

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting August 19, 2021

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



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

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

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Aug. 19, 2021,

Today's Connecting brings sad news of the death of our colleague **Joe Galloway**, who during a journalism career of nearly five decades reported from the Vietnam War, the Kremlin and Iraq. He died Wednesday at the age of 79.

He spent 22 years as a war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International, including serving four tours in Vietnam. He then worked for U.S. News & World Report magazine and Knight Ridder newspapers in a series of overseas roles, including reporting from the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

He was best known for his book, with retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," which recounted his and Moore's experience during a bloody 1965 battle with the North Vietnamese in the Ia Drang Valley. The book became a national bestseller and was made into the 2002 movie "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson as Moore and Barry Pepper as Galloway.

Congratulations are in order for **Roxana Hegeman (Email)**, longtime AP Wichita correspondent, and **Tom Slaughter (Email)**, an AP bureau chief and New York vice president who later headed the Inland Press Association, on their selection to the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame's Class of 2021.

Comparisons of the Fall of Saigon in 1975 and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan prompts another set of memories from an AP photojournalist who covered the Vietnam War. Our colleague **Carl Robinson** shares his memories from his home in Australia.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Journalist Joe Galloway, chronicler of Vietnam War, dies



**FILE - Author Joe Galloway talks to reporters after services for retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, in at Fort Benning, Ga. Galloway, best known for his book recounting a pivotal battle in the Vietnam War that was made into a Hollywood movie, has died. He was 79. His wife, Grace Galloway, confirmed to AP that he died Wednesday morning**

after being hospitalized near their home in North Carolina. (Todd J. Van Emst/Opelika-Auburn News via AP)

By MICHAEL BIESECKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Longtime American foreign correspondent Joseph L. Galloway, best known for his book recounting a pivotal battle in the Vietnam War that was made into a Hollywood movie, has died. He was 79.

A native of Refugio, Texas, Galloway spent 22 years as a war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International, including serving four tours in Vietnam. He then worked for U.S. News & World Report magazine and Knight Ridder newspapers in a series of overseas roles, including reporting from the Persian Gulf War in 1991.



Galloway died Wednesday morning, his wife, Grace Galloway, told The Associated Press, after being hospitalized near their home in Concord, North Carolina. He is also survived by two sons and a stepdaughter.

“He was the kindest, most gentle and loving man,” Grace Galloway said. “He loved the boys and girls of the U.S. military. He loved his country.”

With co-author retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, Galloway wrote “We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young,” which recounted his and Moore’s experience during a bloody 1965 battle with the North Vietnamese in the Ia Drang Valley. The book became a national bestseller and was made into the 2002 movie “We Were Soldiers,” starring Mel Gibson as Moore and Barry Pepper as Galloway.

“Joe has my respect and admiration — a combat reporter in the field who willingly flew into hot spots and, when things got tough, was not afraid to take up arms to fight for his country and his brothers,” Gibson said Wednesday.

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

Click [here](#) for Washington Post story on his death. Shared by Bob Reid, Dennis Conrad.

## ***Remembering Joe Galloway – Bubba and Buck***

**Mike Tharp (Email)** - Joe Galloway was a 19-year-old, flat-topped statehouse correspondent for UPI with a corner desk in the Topeka Capital-Journal newsroom in 1961. I was a 16-year-old copyboy.

Right away I noticed three things about him: he was always on the move. He smoked unfiltered cigarettes like a Santa Fe steam engine. And he sounded like my mom, who was also from Texas.

He was nice to me, low kid on the pica pole. He hung around Por'e Richards, the staff beer joint, after deadline with Rich Clarkson, head of the photo staff, and Bill Snead, his number 2 shooter.

Then one day Joe was gone. I didn't have to empty his ashtrays anymore. Or rip the AP wire and hand it to him to see what the competition was doing. I heard he'd forced UPI to send him to Asia--first to Tokyo, then Vietnam.

You can read about Joe's Ernie Pyle-like war correspondent exploits elsewhere on this site by better reporters than me.

In 2010 I visited Bubba (as later colleagues called him) in Refugio, Texas, his hometown outside Corpus Christi. There over glasses of Jack straight, he signed a gilded copy of his masterpiece of men in battle, "We Were Soldiers Once...and Young."

He wrote: "To Buck [my nickname] Tharp, who's covered my back trails from Topeka to Tokyo to Vietnam, the Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia and beyond."

Then we drove into Corpus Christi to dine with my college roommate, Dr. Jack Dugan, the city's top ophthalmologist. Joe needed some eye work, and Jack later fixed him up. Also with us was Jack's fiancée, Bonnie Trejo. (His first wife Susie died of cancer in 2001.)

Joe and I were fast email and FB buddies. In 2013, I moved to Plano, Texas, to marry Jeralyn Nickel. After signing up for the VA in California (I'd been a soldier correspondent in Nam), I went to the 10th Circle of Hell, the VA hospital in south Dallas. After hours of deploying past wheelchairs and crutches to a dozen windows, I got to the last one.

The lady said I didn't qualify, that I'd made too much money the year before. Didn't matter that a lot of it was a severance package after my asshole publisher "eliminated the position" of executive editor of the McClatchy daily where I worked.

When I got home, I called Bubba. He said to send him my file number. The next day he happened to be interviewing Gen. Eric Shinseki, then the head of the VA, in Washington.

Over the next few days, I got four calls from the Dallas VA, asking me when it would "be convenient" for me to come in.

That's Joe as a force multiplier.

Four years ago, Joe spoke at a high-dollar confab in Dallas. We arranged to have breakfast before he and the loves of his life, Doc Gracie and Jacque the Wonder Dog, headed to the airport. (Joe and I were old enough to know Jacques was nicknamed after Manfred the Wonder Dog, Tom Terrific's pard in a 1950s cartoon show.)

As Joe and Jeralyn talked, I mentioned to Doc Gracie that like her, my mom had been a trapeze artist in a circus in the 1920s. Grace had been one in the '90s.

Another back trail crossed.

Thanks for walking point for me, Joe, for 60 years. When you're in Hallowed Ground, just yell "Copy!" I'll come running.

-0-

**Neil Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - Joe Galloway was one of the great ones. What else is there to say?

-0-

**David Kennerly** ([Email](#)) - Bidding a fond and sad farewell to my friend of 50 years Joseph Galloway, the Ernie Pyle of the Vietnam War. Joe was the best in the business. I took this of him in 2016 at the LBJ Library. The U.S. Army awarded Joe a Bronze Star for Valor for rescuing wounded soldiers under heavy fire during the Ia Drang Valley Battle in 1965. He was only civilian during the VN War so honored. Joe loved the GI's he covered more than anything. His book "We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young," written with Hal Moore about the Ia Drang battle, is one of the most important journals of Americans in combat. Adieu Joe, you will be greatly missed.



## Roxana Hegeman, Tom Slaughter named to Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame

Veteran AP Wichita Correspondent Roxana Hegeman and former AP bureau chief and New York executive Tom Slaughter will be inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, the Kansas Press Association announced Wednesday.

They are among four who will join the Hall's Class of 2021; others are Lloyd Ballhagen, a former Harris Enterprises executive, and Joel Klaassen, former owner of the Hillsboro Free Press and Kansas Publishing Ventures. The four will be inducted during the Oct. 9 President's Gala celebration at the Meridian Center in Newton.

Hegeman joined the AP in New Orleans as a newswoman in 1994 and was appointed Wichita correspondent in 1998.

"When my family came to this country from Cuba," she said, "my mom told me I could be anything I wanted to be here. I



chose to be a journalist, and this honor means so much to me because it validates the dreams of that young immigrant girl. I want to thank my colleagues at The Associated Press who have given me the encouragement and the freedom to write the stories of the people and the places of this richly diverse nation."



On her first day on the job in Wichita, the DeBruce Elevator near Haysville exploded. Her stories through the years also included extensive coverage of the BTK killings, the long-running abortion battles that led to the murder of Dr. George Tiller and the tornadoes that ripped through Haysville and Greensburg.

Roxana Perez was born in Havana and immigrated to the United States as a young child with her parents in 1960 following the Cuban revolution. While attending the University of Texas at El Paso, she was named the "Outstanding Woman in College Journalism" by the Texas Press Women. She graduated with a degree in journalism in 1976 and later met and married Douglas Hegeman.

Following a stint at the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, she and her husband founded the Belgrade (Montana) Independent Press, where the Hegemans handled every facet of publication from typesetting to advertising and subscription sales and bookkeeping. Exhausted, they sold the award-winning newspaper in 1982.

After a stop in Odessa (Texas) as the features editor, the Hegemans missed Montana and returned to Bozeman, where she covered government and agriculture for six years. After moving to Shoshone, Idaho, she landed her dream job as a correspondent at the AP bureau in New Orleans in 1994.

In 1998, an opening with the AP in Wichita caught her attention. A private pilot herself and a former hobby farmer in Montana, the thought of working in the nation's aviation hub and in an agricultural area appealed to her. When she didn't hear back in her request for an interview, she told then-Kansas City CoB Paul Stevens the AP would be hard-pressed to find another reporter for that job "who could fly a plane and milk a cow." Stevens hired her.

Hegeman has twice won the Fred Moen AP Staffer of the Year award.

Her husband is now retired from teaching. They have three grown children: Aaron, Eric and Sarah, and four grandchildren.

Slaughter's career has spanned from being an Associated Press chief of bureau and AP executive to his leadership of the Inland Press Association and its foundation.

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Tom through lots of Associated Press roles," said Julie Inskeep, president of The Journal Gazette Co. of Fort Wayne, Ind., and a former AP board member.



"Many significant contributions right in the middle of dramatic business and industry change. After his retirement from AP, the Inland Press Association was lucky enough to get him as executive director. He then helped with the merger of Inland and SNPA into America's Newspapers but still directs the Inland Press Foundation. Tom is a man who cares deeply about great journalism and what it contributes to an informed and engaged citizenry. I am so pleased that he was awarded this high honor."

Slaughter began his AP career in 1973 as a reporter in AP's Topeka bureau, covering the Kansas Legislature and state government under the tutelage of legendary Correspondent Lew Ferguson. After leaving Topeka, Slaughter covered legislatures in several states including South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming and Florida.

Slaughter joined AP's headquarters staff in 1990, after serving as AP bureau chief in Newark and Seattle. He held a series of executive positions, including vice president and director of strategic planning for the international news agency.

During his time as director of strategic planning, the AP modernized its photo transmission systems, purchased an international television agency, and launched its new media division. He later served as director of AP Digital, vice president of new media markets, and vice president of U.S. newspaper markets.

Slaughter became executive director of the Inland Press Association and Inland Press Foundation in 2011. The association, founded in 1875, has nearly 1,000 daily and weekly newspaper members. Slaughter remained executive director of the foundation following the 2019 merger of the Inland Press Association and the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.

The foundation became wholly independent following the merger and continues to support newspaper-focused training and programs through a grant agreement with America's Newspapers, the successor to IPA and SNPA.

He holds a B.S. in journalism from the University of Kansas and an MBA in finance from City University of Seattle.

He and his wife, Pam, live in Lawrence and have two grown children, and three grandchildren.

## Remembering the fall of Saigon



**ABOVE:** Carl Robinson: "Yes, that's a very pissed off me under the Air America chopper. The Commander of Operation Frequent Wind, an Admiral, had come out to glad-hand our group and I refused to stand there and shake his hand. Screw 'em all -- and especially what America had done to Vietnam. (But that's another essay.) "



**RIGHT: Carl with legendary AP photojournalist Max Desfor (left).**

**Carl Robinson (Email)** - This week's sudden collapse of Kabul to the Taliban and mass panic to escape certainly triggered my own memories from South Vietnam and running for those last choppers outa' Saigon back on 29 April 1975.



By then, I'd been in-country for over 11 years, first as a JFK Idealist in the 'pacification program' in '64, quitting in protest after Tet '68 and hired as caption writer out of a Saigon bar by the AP's legendary photographer Horst Faas. By war's end, I was NY staff shooting photos and writing words, also covering Laos and Cambodia.

After all those years and as North Vietnamese tanks pulled up outside Saigon, I wasn't that frightened, hopeful of covering war's end and even sticking around.

But in the end, my Confucian Duty – my obligation to my Vietnamese family - overrode any professional ambition as I ran for that chopper with the brother and niece of my wife Kim-Dung, evacuated earlier by AP to Bangkok, with the rest of her family left behind, her anti-Saigon Regime father waiting too late and rest of the family still in the Mekong Delta. (His price: four years in a Communist Re-Education camp.)

On a packed bus in sweltering mid-day heat, we pulled up at the former MAC-V (Military Assistance Command-Vietnam), now Defense Attache Office (DAO) next to Tan Son Nhut airport, now under increasing North Vietnamese artillery.

Then, a single loud explosion. Close. Incoming. A 122mm rocket or perhaps even long-range 130mm artillery. The bus lurched to a stop and driver fiddled with the opening mechanism for its single front door. Everyone wanted off the bus at once. Standing up and pushing with their bags.

As panic gripped our mob, somebody yelled out, "Stop! Calm down. One at a time." It worked. The door opened. We slowly disembarked and made our way into the DAO.

I hadn't been inside for years, typical US Military with offices on the upper floor and ground amenities like cafeterias, a Post Exchange and Barber Shop. Saigon was falling and someone had forgotten to turn off the classic revolving red, white and blue barber's pole outside. Anyone need a haircut while we're waiting to bug out of here, I wondered?

We sat down along one side of the linoleum-covered, fluorescent-lit hallway. Thank goodness, the air-conditioning was still working. We had no idea how long we'd be. Unspoken, we worried about the next explosion and becoming the target. But everything was eerily quiet.

Finally, there was movement at the end of the hallway. People were leaving. A US officer came past shouting out they were raising the number of evacuees per chopper from 50 people to 65 with only one carry-on.

Then, in a blast of blinding tropical light, the exit door opened as an officer counted us past and we ran out into the blazing hot sunshine and a baseball diamond coated in black diesel to keep down the dust. Lying flat on their stomachs in a wide circle around the field, fully-armed US Marines in flak jackets pointed their M-16's outwards against armed Vietnamese from either side.

Straight ahead with its ramp down stood a huge chopper I'd never seen before, a US Marine CH-53 Sea Stallion. Squat. Heavy-looking. Two huge jet engines and a single huge multi-prop rotor blade. That familiar pungent smell of burning kerosene, or JP-4, now mixed with the smell of diesel and dust. The sky was a Dry Season hazy white.

We put our heads down and rushed to the chopper's back door, up the ramp and into web seats on the left side. More piled in filling the centre floor. The chopper throbbed to the sound of the engine and then the props sharply changed pitch and – like popping a clutch – we soared sharply up into the air.

Out the open back door of the CH-53, I saw the entire panorama of Tan Son Nhut as we twisted away, its twin runways deserted and smoke rising here and there. And looking out even more keenly, a helmeted US Marine crewman scanned the entire horizon with his flare pistol at the ready. If any of those heat-seeking Dreaded Strellas – Soviet-made shoulder-held SAM-7's – shot up, he'd hopefully fool them away with a blazing hot flare. We flew past Saigon heading south.

Barely a half-hour later, the CH-53 descended over the South China Sea. From inside the crowded helicopter, we couldn't see a thing, just glimpses of grey sky and dark seas out the rear windows and cargo ramp. We shuddered to a stop on the stern of a US Navy ship, disembarked and waved along the railing to the back part of the vessel.

Clutching my large camera bag and the two kids behind, I gazed out at the massive flotilla of over 50 ships, including a couple aircraft carriers stripped of war planes. Big choppers landing and taking off everywhere. And then in a deafening roar, ours took off for another run back to Saigon.



We were on board the USS Mobile (LKA-115), an Attack Cargo Ship, at the top of the flotilla and closest to the South Vietnamese coast. But any landmarks, like those hills near Vung Tau southeast of Saigon, were no longer visible. On board our load of 65 were a handful of foreign journalists, none close acquaintances, but mostly Vietnamese civilians. But first up, we needed to be cleared and registered.

Wearing MP (Military Police) armbands, a detail of US Navy sailors ordered everyone to place their bags on the deck and open them for inspection. My camera bag easily

passed but glancing behind me, I saw one of the MPs victoriously holding up a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black he'd found in a journalist's bag.

Okay, US Navy ships are "dry" – we all knew that. But instead of just tossing it overboard, this officious fellow stood up, uncorked the bottle and slowly poured its contents into the South China Sea – and then the emptied bottle. The bastard!

And if there was ever a time when you really needed a drink, this should clearly have been an exemption from Navy Regulations.

After Saigon's surrender the next day, dozens of South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) helicopters appeared over the fleet from the southern Mekong Delta. But with no room for storage were quickly pushed overboard into the South China Sea. We spent the next five days aboard the USS Mobile, its landing craft ferrying the first Boat People to waiting freighters.

Finally, we were shifted to the USS Blue Ridge, Operation Frequent Wind's command ship, and then another long run by CH-53 to Clark Air Base in the Philippines where I was met by the familiar face of Tokyo-based Asia Photo Editor Max Desfor.

But in a frustrating postscript, I quickly heard that none of the stories I'd filed to AP from the USS Mobile were received, including an advisory to AP Bangkok to Kim-Dung on what's happened, especially her family. For five anxious days, she had no idea what happened to me. We'd lost everything. Our home. Dogs. Family. We had only a few personal possessions and no choice but to start life over again.

## Farewell, Afghanistan

**Robert H. Reid** ([Email](#)) - Back in 2009 I took a drive around Kabul with AP's Afghan correspondent Amir Shah, soaking in the sights of a city that would be my home for the next 15 months. The conversation turned to what it was like when the Taliban rolled into town in 1996.

Amir Shah talked of approaching his first Taliban checkpoint with trepidation, so used were he and others to being insulted, shaken down and occasionally robbed by armed men since the civil war that erupted after the Soviets withdrew in 1989.

"They were polite and respectful," Amir Shah recalled. "The people were relieved to see them because they promised to bring peace" after so many years of bloodshed and destruction.

Perhaps that's part of the reason the Taliban were able to roll through the major cities to the capital Kabul and topple a government that the United States had struggled so hard to build and nurture.

More Afghans wanted peace than were ready to defend a government they saw as corrupt and ineffectual – especially if the United States was exiting the conflict.



Unlike the mid-1990s, Afghans today know the Taliban well, and many of them, especially the educated, urban classes, are terrified at the prospect of a second chapter of Taliban rule.

But Afghans are also tired of fighting. They've been engulfed in war almost continually since 1979. In a country where the median age is 18, that means most Afghans have never known their nation at peace.

Afghanistan is a complex country difficult for outsiders to understand. What's real in one place is fantasy in another.

The scenes of terrified Afghans swarming Kabul's airport, the heart-wrenching stories of bright young women whose futures are at risk are all too real.

However, those are the urban classes whose lives were transformed for the better thanks to the Americans.

Priorities are different in rural areas where 75 percent of Afghans live and where the war was largely fought. For the millions whose lives changed little over the last 20 years, the priority is an end to the devastation and death.

They were far-less invested in the success of the government than the residents of Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kunduz.

The depth of war-weariness may ring hollow to many Americans whose knowledge of Afghanistan is colored by false images of a blood-thirsty people who have been "killing each other for centuries."

Americans too are tired of the "Forever Wars" waged since the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States. During the 20 years of America's longest war, the United States, with about 330 million people, has suffered nearly 6,300 deaths among U.S. military members and contractors.

Afghanistan is estimated to have lost more than 165,000 people including government troops, Taliban fighters and civilians during the war.

Why did the Taliban maintain the will when the government forces did not?

Perhaps because the United States made clear it was withdrawing. It was not just pulling out the relatively modest number of soldiers but also contractors who maintained the combat aircraft that were the government's edge over the Taliban.

The psychological shock of abandonment was too much. Morale collapsed, and the Afghan army melted away. That's the Afghan way. There's no tradition of fighting to the bitter end when all hope of victory is gone.

The same thing happened in 2001. The Taliban battled the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance until it became clear there was no chance of victory. Instead of fighting to the death to defend Kabul, the Taliban slipped away in the dead of night.

The Northern Alliance and their American partners walked into Kabul the next day.

*Editor's Note: Bob Reid reported from Kabul during the Soviet invasion of 1979, was acting news editor for Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2001-2002, reported from Afghanistan briefly in 2007 and was News Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan based in Kabul from 2009-2010.*

**Memory of Larry Heinzerling:**

## 'The little stuff that Larry did'

**Ed McCullough** ([Email](#)) - If you can take one more story, this one is emblematic of the little stuff that Larry did, too, along with the noteworthy. In December 1996, I was assigned to Lima, Peru from Caracas, Venezuela at the outset of 340 people being taken hostage at a foreign ambassador's residence by leftist rebels trying to pressure then-president Alberto Fujimori to meet their political demands. Sidestepping the sudden events and their bloody resolution, front-page news clips with 36-point type headlines from major media were as significant then to AP as to its far-flung ink-stained wretches. While culling through my reduced archive that survived 11 moves with AP, I found one from The Atlanta Journal/The Atlanta Constitution dated Dec. 7, 1996. with the following note from Larry:

"Just consider this part of my continuing campaign to fill your scrapbook so you can show off your talents to the family and explain your absence from the Christmas hearth (at least in 1996). Front page display four days in a row is pretty enviable stuff no matter how you cut it."

## Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

**UPDATE:** *Texas Rangers group tickets now in socially distanced seating area of Globe Life Field, tickets only \$15 each*

**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 next month.

-0-

The deadline to register for the Sept. 17-18-19, 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](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

**NEW:** Due to pandemic concerns, the AP reunion group seating for the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19, will now be in socially distanced seats costing \$15 each (correct). Seats are spread out, fans are seated in

two's and four's and not as close to other fans. There are wheelchair/accessible seats available. Globe Life Field has a retractable roof and air conditioning/air recirculation.

Please email [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net) to order game tickets by Sunday, Aug. 22. Socially distanced Section 240 is still on the 200 level of Globe Life Field (center field) but is not the previous \$45 all-you-can-eat seats (200 Level of right field). If you previously committed to purchasing game tickets, you do not need to respond again.

AP 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts (men's sizes only) are available to order online. Cost \$20 apiece, includes mailing & handling. Please order by Friday, Sept. 3.

\_ Click this link: <https://associatedpress175.spiritsale.com> Check out the example of the T-shirt, front & back, with AP 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. One color only – gray.

\_ Select the T-shirt size(s), the number you wish to order and add to cart.

\_ Click on cart, fill out shipping information and click again to place order. You will receive an initial email from the vendor, CreativeWEB in South Dakota, with order confirmation.

\_ You will receive a second email, upon completion of the order, to pay via a secure credit-card link. If you have problems getting the payment link to work, contact CreativeWEB at 605-350-6468 to provide a credit-card number or use PayPal. The T-shirts will be delivered by U.S. Postal Service.

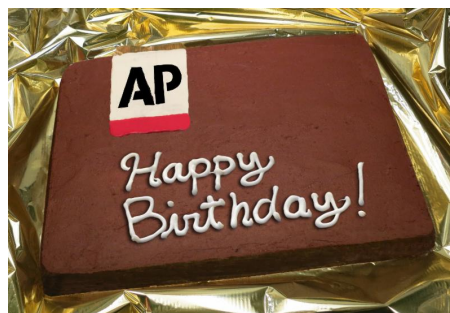
### ***Reunion Weekend/Schedule:***

\_ 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. Please reserve your \$15 game tickets in advance (see above).

\_ 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, confirming your place at all three events and ordering/online AP 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts are in the registration form. Email Diana: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



**Skip Foreman - [sforeman@ap.org](mailto:sforeman@ap.org)**

## Stories of interest

***Painful goodbyes, midnight helicopters and a surreal zoo trip: A Stars and Stripes reporter's final days before being evacuated from Kabul*** (Stars and Stripes)



Stars and Stripes reporter J.P. Lawrence prepares to board a helicopter and head to the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 14, 2021. (Phillip Walter Wellman/Stars and Stripes)

**BY J.P. LAWRENCE**  
Stars and Stripes

Three days before Kabul fell, I walked with my Afghan co-worker through the city's zoo, where we peered through cages to see monkeys, flamingos and a single white lion. Families strolled through the exhibits as if all were normal, and children ate ice cream under a clear blue sky.

But my colleague's face was grim with worry.

He told me that day he wanted me and another American Stars and Stripes reporter to leave as soon as possible.

He said he had never felt so scared before. This is someone who has reported on the war in his homeland since 2004, and who has lost friends in suicide bombings.



We had been planning to leave around early September, so we could cover the formal end of America's longest war and perhaps photograph any sort of final ceremony.

But in just a week, the Taliban went from controlling no provincial capitals to half the country. Like many, we had assumed from U.S. estimates that the Afghan military could hold off the Taliban, at least for a while.

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

-0-

## ***Female presenter interviews Taliban spokesman on Afghanistan television*** (Guardian)

By JIM WATERSON

On Tuesday an unprecedented discussion took place on an Afghanistan television channel: a female presenter interviewed a Taliban spokesperson about the group's plans for the country, days after insurgents seized control of the capital, Kabul.

Beheshta Arghand's discussion with the spokesperson Mawlawi Abdulhaq Hemad is being claimed by the rolling news channel TOLO News as the first time an Afghan woman has conducted an interview with a senior Taliban official inside the country's borders.

"We said to them, look, a female is going to interview you," said Saad Mohseni, the founder of TOLO News. "And they said fine. They could have easily have said screw you – they run the country, they can do whatever they want."

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



## **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. 19, 2021



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Aug. 19, the 231st day of 2021. There are 134 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 19, 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

### **On this date:**

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat arrived in Albany, two days after leaving New York.

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces landed at Benedict, Maryland, with the objective of capturing Washington D.C.

In 1848, the New York Herald reported the discovery of gold in California.

In 1909, the first automobile races were run at the just-opened Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner of the first event was auto engineer Louis Schwitzer, who drove a Stoddard-Dayton touring car twice around the 2.5-mile track at an average speed of 57.4 mph.

In 1942, during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France, suffering more than 50-percent casualties.

In 1955, torrential rains caused by Hurricane Diane resulted in severe flooding in the northeastern U.S., claiming some 200 lives.

In 1960, a tribunal in Moscow convicted American U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers of espionage. (Although sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, Powers was returned to the United States in 1962 as part of a prisoner exchange.)

In 1974, U.S. Ambassador Rodger P. Davies was fatally wounded by a bullet that penetrated the American embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus, during a protest by Greek Cypriots.

In 1980, 301 people aboard a Saudi Arabian L-1011 died as the jetliner made a fiery emergency return to the Riyadh airport.

In 1991, rioting erupted in the Brooklyn, New York, Crown Heights neighborhood after a Black 7-year-old, Gavin Cato, was struck and killed by a Jewish driver from the ultra-Orthodox Lubavitch community; three hours later, a mob of Black youth fatally stabbed Yankel Rosenbaum, a rabbinical student.

In 2010, the last American combat brigade exited Iraq, seven years and five months after the U.S.-led invasion began.

Ten years ago: Three men — Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jesse Misskelley — who'd spent nearly two decades in prison for the nightmarish slayings of three Cub Scouts in Arkansas, went free after they agreed to a legal maneuver allowing them to maintain their innocence while acknowledging prosecutors had enough evidence against them.

Five years ago: The Obama administration defended its decision to make a \$400 million cash delivery to Iran contingent on the release of American prisoners, saying the payment wasn't ransom because the Islamic Republic would have soon recouped the money one way or another. Usain Bolt scored another sweep at the Rio Games, winning three gold medals in his third consecutive Olympics by turning a close 4x100 relay race against Japan and the United States into a runaway, helping Jamaica cross the line in 37.27 seconds. Allyson Felix won an unprecedented fifth gold medal in women's track and field, running the second leg of the 4x100-meter relay team. Actor Jack Riley, 80, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president in a speech to the party's virtual convention, cementing her place in history as the first Black woman on a major party ticket. In a speech on the third night of the convention, former President Barack Obama warned that his successor, Donald Trump, was both



unfit for office and apathetic to the nation's founding principles. Another night of protests in Portland, Oregon ended in clashes with police; officials said protesters broke out the windows of a county government building, sprayed lighter fluid inside and set a fire. President Donald Trump blasted universities that had canceled in-person classes amid coronavirus outbreaks, saying students posed a greater safety threat at home with older family members. Apple became the first U.S. company to boast a market value of \$2 trillion, just two years after becoming the first U.S. company with a \$1 trillion market value.

Today's Birthdays: Actor L.Q. Jones is 94. Actor Debra Paget is 88. USTA Eastern Tennis Hall of Famer Renee Richards is 87. Former MLB All-Star Bobby Richardson is 86. Actor Diana Muldaur is 83. Actor Jill St. John is 81. Singer Billy J. Kramer is 78. Country singer-songwriter Eddy Raven is 77. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) is 76. Former President Bill Clinton is 75. Actor Gerald McRaney is 74. Actor Jim Carter is 73. Pop singer-musician Elliot Lurie (Looking Glass) is 73. Rock musician John Deacon (Queen) is 70. Bluegrass musician Marc Pruett (Balsam Range) is 70. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 69. Political consultant Mary Matalin is 68. Actor Peter Gallagher is 66. Actor Adam Arkin is 65. Singer-songwriter Gary Chapman is 64. Actor Martin Donovan is 64. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Anthony Munoz is 63. R&B singer Ivan Neville is 62. Actor Eric Lutes is 59. Actor John Stamos is 58. Actor Kyra Sedgwick is 56. Actor Kevin Dillon is 56. Country singer Lee Ann Womack is 55. TV reporter Tabitha Soren is 54. Country singer-songwriter Mark McGuinn is 53. Actor Matthew Perry is 52. Country singer Clay Walker is 52. Rapper Fat Joe is 51. Olympic gold medal tennis player Mary Joe Fernandez is 50. Actor Tracie Thoms is 46. Actor Callum Blue is 44. Country singer Rissi (REE'-see) Palmer is 40. Actor Erika Christensen is 39. Actor Melissa Fumero is 39. Pop singer Missy Higgins is 38. Actor Peter Mooney is 38. Actor Tammin Sursok is 38. Olympic silver medal snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis (jay-kuh-BEHL'-ihs) is 36. Actor J. Evan Bonifant is 36. Rapper Romeo is 32. Actor Ethan Cutkosky is 22.

## 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**

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"