adviser Brent Scowcroft died at 95; he'd served as national security adviser to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush.

Today's Birthdays: Children's performer Ella Jenkins is 97. Actor-director Peter Bonerz is 83. Actor Louise Sorel is 81. Actor Michael Anderson Jr. is 78. Actor Ray Buktenica is 78. Actor Dorian Harewood is 71. Actor Catherine Hicks is 70. Rock singer Pat MacDonald (Timbuk 3) is 69. Country musician Mark DuFresne is 68. Actor Stephanie Kramer is 65. Actor Faith Prince is 64. R&B singer Randy DeBarge is 63. Actor Leland Orser is 61. Actor Michelle Yeoh (yoh) is 59. Country singers Patsy and Peggy Lynn are 57. Basketball Hall of Famer David Robinson is 56. Actor Jeremy Ratchford is 56. Actor Benito Martinez is 53. Country singer Lisa Stewart is 53. Movie writer-director M. Night Shyamalan (SHAH'-mah-lahn) is 51. Actor Merrin Dungey is 50. Singer Geri Halliwell Horner is 49. Actor Jason O'Mara is 49. Singer-actor David Campbell is 48. Actor Vera Farmiga is 48. Actor Ever (cq) Carradine is 47. Actor Soleil (soh-LAY') Moon Frye is 45. Actor Melissa George is 45. Rock singer Travis McCoy is 40. Actor Leslie Odom Jr. is 40. Actor Romola Garai is 39.

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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