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Connecting August 09, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 9, 2021,

Of late, Connecting has hosted discussions spurred by colleague **Norm Abelson** on burying the lead - backing into a story before getting to the point.

But another point of view was expressed by a colleague in [the AP story](#) last week on the appointment of **Daisy Veerasingham**, its executive vice president and chief operating officer, as the news cooperative's next president and CEO.

The second paragraph of AP's story on the announcement said: *"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."*

Colleague **Ed McCullough** ([Email](#)) wrote: “Why is that the second paragraph? Aren't such demographic characteristics incidental and secondary to: what are her accomplishments these past 17 years working for AP, and what are her ideas and proposed solutions to AP's top problems? To highlight ‘qualifications’ bestowed by birth seems to miss the point, even demean.”



AP media writer **David Bauder** ([Email](#)) wrote the story and provided this response to Connecting: “There was a debate over whether it should be in the lede, not just the second graf. I felt reluctant for the reason Ed states, and it didn’t go in the lede. I think it’s important, certainly enough to be in the second graf. It has been 175 years of white American men — changing all three of those characteristics in one fell swoop, especially at a time where diversity is being closely watched, is news.”

Your thoughts are welcomed.

Drop a note to Mercer: Our colleague **Mercer Bailey** is experiencing some health issues and is now recovering in a rehab/skilled nursing facility in suburban Kansas City. His daughter **Lynn Kruse** said he would very much appreciate a note of encouragement from his colleagues, and if you’d like to drop a note to our 90-something friend, who logged nearly 50 years of AP service, you can do so through an email to Lynn at - lkruise04@gmail.com

Here’s to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

They met through AP – and now they’re married



ABOVE: AP friends of Kia Breau and Rod Richardson who attended their wedding: from left, Peg Coughlin, Bill Draper, Margaret Stafford, Paul Stevens and the newlyweds. AT RIGHT: Kia and Rod in a toast.

When Kia Breau ([Email](#)) and Rod Richardson ([Email](#)) first met in 1999, it was a casual first meeting, at the National Association of Black Journalists convention in Seattle where they were attending a reception the AP hosted for its employees.

Fast forward to this past Saturday night, when they were married. Kia is an AP regional director and Rod (former ACoB in Dallas) is city editor for the city of Kansas City.



Remembering our departed AP colleagues

Joe Somma...



Denis Gray ([Email](#)) - I knew Joe Somma mostly at long distance but in my book he was one of the most reliable, helpful and thoughtful staffers in Human Resources over several decades. And on home leave (if you folks still remember that such a thing once existed) I would always drop by for a chat and would always be met with the same courtesy and concern. May the AP always see the likes of him in HR.

Click [here](#) for his obituary.

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Tom Kent ([Email](#)) - I remember Joe well, and with much gratitude. When I was World Service and international editor, careers depended on blue personnel change ("PC") forms – grotty, multi-copy forms cranked into typewriters – that had to get through Lord know how many approval steps before raises, transfers or anything else could happen. Far too often, we filled them out wrong, they got lost in interoffice mail, or lay unprocessed in a pile on someone's desk upstairs.

Enter Joe Somma. He was one of the most reasonable people I knew at AP. As soon as he answered the phone, we knew help was at hand. He understood the pressure we were under, found and corrected PCs, solved problems. He also seemed to be the only one who really understood, and could explain to managers and agitated staffers, how service entry dates, leaves, Guild raises and merit pay worked. When necessary, he went to bat for us with the top HR people.

Generations of AP news managers owe much to Joe for being our champion in HR, so we could keep the news ship on course.

-0-

Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - From the West Coast and in New York, Joe Somma was the immediate source of knowledge and solutions, whatever the question.

Few people can amass the knowledge and smarts needed whatever the problem or question. Joe was that person. A quiet master of answers and good advice.

Joe was an AP hero.

Warren Leary...



Norman Black ([Email](#)) - I was truly saddened to learn of Warren Leary's passing. Warren was a consummate professional with a brilliant mind and a gentle soul. We worked together in Washington for several years before I shifted to the Pentagon beat. At the time, I was covering telecommunications and the FCC and Warren and I vied daily for the most paper stacked on our desks.

You could find Warren in the bureau almost any time of day, hunched down in his chair reading the latest medical or technical journal. And when he started writing, all the technical jargon was translated into plain English, a rare gift, indeed.

Click [here](#) for his obituary.

-0-

Dan Haney ([Email](#)) - I know many of you remember Warren Leary, long-time Washington bureau and later New York Times science writer, who died Aug. 3. His wife, Jeanne Saddler, a former Wall Street Journal reporter, is putting together a bio of Warren and has asked me to help gather memories from his many colleagues in the business. If you have a fond Warrenish tidbit to offer, please email it to Jeanne - jeannesaddler10@gmail.com

Here is my memory of Warren:

I met Warren in the early '70s at the AP in Boston when we were both fresh out of college. I felt lucky just to have a job, but Warren from the start wanted to cover science. He used the classic ambitious reporter method: He just began finding science news in Boston and writing it up. As far as I know, he was the first reporter on the planet to take a subscription to the then obscure New England Journal of Medicine. Soon his stuff was all over the AP's national wire, and he was off and running. When he left to go to the Washington bureau for a fulltime science writing beat, I took over the New England Journal, which was the start of my long and happy career as a medical writer.

Warren and I lived a few doors apart on Beacon Hill and saw a lot of each other. Warren loved to eat and explore Boston's ethnic restaurants. At least once a week, we'd head to Chinatown or the Italian North End. Once he carried a rack of ribs back from Nebraska for us to share.

In those years, he liked to brag about his Nebraska roots. That led to his discovery in Boston of the Fenway Victory Gardens, public vegetable plots left over from World War II. My wife Susan and I quickly joined him with our hoes, and we all grew veggies almost in the shadow of Fenway Park.

One of his trademarks was a devilish sense of humor, always delivered in a quiet, understated way, that won him so many friends through his life in the news business. Warren, Jeanne, and their two sons were wonderful friends, and I will always miss him.

Remembering Bobby Bowden: 'He treated everyone respectfully and cheerfully'



Florida State's Bobby Bowden, who built one of the most prolific college football programs in history, died early Sunday at 91 at his home in Tallahassee, Florida. Click [here](#) for AP story. Former AP Tallahassee correspondent and sports writer Brent Kallestad (at left in above 1995 photo) recalls Bowden in this piece for Connecting:

Brent Kallestad ([Email](#)) – Bobby Bowden breakfasted with the FSU beat writers on Sunday mornings (8 a.m.) after EVERY home game regardless of what time it may have ended. The morning breakfasts generally lasted about an hour and a half and Bowden was always candid which of course we reporters greatly appreciated. Win, lose or draw (once famously in '94) he was remarkably the same and would exhibit his great humor. (The '94 tie was a 31-31 deadlock with arch rival Florida which had enjoyed a 28 point lead with 12 minutes left in the game.)

Hard to know where to start although the trait I admired most about Bowden was how he treated people ... all the same, regardless of their perceived celebrity. And he treated everyone respectfully and cheerfully.

He carefully wrote his name when autographing items for fans and I never witnessed him failing to sign, regardless of how long it took. His penmanship was also extraordinary.

Bowden would have been successful as a stand-up comic. Had a great humor and told a joke as well as anyone could. Perfect timing.

Bowden was the type of person who largely saw the best in everyone and it paid off. To his dying day, players came to Tallahassee to give him a hug and express their lifetime of love for what he meant to them.

And, I doubt anyone covering the program over the years could find him any different than I did. He was always accessible!

Over my many years with AP I had exposure to politicians, entertainers and sports figures and Bowden was at the top of my list because of his humility and that he truly appreciated the role journalists played and appreciated it.

His door was always open for us.

Not sure there will be another quite like him.

Telling readers why a story is important

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - AP used to call those "nut grafts." Nut as in Here's Why This Story Matters to You - not because the story was somehow crazy. Unlike (once) large U.S. newspapers (which AP called called "specials") whose reporters could depend on a generous minimum amount of column space, AP reporters instead could count on stories being cut from the bottom however high as needed - despite challenging readers' comprehension - to fit diminishing "news holes" remaining after pages were laid out in composing rooms; prioritizing advertising (almost) above all.

Nut grafts generally were the 3rd and rarely below the 4th paragraph because "content" had to be crystal clear to overworked desk editors, too; regarding foreign datelines, desk editors often in another country and time zone. Otherwise even good stories might get "spiked" as is, literally, filed on a tall, slender, pointed piece of metal on editors' desks specifically for that purpose.

Nut grafts, specials, news holes, content, spiked, composing rooms: the arcaneness smacks of Le Carre (spy) tradecraft and a bygone age.

Tips on teaching Journalism 101 continue

John Gaps ([Email](#)) - Maybe I missed this, but in teaching Journalism 101, students should always, and forever, have an iPhone or something similar, in their hand. First, to be able to generate still and video from an event (including editing and distributing) is a must. Also, I found that by rolling video during interviews I didn't have to take many notes when writing the story.

Any student who wishes to advance on Journalism's rocky and zig-zagging road, should have visual skills that make them more valuable to getting that first job. The smaller the news organization the more important it becomes to be able to one-person-band your assignments.

The young aspiring journalist also needs to understand that reporting isn't writing. The raw take is like writing a piece of music. The delivery of your work is that individual's performance of the piece. Look at the work of AP Special Correspondent Mort Rosenblum. He made his subjects come alive.

Also, for feature writing, all young students should read, "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold," by legendary writer Gay Talese for the April 1966 issue of Esquire. Click [here](#) to read.

AP Work and Play in Denver



DENVER - Denver AP photojournalist Dave Zalubowski, a couple of hours after shooting the Thursday, Aug. 5, Colorado Rockies vs. Chicago Cubs game, turned his professional lens around for a lighthearted selfie with his wife (l-r), Denver Post business writer Judith Kohler, and friends visiting from Dallas - AP retiree Diana Heidgerd and her husband, Paul Heidgerd. Judi, who's a former Denver AP staffer, and Diana met as freshman at South Dakota State University. The Rockies beat the Cubs 6-5 and Dave captured the action. (Dave is a brother to AP Connecting contributor Sonya Zalubowski.)

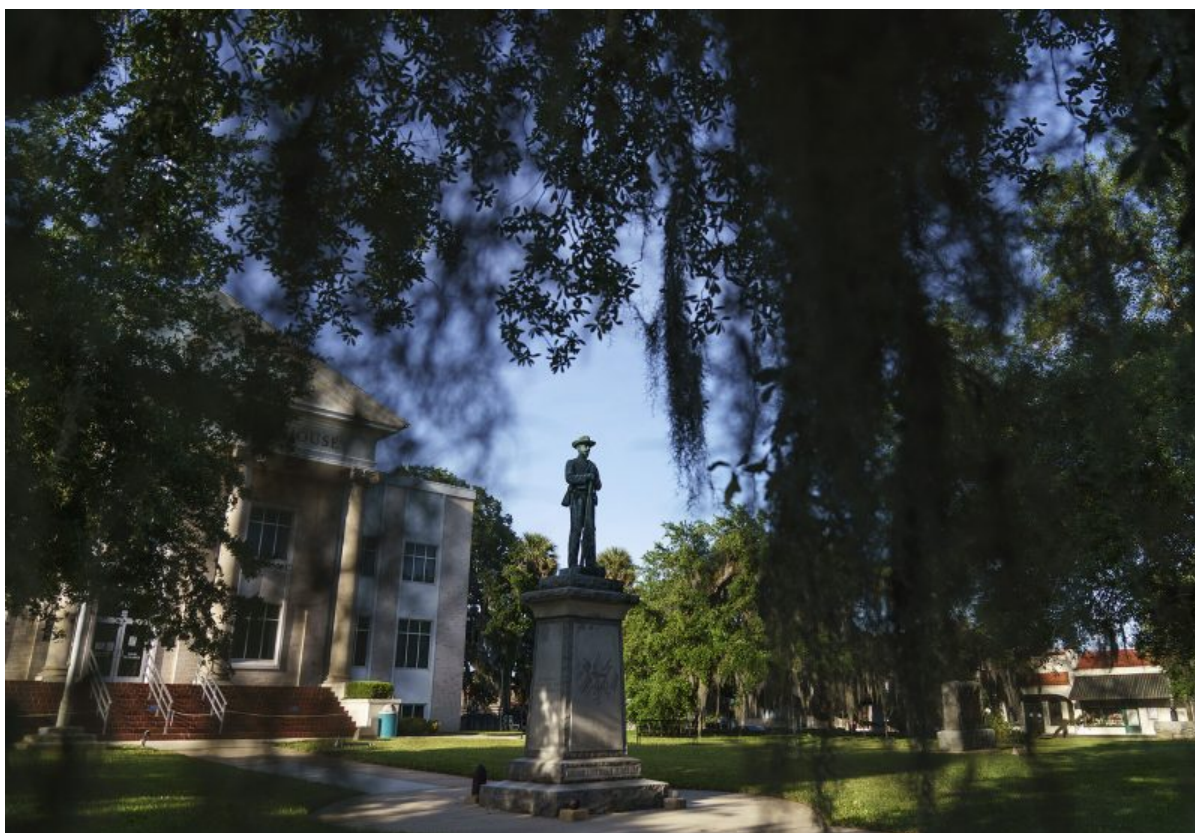
What's for breakfast?



California brown pelicans, with 7-foot wing spans and big bills, plunge-dive for breakfast at the rich fishing grounds off Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. Once on the endangered species list, the pelicans now number in the thousands. They hunt by filling their huge throat pouches with seawater and fish, and on the surface strain off the water and swallow the fish. Brown pelicans depart these waters by early autumn to breed in Mexico and the channel islands off the California coast. Photo by Peter Arnett.

Best of the Week

Deep reporting on a failed KKK murder plot reveals white supremacists working in Florida prison



AP Photo/David Goldman

Some stories just stick with a journalist.

For AP investigative reporter Jason Dearen, a sparse 2015 announcement — three current or former Florida prison guards, determined by the FBI to be Ku Klux Klansmen, had been arrested for plotting a former inmate's murder — sparked a yearslong effort to find out more.

The result was an innovative all-formats package in which Dearen and visual journalist David Goldman, working with producers Marshall Ritzel, Samantha Shotzbarger and Peter Hamlin, illuminated a festering problem of white supremacy in law enforcement. With cases of racial injustice in policing drawing scrutiny and with the participation of numerous officers in the Jan. 6 riots, the issue has taken on particular relevance.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

As wells dry up in parched US West, AP reports on residents now without running water



AP PHOTO/NATHAN HOWARD

The extreme drought in the American West has taken a dramatic toll. And now, near the Oregon-California border, dozens of homeowners' wells have gone dry, leaving them with no running water at all. At least 120 — and probably several hundred — domestic wells have dried up in the past few weeks. Reporter Gillian Flaccus and freelance photographer Nathan Howard documented the residents' plight and the challenges facing authorities responding to the situation.

The depletion of all normal water sources in the area is the latest example of the severe drought conditions in this parched part of the West and comes just a few months after the U.S. government shut off federally controlled irrigation water to hundreds of farmers in the area for the first time ever. Experts say the conditions point to the difficulties people elsewhere will likely to face on a larger scale as climate change makes matters worse.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

UPDATED ADVISORY: Register by Aug. 23!

NOTE: Organizers are monitoring pandemic concerns and urging all participants to be fully vaccinated. Plans continue, at this time, for the AP Connecting Regional Reunion to be held as originally scheduled.

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Due to continuing interest, the deadline to register for the Sept. 18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area has been extended to Monday, Aug. 23.

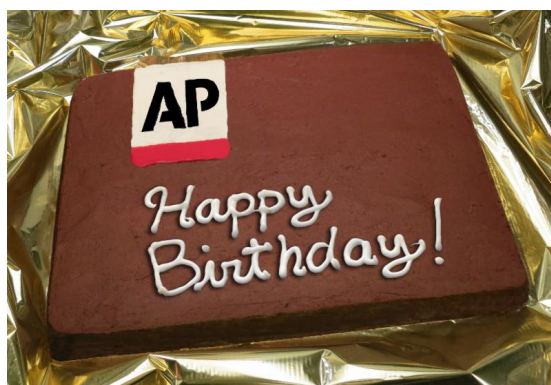
About 70 people have already registered for the event co-hosted by Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at heidgerd@flash.net

_ Pay your own way for events Saturday night, Sept. 18 (Tex-Mex group dinner) and the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19. The all-you-can-eat seats at the game are \$45 each and reservations must be made in advance via Diana. Please order game tickets by Friday, Aug. 20.

_ A bonus BBQ dinner event, hosted by David & Ellen Sedeño, is scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 17. Please also register in advance for this gathering.

Details on the group hotel and confirming your place at all three events are in the registration form. Email Diana: heidgerd@flash.net

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Mark Elias - melias.media@gmail.com

Story of interest

US Marine commander who directed troops to plant first American flag on Iwo Jima for one of the most iconic photos of World War Two dies aged 102 (Daily Mail)



Dave Severance, a retired U.S. Marine colonel whose troops were the first to plant an American flag over the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II, is seen at his home in San Diego on May 20, 2015. (San Diego Union-Tribune via Associated Press)

By SHANNON THAYLER

A World War Two US Marine who commanded his troops to plant an American flag on the Japanese Island of Iwo Jima - resulting on one of the conflict's most iconic photographs - has died aged 102.

Dave Severance died Monday at his home in the San Diego suburb of La Jolla, according to The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Severance spent his retirement quietly trying to set the record straight that there were two flag-raising on the February morning in 1945 - the day one of warfare's most iconic photos was taken. It was the second one which was snapped and ended up in the annals of history.

Severance commanded about 40 members of his company to plant a giant American Flag on Mount Suribachi that morning even though the battle for Iwo Jima was not over yet.

Another group was later sent up with a second flag to replace the first, with that raising snapped by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal. The Marines kept the original flag and the Navy secretary would get the second, which flew over Mount Suribachi for the rest of the battle.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Tucker.

The Final Word

25 secrets to enjoy a long marriage (Tampabay.com)

By Roy Peter Clark

August 7 marks the 50th wedding anniversary of Karen Lorraine Major and Roy Peter Clark. We were married in a small chapel on the campus of Providence College in Rhode Island. We had our honeymoon in Montreal. We have daughters born in New York, in Alabama and in Florida.

The rest of this essay is a kind of fiction based upon the idea that there are “secrets” to a long marriage and enduring love. I began compiling these in 2011, on the lead-up to our 40th anniversary. I published 100 of them on Facebook, mostly for fun.

They are framed as tips for straight men in traditional marriages because that is who I am and what I know. But I imagine there are a few gold coins in the mix for any person in any kind of committed relationship. If not, I invite you to write your own.

Here are the first 25. I hope they work for you, make you think or make you laugh.

Secret No. 1: She may not be right, but she’s never wrong. Your male competitive juices may drive you to tell her she’s wrong about where to take your vacation. This is a huge mistake, which is to be avoided at all cost. The more she thinks that you think she’s right, especially if you validate her position, the happier she will make you feel.

Read more [here](#).



Celebrating AP's 175th

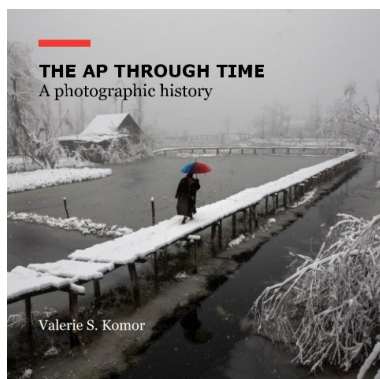
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 9, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2021. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress code-named Bockscar dropped a nuclear device ("Fat Man") over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

On this date:

In 1910, the U.S. Patent Office granted Alva J. Fisher of the Hurley Machine Co. a patent for an electrically powered washing machine.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order nationalizing silver.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1942, British authorities in India arrested nationalist Mohandas K. Gandhi; he was released in 1944.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, California, refused to load a munitions ship following a cargo vessel explosion that killed 320 men, many of them Black. (Fifty of the sailors were convicted of mutiny, fined and imprisoned.)

In 1969, actor Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive as President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Lauro Cavazos (kah-VAH'-zohs) to be secretary of education; Cavazos became the first Hispanic to serve in the Cabinet.

In 1992, closing ceremonies were held for the Barcelona Summer Olympics, with the Unified Team of former Soviet republics winning 112 medals, the United States 108.

In 2004, Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, addressing a court for the first time, asked victims of the blast for forgiveness as a judge sentenced him to 161 consecutive life sentences.

In 2014, Michael Brown Jr., an 18-year-old Black man, was shot to death by a police officer following an altercation in Ferguson, Missouri; Brown's death led to sometimes-violent protests in Ferguson and other U.S. cities, spawning a national "Black Lives Matter" movement.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama announced new fuel efficiency standards for work trucks, buses and other heavy duty vehicles. Polygamist leader Warren Jeffs was sentenced in San Angelo, Texas, to life in prison for sexually assaulting one of his child brides, and received the maximum 20-year punishment for a separate child sex conviction.

Five years ago: House Speaker Paul Ryan defeated Paul Nehlen, a longshot Republican challenger praised by Donald Trump, in a Wisconsin congressional primary. At the Rio Games, Michael Phelps earned the 20th and 21st Olympic gold medals of his career as he won the 200-meter butterfly and anchored the United States to victory in the 4x200 freestyle relay. Katie Ledecky earned her second gold in Rio by winning the 200-meter freestyle. The U.S. women's gymnastics team won gold for a second consecutive Olympics.

One year ago: The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States reached 5 million, the highest of any country. Collin Morikawa closed with a 6-under-par 64 to win the PGA Championship in San Francisco, the first major golf tournament held without spectators.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Cousy is 93. Actor Cynthia Harris is 87. Tennis Hall of Famer Rod Laver is 83. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 79. Comedian-

director David Steinberg is 79. Actor Sam Elliott is 77. Singer Barbara Mason is 74. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player John Cappelletti is 69. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Doug Williams is 66. Actor Melanie Griffith is 64. Actor Amanda Bearse is 63. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 62. Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., is 61. Hockey Hall of Famer Brett Hull is 57. TV host Hoda Kotb (HOH'-duh KAHT'-bee) is 57. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders is 54. Actor Gillian Anderson is 53. Actor Eric Bana is 53. Producer-director McG (aka Joseph McGinty Nichol) is 53. NHL player-turned-coach Rod Brind'Amour is 51. TV anchor Chris Cuomo is 51. Actor Thomas Lennon is 51. Rapper Mack 10 is 50. Actor Nikki Schieler Ziering is 50. Latin rock singer Juanes is 49. Actor Liz Vassey is 49. Actor Kevin McKidd is 48. Actor Rhona Mitra (ROH'-nuh MEE'-truh) is 46. Actor Texas Battle is 45. Actor Jessica Capshaw is 45. Actor Ashley Johnson is 38. Actor Anna Kendrick is 36.

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.**



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