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Connecting

August 23, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 23, 2021,

AP history was made when **Daisy Veerasingham** was selected to be the next president and CEO of The Associated Press. She's the first woman, first person of color and first international citizen to become leader of the worldwide news agency.

History of another sort is part of the life of the 17-year AP veteran who currently is executive vice president and chief operating officer. The community where Veerasingham grew up, Tunbridge Wells, 30 miles southeast of central London, was founded in 1606. It was a spa during the English Restoration and in 1909 was officially recognized as Royal Tunbridge Wells by King Edward VII for its popularity with its many royal and aristocratic visitors – including his mother, Queen Victoria.



That's one fact you'll learn about in today's Connecting Profile that focuses on the woman who in early August was named to become the 14th leader of the AP effective Jan. 1, 2022. Another factoid is that she was hired into AP by **Ian Ritchie**, then head of AP Television, who moved on to key positions with Wimbledon and the Rugby

Football Union. The first-generation Briton of Sri Lankan descent was hired as a sales director for AP Television News in London.

Veerasingham, 51, a newsletter subscriber, responded to questions posed by Connecting's editor, who also included in the profile a couple of questions and her replies published in an AP Connections story that ran in the newsletter earlier this month.

Alert readers of the Style section in The New York Times spotted an AP connection in a recent story headlined, "The Overnight Shift Brought Them Closer Together." It featured two AP journalists, **Ashley Marie Thomas** and **Dino Hazell**, who met while in the New York bureau and began dating after both were transferred to Philadelphia. They were married Aug. 14 and both now work in the AP's Washington bureau.

It's a fascinating story. But wait, wait - there's more. Connecting would like to know if you have a similar story to share relating to your work at the AP and meeting a special someone.

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

Paul

Connecting Profile

Daisy Veerasingham



What did you do before joining the AP? Where did you grow up and how did you gravitate toward journalism?

I grew up in the UK in a town called Tunbridge Wells, which is similar to Bath if you know the UK well. My intro to journalism was by chance in many ways. I studied law at university and my father basically gave me three months to figure out what I wanted to do with my life or go to law school. I applied to a graduate program with the Financial Times thinking it looked interesting. I was very lucky to get one of only three spots they offered that year.

I spent the early, formative part of my career at the Financial Times, straight out of college. (Daisy earned her law degree before joining FT.) I learned about all aspects of the commercial side of running a news organization. I then moved on to LexisNexis. I sold a business from the Financial Times to LexisNexis and moved over to them as part of the sale.

What I gained from my experience with these two organizations is my absolute love of the news industry and an understanding of how to think about strategy and focus on implementation. The CEO at LexisNexis at the time often talked about how success is really measured by how well you implement. That is something I learned and has stayed with me throughout my career.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

I was hired by Ian Ritchie who ran AP Television News at the time and later went on to run Wimbledon and the lead the Rugby Football Union (RFU) as chief executive. There was quite a lot of change and transition happening at AP during my first days, which has pretty much been the case throughout my entire time here. At that point there were discussions about international business possibilities and bringing together the TV side and the other operations that AP had in text and photos. That was disbanded within about a year of my joining. It was certainly a period of a lot of moving parts and change. At that point in time, it was a change that the organization probably wasn't ready for. We came back to some of these ideas in 2009 and by then AP was ready to become a more integrated organization.

How has your past experience – personal and professional – shaped who you are today?

One of the key things that has impacted me professionally is the length of time I've worked internationally. It's given me perspective on the differences among people, and how important it is to have diverse voices be part of the conversation.

It also gave me a very early understanding of potential opportunities for business outside of the markets in which a company worked. I decided early on that I wanted to work at a truly global organization that operated across the world and brought together a diverse set of people each day.

On a personal note, there's been a lot written about the number of firsts I represent. The first woman, first person of color and first international citizen to lead the AP. This is something I have felt acutely throughout my career. For example, at the beginning of my career, I was one of the first people of color to work at the Financial Times.

Standing out in this way has offered me many opportunities but has also come with a huge sense of responsibility. You always feel like you cannot afford to make a mistake because somehow you let too many people down.

What's the most memorable trip you've taken?

One of the most memorable trips I've taken on behalf of the AP was my visit to North Korea. It was the most personally challenging trip I've ever been on, and I've traveled for business throughout my career. It was challenging to be in an environment that was very restrictive and where I was constantly watched. There were situations where people stepped over established business boundaries. I found it essential to retain a sense of humor throughout.



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

We know you don't have much of it, but how do you like to spend your free time?

I have two boys who keep me busy, and I love the theatre, art and cooking when I have time.

Could you identify what you see as AP's top priorities for 2022 and beyond?

From a news perspective there are two priorities; understanding and delivering on the critical role we play in breaking news across all formats for our customers and maintaining our core values of fact-based journalism.

From a revenue perspective, we need to stabilize revenue in our core media markets as much as possible. We also need to accelerate the diversification of our revenue streams beyond content licensing and build out our capabilities in services, advertising and special events.

There are some key projects that we need to execute on really well in 2022, including the complete overhaul of our elections technology platform. This will position us well for the 2022 midterms and into the 2024 presidential election.

We also need to rethink and implement changes to our core product for the U.S. by understanding the ways that customers use our content today. Essentially, our journalism will need to follow the digital publishing cycle from social use through to mainstream platforms, like newspapers and on their broadcasts.

What do you look forward to most about leading the AP as president and CEO?

Being part of an organization that is mission driven, believes in fact-based journalism and has an impact on the world is an honor. AP journalism does impact the world, and that's something I consider incredibly important.

There is no doubt that there are challenges ahead for the news industry but just as equally there are also many opportunities. I think we have a solid path mapped out for what we need to do. Everything may not always go as planned, and we will make missteps along the way, but I think together we can make lasting change at the AP that makes us stronger.

Some of the things I am most excited about are the potential of philanthropic funding that can help AP dive deep into certain subjects, the potential of live video, and the prospect of creating new services business lines based on AP's know-how and capabilities.

I am looking forward to watching AP become more successful in building our organizational confidence. We will need to take time to celebrate the successes we have along the way— this is as important as learning from things we could have done differently.

What about AP makes you proud to work here?

The people. We are capable of so much more than we think we are. We have to have more confidence in ourselves as an organization to really push forward.

Our mission makes me proud every day. I think our mission is a reason why many people choose to work at the AP. It is humbling that the work we do each day has a real impact on the world.

The Overnight Shift Brought Them Closer Together

Ashley Marie Thomas didn't care much for Dino Hazell when they worked in New York. All that changed when the two, both journalists, transferred to Philadelphia.



Photo: Mollie Woody of Jeff and Mollie Weddings

By Vincent M. Mallozzi
The New York Times

Just before Ashley Marie Thomas left the New York office of The Associated Press in February 2009 for a full-time job at its Philadelphia office, she thought she had seen the last of Dino Hazell, an editor and evening supervisor who had also been working for the news service at that time.

“I didn’t like him at all,” said Ms. Thomas, 35, now the deputy politics editor for the A.P.’s Washington bureau. “I found it very difficult to work with Dino in New York,” Ms. Thomas said, “so I was really happy to be getting away from him.”

But just as the door was closing behind her, a New York manager informed Ms. Thomas that Mr. Hazell and a few other colleagues from the New York office were also being transferred to the Philadelphia office.

“I wasn’t thrilled,” she said.

When Mr. Hazell, 51, who graduated from N.Y.U., from which he also received a master’s degree in journalism, arrived, however, the change of scenery somehow made him less of a nuisance than Ms. Thomas had remembered.

In fact, they soon became fast friends. “He was loud and funny and one of the best editors I had ever come across,” said Ms. Thomas, who graduated magna cum laude from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor’s degree in journalism.

“He was like a different person,” she said.

Then came a seismic shift in their relationship. The overnight shift, that is — which Ms. Thomas was asked to fill for three months.

Read more [here](#).

Marty Steinberg: Where do I begin?

Joyce Rosenberg ([Email](#)) - Where do I begin? Marty Steinberg is one of the most exemplary people I know, and not just as a journalist. His integrity and empathy seem endless to me, as does his passion and striving for excellence in whatever he turns his mind to, whether it's his family, his faith, journalism or music. I have seen him in relation to all of these and my admiration for him is truly endless.

But Marty, because of all these qualities, sometimes could be unrelenting, and in the middle of a breaking story. And I admit to screaming at him (in my hot-head days) when I felt like he was driving me crazy (nothing like feeling someone else's pressure on top of the pressure you put on yourself!). But he took it well and we had a wonderful working relationship that I still miss.

A less heated example. There was a Hasidic wedding with 10,000 people attending at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. I was the night editor at the NYC Bureau and Marty was the national editor at the General Desk. I was in touch with Pat Milton, our LI correspondent, and waiting for the wedding to start so we could lead the story. Marty kept calling me for an update. This was probably the third call:

M: Joyce, what's going on? It still hasn't started?

J: Marty, did your wedding start on time?

M: (Laughing) Oh, yeah ... well, let me when it starts.

Marty is one of my dearest friends and I truly love him. He and his wife Wilma, his equal in warmth and integrity, have included me in family events. And his daughter Emily, a psychiatrist, is one of my colleagues in my work as a psychoanalyst. I have seen Marty in performance, and one of my greatest thrills was seeing him as principal cellist in an orchestra at Carnegie Hall, playing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (and the cellos are prominent at the start of the Ode to Joy.)

We are all blessed to know him.

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Marty Thompson (Email) - It was good to see the young-looking image of Marty Steinberg with the news in Friday's Connecting that he is retiring from CNBC to become a full time cellist. The photo brought back memories of three Martys (Sutphin, Steinberg and Thompson) at the old NY General Desk on the fourth floor at 50 Rock.

Memories of Joe Galloway

Gracie Galloway (Email) - *excerpted from the Facebook post of Joe Galloway's wife:*

Our flag was at half-staff after Joe died. I brought him home in a First Calvary urn - and returned the flag to its high-flying status.

You are at peace now, my sweet love. And some day when the pain in my shattered heart abates, I will also be there - at peace.

Until then my promise to you that I made 10 years ago is that we will work together for our beloved veterans and men at women in uniform.

That MIGHT ease the pain. I will work to preserve your legacy.

You are my soulmate, my friend and the greatest love of my life.

I love you more than two. Starting from scratch because my brain and my heart are still crying.

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Memorial for Joe Galloway will be Sept. 18, First Baptist Rosemary Church, 200 Branchview Dr., Concord, NC 28025. Time TBA. Officiating will be Pastor Jim Collier, ex-Army Ranger. If you cannot attend and need a link to the memorial, please contact my daughter, Li Mei, at: kitty1980@bellsouth.net



To honor my sweet love, Joe Galloway, please do not send flowers. Instead, please make donations to the [la Drang Scholarship fund](#), founded in 1994 by Lt. General Hal Moore (USA-Ret) and Joe using earnings from their book. This fund is intended to help educate the descendants of the veterans of dead and/or surviving la Drang battles so they might better enjoy the blessings of freedom bought at such a terrible price.

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Joe Carter (Email) - My last word about the late Joe Galloway, 79, was his first days working for a wire service, the also late UPI.

As night editor (lone shift staffer) of UPI's Kansas City bureau, I don't recall who Galloway replaced as bureau chief (lone staffer) in Topeka, Kansas' Capitol. Joe Galloway remains unforgettable. In later years, Galloway told me that his education ended at high school. And from photos, I reckon the freckles faded.

Jack Fallon, the UPI division editor, called to advise that he had hired and dispatched Galloway to Topeka. I recall Fallon saying that Galloway was 19 years old with only a high school education." With two degrees at age 29, I was amazed. Days later, my cousin who happened to be a Kansas state representative called with query: "who's this freckled-faced kid you've hired?"



These six decades later, I can't recall Galloway dropping the ball on hard news coverage or failing accuracy. Galloway proved tireless, had a 'nose for news' and natural writing skills. He could spell and quickly mastered the keyboard necessary to transmit wire copy on the ticker. Those were traits not taught in J-Schools.

Later I recall that my cynical cousin called and advised: "That Galloway boy is amazing. Everyone likes him."

Galloway's volume of features and hard stories was heavy. Despite guild rules and labor laws, Galloway seemed to work day and night. One weekend evening, I was tipped that a riot had exploded at a concert in a small Kansas town. As I scurried to find a source to quote, the phone rang. It was Galloway saying he was attending the concert when the fights started. Joe dictated a wire-ready dispatch but perhaps not as compelling as his latter battlefield yarns.

The Associated Press and New York TIMES obituaries Galloway were superb. They simply skipped those first wire service days that deserved the "last word".

(By Joseph H. Carter, Sr., a UPI staffer in Dallas, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Kansas City, circa 1960s, plus an erstwhile newspaper reporter who drifted into politics and has written some books but is retired at 89 in Norman, Oklahoma.)

Connecting mailbox

Central Park bench honors Nick Jesdanun



Malcolm Ritter ([Email](#)) - A bench in New York's Central Park now honors Nick Jesdanun, the first member of the AP family to die from Covid-19. Nick was deputy technology editor in New York when he succumbed in April 2020 at the age of 51. Family and friends contributed money to dedicate the bench, which stands along the final mile of Nick's favorite race, the New York City Marathon. Click [here](#) to learn how to find it.



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Where's he headed next? Ed Staats looks for his next destination



Above: Ed and Barbara. Right: John Strauss and Ed

John Strauss ([Email](#)), a former General Desk editor and news editor in Indianapolis and Nashville, was recently named senior

editor for Lumina Foundation in Indianapolis. He visited one of his former bureau chiefs recently and filed this report:

Ed Staats had sent a note in an effort to set up a luncheon meeting.

"We are just back from western Kentucky," he reported. "Tomorrow we leave for Boston to visit son and family. Back a week from Friday."

Ed and his wife Barbara both love travel and have souvenirs and rich memories from trips to mostly emerging countries. Like most everyone else they hit pause during COVID, but are starting to get back out again.



It's no surprise to find him on the move: In a 41-year career with AP, Ed served in 10 offices, starting as a newsman in Austin in 1961 and wrapping up as Kentucky chief of bureau in 2002. Along the way he bounced between the print and broadcasting divisions. He also held management positions at AP headquarters and Washington broadcast. He was bureau chief in Salt Lake City, Albany and Louisville.

In Albany, among those he hired were Paul Stevens, future Special Correspondent Charlie Hanley and future Bangkok Bureau Chief Denis Gray before moving to New York and Washington, D.C., on administrative assignments. He also represented AP's broadcast division with assignments in Denver and Texas.

But Kentucky was his longest stand, and Ed was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, in 2002 recognizing his 18 years of service in Louisville and across the commonwealth.

I reported to Ed and to Indianapolis Bureau Chief Andy Lippman for two years in the mid-1980s while serving as correspondent in Evansville, Indiana, a position that covered western Kentucky as well as a southern swath of the Hoosier state. In a business that often rewards hard-charging personalities, Ed's relaxed but attentive style in pursuit of both the news and good member relations won him many fans. He would joke, as we rode to member visits, about the small-town broadcasting entrepreneur who said he sold bargain-priced advertising – "at a dollar a holler."

"Out here they'll tell you they have two kinds of music – country and Western," Ed told me one trip. He got his fascination with broadcast news from his first weeks on the job as night broadcast editor in Dallas. He also had been exposed to college radio, and the student daily, at The University of Texas.

In retirement, he's stayed busy with some consulting, a stint as interim CEO of the Girl Scout council serving parts of Kentucky and southern Indiana, and an appointment to Kentucky's Citizen Foster Care Review Board. He was named chair of the statewide panel in 2017.

But travel – that’s his real passion. And since getting vaccinated, he and Barbara have been plotting their next adventures.

“I don’t understand people who say they’re bored in retirement,” he said the day we got that lunch scheduled.

“There’s so much to do – there’s a world to see.” Next trip? South America, COVID willing.

AP urges DeSantis to end bullying aimed at reporter

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter suspended the account of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ press secretary for violating rules on “abusive behavior” after The Associated Press said her conduct led to a reporter receiving threats and other online abuse.

The DeSantis aide, Christina Pushaw, saw her account locked for 12 hours, a Twitter spokeswoman said. She won’t be able to tweet, although others can retweet or “like” her messages.

Earlier Friday, incoming AP CEO Daisy Veerasingham wrote to DeSantis, asking him to end Pushaw’s “harassing behavior.” AP is seeking to fight online bullying against journalists, a growing trend that is often triggered by public figures.

“You will ban the press secretary of a democratically-elected official while allowing the Taliban to live tweet their conquest of Afghanistan?” Pushaw said. She said those who “challenge false narratives are often silenced by corporate media and Big Tech collusion.”

Pushaw denied trying to direct the governor’s followers to target AP’s reporter despite retweeting his article and writing “drag them” in a now-deleted post.

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

Tamara Lush left the AP and journalism for fiction. She has no regrets.



Tamara Lush decided to part with her long-time journalism career and pursue fiction full-time. She chased stories for The Associated Press in Florida for almost 13 years, covering everything from crime to politics and natural disasters. (Courtesy: Tamara Lush)

**By: Amaris Castillo
Poynter.org**

I looked up, hopeful that this was it, that our time had come. It was a near obsession now, feeling his lips on mine. I loved kissing, and I was eager to find out how he'd feel.

He gazed at me, his eyes burning with craving. One hand rested on my upper thigh. He'd hiked up my dress so that the garter and stocking top were exposed, and he squeezed around the lacy band.

"Take off your dress."

"You don't want to kiss me first?" I moved closer to him, my body straining to be next to his.

The corners of his lips turned up, and he shook his head. Okay then.

I turned so my back was to him and tapped at my neck, then at my waist. "Can you undo me here and here?"

As a journalist, Tamara Lush spent her career working with words. The above excerpt is, obviously, not one of her news stories. It's chapter seven of "Tell Me a Story," a romance book she wrote about an erotica writer who meets a billionaire at a charity reading event.

Earlier this year, Lush decided to part with her long-time journalism career and pursue fiction full-time. She chased stories for The Associated Press in Florida for almost 13 years, covering everything from crime to politics and natural disasters. As the coronavirus pandemic upended all aspects of life, Lush began to reflect on how she really wanted to live.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

Best of the Week

Dual winners: Resourceful AP teams deliver smart, fast, exclusive coverage in Afghanistan, Haiti



AP Photo/Sidiqullah Khan

From Afghanistan to Haiti, AP staffers and stringers on two sides of the world were challenged last week to cover fast-breaking news while keeping themselves and their families safe. They excelled at both, and AP's coverage of the fall of Kabul to Afghanistan's Taliban insurgents and the deadly earthquake across Haiti share Best of the Week honors.

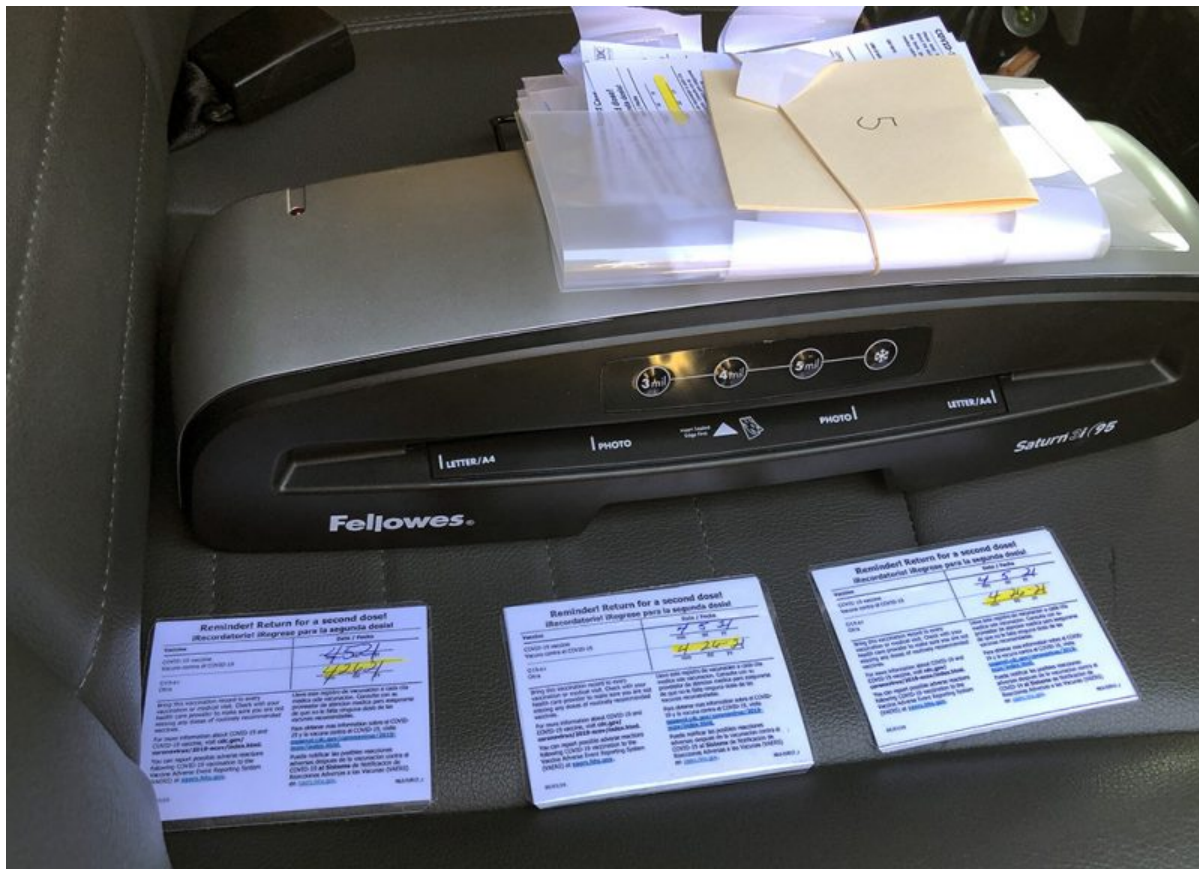
"In two of the toughest nations to operate as a journalist, brave AP staff and freelancers delivered for our worldwide customers and audiences with great determination and ingenuity. The obstacles were formidable — but as always, they

found a way, while also remaining safe,” said AP Director of International News Ian Phillips.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP finds colleges concerned as some students turn to counterfeit vaccine cards



Confiscated fraudulent COVID-19 vaccination cards and a lamination machine.
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL VIA AP

It started with a tip.

When a college student mentioned that fellow unvaccinated students were getting fake COVID-19 vaccine cards in order to attend in-person classes, AP global investigations intern Roselyn Romero remembered that she'd seen an account on Instagram offering fake cards for \$25 each.

Romero, whose internship has been funded by the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, began searching social media platforms, encrypted messaging apps and the dark web for other examples. She also spoke with students, faculty and administrators. What she found was a cottage industry offering to accommodate people who refuse to get vaccinated but need documentation saying that they've had the shots. In interviews with college officials, she learned that although many schools

said they had a system in place to verify the authenticity of vaccine cards, most admitted that a foolproof system is impossible.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

Last day to register!

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 with **social distancing a priority**.

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Today (Monday, Aug. 23) is the deadline to register for the Sept. 17-18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

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

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

More details on the group hotel, confirming your place at events and ordering/online AP 175th Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts, to wear during the gathering, are in the registration form. Email Diana: heidgerd@flash.net

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Dave Tenenbaum - dmt013@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Taliban photo appears to mock Iwo Jima flag raising in latest propaganda push (Marine Times)

Recently released Taliban propaganda appears to mock the famous Iwo Jima flag raising photo. (L - Taliban photo / R - Joe Rosenthal/AP)

By J.D. Simkins

The Taliban's media wing has wasted little time releasing droves of new propaganda in the wake of its ascension to power.

In one particular image released this week, members of the Taliban's Badri 313 Battalion appear to mock Joe Rosenthal's iconic 1945 image of the flag raising atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

In the Taliban image, fighters belonging to the Badri 313, which some are calling the Taliban's elite commando unit, are shown wearing full camouflage uniforms, combat boots, tactical gear and night vision goggles.

Similar photographs released in recent days show Taliban fighters carrying weapons and equipment issued by the United States or allied nations, including M4 carbines and what appear to be Trijicon advanced combat optical gunsights, or ACOGs.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Russian police detain journalists who back media freedom (AP)

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian police on Saturday detained several journalists who protested authorities' decision to label a top independent TV channel as a "foreign agent."

The journalists held individual pickets outside the main headquarters of the country's top domestic security agency, the FSB, on Moscow's Lubyanka Square.

They held placards such as "Journalism is not a crime" and "You are afraid of the truth" to protest the Justice Ministry's move Friday to add the Dozhd (Rain) TV channel and the online investigative outlet Vazhnye Istorii (Important Stories) to the list of "foreign agents."

Those detained were handed summons to attend court hearings on charges of violating rules of holding pickets, an administrative offense that carries a fine up to \$270.

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

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LA Times Photographer Punched by Taliban, Then Offered Energy Drink (Petapixel)

By MICHAEL ZHANG

Los Angeles Times photojournalist Marcus Yam was documenting the events in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday when he had the crazy experience of being beaten by the Taliban, detained, and then offered an energy drink.

Yam is a “roving Los Angeles Times foreign correspondent and staff photographer” who’s no stranger to danger: he bravely captures stories of tragedy and humanity both in the United States and abroad, putting himself in the middle of everything from conflicts to raging wildfires.

The Los Angeles Times reports that Yam was working to photograph anti-Taliban protests when Taliban fighters appeared and sucker-punched Yam in the side of the head.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

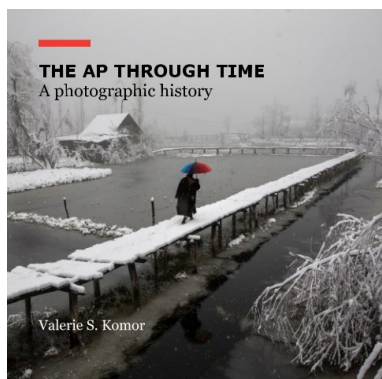
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.



Today in History - Aug. 23, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2021. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 23, 2008, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama introduced his choice of running mate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, before a crowd outside the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill.

On this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1754, France's King Louis XVI was born at Versailles.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1912, actor, dancer, director and choreographer Gene Kelly was born Eugene Curran Kelly in Pittsburgh.

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1926, silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31.

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 1962, John Lennon married his first wife, Cynthia Powell, in Liverpool, England. (The marriage lasted until 1968.)

In 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In 1979, Soviet dancer Alexander Godunov (GUD'-u-nawf) defected while the Bolshoi Ballet was on tour in New York.

In 2003, former priest John Geoghan (GAY'-gun), the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison.

In 2013, a military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death. Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, the U.S. soldier who'd massacred 16 Afghan civilians, was sentenced at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to life in prison with no chance of parole.

Ten years ago: A pair of judges in New York put an end to the sensational sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn, setting him free after prosecutors questioned the credibility of the hotel housekeeper who'd accused the French diplomat. A magnitude 5.8 earthquake centered near Mineral, Virginia, the strongest on the East Coast since 1944, caused cracks in the Washington Monument and damaged Washington National Cathedral.

Five years ago: Standing amid piles of waterlogged debris, President Barack Obama promised a sustained national effort to rebuild flood-ravaged southern Louisiana. Actor Steven Hill, 94, died in New York City.

One year ago: A white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, shot a black man, Jacob Blake, seven times as officers tried to arrest Blake on an outstanding warrant; the shooting left Blake partially paralyzed and triggered several nights of violent protests. (Blake, who was shot as he was about to get into an SUV with a pocketknife that had fallen from his pants, later said he'd been prepared to surrender after putting the knife in the vehicle. Officer Rusten Sheskey was not charged.) Demonstrators in Portland, Oregon, hurled rocks, bottles and fireworks at officers and set fires in the streets as they marched on a precinct station; police used tear gas to scatter the demonstrators. President Donald Trump announced emergency authorization to treat COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma; some health experts said the treatment needed more study. Kellyanne Conway, one of Trump's most influential and longest serving advisers, announced that she would leave the White House at the end of the month. Takuma Sato won his second Indianapolis 500; it was held in front of empty grandstands because of the pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Vera Miles is 91. Actor Barbara Eden is 90. Political satirist Mark Russell is 89. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 87. Actor Richard Sanders is 81. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 79. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 77. Pro Football Hall of Famer Rayfield Wright is 76. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 74. Actor David Robb is 74. Singer Linda Thompson is 74. Actor Shelley Long is 72. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 72. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 72. Queen Noor of Jordan is 70. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 70. Actor Skipp Sudduth is 65. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple

Pilots) is 60. Actor Jay Mohr is 51. Actor Ray Park is 47. Actor Scott Caan is 45. Country singer Shelly Fairchild is 44. Figure skater Nicole Bobek (BOH'-bek) is 44. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 43. Actor Joanne Froggatt is 41. Actor Jaime Lee Kirchner is 40. Neo-soul musician Actor Annie Ilonzeh is 38. Dance musician Sky Blu is 35. Actor Kimberly Matula is 33. Basketball player Jeremy Lin is 33.

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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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!"