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Connecting August 30, 2021

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HAPPY 90th, CHARLIE MONZELLA! Margy McCay and Bruce Richardson met Charlie Monzella (right in above photo) in Westfield, NJ, for lunch to celebrate his 90th birthday Friday.

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Aug. 30, 2021,

How you can help colleagues impacted by Hurricane Ida?

Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - Weather radar images and gut-wrenching photos and videos on the ground suggest that Louisiana and adjacent areas of the Gulf Coast are being ravaged by Hurricane Ida. Homes and businesses are being damaged or destroyed, power is out and likely will be for days if not weeks, streets and highways are blocked by downed trees and debris, life around the delta is being disrupted. Associated Press staffers and their families in the area may find themselves without a home or suffering enormous financial loss not covered elsewhere.

Colleagues around the AP world may wonder how they can help.

They can - through donations big or small to The Associated Press Emergency Relief Fund. See a link and instructions below.

The independent 501(c)(3) was established 16 years ago in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The fund has provided quick cash relief to staffers and their families who have

been adversely affected by conflict or natural disasters -- beyond insurance or the assistance that AP offers.

The fund has helped rebuild houses for staffers in Myanmar after a devastating cyclone, repair and replace cars for staff in Baghdad whose vehicles were destroyed by bombs and provide rental assistance for several people in our New York headquarters after Hurricane Sandy. In one instance, after the Taliban invaded a region of Afghanistan and threatened residents, the fund provided money for a staffer there to move his family to safety. In 2020, grants went to staffers whose homes were significantly damaged by the port explosion in Beirut.

The fund relies on the generous and ongoing support of the extended AP community. Donations, which range from \$10 to \$100,000, are tax deductible and can be made by check or credit card throughout the year.

Donations can be made by PayPal or a credit or debit card [here](#).

Within the United States and Canada, donations also can be made by check payable to AP Emergency Relief Fund; mail your check to AP Emergency Relief Fund, The Associated Press, 200 Liberty Street, NY, NY 10281. Be sure to include your name, address and contact information. (Donations outside the U.S. and Canada should be made online by credit or debit card.)

For more information about the fund click on the link in the upper right corner of this newsletter or [here](#).

NOTE: Mark Mittelstadt is a retired AP News Department executive and served as president of the fund from its creation in 2005 until 2009.

AP CONNECTION TO LOU GRANT: Our colleague **Jerry Cipriano** ([Email](#)) shares the following related to the death Sunday of actor Ed Asner:

In the story line of the Mary Tyler Moore show, Lou Grant, played by Ed Asner, is an alumnus of The AP, which is revealed in one of my favorite lines from the series, in an episode entitled Operation Lou. Lou has gone to the hospital to have a piece of World War II shrapnel removed. A nurse enters his room.

NURSE: Mr. Grant, it's time for your shot.

LOU: Listen, nurse, I'd rather not have that shot when there's a woman in the room.

(The nurse looks around.)

LOU: I mean you! Look, why don't you just leave that here and I'll give it to myself later. Believe me, I know how. I was with The Associated Press in Detroit.

Have a great day and week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Intrepid AP journalists work the streets of Kabul documenting Taliban troops, daily life



Photographer Rahmat Gul covers the first news conference after the fall of Kabul by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 17, 2021. AP / RAHMAT GUL

When the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug. 15, no one in the city knew how they would conduct themselves. Would the Taliban act like the brutal force that came to power in 1996, or would they show some restraint? AP colleagues in Kabul didn't have much time to ponder this question, though it had life and death implications. They were determined to document history.

Kabul video journalist Ahmad Seir and photographer Rahmat Gul (at right) — both old enough to remember the previous Taliban rule — quickly got back onto the streets. They drove to the airport where they encountered huge crowds desperate to flee. As they approached, they were stopped at a Taliban checkpoint and beaten on their arms with rifle butts. They barely got away, being chased by some men as the pair raced to their car.

Yet they were back out the next day. They gained the trust of Taliban fighters at a

checkpoint near AP's office and went on patrols with them, offering a unique view from the perspective of the militiamen suddenly in command of Afghanistan's biggest city. Another day, Seir and Gul recorded a female activist now in hiding, and on another they crisscrossed the city to chronicle the strange sense of normalcy that was quickly returning, with shops reopening, traffic making a comeback and fruit vendors hawking their products.

These spot feature stories and others played at the very top of AP's video log last week and were used thousands of times by hundreds of broadcasters around the world. The Taliban patrol story, for instance, had 3,309 video downloads by 200 broadcasters, numbers rarely achieved save for major global breaking news stories. Gul's photos of the Taliban on patrol and others were also widely used, adorning AP's text coverage throughout the week.



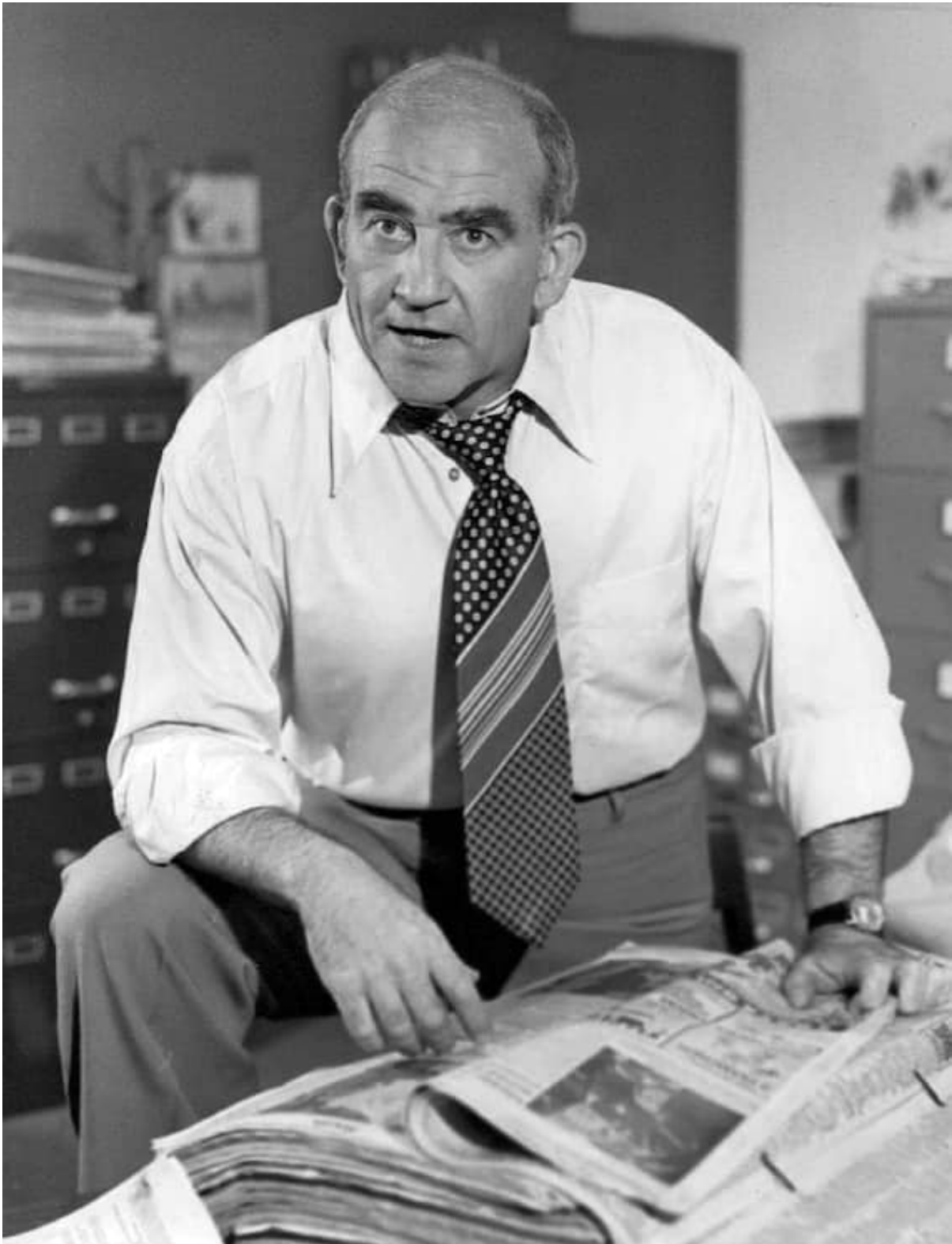
As Seir and Gul worked, they had to push aside larger questions hanging over them and their families. When would they board an evacuation flight and leave their homeland? When would they stop chronicling and become part of the huge crowds at the airport? Where would they settle? Would their families be safe?

The pressure was relentless. And they were not alone. The entire Kabul staff worked tirelessly, pushing aside their own fears and personal concerns. Senior video producer Fazel Rahman ran his stringer network and edited video. Cameraman Mohammed Amin operated live shots from the office rooftop. Rahman, technician Yosuf Habib and office manager Mohammad Zahir spent hours every day collecting information for staff evacuations. Mideast News Director Karin Laub speaks for all of AP when she describes the members of AP's Kabul office as "true heroes."

For their historic and important work, thorough professionalism and unbound bravery, Seir and Gul share AP's Best of the Week honors.

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

Actor Ed Asner, TV's blustery Lou Grant, dies at 91



By MARCELA ISAZA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ed Asner, the burly and prolific character actor who became a star in middle age as the gruff but lovable newsman Lou Grant, first in the hit comedy “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” and later in the drama “Lou Grant,” died Sunday. He was 91.

Asner’s representative confirmed the actor’s death in an email to The Associated Press. Asner’s official Twitter account included a note from his children: “We are sorry

to say that our beloved patriarch passed away this morning peacefully. Words cannot express the sadness we feel. With a kiss on your head- Goodnight dad. We love you."

Built like the football lineman he once was, the balding Asner was a journeyman actor in films and TV when he was hired in 1970 to play Lou Grant on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." For seven seasons he was the rumpled boss to Moore's ebullient Mary Richards (He called her "Mary," she called him "Mr. Grant") at the fictional Minneapolis TV newsroom where both worked. Later, he would play the role for five years on "Lou Grant."

Asner's character had caught on from the first episode of "Mary Tyler Moore," when he told Mary in their initial meeting, "You've got spunk. ... I hate spunk!" The inspired cast included Ted Knight as Ted Baxter, the dimwitted news anchor; Gavin MacLeod as Murray Slaughter, the sarcastic news writer; and Betty White as the manipulative, sex-obsessed home show hostess Sue Ann Nivens. Valerie Harper and Cloris Leachman, playing Mary's neighbors, both saw their characters spun off into their own shows.

Read more [here](#).

Another evac memory of Vietnam War





Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - Stories from Kabul airport about desperate people dying while clinging to the wheelbase of departing planes reminded me of a photo I snapped in 1973 for AP at Tan Son Nhut airport at what then was Saigon. The photo was of an evacuation plane landing there carrying people desperate to leave Da Nang, then falling to Vietcong forces. I was with Peter Arnett and took the photo from a speeding fire truck I had jumped on as it started toward the landing aircraft. Back at the AP office, I think Neal Ulevich processed my film and discovered bodies dangling from the plane.

Then, yesterday, a packet arrived by mail from my New York City cousin containing a copy of that very photo, sent to her by a friend who collects vintage newspaper photos. That copy is with this message below. You are welcome to post it.

The packet contained a second photo, showing me in 1975 interviewing some of the first boat people to reach Manila from Vietnam, an early example of a wave of refugees fleeing the Vietcong regime.

South African photojournalist John Parkin dies at age 63



This undated photo shows South African photographer John Parkin, left, with fellow photographer Meter Morey in Pretoria, South Africa. Parkin, who covered the country's anti-apartheid struggle, its first democratic elections, and the presidency of Nelson Mandela, has died Monday Aug. 23, 2021, at the age of 63 .

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting ran a story last week on John Parkin's death. Here is the AP story that moved over the weekend.)

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African photographer John Parkin, who covered the country's anti-apartheid struggle, its first democratic elections, and the presidency of Nelson Mandela, has died at the age of 63.

Parkin had long battled cancer and died (last) Monday, according to his daughter.

After training as a photographer in the South African air force, Parkin worked for the Sunday Express newspaper in Johannesburg, and in the mid-1980s he began taking photos for The Associated Press.

Parkin was known for his cool demeanor in often dangerous circumstances and for his reliability in getting photos.

"He was always consistent in his craft and consistent in his friendly manner," fellow photojournalist Trevor Samson said. "We worked alongside each other as competitors

but as friends. That period, from 1985 until 1994, was the most incredible period in South Africa's history and we had the privilege to cover it."

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

Connecting mailbox

Who Opinion-checks the Fact-checkers?

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - Re Fact-based journalism still alien concept in much of the world (Aug. 25), that apparently includes the United States. Here's the photo caption from the next Connecting item (Oklahoma man charged in assault on AP photographer) that day:

"The affidavit in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for Benjamin Scott Burlew is photographed Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021. Burlew of Miami, Okla., is seen on video pushing Associated Press photographer John Minchillo over a wall outside the Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot. Burlew is the second person to be charged with Minchillo, who was documenting **the mob of former President Donald Trump's supporters** (boldface emphasis mine) that day." (AP Photo/Jon Elswick)

Here's a factual Reuters story about the Jan. 6 insurrection: Exclusive: FBI finds scant evidence U.S. Capitol attack was ... The FBI has found scant evidence that the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was the result of an organized plot to overturn the presidential election result, according to four current and former ...

Would AP news audiences such as local print media that Joy Mayer references in the Aug. 26 Connecting entry (Local journalists, do people trust the wire content you publish?) have lost any relevant fact or perspective if the AP photo caption had ended at "the Jan. 6 riot"? What do news readers of any point of view gain by AP gratuitously linking the insurrection with Trump?

Such questions are not beside the point nor politically partisan. Rather, they cut to the heart of what news audiences want and news media used to provide.

The article by Mayer contains the incredible - undoubtedly factual - statement: "We don't have a wire editor. No one in our newsroom is responsible for it (boldface emphasis mine). No one in house does the print paper. I send a budget for what's local from our newsroom, and the designer and wire editor from a regional hub just fill it in. But readers are judging the fairness of our product based on those choices." Seems a clear abrogation of quality control yet somehow there's wonderment why readers don't trust the result?

Opinion or editorializing slipping into news these days happens so often that stumbling on "just the facts" stories is akin to the old sportswriter (which I was for AP) adage, I went to a fight last night and a hockey game broke out.

Here's another recent one from AP about "soul caps" at the Olympics: "Those familiar with the situation say the reasons for that shortage - and the racism behind them -

run deep in history." Come again?

(Ed McCullough worked 35 years beginning in 1981 in Albany and Buffalo, N.Y.; Washington, D.C. covering Congress; and editing at the World Desk. He covered news in Latin America (based in Puerto Rico, Argentina, Venezuela) and Europe (Stockholm, Madrid) during 1986-2005. After that and through Dec. 2016, he was managing AP business in southern Europe (based in Rome, Italy) and LatAm (from Mexico City) and U.S. Hispanic markets (from Miami).

Connecting mailbox

Marking 25th anniversary of one of AP's biggest contracts ever



Lee Perryman ([Email](#)) - August 27 marked the quarter-century anniversary of the AP-BBC ENPS contract signing in London.

There is no question that the BBC and The AP, as two of the planet's largest media organizations, changed the world with the development and introduction of ENPS -- a multimedia news production system eventually used by tens of thousands of uniquely empowered and connected reporters, writers, editors, and producers working in hundreds of newsrooms in 40+ languages in 61 countries.

The photo above shows the AP and BBC contract and development teams.

This was one of the largest if not the largest contract in AP's history. AP Vice Presidents Pat O'Brien and Jim Williams signed the contract for AP.

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Kathy Willens' AP photo adorns cover of new Billie Jean King autobiography



Kathy Willens (Email) – In April I learned that a photo I took of tennis legend Billie Jean King in 1977 for the Associated Press in Hilton Head, S.C., would be featured on the cover of her new autobiography. It was my first out-of-town assignment and my first tennis tournament. The book was released recently. Last night I arrived home to find the autographed copy I requested in April with a wonderful and personal inscription. King is a trailblazer and pioneer who opened the door in women's sports, garnering the attention she and others of her generation and all those women who followed deserved. I couldn't be happier! If any of you recall King's highly publicized "Battle of the Sexes" match against Bobby Riggs in the Houston Astrodome, that should give you an idea of the time. It was recently made into a film. King continues to show her grit and integrity throughout her life in so many ways. Photo above by my niece Lori Willens Stoen, (with some coaching by me!). She did a great job!

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'Australian Story' feature draws on Carl Robinson's Vietnam experiences



Carl Robinson (Email) - Not long after moving 100 kms south out of Sydney into the Illawarra region last April and settling into our retirement home, I became involved as a long-time aviation enthusiast in the nearby HARS Aviation Museum, certainly Australia's leading one and world-class too with many of its over 50 historical civilian & military aircraft still operational. I've helped on a range of things, but mostly gearing up their social media presence, including starting up a YouTube Channel. After years shooting stills, I even started shooting videos on a - very heavy - professional-style device.

And then earlier this year, we discovered that one of our aircraft -- a former Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Grumman Tracker S-2G and flying off the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne -- played a crucial role in the late-day & last-patrol discovery and subsequent rescue of 99 adrift Vietnamese Boat People in a stormy South China Sea 40 years ago.

While I wasn't previously aware of the dramatic story, I quickly became involved organising a 40th Anniversary Reunion at the Museum of the Rescued & Rescuers back on 20 June. My wife Kim-Dung and I welcomed into the MG99 (Melbourne Group 99) organising committee and I set to work tracking down as many Aussie rescuers as possible, eventually contacting over 100 officers, sailors and air crew with 40 at the Reunion attended by some 300 people in HARS vast Hangar 1. Quite a joyful day, with even the RAN Band, with good evening news coverage and both preview and actuality pieces in printed media.

A 30-minute feature story on government-funded Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) popular "Australian Story" program took some weeks longer and was finally aired this past Monday and received wide praise, even tears. Click [here](#) to view. The program's formula is very character-based and focuses on their words with no outside narrator -- but a role given to me tying the entire story together starting with the Fall of Saigon in 1975.

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Remembering the Sirhan trial



This photo shows Linda Deutsch of AP (right) and Pam Maclean of UPI, serving as pool reporters at a hearing for Sirhan in the 1980s.

Linda Deutsch (Email) – Sirhan Sirhan's case was my first major trial as an AP reporter. It was never your run of the mill trial and it was mired in controversy for decades afterward. I have done enormous research in subsequent years and could not reach a firm conclusion on whether Sirhan was the lone shooter. His claim to remember nothing about the events in the Ambassador kitchen remain extremely troubling and gave rise to the Manchurian Candidate theories.

My friend Paul Schrade, who was shot along with Kennedy, has long maintained that Sirhan shot Schrade but not Kennedy, that there was a second gunman on the scene. What we do know is that Sirhan was there and was wrestled to the ground with a gun in his hand. Several have raised the historical impact of his actions. Although not a part of the legal standard for evaluating his suitability for parole, I can't help but feel it is relevant. No other convicted political assassin has ever been released on parole. If Lee Harvey Oswald had lived it is impossible to think of him ever being released.

I am moved by the argument for a humanistic approach to judicial reform but maybe Sirhan is not the best figure to pin those hopes on. His case strikes me as a legal conundrum known as "Sui generis" a Latin expression that translates to "of its own kind." It refers to anything that is peculiar to itself; of its own kind or class. In legal contexts, sui generis denotes an independent legal classification. It may be that you and the parole board may disagree with that.

True, Sirhan has been a perfect prisoner for half a century. Should that be the main consideration for his release? Many of you know that I have long advocated parole for Leslie Van Houten, a Manson family member who was approved for parole three times but has not been released due to California governors' refusal to sign off on the parole board decisions. She is tarnished by the name Manson but her crime did not change the history of our nation and it is questionable whether she killed anyone. But she has taken responsibility, told the details as she remembers them and expressed remorse in every way possible. Her good works for other prisoners have been remarkable.

Both she and Sirhan are now in their 70s. As an LA Times editorial concluded this week: "She's done her time." I hope she is released soon. As for Sirhan, it may be that no sentence is long enough to atone for an assault on democracy that succeeded in changing history.

Stories of interest

The Pulitzer Prize Board Awards Special Citation to Honor and Assist Afghanistan Journalism Workers

From Pulitzer Prize Office

The Pulitzer Prize Board has issued a special citation "to honor the women and men of Afghanistan who have dedicated themselves at great personal risk to create and support journalism that has chronicled decades of life and war. From staff and freelance correspondents to interpreters to drivers to hosts, courageous Afghan

residents helped produce Pulitzer-winning and Pulitzer-worthy images and stories that have contributed to a wider understanding of profoundly tragic and complicated circumstances.

"In support of their safety in either their continued work or their resettlement, this citation comes with a \$100,000 grant to be administered by the Committee to Protect Journalists for the emergency relief of such individuals and their families."

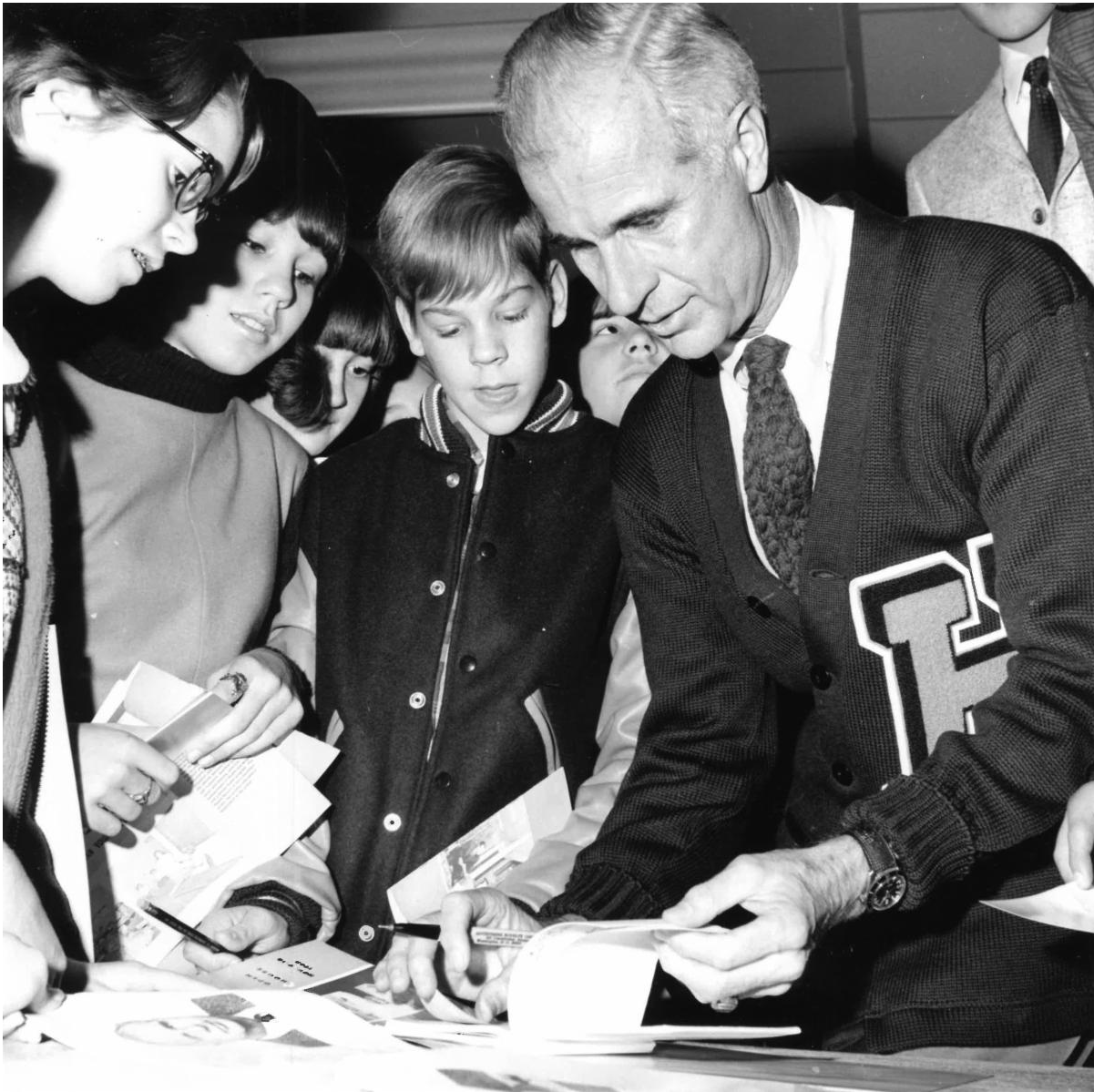
"It's critical in a moment of stark threat to support those Afghans whose bravery, skill, and commitment to the ideals of a free press have helped create so much important journalism in recent decades," said Board Co-Chairs Katherine Boo, Gail Collins and John Daniszewski.

The grant will be administered by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Founded in 1981 and headquartered in New York, CPJ is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom internationally. CPJ's network of experts and correspondents around the world report and take action on behalf of journalists targeted by press freedom violations. For more information, visit their website [here](#).

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

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A Rare Discovery on the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of John Hersey's "Hiroshima" (New Yorker)



The groundbreaking writer visited his namesake high school nearly every four years to meet with students and give speeches. Photographs courtesy John Hersey High School

By Erin Overbey

On a recent Tuesday, Bruce Janu, the head librarian at John Hersey High School, in Arlington Heights, Illinois, was rummaging through an old storage cabinet in his new office. Janu, a former history teacher and documentary filmmaker, became the librarian at the school in July. An avid connoisseur of narrative yarns, he'd recently started a podcast called "A.R.C.Light," about the art of storytelling, which he produces at the school. As he was putting away files and organizing the cabinet, his thoughts were on the interview that he would be recording later that day. His guest was to be Lesley M. M. Blume, the author of "Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-Up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World," an account of John Hersey's reporting on the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the U.S. government's attempts to conceal the extent of the devastating aftermath.

This month marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of The New Yorker's publication of Hersey's groundbreaking report on the effects of the bombing. The piece follows the lives of six survivors as they attempt to navigate the fallout of nuclear catastrophe.

Hersey pioneered the New Journalism technique of reporting on historical events by employing a narrative style—foregrounding the human and psychological sides of a story—and he was an adept chronicler of the eerily grotesque stillness that so often cloaks the aftereffects of war. Prior to “Hiroshima,” similar reporting had almost exclusively focussed on the cacophony of warfare—the turbulent scramble of soldiers rushing the beach at Normandy, the thundering onslaught of air raids during the Blitz. In plain, spare prose, Hersey documents scenes of unprecedented ruin, capturing the ghostly residuum of calamity. The piece was originally meant to run as a multipart series, but the magazine’s editors decided to print it in full, in the August 31, 1946, issue. It immediately sold out on newsstands, Albert Einstein attempted to buy a thousand copies, and the piece was serialized in newspapers across the country

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

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'The Analogue Years': AFP to hold first photo auction (artdaily)



PARIS (AFP) - Agence France-Presse is hosting its first-ever photo auction with some 200 pictures from its analogue collection, with shots of the liberation of Paris, Martin Luther King and the body of Che Guevara all on offer.

Prints of daily life across five decades but also of war, sport and stars from the glitzy worlds of music, cinema, fashion and art will go on sale on October 3, at a Parisian events space and online.

Historical snaps up for grabs include Martin Luther King on the day of his "I have a dream" speech in Washington in 1963, Che Guevara's body -- killed by the Bolivian army in 1967 -- and Nelson Mandela after his release from jail in 1990.

AFP's director of photography said the collection offers a rare glimpse into the agency's trove of pictures dating back decades.

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

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Reporter punched in face while covering anti-mask event (AP)

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — A newspaper reporter said he was punched in the face while covering an anti-mask event near Traverse City.

The Grand Traverse County sheriff's office is investigating.

"I know the concern you have," Sheriff Tom Bensley told the Traverse City Record-Eagle. "There are some people out there that are not happy with the news outlets. We've had two incidents in a short period of time."

Record-Eagle reporter Brendan Quealy went to Silver Lake Recreation Area to check an event organized by a group called Citizens Liberating Michigan and promoted by local allies on a Facebook page.

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.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - Aug. 30, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 30, the 242nd day of 2021. There are 123 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 30, 1967, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1861, Union Gen. John C. Fremont instituted martial law in Missouri and declared slaves there to be free. (However, Fremont's emancipation order was countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln.)

In 1905, Ty Cobb made his major-league debut as a player for the Detroit Tigers, hitting a double in his first at-bat in a game against the New York Highlanders. (The Tigers won, 5-3.)

In 1945, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to set up Allied occupation headquarters.

In 1983, Guion (GY'-un) S. Bluford Jr. became the first Black American astronaut to travel in space as he blasted off aboard the Challenger.

In 1987, a redesigned space shuttle booster, created in the wake of the Challenger disaster, roared into life in its first full-scale test-firing near Brigham City, Utah.

In 1992, the television series "Northern Exposure" won six Emmy Awards, including best drama series, while "Murphy Brown" received three Emmys, including best comedy series.

In 1993, "The Late Show with David Letterman" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1997, Americans received word of the car crash in Paris that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed (DOH'-dee FY'-ehd), and their driver, Henri (AHN'-ree) Paul. (Because of the time difference, it was August 31 where the crash occurred.)

In 2005, a day after Hurricane Katrina hit, floods were covering 80 percent of New Orleans, looting continued to spread and rescuers in helicopters and boats picked up hundreds of stranded people.

In 2007, in a serious breach of nuclear security, a B-52 bomber armed with six nuclear warheads flew cross-country unnoticed; the Air Force later punished 70 people.

In 2012, Mitt Romney launched his fall campaign for the White House with a rousing, personal speech to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida, proclaiming that America needs "jobs, lots of jobs."

In 2015, the White House announced that President Barack Obama would change the name of North America's tallest mountain peak from Mount McKinley to Denali, bestowing the traditional Alaska Native name on the eve of a historic presidential visit to Alaska.

Ten years ago: National Guard helicopters rushed food and water to a dozen cut-off Vermont towns after the rainy remnants of Hurricane Irene washed out roads and bridges in a deluge that had taken many people in the landlocked New England state by surprise. Libyan rebels said they were closing in on Moammar Gadhafi and issued an ultimatum to loyalists in his hometown of Sirte (surt), his main remaining bastion: Surrender, or face attack.

Five years ago: Republican U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio and Democratic U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy each easily won their Florida Senate primaries; Rubio won the election the following November. U.S. Sen. John McCain beat back an Arizona primary challenge from a Republican tea party activist, Kelli Ward, to win the right to seek a sixth Senate

term in November (McCain went on to defeat Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick and Green Party candidate Gary Swing).

One year ago: President Donald Trump praised supporters who clashed with Black Lives Matter protesters in Portland, Oregon, calling them “great patriots”; Trump and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler blamed each other for the violence. A tally kept by Johns Hopkins University found that the number of confirmed coronavirus cases globally had topped 25 million; the U.S. led the count with 5.9 million cases. Lady Gaga won multiple honors at the MTV Video Music Awards, most of them for her hit with Ariana Grande, “Rain on Me,” while The Weeknd took home the top prize.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Elizabeth Ashley is 82. Actor Ben Jones is 80. Actor John Kani is 79. Cartoonist R. Crumb is 78. Olympic gold medal skier Jean-Claude Killy (zhahn-KLOHD’ kee-LEE’) is 78. Comedian Lewis Black is 73. Actor Timothy Bottoms is 70. Actor David Paymer is 67. Jazz musician Gerald Albright is 64. Actor Michael Chiklis is 58. Actor Michael Michele is 55. Country singer Sherrie Austin is 50. Rock singer-musician Lars Frederiksen (Rancid) is 50. Actor Cameron Diaz is 49. TV personality Lisa Ling is 48. Rock singer-musician Aaron Barrett (Reel Big Fish) is 47. Actor Raúl Castillo is 44. Actor Michael Gladis is 44. MLB pitcher Adam Wainwright is 40. Former tennis player Andy Roddick is 39. Singer Rachael Price (Lake Street Dive) is 36. Rock musician Ryan Ross is 35. Actor Johanna Braddy is 34. Actor Cameron Finley is 34.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.



- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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