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## Connecting September 3, 2021

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# Remembering Anja



Mourners walking from Anja Niedringhaus's funeral service in 2014 in Hoexter, Germany, along the Weser River to the local cemetery for her burial. "A long, sad black line," said AP President/CEO Gary Pruitt, who took this photo.

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Sept. 3, 2021,

Today's Connecting pays tribute to AP photojournalist **Anja Niedringhaus** as a chapter in history closed early this week when the last U.S. troops left Afghanistan, ending America's longest war after a difficult, bloody withdrawal.

Niedringhaus was the only Associated Press journalist to lose her life while covering the war over its 21-year lifespan of U.S. involvement. The photojournalist was killed April 4, 2014, when an Afghan police unit commander walked up to the car where she was sitting in the back seat and opened fire. She and her friend, AP special correspondent **Kathy Gannon**, were traveling in a convoy of election workers delivering ballots in the eastern city of Khost, under the protection of security forces. Gannon was seriously injured, hit by seven bullets.

Gannon ([Email](#)), the AP's news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan who is still recovering from her injuries, has been covering the final days of U.S. involvement and the takeover of the country by the Taliban. She's now in Kabul in the midst of AP coverage of what comes next.

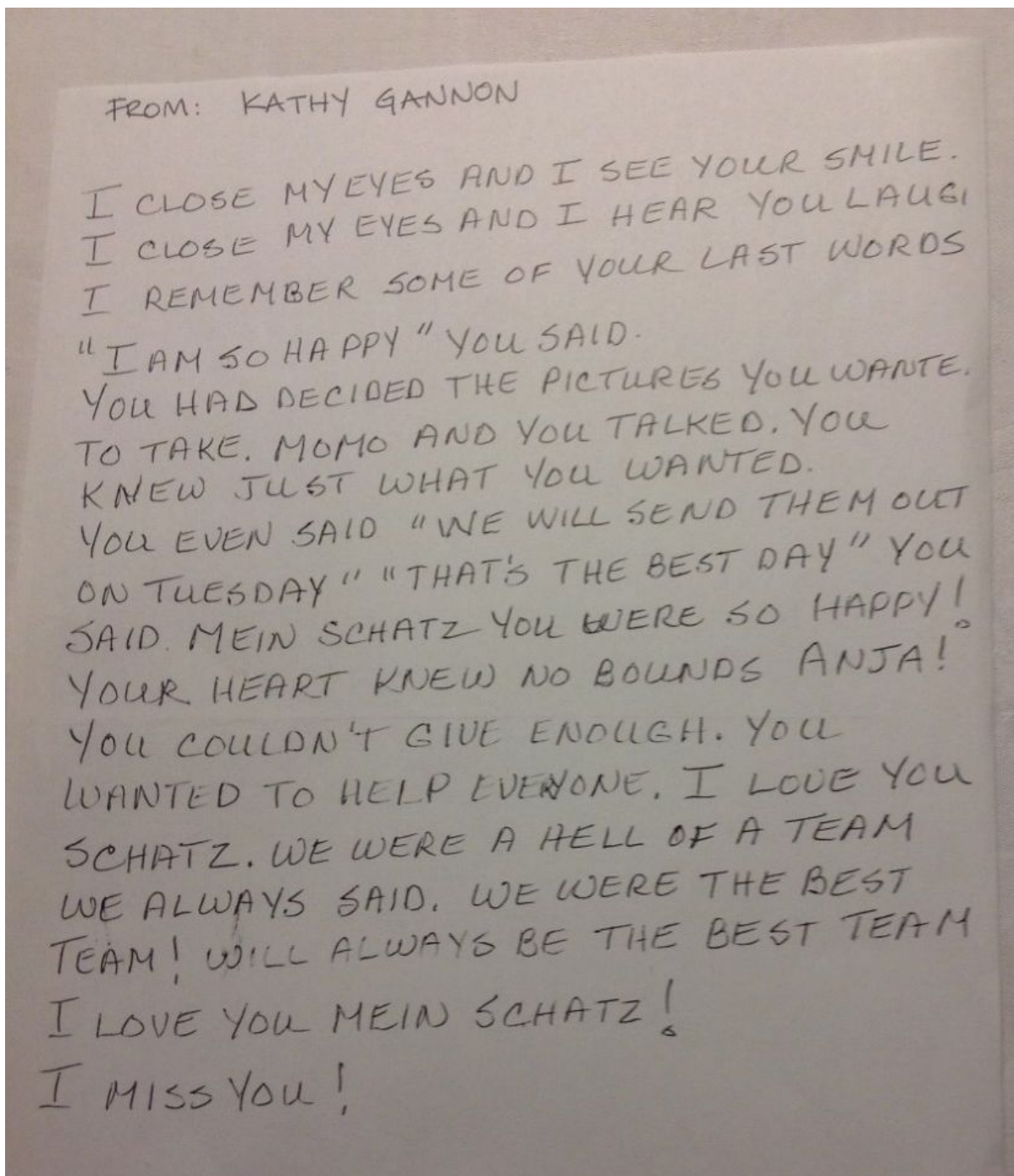
"Watching Afghanistan unravel, suffering through yet another convulsion, there is such sadness for a people who have put their hope in one regime after another only to be disappointed," she told Connecting.

"I am remembering Anja and how she always said she used her camera to tell the stories of courage. I wonder at what she would be thinking today, watching the harrowing scenes at Kabul airport, at the desperate rush to leave. I think her heart would ache for Afghans and Afghanistan. I know mine does."

At Niedringhaus' funeral in Hoexter, Germany, her hometown, the AP was represented by a contingent headed by President and CEO **Gary Pruitt**, Executive Editor **Kathleen Carroll** and VP/Photos **Santiago Lyon** and others from the AP. Pruitt, Carroll and Lyon attended the funeral after visiting Gannon the day before in her hospital bed in Frankfurt. (Lyon shares his memories in a story below.)







**ABOVE:** The eulogy Kathy Gannon wrote for Anja from her hospital bed in Germany. Unable to use her hands, Kathy dictated it to her sister who wrote it out for her. It was read at the funeral by a priest.

**RIGHT:** Kathy Gannon (left) and Anja Niedringhaus in 2012.



“Anja brought her indomitable spirit and humanity to all her work,” Pruitt told Connecting. “Her photos provided a window for the world to better understand Afghanistan and its people. We miss her every day.”

Carroll ([Email](#)) remembers Anja as “tough and competitive and an extraordinarily talented journalist.



“But what most people remember is her huge, wide-open heart. She connected instantly with people. You can see that in her work, the humanity and joy she found even in the fields of war. She had a deep affection for the people of Afghanistan and wanted the world to see them beyond the fighting. She and Kathy Gannon were perfect partners in that quest. Her work will be remembered by the world. Her booming laugh and her boundless generosity will be remembered by those lucky enough to know her.”

Carroll, who was AP executive editor until the end of 2016, is shown in the photo above speaking at the funeral.

The [Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award](#) was created to honor the life and work of Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographer and International Women’s Media Foundation Courage in Journalism Award winner Anja Niedringhaus (1965-2014). With this Award, the IWMF celebrates the courageous work of women photojournalists like Anja.

Eight years before the U.S. entered Afghanistan, the AP lost **Sharon Herbaugh**, chief of bureau in Islamabad. She was killed April 16, 1993, in a helicopter crash in the central mountains of Afghanistan. She had spent three years covering the Afghan civil war and its aftermath.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!



Paul

## A call in the middle of the night he'll never forget



Anja Niedringhaus in 2005 file photo

**Santiago Lyon (Email)** - Between 1989 and 1999 I photographed eight wars around the world for Reuters and the AP.

During that time I had many dramatic adventures and near-death experiences of my own and lost about a dozen friends and colleagues to violent deaths in far flung places.

I ended that period thoroughly traumatized and spent the better part of a year during my Nieman Fellowship doing my own "mental laundry" with help of a psychiatrist specialized in trauma.

When I was asked to become the Director of Photography of the AP in late 2003, I had one

great fear: that someone on my watch would be killed. It literally kept me awake at night.

For the next decade we had many close calls with various members of the AP photo staff; woundings, abductions, temporary disappearances etc. Because of my own background in the field (I had worked in violent places with many of my colleagues) I understood very well what they were going through.



And then one day in 2014, the dreaded call finally woke me up in the early hours of April 4.

It was my friend and colleague Manoocher Deghati, our Middle East photo editor at the time, calling me sobbing to tell me that Anja Niedringhaus had been severely wounded in Afghanistan, that the situation was unclear and that things looked very dire. That she might well be dead.

Overwhelming grief and guilt coursed through every cell of my body. No, not Anja. My friend and battle-buddy from the siege of Sarajevo was gone? Anja, with her wonderful laugh and beautiful smile who had comforted me in a Sarajevo hospital as I recovered from my own shrapnel injuries in 1995 was gone? The brave, gutsy professional Anja who I had admired and appreciated so much was dead?

I sat in bed in shock for a few seconds before my war-honed instincts kicked in. In a crisis you must focus. You cannot let your feelings, however powerful, get in the way. There were things to be done.

I called my then boss Kathleen Carroll with the information I had and headed straight for the AP headquarters. It was about 3:30 am and it was raining as a taxi took me to 450 West 33rd Street.

I called Anja's family in Germany to tell them that something bad had happened, but that we couldn't confirm the situation 100%.

By then the information was coming in. AP's Muhamed Muhesen, in Kabul at the time, had identified Anja's body at the airport. She was gone.

I had to call her family back and break the news. It's hard to keep it together at times like that. It was harder to hear their wails of grief down the phone line. What a grim morning.

I spent that day in my office, alone, barely moving, answering emails of condolence from friends and colleagues around the world on the loss of a great professional.

I attended a few news meetings that day but didn't say much. I did a BBC TV interview paying tribute to her. But mainly I wept inside, wept for her family, wept for her

friends, wept for all my own pent-up grief and trauma and tried to process what the hell had happened.

A deranged Afghan policeman, known to be unstable and forbidden from carrying a weapon of his own, had grabbed a colleague's rifle, approached the car where Anja and Kathy Gannon were sitting and opened fire point blank, emptying his clip into the car. She was the only AP staffer to be killed during the post-9/11 war there.

I flew to Germany with Gary Pruitt and Kathleen Carroll a few days later. We visited Kathy Gannon in her hospital bed - she had survived the attack that took Anja's life but was seriously wounded in her arm and hand - and then we went to Hoexter, Anja's hometown for the funeral.

I had the great honor of eulogizing her and then we followed her coffin on foot along a beautiful river to its final resting place. Thankfully a great many friends and colleagues from my past were there and we drank late into the night, consoling each other. The world lost a great photojournalist and we all lost a great friend.

On a personal professional level, her killing marked the beginning of the end of my own 25-year AP career. I stayed around for a couple of years wrestling with restructuring and shrinking budgets but my heart wasn't really in it anymore.

In late 2016 I left and started the gradual process of reinventing myself professionally for the third time. Photographer to executive to photo technologist.

A few months ago, I started working on a new project at Adobe, my current employer, around content authenticity with a coalition of major media and tech players developing serious, robust technical tools in the fight against misinformation. So far, we have the BBC, The NYT, The Washington Post, Gannett, AFP, Getty and others on board as partners. (and yes, I'm talking to the AP, but there's been a bit of fantastic and positive leadership change afoot there lately, likely distracting folks!)

For the first time since Anja's death I am happy and professionally fulfilled again. Seven years later. Seven whole years. I know she'd be happy for me. I think about her most days.

As for Afghanistan today, what to say? I covered the Taliban's initial takeover of Kabul in 1996 and spent 6 weeks in and around Kabul trying to make friends with those gruff, religious zealots who didn't think much of non-Muslim American journalists trying to make pictures - photography was even technically illegal.

But I found a way. With a skilled Pashtun fixer. Mr. Ghul, and over interminable cups of tea I would find common ground. Family, food, weather, humor, anything to keep the conversation going, winning trust with the Talib, and finally access.

My coverage from that assignment won the Bayeux Prize for war photography and one image of a bare-faced girl peering through a line of burqa-clad women became the symbol for a European Union campaign to support women's rights in Afghanistan. I watched in 1998 as hundreds of women marched through the streets of Madrid carrying my picture, poster-sized above their heads, chanting in support of Afghan women.



Later, the AP's driver-come-photographer Zaheeruddin Abdullah, facing serious death threats because of his coverage of Taliban executions of women in Kabul's soccer stadium, among other things, was forced to flee the country and so I helped him get asylum in Spain, where his family joined him before they ultimately settled in London. I've stayed in touch with him and am happy to report that his daughters are now doctors and lawyers in the UK. Most recently, he was trying to get his brother-in-law out of the country. I need to find out if he was successful.

But ultimately it's very disheartening to see the Taliban back in power 25 years later, to know that the future of Afghan women and girls is dark again, despite 20 years of progress. All those women doctors, judges, athletes, politicians and others will now face oppression and punishment for wanting to do things that we, and women in our society, take for granted. Very disheartening.

## Connecting mailbox

### *On appointment of Julie Pace as next AP executive editor*

**David Briscoe (Email)** - As a 40-year Associated Press veteran old white guy, I have a one-word reaction to YELL at the latest developments at the world's most far-reaching and important news organization: THRILLED!!! The smaller, feistier AP is in good, strong, skilled, sensible hands, and it's not just about diversity, youth or multimedia savvy; it's about those and so much more. Again: THRILLED!!!

Thanks for helping carry on the greatest traditions.

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**Jim Reindl (Email)** - Congratulations to Julie Pace. However, no offense to Mr. Bauder, but I hate to think of the AP I worked for 30-plus years as an "often overlooked ... bland utility." I believe the Pulitzers and dependence by nearly all newspapers in the United States and a good many world publications speak otherwise.

**David Bauder**, AP's media writer, responded: "I knew the line would raise hackles! In fact, I had a debate with my editor about using it.

"Let's face it, though, that was our image to many people for many years, and it persists – even though, as Julie has stated, that's an outdated view (if it were ever true in the first place). I used the line to point out the contrast to what the reality is today."

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*Create new standards and processes? Not.*

**Robert Wielaard** ([Email](#)) - That Poynter study of journalists posting in social media ('Journalists who question objectivity still value truth-telling, study finds) was an interesting read but one that ended with a horrible thought from a professor.

He/she was quoted as saying that hopefully "newsroom traditionalists will be open to changes," adding, "It's an exciting time for young journalists. Let them create new standards and processes."

No, let's not!

"New standards and processes" have led to social media abuses and excesses.

The issue is clear: Social media are like advertising and marketing. You can move from journalism to marketing. But once you have written that first smart, catchy text to promote cereals, nuclear power or the F16, you cannot come back to journalism.

That choice should be clear and remain valid, in my mind.

*Some AP relationships extend beyond newsroom*  
**Bidding farewell to newspaper editor**  
**Ralph Langer**



**John Lumpkin (left) and John Brewer at memorial service for Ralph Langer.**

By John Lumpkin ([Email](#))

“It was wonderful seeing you after so many years,” wrote former AP colleague John Brewer ([Email](#)) via email after we met at the August 20 memorial service for retired *Dallas Morning News* Editor Ralph Langer in Texas. He added – “And enjoy(ed) your company in person versus giving a eulogy.”

So true, John!

John B.’s name was on the list of eulogists chosen by Langer’s family for the service and, yep, there were he and spouse Barbara in the second row as Eileen and I filed in.



It made sense: John was AP bureau chief in Seattle in the mid-70s when Langer was managing editor in Everett, Wash. – Langer’s second newspaper management tour in that state. In a fascinating circle of life, John transitioned from his careers at AP and subsequently *The News York Times* in 1998 to become editor and publisher of the *Port Angeles, Wash., Evening News*. Langer’s first managing editor post came at Port Angeles in 1962 at the age of 25.

“Ralph and I shared a love of fishing,” John B. told the audience. “For years when Ralph was at the *Everett Herald*, we fished together on most Saturdays – for steelhead in the winter, cutthroat trout in the spring, silver salmon in the fall.” That relationship continued “as the years rolled by,” John recalled, with fishing expeditions in Montana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, the upper Hudson River, British Columbia, Alaska and, “of course, the great bass lakes of Texas.”

John turned around to point out one of those Texas venues behind him, Lake Ray Hubbard east of Dallas, which served as the backdrop for Langer’s service at a yacht club near where Ralph and Kathy Langer made their home. John and two other presenters, including retired *Dallas Morning News* visuals editor John Davidson, summarized Langer’s legendary journalism credentials, while others focused on Langer’s role as neighbor, spouse, father, grandfather, accomplished photographer, part-time novelist and No. 1 fan of Kathy Langer’s remarkable amateur tennis exploits.

In John Brewer’s time as an AP manager and mine as well, some relationships extended beyond the newsroom and the front office. Whether that still works in today’s AP marketplace or not, friendships like John and Ralph’s endured well after retirement. That said, we got no slack from such AP member editors when it involved key coverage issues that affected their franchises – just mutual respect.

Mutual respect was a Langer trademark. After his August 5 passing, Langer’s newsroom managers recalled his custom of avoiding sitting at the head of the table in



meetings that he organized, taking a seat on the side. I experienced such respect for nearly two decades in Texas while I was Dallas bureau chief and at one time in the crossfire of the Dallas newspaper war won by Langer's newsroom and *Dallas Morning News* Editor and then Publisher Burl Osborne.

In Langer's obituary, Robert Decherd, chairman of the *Morning News* parent company who hired Osborne from the AP, noted Langer was a "calming influence" for the newsroom charged with implementing Burl's relentless stream of initiatives. "Ralph was the interpreter," said Decherd. "He also had the management ability of accountability and making sure we did what we said we would, and did it well."

I think Ralph was a key innovator like Burl – just with a different personality. John Davidson said as much in his remarks about Ralph's emphasis on photojournalism more than other editors had four decades ago. Davidson said Ralph's nature photos were professional quality as well.

Langer served as president of the national AP Managing Editors in the early 1990s and he made sure that the *Morning News* was active in the Texas APME at all levels. John B.'s memory, as captured in his eulogy, aligns with mine about Langer's professional persona – "tall and unassuming in so many ways, always even-tempered and with a broad streak of Midwestern politeness."

Without fanfare, Langer affected lives beyond those of his newsroom team and his family. As a director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, I watched as he deftly pulled together the financial resources to establish the foundation as a statewide organization, with FOI hotlines staffed by a pro bono network of attorneys, state conferences, regional workshops and strong lobbying for open government on behalf of citizens as well as media. In retirement, he orchestrated the revitalization of the journalism program at Southern Methodist University, giving credit to others and helping improve the education of a new generation of reporters and editors.

John B. concluded his remarks with memories of the Langers' frequent visits to Port Angeles while John was publisher. "I was delighted to show him some staff memos that he had written that I found in some old file drawer.

"One of them stressed that government actions or meetings being reported on by the newspaper need to always consider 'how is this decision going to affect real people with their lives.'"

John also found a column by the newspaper publisher in 1964 that profiled Ralph as her young ME. "Quiet, soft-spoken, a listener rather than a talker...When on a story or managing a newsroom, his speed, efficiency and general know-how wins acceptance and then appreciation. This is most apparent when pressured by both sides in a community controversy.

"Cool and calm, Langer draws the line down the middle and does not deviate."

I think that line remained intact when Ralph retired. Not sure there are many like him right now.

Thank you, John B.

(Click [here](#) for link to Ralph Langer's obituary and [here](#) for link to Dallas Morning News story on his death.)

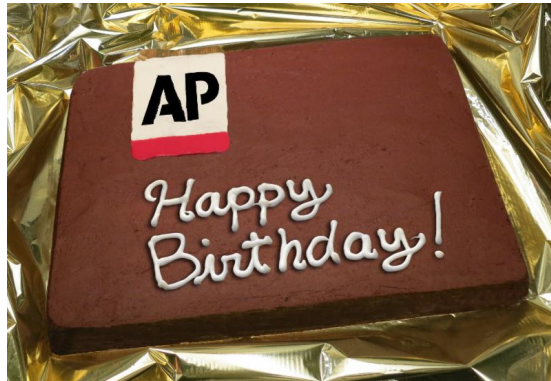
## *Good morning, America, how are ya?*



Union Pacific's 4014 "Big Boy" 4-8-8-4 steams west, leaving the Kansas City, MO, skyline behind as it heads into Kansas on Thursday morning. One of 25 "Big Boys" built

for Union Pacific in the 1940s, the locomotive is 132 feet and 1.2 million pounds of iron and steam. (Photo by Peter Leabo)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



*On Sunday to...*

Tad Bartimus - [hanagirl@aol.com](mailto:hanagirl@aol.com)

Jim McElroy - [jmcelroy37@comcast.net](mailto:jmcelroy37@comcast.net)

## Stories of interest

### *Afghan media brace for what's next under Taliban rule* (AP)

By AYA BATRAWY

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Afghanistan's most popular private television network has voluntarily replaced its risqué Turkish soap operas and music shows with tamer programs tailored to the country's new Taliban rulers, who have issued vague directives that media must not contradict Islamic laws or harm the national interest.

Still, independent Afghan news stations are keeping female presenters on the air and testing the limits of media freedom under the group, whose militants have killed journalists in the past but have promised an open, inclusive system since coming to power in August.

As the world watches intently for clues on how the Taliban will govern, their treatment of the media will be a key indicator, along with their policies toward women. When they ruled Afghanistan between 1996-2001, they enforced a harsh interpretation of Islam, barring girls and women from schools and public life, and brutally suppressing dissent.



Read more [here](#).

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## ***Feds responding to reports of oil, chemical spills after Ida*** (AP)

By MICHAEL BIESECKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal and state agencies say they are responding to reports of oil and chemical spills resulting from Hurricane Ida following the publication of aerial photos by The Associated Press.

Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Nick Conger said Thursday that a special aircraft carrying photographic and chemical detection equipment was dispatched from Texas to Louisiana to fly over the area hard hit by the Category 4 storm, including a Phillips 66 refinery along the Mississippi River where the AP first reported an apparent oil spill on Wednesday.

Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer 3rd Class Gabriel Wisdom said Thursday that its aircraft has also flown over the refinery, as well as to the Gulf of Mexico. The AP published photos of a miles-long brownish-black slick in the waters south of Port Fourchon, Louisiana.

The AP first reported the possible spills Wednesday after reviewing aerial images of the disaster zone taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ida made landfall Sunday, its eyewall carving through Louisiana with 150 mph winds and a storm surge so powerful it temporarily reversed the flow of the mighty Mississippi.

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

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## ***The “shadow bank” that — with the help of public pension funds — is aiding the destruction of local news*** (Nieman Labs)

By JULIE REYNOLDS

To the ancient Greeks, Cerberus was the hound of Hades, a multi-headed dog with a serpent’s tail who kept souls from escaping the underworld. His eyes burned with fiery lava and he vomited bile.

The canine’s namesake, Cerberus Capital Management, is a private equity firm that, like Alden Global Capital, specializes in acquiring distressed businesses — and, alongside Alden, it is now in the business of devouring newsrooms in the name of profit.

Cerberus was Alden's financial backer for its recent takeover of Tribune Publishing, but the two secretive companies have a shared history that goes back to at least 2015.

The firm, which is heavily supported by investments from public pension funds, served as Alden's "shadow" lender well before the Tribune deal. The largest of Cerberus's public retirement investments come from California and Pennsylvania, two of the regions most impacted by diminishing news coverage at Alden papers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage.

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## ***2 Bipartisan Senators Demand That Biden Protect Afghan Journalists*** (NPR)

By CLAUDIA GRISALES

Two bipartisan senators — Democrat Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Republican Mitt Romney of Utah — want the Biden administration to step up their work protecting Afghan journalists in the wake of the U.S. exit from their country.

Klobuchar and Romney said that following the end of formal operations in Afghanistan, the Afghan journalists who assisted U.S. media personnel need urgent aid resettling and continuing their work.

The senators told Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas in the letter that the journalists now face new, dire risks under new Taliban rule.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***USA Today newsroom now majority female*** (The Hill)

BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO

The newsroom of USA Today is now predominately female, the outlet announced this week.

A recent internal company survey found women made up 51.7 percent of all journalists at the newspaper, which also saw gains in its percentage of Black employees, at 13.6 percent; Hispanic staffers, 10.1 percent; and Asian American employees, 7 percent. Overall, journalists of color account for 34 percent of the newsroom, USA Today Editor-in-Chief Nicole Carroll wrote on Wednesday.

"It's a proud moment to see the progress we've made in hiring and retaining women, particularly women of color, to reach this milestone," Carroll wrote.

Holly Moore, USA Today Network planning director, said the designation matters because "the news industry records history and for a very long time that history has been written from a male gaze."

Read more [here](#).

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## *Remembering longtime newsman and Wooster community leader Victor Dix*

By Susan Dix Lyons

Raymond Victor Dix died peacefully Aug. 21 at Avow Hospice in Naples, Florida, with his oldest daughter, Debbie, by his side.

He was 87. He is remembered by his family as a wonderful human being and the kindest man they ever knew.

Victor was a community leader and a newsman through and through — a communications executive, editor and publisher of The (Wooster) Daily Record and Dix Communications, the family publishing company founded in 1897 that survived five generations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lou Boccardi, who noted Dix was a former AP director from 1996-2002 who represented the Daily Record of Wooster, Ohio.



## Celebrating AP's 175th

**AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise**

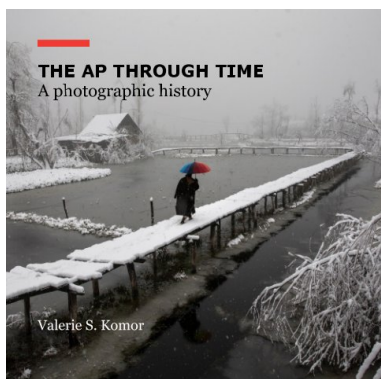




The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

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!

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## Today in History - Sept. 3, 2021



**By The Associated Press**

**Today is Friday, Sept. 3, the 246th day of 2021. There are 119 days left in the year.**

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

On Sept. 3, 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

### **On this date:**

In 1609, English explorer Henry Hudson and his crew aboard the Half Moon entered present-day New York Harbor and began sailing up the river that now bears his name. (They reached present-day Albany before turning back.)

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was installed as the 264th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the name "AuctionWeb."

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the accident was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2003, Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his escort to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed in Florida by injection, becoming the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

In 2005, President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the Gulf Coast as his administration intensified efforts to rescue Katrina survivors and send aid to the hurricane-ravaged region in the face of criticism it did not act quickly enough.

In 2009, a private funeral service was held in Glendale, California, for pop superstar Michael Jackson, whose body was entombed in a mausoleum more than two months after his death.

In 2010, Defense Secretary Robert Gates toured U.S. bases and war zones in Afghanistan, saying he saw and heard evidence that the American counterinsurgency strategy was taking hold in critical Kandahar province.

In 2019, Walmart said it would stop selling ammunition for handguns and short-barrel rifles, and the store chain requested that customers not openly carry firearms in its stores; the announcement followed a shooting at a Walmart store in Texas that left 22 people dead.

Ten years ago: A judge in North Carolina sentenced Robert Stewart to spend the rest of his life behind bars for killing eight people at a rural nursing home in 2009. (Stewart had opened fire on his victims, seemingly at random, as he searched for his wife, an employee at the home.) The Vatican vigorously rejected accusations it had sabotaged efforts by Irish bishops to report priests who sexually abused children to police.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and China's President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) sealed their nations' participation in the Paris climate change agreement during a ceremony on the sidelines of a global economic summit in Hangzhou. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump visited the Great Faith Ministries International, a predominantly Black church in Detroit, to call for a "civil rights agenda for our time." Authorities in Minnesota said they had identified the remains of Jacob Wetterling, an 11-year-old boy kidnapped by a masked gunman in October 1989 near his home in St. Joseph; the case was solved when a man confessed to sexually assaulting and killing the boy.

One year ago: A report in The Atlantic detailed multiple instances of President Donald Trump making disparaging remarks about members of the U.S. military who had been captured or killed; Trump emphatically denied making the comments, many of which were confirmed by The Associated Press. In a series of tweets, Trump said people who voted early by mail should also show up at their polling places on Election Day and vote again if their ballots hadn't been counted; experts said the suggestion would lead to chaos and long lines. Self-described anti-fascist Michael Reinoehl, the suspect in the slaying of a right-wing protester in Portland, Oregon, the previous weekend, was fatally shot by federal agents who said he had pulled a gun as they tried to arrest him near Lacey, Washington. Facebook said it would restrict new political ads in the week before the election and remove posts that conveyed misinformation about COVID-19 and voting.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Pauline Collins is 81. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 79. Actor Valerie Perrine is 78. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 73. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 66. Actor Steve Schirripa is 64. Actor Holt McCallany is 57. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 56. Actor Costas Mandylor is 56. Actor Charlie Sheen is 56. Singer Jennifer Paige is 48. Dance-rock musician Redfoo is 46. Actor Ashley Jones is 45. Actor Nichole Hiltz is 43. Actor Joel Johnstone is 43. Actor Nick Wechsler is 43. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 42. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 38. Actor Christine Woods is 38. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 37. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 35. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 29.

## 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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