

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting September 6, 2021

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



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

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

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Labor Day, Sept. 6, 2021,

Shanah tovah! — Good year! — to our Jewish colleagues who mark the High Holy Day of Rosh Hashanah, the new year, beginning at sundown.

Through the week leading to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Saturday of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Connecting will bring you stories relating to what for many of us was the biggest story of our lifetimes.

Today's issue brings you stories from AP media writer **David Bauder** on the three network anchors who guided millions of Americans through the day's events, from AP director of new storytelling and newsroom innovation **Ted Anthony** on the act of remembering, and from **CBS News** and its Sunday Morning story on AP New York photojournalist **Richard Drew** and his Falling Man photos.

**Connecting wants to hear from you this week** — by sharing your own story of where you were and what were the circumstances when you first heard news of the attacks.

Please send it along – and if there’s a picture appropriate to illustrate your story, share it too.

Have a great Labor Day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Three men guided millions through horror of Sept. 11, 2001



Dan Rather poses in a CBS studio in New York on Feb. 20, 2001, left, Peter Jennings poses on the set of ABC's "World News Tonight" in New York on Feb. 5, 2001, center, and "NBC Nightly News" anchor Tom Brokaw delivers his closing remarks during his final broadcast, in New York on Dec. 1, 2004. Most Americans were guided through the events of the day by one of three men: Tom Brokaw of NBC News, Peter Jennings of ABC and Dan Rather of CBS. Each had extensive reporting experience before that, Brokaw and Rather were at the White House during Watergate, and Jennings has been a foreign correspondent. (AP Photo)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — “Turn on your television.”

Those words were repeated in millions of homes on Sept. 11, 2001. Friends and relatives took to the telephone: Something awful was happening. You have to see.

Before social media and with online news in its infancy, the story of the day when terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people unfolded primarily on television. Even some people inside New York’s World Trade Center made the phone call. They felt a shudder, could smell smoke. Could someone watch the news and find out what was happening?

Most Americans were guided through the unimaginable by one of three men: Tom Brokaw of NBC News, Peter Jennings of ABC and Dan Rather of CBS.

“They were the closest thing that America had to national leaders on 9/11,” says Garrett Graff, author of “The Only Plane in the Sky,” an oral history of the attack. “They were the moral authority for the country on that first day, fulfilling a very historical role of basically counseling the country through this tragedy at a moment its political leadership was largely silent and largely absent from the conversation.”

The news media has changed in the ensuing 20 years, and some experts believe the same story would feel even more chaotic and terrifying if it broke today.

But on that day, when America faced the worst of humanity, it had three newsmen at the peak of their powers.

---

Brokaw, Rather and Jennings were the kings of broadcast news on Sept. 11, 2001. Competitive drive and ego had led them to that place. Each had anchored his network’s evening newscasts for roughly two decades at that point. Each had extensive reporting experience before that — Brokaw and Rather at the White House during Watergate, Jennings primarily as a foreign correspondent.

While they weren’t the only journalists on the air — CNN’s Aaron Brown memorably narrated the scene from a New York rooftop, for example — ABC, CBS or NBC were the first choices for news.

Unlike today, when a TV studio is likely to be stuffed with people when a big story breaks, back then it was pretty clear who was in charge.

“The three of us were known because we had taken the country through other catastrophes and big events,” Brokaw recalled this summer. “The country didn’t have to, if you will, dial around to see who knew what.”

Each man was in New York that morning. They rushed to their respective studios within an hour of the first plane hitting the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m.

Read more [here](#).

## Richard Drew on photographing the "Falling Man" on 9/11



AP Photo/Richard Drew

After almost six decades as a photographer, Richard Drew has learned a basic rule: "That you can be two hours early, but you can't be a 60th-of-a-second late. In other words, if you're not there when it happens, you can't take a picture of it."

Drew, who has worked for the Associated Press for the past 51 years, was there in time to capture Frank Sinatra escorting Jackie Onassis ... Muhammad Ali delivering a knockout punch ... and Ross Perot bursting into the 1992 presidential race in a way that so captured the pepper pot billionaire, it helped AP win the Pulitzer Prize.

But on September 11, 2001, when he made one of the most searing pictures of that day, he was not at the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m., or 9:03 a.m., when the planes hit the towers. He had been on assignment at a maternity fashion show in Midtown when his office called: "'A plane has hit the World Trade Center,' very calmly," he recalled.



Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Lee Siegel, Bob Daugherty., Linda Deutsch.

# 9/11: As the decades pass, the act of remembering evolves



By TED ANTHONY

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — Across the vast field where the plane fell out of the sky so many years ago, all is quiet.

The hills around Shanksville seem to swallow sound. The plateau that Americans by the millions ascend to visit the Flight 93 National Memorial, to think of those who died in this southwestern Pennsylvania expanse, sits just above much of the landscape, creating a pocket of quiet precisely where quiet needs to be.

It is a place that encourages the act of remembering.

Twenty years have passed since United Flight 93 made its final descent, chaos unfolding aboard as buildings burned 300 miles to the east. Nearly one-fifth of the country is too young to remember firsthand the day that changed everything.

At the edge of the memorial's overlook, a burly man in a leather Harley Davidson vest talks to two companions. He points toward the patch where the plane hit. It is an intimate conversation, and it is hard to hear what he's saying.

But his first two words are clear:

"I remember ..."

Read more [here](#).

# The Associated Press – once a ‘bland utility’?

*Reaction to this paragraph in last week's [AP story](#) on Julie Pace's appointment as executive editor:*

*That's a legacy of the AP's history primarily as a wholesaler of news disseminated through other outlets. A smaller AP has placed a greater emphasis on impact journalism, becoming a more consumer-facing organization rather than a bland utility. The AP won two Pulitzer Prizes this year and was a finalist for three others.*

**Jim Carrier ([Email](#))** - I read Paul Stevens' daily roundup, filled with stories of AP's place on the world stage, and the work of its brave reporters from hostile hot spots. Occasionally, I think of my eight years with AP as small potatoes, particularly my year-and-a-half as Sioux Falls correspondent. But then, I remember how vital the wire was to our South Dakota members. Moreover, I am reminded that in today's shrunken and disappeared newsrooms, how vital it remains. It may sound grandiose, but I believed that our daily work was the bedrock of democracy – not just elections and investigations, but the life of our country, accurately reflected on a daily basis. The job of a small correspondence is not romantic in the least. But without it...well, here, from an unpublished memoir, is a slice of that life in the 70s:

More than any paper in South Dakota the Pierre Capital Journal's isolation was palpable. It dangled from the world by a single wire that fed one teletype machine that clanked away at sixty-six words a minute. The machine was subject to jamming, ink-ribbon breaks, power failures, signal failures and running out of paper. It was also subject to the heartless vagaries of an AP filing system that sorted news by priority, the first to move being back page fixtures, weather, hog markets and sports agate. If the AP failed to move stuff on time printing schedules were thrown off. The most dreaded phone call in the Dakotas AP was not an Indian uprising but one of Bob Hipple's twin boys calling to say their machine had quit at 4 a.m. and they needed, first, a replacement, which would have to be shipped two hundred miles by bus in a big greasy box, and second, repeats of crucial news on an already jammed wire. If he didn't get them by noon the paper would look like a censored sheet from a banana republic, which, in a way, it was.

-0-

**Mike Holmes ([Email](#))** - Bland utility, indeed. How disappointing to see an opinionated pejorative in an AP news story.

Bland? Sorry, but it doesn't take much fact-checking to find a long line of AP writers and editors to disprove that: Jules Loh, Linda Deutsch, Hugh Mulligan, Saul Pett, Sharon Herbaugh, Kathy Gannon, John Barbour, Will Grimsley, Edie Lederer, Hal Boyle, Walter Mears, Mike Cochran, Sid Moody, Jack Cappon, Lou Boccardi and so many more.

Utility? Where I live, the gas, electric and water utilities aren't "bland," they're essential. As the AP has been for American newsrooms for 175 years. Let's hope this "utility" keeps providing its essential service for another 175.

-0-

**Campbell Gardett (Email)** - The AP. An often overlooked bland utility. Hmm. A dozen thoughts rush in. Boiling down to: "Yes. True. Someone has said it." And yet ...

Is it bad to be an overlooked utility? Like the water company? Is Gucci journalism really better than utility journalism? Is Gucci water better than tap water?

That bland utility had a clear purpose – and a clear business case. Overlooked perhaps by readers, the utility nonetheless delivered fact-based reports 24/7 – and publishers paid for those reports in order to have something tasty to wrap around their advertising. However cross-eyed that may be, it all arose organically because people in society needed some way of perceiving what was going on around them.

Not unlike our bodies: We eat what the overlooked farmer provides, because our brain needs something tasty in our blood fluid to wrap around those neurons. And all of that so we can see the bus coming down the street.

Would our bodies work better, would there be fewer bus collisions, if the farmer were a regular on Fox or GMA?

I want to briefly play the "If It Were Me" game. That is – If it were me, not Julie, who was about to become AP executive editor: What would I do? How would I think about the job and the challenge?

I think, like a sailor in a hurricane, I would hold on for life to the main mast: to the notion and reality of AP as a utility, a fact utility, an unglamorous picker and distributor of little facts, many of them hardly more alluring than a soybean, and most of them hardly any better understood, but with faith that in quantity and over time and through the hands and mouths and neurons of others, they would be the food of social life.

Has there ever been a time when the opportunity for access to facts, and the exercise of that opportunity, have been further apart? In particular: the web provides opportunities to link-to-source that are hardly used in the old inverted triangle format. That format was needed when three inches meant three inches. Today three inches is enough to lead to almost everything in the world, and a new part of the reporting team's job surely should be to provide a useful map to that information-rich universe. AP is uniquely positioned to lead in that life-giving service. And with ingenuity, the business case will follow.

AP is also uniquely positioned to overcome, in our much-divided country, one of the divisions that I think is especially pernicious: the division between life as it is lived in the nation's capital and life as it is lived elsewhere across our 3.8 million square miles. If you haven't lived in Washington, you can hardly imagine the nature of life in a place where work and income are so secure and the imagined levers of influence are so readily at hand. And if you haven't lived outside Washington recently, I'm not sure you

can imagine how grounded and functional, and how downright pleasant-to-be-around, most Americans are. Building an Interstate-worthy bridge of recognition across that divide, and opening it full-bore to traffic, may be a job that calls for Moses; but if Joshua had to follow Moses, then maybe Julie's the one to step up now. The AP is uniquely positioned to help.

And then – I can't resist. Could we ever, possibly, maybe, somehow break the Svengali-like hold that the New York Times has so long exercised on the AP general desk? The Times, Iago-like, uses its giant neighbor to control the news agenda. Come on, step up, Othello! It's you that Desdemona loves!

To my shame, I left AP thinking it was frumpy and I wasn't getting no respect. In the decades since, I may have learned something. In particular, I'm thinking of the early days of COVID, when we found out how very tenuous things are and how important a grocery store stocker can really be.

So – would our groceries be better and our lives more fulfilled if our grocery stockers were regulars on Fox and GMA? Or do they have better things to do?

## 'Tell 'em they can wear pantsuits to work, thanks to you'

**Cynthia Rawitch** ([Email](#)) - When I told my husband this morning that the two top positions at The AP are now held by women, he said, "Tell 'em they can wear pantsuits to work, thanks to you."

In fact, it was Linda (Deutsch), Edie (Lederer) and me who petitioned AP to let women wear pants to work--nice pants, mind you, in 1970/71ish. It worked.

For what it's worth, we also convinced management and The Guild that the category of employment should NOT be newsman, and it was changed. This all seems so obvious now but it was a big deal then. The AP World employee magazine wrote about "the women of The AP west," titling it (I believe), "And none dare call them newsmen."

**Linda Deutsch** ([Email](#)) – adds: Cynthia has it right. Of course, the women's lawsuit got us increases in salary to bring us up to parity with our male colleagues. And we received checks prorated to our terms with the AP. Since I had only been there only a few years years then, my check was rather small. But it meant a great deal.

Congratulations to Julie Pace who has already made her mark as a great political reporter. I have known all but two of the previous executive editors and had close relationships with the two previous women who worked with me in Los Angeles. All of those on the list added their unique contributions to making AP the world's largest and most respected news agency. Julie's term may bring with it the greatest challenges. I'm sure she will distinguish herself in making AP better than ever.

## Connecting mailbox



## *Remembering Willard Scott*

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) – The news of Willard Scott's death reminded me of the one and only time I met the man. A group of media folks were getting together for dinner at St. Elmo's, a wonderful steakhouse in Indianapolis. It was during Indy 500 week and the restaurant had a line of people waiting to be seated that stretched from the door to the corner of the block. Our group had a reservation, so I just walked in. But I noticed Willard and a woman I assumed to be his wife standing well back in the line on this gloomy, rainy May evening. When I got inside, I found Jeff, the greeter and part owner of the restaurant, and mentioned that there was a celebrity in line. He never watched the Today Show because he slept in after working later every night at the restaurant. But he let me point Willard out. Later, as I ate my dinner, I felt a tap on my shoulder. There was Willard, smiling broadly. He said, "I understand I have you to thank for getting us in out of the rain. I've always appreciated the AP and now I have another reason to feel that way." We shook hands and that was it. But I was happy I got to help him out. RIP Willard!

-0-

## *Linda and Cliff and good conversation*



**Linda Deutsch** ([Email](#)) - What a treat to have lunch with my AP pal Cliff Decatrel for the first time since pandemic lockdown. My favorite Hollywood restaurant is open and

thriving. No masks required while eating and everyone vaccinated. One thing hasn't changed. AP folks never run out of good conversation.

## An unlikely correspondent's dispatch from Poland

By Marc Lancaster  
WW2 on Deadline

The nine-paragraph story distributed by the Associated Press ran in multiple newspapers across the United States beginning Sept. 3, 1939. Datelined Warsaw, Sept. 2, it offered a brief and at that point unique glimpse inside Poland in the opening days of the German onslaught that sparked the Second World War.

The byline slapped on by the AP is jarring and bizarre when viewed through a modern lens: "MRS. W.J. MACHEDA, the former Helen Robinson". Even worse, they got her married name wrong; it was actually Michejda. But the story's kicker left no doubt the writer knew her way around a newsroom.

The piece recounts the journey she and her 9-year-old son Janek endured as they fled their home in Katowice for Warsaw, some 180 miles away.

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



### *Best of the Week*

**Washington team breaks multiple stories; keeps AP ahead during Afghanistan withdrawal**



#### AP PHOTO/MARCOS MORENO

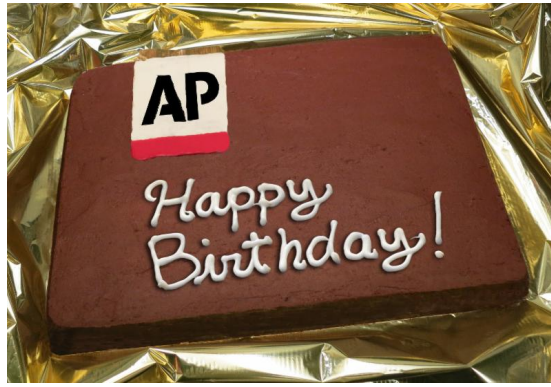
As AP's staff in Afghanistan grappled with the turmoil of the U.S. evacuation, an AP trio half a world away — Pentagon reporters Bob Burns and Lita Baldor and State Department reporter Matt Lee, with contributions by colleagues — set the standard, breaking news on the month's most competitive story.

When a suicide bomber struck at Kabul's airport, Baldor and Lee broke the news that 12 members of the U.S. military had been killed, a number that would later rise to 13 when another Marine died. Baldor also broke the story of two congressmen whose surprise visit to Kabul stunned State Department and U.S. military personnel, furious that they had to divert resources for the lawmakers.

Burns was the first to get word that Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command and overall commander of U.S. troops in Kabul, had made an unannounced visit to the Afghan capital. And finally, it was Baldor, with an assist from Burns, who broke the news of a U.S. drone strike against Islamic State group members late Friday. After pressing at the Pentagon all day, a source gave Lita an early fill-in on the U.S. action. She had an alert and story out well ahead of the competition, beating major national publications by more than 20 minutes — an eternity in the hypercompetitive Beltway press corps.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Al Habhab - [judgealbertandjanethabhab@mchsi.com](mailto:judgealbertandjanethabhab@mchsi.com)

Carl Robinson - [robinsoncarl88@gmail.com](mailto:robinsoncarl88@gmail.com)

Cliff Schiappa – [schiappa@aol.com](mailto:schiappa@aol.com)

Karen Testa Wong - [testawong@gmail.com](mailto:testawong@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Brad Cain - [birdoz@comcast.net](mailto:birdoz@comcast.net)

Sara Trohanis – [srwhite13@gmail.com](mailto:srwhite13@gmail.com)



## 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 - Sept. 6, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2021. There are 116 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlights in History:**

On Sept. 6, 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said tough interrogation had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

**On this date:**

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent a telegram from Indian Harbor, Labrador, announcing that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that claimed the lives of eleven Israelis and five Arab abductors.

In 1975, 18-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia, in New York for the U.S. Open, requested political asylum in the United States.

In 1991, the Soviet Union recognized the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

In 1995, Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing his two-thousand-131st consecutive game.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

In 2007, opera star Luciano Pavarotti died in Modena, Italy, at the age of 71.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic, pounded Puerto Rico with heavy rain and powerful winds; authorities said more than 900,000 people were without power. (Hurricane Maria, which would destroy the island's power grid, arrived two weeks later.)

In 2019, Zimbabwe's president announced that Robert Mugabe, the country's former leader who was forced to resign after a 37-year rule, had died at the age of 95; he had taken power after white minority rule ended in 1980.

Ten years ago: A man with a rifle opened fire in an IHOP restaurant in Carson City, Nevada, killing three uniformed National Guard members and a woman having

breakfast with her husband; gunman Eduardo Sencion also shot himself and died in the parking lot. Convoys of Moammar Gadhafi loyalists, including his security chief, fled Libya, crossing the Sahara into Niger.

Five years ago: On the campaign trail, Democrat Hillary Clinton accused Republican Donald Trump of insulting America's veterans and pressing dangerous military plans, while Trump declared "our country is going to hell" because of policies he said Clinton would make even worse.

One year ago: Rescuers in military helicopters finished airlifting 207 people to safety after an explosive wildfire trapped them in a popular camping area in California's Sierra National Forest. Temperatures reached 111 degrees in downtown Los Angeles and a record-shattering 121 degrees in the nearby Woodland Hills neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley, the highest temperature ever recorded in Los Angeles County. San Francisco set a record for the date with a high of 100 degrees, smashing the previous mark by 5 degrees. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic was defaulted from his fourth-round match at the U.S. Open after he accidentally hit a line judge with a tennis ball; he had smacked the ball behind him after falling behind in the first set.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 85. Country singer David Allan Coe is 82. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 78. Actor Swoosie Kurtz is 77. Comedian-actor Jane Curtin is 74. Rock musician Mick Mashbir is 73. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 69. Actor James Martin Kelly is 67. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 64. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 63. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 63. Rock musician Perry Bamonte is 61. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 60. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 60. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 60. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 59. Television journalist Elizabeth Vargas is 59. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 58. Actor Betsy Russell is 58. Actor Rosie Perez is 57. R&B singer Macy Gray is 54. Country songwriter Lee Thomas Miller (Songs: "The Impossible" "You're Gonna Miss This") is 53. Singer CeCe Peniston is 52. Actor Daniele Gaither is 51. Actor Dylan Bruno is 49. Actor Idris Elba is 49. Actor Justina Machado is 49. Actor Anika Noni (ah-NEE'-kuh NOH'-nee) Rose is 49. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 47. Actor Justin Whalin is 47. Actor Naomie Harris is 45. Rapper Noreaga is 44. Actor Natalia Cigliuti is 43. Rapper Foxy Brown is 43. Actor Howard Charles is 38. Actor/singer Deborah Joy Winans is 38. Actor Lauren Lapkus is 36. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) 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.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
**paulstevens46@gmail.com**

