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Connecting September 8, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Sept. 8, 2021,

Tuesday's salute to former AP Chairman **Frank Daniels Jr.** on his 90th birthday carried a bit of irony related to the incoming president and CEO of The Associated Press – **Daisy Veerasingham**.

One of the biggest accomplishments of the board during Daniels' chairmanship – working in tandem with President/CEO **Lou Boccardi** - was the introduction of a video service, APTV, that later became APTN (AP Television News). Today, video represents between 25 and 30 percent of AP's revenue.

Veerasingham, who will take leadership of AP on Jan. 1, 2022, began her AP career in 2004 as a sales director for APTN in London. She eventually became responsible for content licensing and marketing in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australia, leading the company's expansion efforts.

Connecting continues with your memories of where you were at the time of the 9/11 terrorist attacks 20 years ago.

We lead today's issue with an account of a celebration of life in Montana for former AP and Hearst Newspapers Washington bureau chief **Chuck Lewis** – and we thank colleague **John Brewer** for sharing it.

And...we bring you the winners of the **2021 Oliver S. Gramling Awards**. They span the globe, from Hong Kong to East Africa to Los Angeles. They told stories that no one else told; they served our mission even in the most extraordinary circumstances; they discovered new revenue sources for the AP; they inspired their colleagues.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Celebrating the life of Chuck 'Hard Rock' Lewis



Here are photos of “Hard Rock’s” grave in Pony, Montana - by car about four hours east of Flathead Lake. Buried around him are members of his Montana homestead family. Overlooking the cemetery is Hollowtop Mountain. It was a ritual that everyone in the family had to climb the 10,604-foot mountain at least

once. Chuck often climbed with his children every summer.

John Brewer (Email) - This summer I participated in a celebration for life on the shores of Flathead Lake in Polson, Mont., for former Washington COB Charles J. "Chuck" Lewis.



We were supposed to have met at the lake to celebrate Chuck's 80th birthday in July 2020.

COVID-19 concerns canceled the party -- and then, on March, 20, 2021, Chuck died at a hospital near his home in Arlington, Va., from complications of multiple myeloma and oral cancer. Click [here](#) for AP story.

Instead of a birthday party for Chuck, about 40 of us gathered in mid-August at his cousin's lakeside home to honor and remember him, and recall stories.

Chuck and I had been friends for more than four decades -- from our days crossing paths at The AP...to working together after we had both left AP to make the Hearst News Service (which Chuck then headed) a contributor to the New York Times News Service (of which I was editor-in-chief)...to being my always-upbeat friend in retirement (he in Virginia, me in Washington state).

Chuck's wonderful wife, Vivian, arranged the celebration of life at Flathead Lake in concert with family members and friends from across the country.

This was a second celebration. Chuck was born in Bozeman, Mont., on July 10, 1940, and grew up in Peoria, Ill., where his first of many management roles was as sports editor of his high school newspaper.

In July, some of his ashes were interred amid ceremonies at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Peoria.

Following the Flathead Lake gathering, the remainder were put to rest in a family plot in Pony, Mont. Chuck was known as "Hard Rock," a salute to his hobby of collecting rocks. The nickname was used throughout the lakeside ceremonies.

Speaking were Vivian; Peter and Patrick, Chuck's two sons; his brother and sister; his brother-in-law; and a good friend from D.C.'s Metropolitan Club. Plus George Irish, retired president of Hearst Newspapers and now eastern director of the Hearst Foundation, and me.

We told stories about "Hard Rock" ...the well-connected, universally respected journalist who won national awards and was a prominent player in efforts to gain the release of kidnapped Beirut COB Terry Anderson...the tall, much-loved husband, father and sibling...the fun-loving and tolerant friend with an endless sense of humor and a killer tennis service.

Classic cello pieces recorded by Yo-Yo Ma were played. Another of Chuck's hobbies was playing the cello.

I read to the group a congressional citation for Chuck by U.S. Sen. John Tester, D-Montana. Tester had placed it into the *Congressional Record*.

"I rise today to remember a Montanan that made an indelible impact on Washington, D.C., and on Montana," it began. Tester recapped Chuck's career in detail and concluded, "Chuck was a consummate newsman, a reporters' reporter and a friend to democracy."

At the end, I led a toast.

We all lifted our glasses and cheered him "in this place Chuck loved -- Montana -- and where his spirit still lives."

A third memorial service for Chuck will be in D.C. on Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. at the National Press Club (see *Aug. 27 Connecting*).

Masks will be required. RSVPs would be appreciated; email Vivian at dr.vivian.t@gmail.com



A week after Chuck's celebration, I was in Dallas to give a eulogy for another good friend, Ralph Langer, retired editor and executive VP of the *Dallas Morning News* and a longtime leader of APME (*Sept. 3 Connecting*).

Black smoke over the gravestones



This photo was taken a few moments after the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, on Sept. 11, 2001. (©Ruth Rosati, 2001)

**By Chris Connell ([Email](#))
Piedmont Journalism Foundation**

The limousine driver had not turned the radio on as he drove the Moreau family from Herndon to Arlington National Cemetery that morning for the funeral of retired Navy chief petty officer and systems engineer Raymond Moreau. His son Ray – at age 62 still Little Ray to his family – was in the limo, on his way to saying a last goodbye to his father.

The first inkling that something was amiss was when he noticed a former coworker of his dad’s holding a radio to his ear as they walked to the Chapel.

“What are you listening to – the game?” the son quipped.

“‘The twin towers were just hit,’ he said. It didn’t register at first.” But a half hour later, they recoiled as a tremendous blast shook the windows and walls of the cemetery’s reception center.

Twenty-seven funerals were scheduled at Arlington on Sept. 11, 2001. Honor guards were carrying out the solemn ritual of folding the flag over coffins or urns for those who were cremated.

The mourners included colleagues from EDS, a defense contractor where Moreau was a popular manager, but also fellow Vietnam vets and some still working in the Pentagon.

“There are Navy people that were at the service who are alive because they weren’t in their offices at the Pentagon,” said Harold Lutz, a Vietnam vet who worked for Moreau at EDS.

“As we started the procession to the Columbarium, we get interrupted by the military police. They said the Pentagon was just hit and that there will not be a flag folding ceremony. ‘All these soldiers, all these military people, are going to have to leave,’ they told us,” said Ray’s son.

Black smoke billowed over the cemetery from the gaping wound in the Pentagon’s west wing, less than a mile from where they stood.

Ruthie Rosati, a next-door neighbor Moreau’s widow Jane in Herndon, ran back to her car, parked along a cemetery road, to retrieve her Olympus camera. “This was back in the day when nobody had a camera. I just happened to have mine because after the funeral we were going to go to a condo we were trying to sell and take pictures of it.”

She aimed her lens across the rows of tombstones and captured an image like none other from that tragic morning in Arlington.

The chaplain held an abbreviated service and asked, “Is there anyone here that can stand in for the military folks to fold the flag?”

Many stepped forward to do their part.

“That was so wonderful, seeing these guys that worked for my dad. They all stood and folded the flag,” said “Little Ray.”

Lutz remembers the dazed look on the civilians’ faces that said, “What do we do now?”

They left and slowly made their way to the Moreau home in Herndon. Stranded relatives who had flown in from Massachusetts camped on cots and sleeping bags in Moreau’s house in Manassas for the next two nights.

Rosati, then a stay-at-home mom, took her roll of film to Costco and had prints of the dramatic moment made for Jane Moreau, the widow, and others. She did not contact news organizations to gauge their interest, but let the editor of a weekly newspaper, the Herndon Connection, run it on page 17 of his Sept. 21, 2001, issue. She was not compensated.

Years later she tried to contact someone doing a book on 9/11 to see if he was interested in reprinting it, but nothing came of that.

Rosati, now a school bus driver, headed straight home from the cemetery that morning. “I was worried about our two boys. When I picked up Kevin, my first grader, he asked what was happening, who would do something like this. I said, ‘Somebody doesn’t like our country.’”

THE BACK STORY ON THE PHOTO:

It was taken by a Herndon woman who was attending a neighbor's funeral in Arlington National Cemetery minutes after Flight 77 struck the Pentagon that morning. She was standing by the Columbarium, about 2,500 feet from where the hijacked jet smashed into the Pentagon wall.

There is an unusual backstory. The Piedmont Journalism Foundation engages me to write occasional in-depth stories and features for the Fauquier Times, including a series on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

A Warrenton man sent the paper an email with his account of attending the funeral of a Navy veteran neighbor that morning when the plane struck. He attached and a low rez version of this photo taken by another mourner whose name he didn't remember.

I tracked down the son of the Navy veteran who thought it was taken by a reporter for a Herndon newspaper.

There were three Herndon weeklies then, all now defunct. The Fairfax County Library branch in Fairfax City has them on microfilm and I found the photo in the Sept. 21, 2001, Herndon Observer on p.17 with a short article saying it was taken by a local woman, Ruth Rosati.

I tracked her down and it turned out she was a neighbor of the widow (still is) and still has the negative. She once tried to see if the publisher of a book on the attacks was interested but nothing came of it.

And now, 20 years later, it appeared Wednesday above the fold on P.1 of the Fauquier Times - click [here](#) -- and in Connecting.

Memories of where you were on 9/11

Daisy Veerasingham ([Email](#)) - I was in London and working for Lexis Nexis. I was on the phone participating in a call with our NY office and they ended the call abruptly saying something is happening go and watch a TV screen. As no one was sure if London too was going to be under attack, I remember having to get all our staff evacuated from the building and out of London. This decision was made within an hour or so of the first building strike. I will always remember the silence in London that day. I had never heard the city so quiet and never have, not even on 7/7 (the London bombings July 7, 2005, that killed 56).

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Malcolm Barr Sr. ([Email](#)) - I was out for my daily run, my wife Carol was home with the television on. Upon my return, Carol met me at the door with news from New York City. We walked out on to our deck facing north. We heard a plane, we heard a crash, we clutched each other when smoke appeared in the sky, about five miles distant from our Alexandria VA home. We turned to look at each other. "It's the Pentagon, they got the Pentagon," I said. We sat quietly and, like millions of others, watched the story as it developed on television.



President Bush in the Offutt AFB bunker. Bush Library photo published by the Omaha World-Herald.

Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - My 9/11 story is the one that got away.

After President George W. Bush had been hurried out of the Florida school room, he was flown to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. From there, he took off again -

destination unknown.

As Omaha AP bureau chief, I had a strong hunch he would be flown to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, the longtime home of the Strategic Air Command and its successors. It had an underground war room, cutting-edge communications and more security than Fort Knox.

News Editor Barry Bedlan and I conferred and sent a reporter to Offutt just in case. Of course, the base was sealed tight and she couldn't get past the guards at the gate.

Air Force One touched down about 1:50 p.m. By 3:30 or so, it was decided Bush would return to Washington.

According to the book, "The Only Plane in the Sky," Bush beat his pilot, Col. Mark Tillman, back to the jet. "He's waiting at the top of the stairs and told me, 'Tillman, we got to get back home.'"

One of our photo stringers did get a shot of Air Force One in the air over Omaha, but that was the best we could do.

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Jim Hood (Email) - Where was I on 9/11? I was in Los Angeles, having taken a flight from DC's Dulles Airport the day before. Don't ask if it was the same flight that was hijacked the following day. I don't like to think about it.

Ironically, I was in LA to help promote a federal HHS/NIH initiative aimed at getting people to react more quickly to chest pain. "Call 9-1-1 for heart attack pain" was the rather drab slogan. (I was working for a non-profit DC organization at the time while sitting out a non-compete that kept me from doing anything remotely journalistic).

The next morning, I sauntered across the street to Marie Callendar's pie shop and was mystified to find the place deserted -- breakfasts abandoned in mid-bite, cash register unattended.

I wandered into the kitchen and found that everyone, customers and staff, were clustered around a tiny TV watching what looked like a science fiction movie.

Obviously, the 9-1-1 for heart attack pain campaign went nowhere. Neither did I for a day or two, the nation's airlines being grounded. But soon plaintive calls from home arrived. Our children were upset, many of their friends' parents worked in the Pentagon and there were fears that another shoe was about to drop.

Some people in similar situations had trouble getting rental cars but I already had one, so over Hertz' objections, I aimed it East and was soon blasting past the wind turbines outside Palm Springs, an eerie sight on a ghostly day.

I made it as far as Oklahoma City before limited flights resumed. I got the first Southwest flight out of OKC and found that I was the only passenger, along with 20 or so airline employees trying to get back into their assigned positions.

I was changing planes in St. Louis when some kind of construction or maintenance mishap caused a large window to shatter. We few nervous souls in the terminal hit the ground. I crawled under a flower cart and tried not to sneeze.

The flight from STL home was uneventful, though still spookily empty. Arriving in Washington, I realized I had left my car in short-term parking, since I only expected to be gone for two days. But Dulles had a heart that day. The cashier comped me and wished me well. I arrived home to find my daughter and friends selling lemonade on our street corner to benefit the Red Cross.

Images of Kids of Kandahar in midst of Afghanistan war





(AP Photos/Charles Rex Arbogast)

Charlie Arbogast ([Email](#)) - In the past weeks, as the news unfolded in Afghanistan, two things that struck me was it has been 19 years, this last June-July since I was there covering the war in Kandahar. During my 30-day rotation I held on to some images of kids for a photo essay titled: The Kids of Kandahar. In my piece I wrote, “they steal curiosity from the cat,” but it was edited out, I still hold that as a truth. Everywhere I went they would flock to me. They had not seen very many Westerners.

The second thing, as I tear up looking at these images again, is their ages. They are now 19 years older. Most are well into their 20’s. What has become of them? One of the first images I shot was the four boys from behind with a spring in their step as they returned into the city. A soldier doing crowd control at a soccer stadium. Young girls laughing at me after they emerged soaked from being under a hose that was irrigating her father’s fields. One boy reading the Quran in the market as another wakes up under his father craft cart. Boys circling the soccer field during a trophy presentation after a week-long soccer tournament that was previously banned by the Taliban. Two kids waiting with their mothers at the local hospital and one single image of a lone kid staring at me from the middle of the hospital lobby. I was briefed by some military official on one of my trips to the airbase outside of town to be weary of bad people carrying syringes that might have acid in them, and as you can see, one boy holding a spent syringe at the soccer stadium. As I would move around the stadium they would get up and move with me, so curious. After attending a survival training course years before, I would have told you that I would never go there, but I did. For the past weeks, I wonder about my Kids of Kandahar. Tears...

Bland = Neutral, Nonpartisan, Healthy | Utility = 24/7 Everywhere

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - *RE 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.

If you substitute "distributor" for wholesaler, put "copyright" in front of news, remove "disseminated" altogether and substitute "media" for outlets, you get: That's a legacy of the AP's history primarily as a distributor of copyright news to other media. That's what I did as an AP reporter and what I sold as a business manager.

Of course, AP would - still does - rewrite stories from its member media for dissemination through other outlets which, incidentally, most news media do these days. A majority reach "their" audiences via social media or third-party platforms. In that respect, bland AP was among the first.

Covering politics, news, sports, disasters, etc., from 1981 - 2005, I sometimes felt invisible to newsmakers - or at least less visible than major media bylines or on-camera faces - but only bland if I did that to myself by bland writing. In Washington, D.C. back in the day, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan certainly knew that I - er, AP - could reach upstate N.Y. newspapers and potential voters as well or better than any competitor. Overseas in Latin America and Europe if I had to send news clips with big headlines in various languages to remind people of AP's worldwide reach, well, after a while they could not fail to know.

Utility? News indeed should be useful and AP could only wish to make as much money as your average electric or water company does. Each provides just one service and so reliably that customers almost don't know it's there (until it's not).

AP used to eschew prizes whose real merit arguably is a seal of approval to underlying values and processes. If "bland" can be taken to mean neutral, nonpartisan; and "utility" refer to 24/7 everywhere all-the-time, without fear or favor; then no need to change those words.

Working with Joe Dynan

Harry Dunphy (Email) - I had the pleasure of working with Joe Dynan as a young foreign correspondent on my first assignment in Beirut.

I was sent to Cairo where he was bureau chief to cover the opening of the Aswan dam in January of 1971.

We discovered we had a Kansas City connection—both graduates of Rockhurst College (now university). He was very low key, a pleasant person to work with and a wealth of information about working overseas with AP.

Someone asked us if we sang the school song together but I don't think the college had one. The high school did, "Hail, Blue and White."

I worked with him on several subsequent trips to Cairo and eventually became bureau chief there myself.

He died in the Americans Hospital in Paris at 62 on Dec. 10, 1974, "after a long illness" and is buried in the American cemetery there.

AP announces winners of 2021 Gramling Awards

From: Gary Pruitt, President and CEO, and Daisy Veerasingham, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

AP Staff:

We are honored to announce the winners of the 2021 Oliver S. Gramling Awards. This year's recipients truly represent the best of AP. They all embody commitment, persistence and talent.

Our winners span the globe, from Hong Kong to East Africa to Los Angeles. They told stories that no one else told; they served our mission even in the most extraordinary circumstances; they discovered new revenue sources for the AP; they inspired their colleagues.

Five of the prizes this year were awarded to teams.

The selections were made by a group of judges from across AP: Jacqueline Larma, East region photo editor, Philadelphia; Ricardo Mazalan, deputy director of storytelling and photos for Latin America, Bogota, Colombia; Herbie Rana, vice president and controller, New York; and Cara Rubinsky, Business News deputy editor for newsgathering, London.

Here are AP's 2021 Gramling Award winners:

\$10,000 Gramling Journalism Awards

Ethiopia coverage team: Benjamin Curtis, chief photographer and Nairobi bureau chief, Nairobi, Kenya; Cara Anna, East Africa correspondent, Nairobi, Kenya; Khaled Kazziha, East Africa senior producer, Nairobi, Kenya; Rodney Muhumuza, Uganda correspondent, Kampala, Uganda; Nariman El Mofty, photographer, Cairo.

As conflict erupted in Ethiopia's Tigray region, authorities adamantly tried to keep the world from knowing what was going on. With the press barred from the region, the government's reluctance to let anyone in, and nearly all communications cut off, this team employed incredible journalistic skill and energy to reveal the horrors of the conflict in Tigray. These journalists overcame obstacle after obstacle to produce exclusive and compelling coverage that illustrated in detail horrendous systematic violence and the deteriorating, alarming crisis that followed.

It cannot be overstated how difficult it was to report on this story in every format. This team worked tirelessly to earn the trust of contacts, obtain valuable information,

make hundreds of calls, seek visas and gain access into Tigray itself, a near-impossible feat. The success of the reporting has been a team effort from the start. Along with their colleagues, each of these journalists played a crucial role in bringing these stories out of the shadows. Their hard work and perseverance ensured the world knew what was happening in Tigray and exposed one of the biggest humanitarian disasters with great sensitivity and commitment.

Jae C. Hong, photographer, Los Angeles.

In early 2020, when little was known about COVID-19, Jae was in and out of coronavirus wards in Southern California, documenting the brutal COVID-19 pandemic while frequently putting himself at risk. Illustrating the pain, horror, fear and uncertainty of the pandemic has been Jae's primary mission throughout the last 18 months. His bravery and commitment to telling this story were unmatched. And his creative concepts gave AP an advantage as his work resonated with customers and readers. From his story on hospital chaplains guiding the dying through their last moments, to the photos of hospital wards and exhausted staff, and the feeling of desperation he captured inside ambulances and homes of the sick, Jae gave readers a rare glimpse inside a world most of us could only imagine. He didn't just point his camera at the subject and wait for the moment, he dug deeper and employed different visual techniques to make each story special. He's constantly reinventing himself, his style and his approach to every story.

Jae's colleagues are often in awe of his work, calling him one of AP's most creative and versatile photographers. Aside from his searing images of the pandemic, one of his most notable projects this year is a unique look at Korean Americans amid increased attacks on Asians in the U.S. Jae, who is Korean American, was able to gain the trust and access necessary to produce something very difficult: intimate pictures and stories of Koreans in Los Angeles. Beyond his considerable storytelling capacity, Jae also has a work ethic and team spirit that sets an example for colleagues. He constantly inspires his colleagues with his hard work, compassion and humility.

Gaza team: Fares Akram, correspondent; Wafaa Shurafa, senior producer; Najib Jobain, senior producer; Rashed Rashid, cameraman; Khalil Hamra, photographer; Hatem Moussa, photographer; Adel Hana, photographer.

Demonstrating resilience during extraordinary circumstances, this team of journalists repeatedly rose to the occasion, often at great personal risk, to cover the 11-day war in Gaza in May. They provided round-the-clock video coverage, including incoming airstrikes and the bombed-out scenes of vast destruction. They spent long hours, often throughout the night, perched on a rooftop filming earth-shaking Israeli airstrikes and outgoing rocket fire headed toward Israel. They wrote emotional first-person accounts and rushed to the scenes of the heaviest fighting, delivering gripping images of devastation and heartbreak that appeared on websites and front pages around the world. Their work dominated the competition.

And when the war struck home, destroying the building that housed AP's bureau, known as a sanctuary and beloved gathering place, the Gaza staff again sprang into action. Given less than an hour by the Israeli military to evacuate, the staff grabbed what few belongings they could carry and went straight to work. Trudging up 11 flights of stairs in a neighboring building, they set up a live position to broadcast the

airstrike and collapse of the building around the globe, while others captured jaw-dropping images of the damage from the ground level. They did this all while coping with their own emotions and the effects of the war on their personal lives. Amid constant turmoil they produced unparalleled journalism while exhibiting exceptional calm under extreme pressure and their unwavering dedication to AP's mission.

\$10,000 Gramling Achievement Awards

FanDuel program team: Barry Bedlan, global director of text and new market products, Dallas; Kevin O'Sullivan, commercial sales manager, New York; Barry Bronstein, corporate counsel, New York.

Securing a distribution deal with FanDuel is both lucrative and exciting for the AP. The FanDuel team turned sports odds – something AP used to pay for – into a revenue opportunity. As states began legalizing gambling, sportsbooks were looking for new ways to increase their profiles and this team recognized an opportunity for AP to define a new kind of relationship with these organizations. Navigating through the numerous challenges and risks associated with the unusual nature of this collaboration for AP, this team employed patience, creativity and determination to drive the deal forward. Between knowing the market, positioning AP to be ready when opportunity arose and cultivating content-processing partners, this team was agile and brilliant.

Their work resulted in an agreement that will bring in millions of dollars in revenue and positions AP to explore new revenue channels, expanding beyond conventional markets. One of the most compelling aspects about the FanDuel arrangement is that it employs a business model we have not traditionally used. The FanDuel deal sets AP up for future wins and increases opportunities for us to work with a new segment of customers. This is the type of business growth essential to AP's future.

GMS Sotheby's team: Royston Chan, GMS Asia business development manager, Hong Kong; Pablo Delbracio, broadcast engineer, Barcelona, Spain; Susan Henderson, GMS head of broadcast services North America, Washington; Ben Jary, GMS technical projects manager, London; Kirsty Le, GMS senior special events producer, London.

In a request from Sotheby's to completely rethink their auctions amid the pandemic, this team saw an opportunity to make Sotheby's ambition a reality while shining a light on AP's tremendous GMS capabilities. GMS delivered on Sotheby's ask to live stream their auctions from several locations across multiple time zones around the world via the Internet, a much less stable delivery method than satellite. It was a high-pressure challenge as one signal failure could mean a loss of reputation and millions of dollars to Sotheby's. The scale of the effort was immense. The AP team's creative and exhaustive efforts proved to be a huge success. The outcome and speed of what this team accomplished is remarkable.

All along, they were focused on increasing revenue for AP and accomplished this challenging task with a consistent positive attitude. Not only has this work opened a new revenue stream for GMS but building a relationship with a respected company like Sotheby's enhances the AP brand. Working with Sotheby's to create the auction of the future, and with it bringing in seven figures of new revenue so far is a prime example of the achievements that keep AP's business relevant and competitive.

Lisa Gibbs, director of news partnerships, New York

Lisa has worked tirelessly to build cross-company support for infusing our news report with backing from philanthropies. She has succeeded beyond all expectations, with more than 40 jobs across the globe at AP now funded by grants and partnerships. Among the partnership highlights, 17 early career journalists were brought into our newsroom in June of 2020 as part of the Report for America program. These journalists started the week of George Floyd's death, in the middle of a global pandemic and they soon reported on the biggest stories of the year, adding tremendous value to AP's report from cities across the U.S.

The work behind partnerships like these is broad and complex. There are funder relationships to build, legal agreements to sort and standards calls to be made. Lisa knows that this work is critical to our future and enables our journalists to grow their careers and produce profound stories. She has worked to draft budgets and redraft them as funding lines changed. She takes our plans and makes them bigger, stronger and even more ambitious. There is no detail that escapes her careful gaze, and when something needs to be done, she makes sure it happens. Her dedication to the AP's mission, and these projects, is why they exist. Thanks to Lisa's work, our investigative and data-driven reporting and our coverage of religion, philanthropy, climate and health and science are all enhanced. Her accomplishments have truly been transformational for AP.

\$10,000 Gramling Spirit Awards**Sandy Dennison, Africa regional accountant, Johannesburg.**

During her 26 years with AP, Sandy has worked selflessly on behalf of staffers in Africa. Her knowledge and care for the Africa team and its operations is indisputable, as is her care for AP, its standards and its integrity. Her colleagues appreciate and admire her dedication to not just doing the job, but to doing the job right. Her relentless efforts to ensure stringers and staff are paid correctly and on time are an essential function, vital to our operation. Her eagle eye and sharp attention to detail often helps others avoid problems. With her signature good-natured patience, she has shown staff the intricacies of Fieldglass and Concur, often more than once. Sandy is a constant, reassuring presence who has helped enable journalists to do their jobs, all over the continent.

Her work encompasses far more than just financial responsibilities. She has steered personalities of all kinds through arrivals, immigration documents, taxes, assorted payments, deliveries, introductions to the finer points of rugby and every other random daily question that leads to "I bet Sandy will know." She is known as a trusted adviser, confidante and social events manager for the Johannesburg bureau and a valued and knowledgeable consultant for all those she works with in Africa and beyond. She also looks after the welfare of the AP staff, often counseling employees on disappointments and difficulties and she is the first to offer congratulations when there is cause for celebration. Sandy's compassion, humor and pure professionalism have never wavered. She encapsulates the AP spirit of getting on with the job and persevering, rigorously and honestly.

Myanmar team: Thein Zaw, office assistant, Yangon, Myanmar; Aung Shine Oo, photographer, Yangon Myanmar.

Myanmar has never been an easy place to operate. For Thein Zaw and Aung Shine Oo, things only got harder this year. Early on February 1, the military seized control from the democratically elected government. Thein Zaw was the first to alert his Asia colleagues to the news. In doing so, he once again went beyond the call of duty to play the critical role of not just office assistant, but journalist. In the weeks that followed, Thein Zaw – cameras and smartphone in hand – was our only staff eyes and ears on the ground in the country's largest city, Yangon. He was able to provide the first live video and stills from the city on the day of the military takeover. As opposition to the junta grew, he documented the unrest in detailed text feeds, bursts of video and close-to-the-action photos. Staff photographer Aung Shine Oo had a different perspective on the takeover from his base in the capital, Naypyitaw. In addition to shooting his own photos and video, he worked with Southeast Asia News Director Kiko Rosario and other regional leaders to quickly build up a network of freelancers to help cover the unfolding unrest. For safety reasons, he temporarily relocated to the larger city of Mandalay, and his presence allowed AP to document the growing unrest there. He continues to work from Mandalay for his safety, separated from his family.

Thein Zaw was kept apart from his loved ones too, but not by choice. In late February, he was forcibly detained while covering protests against the military and was locked up in the country's notorious Insein Prison. For the next month, AP mounted an intensive, cross-departmental effort to secure his freedom. He was finally set free in late March. He had been detained for nothing more than doing his job to inform the world what was happening in Myanmar. He and Aung Shine Oo are still doing the hard, risky but vital work of covering their country. Their jobs have only gotten more difficult over the past several months, and the risk of arrest for journalists remains. A worrying, unchecked surge in coronavirus cases only adds to the challenges confronting them. Their dedication to telling the story of Myanmar despite the personal risks and hardship they face epitomizes the spirit of AP.

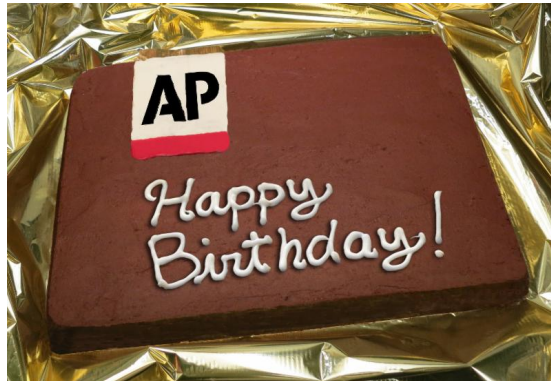
Alexander "Sasha" Zemlianichenko, supervisory photo editor, Moscow.

Sasha is a legend in the photojournalism world, both in Russia and across the globe. Though he has worked at AP for more than 30 years, he approaches all assignments with passion whether it's a major news event or a wonderfully composed daily life feature. He has covered every major story in Russia and many beyond. He documented the end of Soviet Russia and the rise and fall of Boris Yeltsin, in the process establishing himself as one of the leading lights in photojournalism. In 1996 he won the Pulitzer Prize in Feature Photography for his iconic image of a dancing Yeltsin at an election rally. His work has earned him a well-deserved reputation of respect and he continues to make outstanding images from week to week. Sasha leads the Russia/CIS photo team by example. He is the first to start in the morning and the last to leave. He has an enthusiasm and energy for the job and an astounding drive to deliver on AP's mission. He has also been a mentor for more than one generation of award-winning photographers. He always has time to discuss coverage and photography with managers as well as the younger photographers, whom he handles with care and compassion. He's also a sage and caring voice for staff in text and video. Photographers who have come under Sasha's tutelage have gone on

to experience their own acclaim and professional success. Sasha's colleagues readily declare their admiration. As one colleague noted, "When I grow up, I want to be Sasha."

Please join us in congratulating these most deserving winners of the 2021 Oliver S. Gramling Awards!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Steve Paul - stevepaul92@gmail.com

Michael Sniffen - kelso402@yahoo.com

Glenn White - gcwhite1@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Opinion: An American journalist's detention in Myanmar poses a test for Biden (Washington Post)

Opinion by Jason Rezaian
Global Opinions writer

On Monday, Danny Fenster, an American journalist who has been unjustly detained in Myanmar for more than 100 days, had a hearing in a Yangon court. Fenster's ongoing detention is an important test for President Biden, as press freedom advocates contend the administration is not living up to its promise to restore the United States' long-standing commitment to upholding free expression.

Critics point to the administration's failure to adequately protect and evacuate Afghan journalists trying to flee persecution by the Taliban as an indication that the United States still isn't doing enough to support journalists in trouble.

No verdict was delivered in what was a virtual court session, and he remains in Insein Prison near Yangon. His family says he contracted covid-19 in detention and was subsequently denied medical care.

Fenster, a Detroit area native who is the managing editor of the award-winning magazine *Frontier Myanmar*, was detained at Yangon International Airport on May 24. He was set to return home to the United States to visit his family at the time of his arrest.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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For 8 Years, A 'Wall Street Journal' Story Haunted His Career. Now He Wants It Fixed (NPR)

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

Stymied at every turn, accused of things he never did, Robert Shireman figured this summer that, finally, he knew how best he could reclaim his reputation. He asked The Wall Street Journal to correct a story it published about him back in 2013.

Shireman was tired of what he says are false allegations. Claims that, as a top official in the U.S. Department of Education, Shireman illegally provided information to a hedge fund investor who was seeking to make big money by betting against the stocks of for-profit colleges. Claims that he was corrupt. Claims that he left public life disgraced.

There's no evidence — none — to support any of those claims, despite two federal investigations. So, Shireman argued, the newspaper was obligated to correct the story, or even re-report it.

The Wall Street Journal did not explicitly make those allegations in that eight-year-old article. But its report suggested Shireman might be caught up in something corrupt, despite the lack of any firm evidence to make that case.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

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Australian court rules media liable for Facebook comments (AP)

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's highest court on Wednesday made a landmark ruling that media outlets are "publishers" of allegedly defamatory comments posted by third parties on their official Facebook pages.

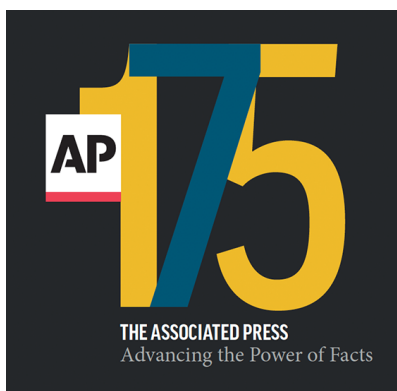
The High Court dismissed an argument by some of Australia's largest media organizations — Fairfax Media Publications, Nationwide News and Australian News

Channel — that for people to be publishers, they must be aware of the defamatory content and intend to convey it.

The court found that by facilitating and encouraging the comments, the companies had participated in their communication.

The decision opens the media organizations to be sued for defamation by former juvenile detainee Dylan Voller.

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 - Sept. 8, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2021. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 8, 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

On this date:

In 1504, Michelangelo's towering marble statue of David was unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy.

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

In 1761, Britain's King George III married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz a few hours after meeting her for the first time.

In 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion." It went: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, a Louisiana Democrat, was shot and mortally wounded inside the Louisiana State Capitol; he died two days later. (The assailant was identified as Dr. Carl Weiss, who was gunned down by Long's bodyguards.)

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a "limited national emergency" in response to the outbreak of war in Europe.

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1943, during World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced Italy's surrender; Nazi Germany denounced Italy's decision as a cowardly act.

In 1964, public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia, reopened after being closed for five years by officials attempting to prevent court-ordered racial desegregation.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon covering his entire term in office.

In 2019, Rafael Nadal held off a strong comeback bid to win his 19th Grand Slam title in a five-set U.S. Open final against Daniil Medvedev.

Ten years ago: Addressing a joint session of Congress, President Barack Obama challenged a reluctant Congress to urgently pass a larger-than-expected \$450 billion jobs plan to "jolt an economy that has stalled." Ten oil workers were forced to abandon a crippled 94-foot research vessel in the Gulf of Mexico and pile into a life raft during Tropical Storm Nate; by the time rescuers arrived three days after, three of the men had died, and a fourth died later at a hospital.

Five years ago: California and federal regulators fined Wells Fargo a combined \$185 million, alleging the bank's employees illegally opened millions of unauthorized accounts for their customers in order to meet aggressive sales goals. U.S. aviation safety officials took the extraordinary step of warning airline passengers not to turn on or charge a new-model Samsung smartphone, the Galaxy Note 7, during flights following numerous reports of the devices catching fire. Greta Zimmer Friedman, identified as the woman in an iconic photo seen kissing an ecstatic sailor in Times Square celebrating the end of World War II, died in Richmond, Virginia, at age 92.

One year ago: The Northern California foothill hamlet of Berry Creek was largely destroyed in what would be the deadliest of the wildfires burning through much of the state; it left 16 people dead. More than a dozen California firefighters trying to protect a fire station in rugged mountains were overrun by flames; several were hurt as they deployed emergency shelters. Students across the nation ran into computer glitches as they began the school year with online instruction at home because of the coronavirus. Britain's government banned gatherings of more than six people in England, as officials tried to keep a lid on daily new coronavirus infections.

Today's Birthdays: Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 81. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 80. Actor Alan Feinstein is 80. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 79. Author Ann Beattie is 74. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis is 71. Cajun singer Zachary Richard (ree-SHARD') is 71. Musician Will Lee is 69. Actor Heather Thomas is 64. Singer Aimee Mann is 61. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 61. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 59. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech (chehk) is 56. Alternative country singer Neko (NEE'-koh) Case is 51. TV personality Brooke Burke is 50. Actor Martin Freeman is 50. Actor David Arquette is 50. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 49. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 46. Actor Larenz Tate is 46. Actor Nathan Corrdry is 44. R&B singer Pink is 42. Singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson is 41. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 40. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 34. Actor Gaten Matarazzo (TV: "Stranger Things") is 19.

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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 Editor, Connecting newsletter
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