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Connecting September 14, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Sept. 14, 2021,

Charlie Monzella is one of the newest members of Connecting's 90s Club – a milestone he reached on Aug. 27.

The achievements, career promotions and top stories of hundreds upon hundreds of AP people (many of you!) were recognized by Charlie during his 16 years as editor of the AP Log – a weekly publication mailed to staff and members.

I know you'll enjoy the profile he agreed to write for today's Connecting – and join me in wishing him many more trips around the sun.

The lead story in today's Stories of Interest updates with the plans of major news organizations to return to work in offices after COVID-19 precautions have resulted in most working from home.

As to the AP, according to Press Gazette: "Associated Press previously set its return-to-office date for mid-September, but this has been put back indefinitely. Upon return, staff will be asked to come into the office for three days a week – Tuesday, Wednesday and a day of their choice – a spokesperson told Press Gazette. AP is yet to decide whether staff will be required to be vaccinated, and mask rules will depend on official guidance on the date of return."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Connecting Profile

Charlie Monzella



Charlie Monzella at his 90th birthday party in August.

Ye olde editor of Connecting asked me what I'm doing these days. Well, I wake up each morning, put my feet firmly on the floor and ask, "How did I get to be 90?" I find it hard to believe that I've reached this age of antiquity.

Despite having gotten Covid-19 shots in February and March, I'm still not doing a lot of things away from home yet. After reading the morning newspaper and tackling a couple of crossword puzzles, I check my laptop for emails (anxiously awaiting Connecting each weekday). Staying connected with family, friends and former colleagues is important to me.

I try to keep my writing skills sharp. A few years back, I wrote an autobiography. I also have done publicity for my church.

Water in my basement recently from remnants of Hurricane Ida forced me to sort through soggy boxes of "stuff" that I've accumulated since moving to New Jersey 56 years ago. One thing I found was a photo of me taken in Huntington, West Virginia, shortly after I joined the AP in 1953.

And that brings me to: How did I get my first job with the AP? During my senior year at Washington and Lee University, I regularly checked for job postings on the bulletin board in the Journalism Department. When I saw one for an opening in the AP's Huntington office, I called and arranged an interview with the correspondent, Dick Boyd, a couple of days after graduation. Dick came into the AP office on a Saturday to interview me. Two weeks later, on June 22, I reported for work.



At that time, the Huntington bureau handled copy for AP member radio (and a few TV) stations in both West Virginia and Ohio. This appealed to me because as far back as I can remember, I wanted to get into broadcast news (I read AP wire copy on the air when I worked as a disc jockey at a small radio station in my hometown, Bessemer, Alabama, while in high school).

Dick Boyd and the other experienced newsmen in the bureau (especially, Clyde Ball and Charlie Stafford) were excellent mentors during those early years. I've often said I learned more in my first six months with the AP than during four years in college (I don't want to imply that W&L didn't provide me with a good education, but on-the-job experience is the best kind).

In 1960, when the AP decided to split up the broadcast wire assignments, Dick became Ohio Broadcast Editor in Columbus and I was named West Virginia Broadcast Editor in Charleston. During the next five years, I worked hard to get station news directors to call the AP with their top stories. We sent out a monthly newsletter reporting the number and examples of the types of stories each station provided. We set up a statewide meeting each year to improve personal relations.

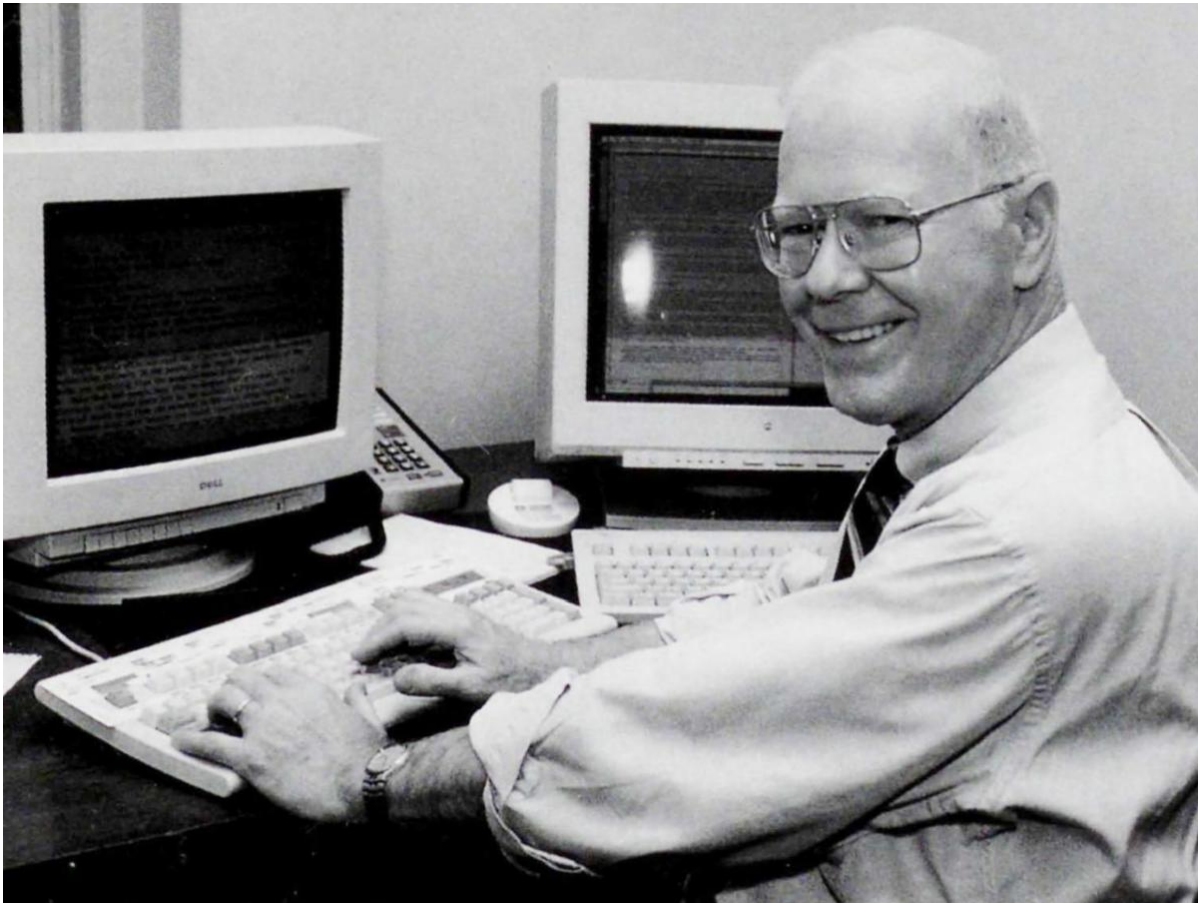
Apparently, my efforts drew the attention of John Aspinwall, the AP's Broadcast Department head in New York. At his request, I transferred to New York in 1965. After a few years working mostly night shifts, I became Day Supervisor and later Deputy Broadcast Editor after Jerry Trapp took over Aspinwall's position.



My biggest story: On the night of January 27, 1967, I was on the desk when fire broke out during a test of the Apollo I command module, killing the three astronauts aboard. For my coverage of that event, the AP Broadcasters Associated named me winner of its Best Reporting Story Award.

In 1980, after leaving the Broadcast Department, I became editor of the AP Log, a position I held until I retired in 1996 after 43 years with the AP. The weekly Log was mailed to all AP bureaus and to newspaper and broadcast members. One purpose was to explain how the AP covered major stories, often having reporters write personal accounts behind the coverage. Another aim was to let members know what AP Newsfeatures stories were in the pipeline.

Traditionally, the Log editor also was organizer and emcee of the AP 25-Year Club's annual gathering in New York. I continued that task even after retiring, until Corporate Communications took over those responsibilities.



Charlie Monzella was still hard at work on his last day at the AP. Monzella retired Oct. 31, 1996, after 43 years at the AP, 16 years as editor of AP Log in NY. (AP Photo/Marty Lederhandler)

I have had the good fortune to work with some exceptionally talented people during my career. The Broadcast Department was a good training ground for many of these and I consider myself lucky to have helped mentor some of them before they went on to other endeavors inside and outside the AP.

My AP career has been immensely satisfying. I might have done a few things differently along the way, but nothing major that I can think of. I felt proud, especially when writing broadcast copy, that I may in some way have helped listeners and viewers to become better informed about what was happening in the world.

Photography has always been a favorite hobby. I have more than 50 years of 35-mm slides that, since retiring, I have transferred to CDs. All fortunately were high enough to avoid being damaged during the recent basement flooding.

As for family, I married Terry Price in 1956 after meeting her when she joined the Huntington Herald-Dispatch as Woman's Page Editor. We were married 51 years until her death in 2007. We had three sons. Paul, our eldest at 61, spent his entire career with U.S. Gypsum before taking early retirement in 2019. Dave, who is 57, has been involved in commercial real estate acquisition and our youngest, Bryan, 53, is a contract video editor.



Charlie with his sons, Paul, far right; Dave, third from right, and Bryan, second from left, with their spouse/significant other/partner during a 90th Birthday celebration.

For many years, I have enjoyed traveling. The most memorable vacation as a family was a three-week motor home trip in 1981 to Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, California, Nevada and New Mexico. Fortunately for me, our eldest son's final assignment was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and I was able to visit him and his wife five times and got to travel to 10 Far East countries, including China, Japan, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Singapore.

I look forward to being able to travel again after we put the Covid-19 pandemic behind us.

Charlie Monzella's email - cmonzella@comcast.net

EXCERPT: 20 years on, 'The Falling Man' is still you and me



FILE - Smoke rises from the burning twin towers of the World Trade Center after hijacked planes crashed into the towers on September 11, 2001 in New York City. Associated Press photographer Richard Drew talks about AP's coverage of 9/11 and the events that followed. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By RICHARD DREW

The following account from Associated Press photographer Richard Drew is excerpted from the book [“September 11: The 9/11 Story, Aftermath and Legacy,”](#) an in-depth look at AP's coverage of 9/11 and the events that followed. On that day, Drew made one of the most indelible — and harrowing — images of the 21st century. It accompanies this story, but not as the main image.

My family calls it “the picture that won’t go away.” Most newspaper editors refused to print it. Those who did, on the day after the World Trade Center attacks, received hundreds of letters of complaint.

The photograph was denounced as coldblooded, ghoulish and sadistic. Then it vanished.

Yet 20 years later, I still get asked about it. I’ve been invited on national talk shows, interviewed by foreign TV crews and asked to speak about it at universities across the country. Esquire magazine published a 7,000-word essay that hailed it as an icon, a masterpiece and a touching work of art. Entertainer and photo collector Sir Elton John called it “probably one of the most perfect photographs ever taken.”

All this for a single frame out of hundreds shot in haste before I was pulled to safety as the second tower of the World Trade Center tumbled toward me.

My fellow photographers called it “the most famous picture nobody’s ever seen.” But, in fact, it was seen. Whenever it’s mentioned, people say, “Oh, that’s the one where the guy looks like he’s swan-diving.” Or, “That’s the one where the guy’s body is lined up perfectly with the lines of the World Trade Center.” And then there is: “I know — it’s the one where, if you turn it upside down, it looks like the guy is sitting on a chair.”

I find that ironic. Here’s a photograph that was considered too upsetting for readers to look at. Yet people were turning it upside down to take a second look from a different angle.

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

Stories of interest

Film provides behind-scenes look at Graczyk’s coverage of execution

Mike Graczyk (Email) - For probably more than a year until my retirement in 2018, Los Angeles-based filmmaker Nicholas Coles was following me around intermittently as I covered capital punishment cases here in Texas. My Texas colleagues will tell you I’d warn them on certain days to be on good behavior for our daily news call because they were being recorded by a film crew. Then it took another couple of years of post-production to finally complete a mini-documentary that he first proposed I think in 2016. The finished piece initially was released earlier this year as an entry at the South by Southwest Festival. Because of covid, SXSW was a virtual event (and was behind a paywall) so the film didn’t get a whole lot of traction.

If you’re interested for Connecting, here’s a free link to the film, which I just received, and runs about 15 minutes. If you right-click on <https://vimeo.com/469082390/b9cce928b0> and then open the hyperlink, a vimeo Witness for the Execution should pop up. The film provides a behind-the-scenes look at how a Texas execution story, at least how I did it, was constructed, how the story is handled and assembled on a day when a punishment is carried out and some other historical insights.

The folks at Corporate Communications in NY were aware of the project although I’m sure it’s been forgotten with the lengthy passage of time. Mimi Polk Gitlin, who was AP’s LA-based head of media development, was particularly valuable as a resource as this thing slowly moved forward.

A couple of notes: On the AP conference call, the person on the other end is Maud Beelman, who was editor in Dallas and is now at Arizona State University. And some attentive AP viewers will recognize ELVIS on my laptop screen as I file from the prison media office. Alas, ELVIS has left the building.

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Misleading boiler plate

Terry Anderson (Email) - "Israeli aircraft struck a series of targets in the Gaza Strip early Monday in response to a series of rocket launches out of the Hamas-ruled territory." (AP story)

Who is responding to whom depends on where you start. How many hundred times have we used this boilerplate, which comes straight from the Israeli govt/army, without any context.

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Welcome to the world, Ryan Rose Wilson!



Ryan Rose Wilson, welcome to our world! She's a young lady with strong Associated Press ties. Ryan was born last Friday, Sept. 10, to **Shawn Temple (Email)** and her husband **Rob Wilson**. Oh yes, her statistics: she was 7lb, 2oz, and 19 inches long. Ryan is the granddaughter of AP vice president and managing editor **Wick Temple**, who died in 2003, and his wife **Margy McCay (Email)**, retired AP Human Resources executive. Wick and Margy are beloved by many of their AP colleagues - and Shawn and Margy are regular Connecting readers. Ryan's birth is a reminder that even in these times of bleak headlines, there's a lot of good that's happening in this crazy old world.

More views of the Twin Towers

Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - The only photo of the Twin Towers I have in my albums is of my daughter Julia and my nephew Christopher. It triggers a series of memories seemingly unconnected but somehow full of connections nevertheless. At the time, we were vacationing on the East Coast in the mid 1990s and stopped to see my brother Walt, from whose New Jersey home one may see New York City's skyline. Christopher joined the Air Force and is now a major in the Space Force, with recent assignments at the Pentagon, immediately across the highway from where his paternal grandmother is buried at Arlington National Cemetery with my father, a 30-year Air Force veteran. I transferred from the Illinois Statehouse AP bureau to the DC bureau days in late September 2001,



two weeks after buying a home in the Maryland suburbs on Sept. 8, 2001. On 9-11, I was back in Springfield, Illinois, to prepare for the DC move and getting a quick breakfast at Hardee's near the Old State Capitol (site of Abraham Lincoln's "House Divided" speech). The cashier taking my order just heard on a radio in the background that a plane had crashed into a building in New York City. I walked across the street to check up on my 85-year-old mother in the Lincoln Square Apartments. She was watching television and we shortly saw the news about another plane crashing into the Twin Towers, within eyesight of her native Bayonne, New Jersey. Soon afterward, I reported to the Washington bureau and I visited my father's grave in Section 69 off Patton Drive at Arlington National Cemetery. I saw the area was roped off as a "CRIME SCENE." It then sunk in that when one of the other terrorist planes crashed into the Pentagon it had flown over my father's grave and probably his (Navy, USS Yorktown survivor) brother's grave and maybe even their (1943 Army fatality, Licata beach, Sicily) nephew's grave. A few years later we would bury my mother there. Christopher and Julia were there, too. Not long afterward, Julia would be a Presidential Management Fellow and working for a federal agency in a building that had been where the old AP bureau was, and I had previously worked. Prior to her taking that assignment, she was personally urged to work in the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. I even took one of the calls for her at my home. To work at the other agency, she would commute from an apartment that happened to be around the corner from where the new AP bureau location became ... and where I later told her I lived as a college student 35 years earlier during the Watergate era. From that location, I took my first roll of film in January 1973 from a movie camera I bought at the base exchange at Andrews Air Force Base as a military dependent. It features antiwar protests and arrests during the second inauguration of Richard Nixon

on Jan. 20, 1973, as well as Lyndon Baines Johnson's DC funeral service held the same week across the street my apartment not far from where the Washington Post was then based.

During the pandemic, I checked to see whether the LBJ or Nixon presidential libraries would have an interest in the almost half-century, black-and-white roll of film that includes Dick and Pat Nixon getting out of their presidential limo for the LBJ church service. A Nixon archivist said yes.

I found it amusing. I still have my "Nixon's the One" campaign button and brochure from 1968 when I sent him \$3 and got a John Wayne "thank you" letter from Neighbors for Nixon. I also have a copy of my October 1973 letter to the editor published in the Orlando Sentinel that urged the impeachment of Nixon. Again, time flies! And the mind keeps wandering.

P.S. My mother's mother, Zofia, a 1914 Polish immigrant from the Russian Empire, died during the influenza epidemic in November 1918 at age 22 in her small Bayonne apartment on Broadway Avenue shared with her husband, a 1905 Polish immigrant from the Russian Empire, my mother, age 2 1/2, and her infant sister. She was buried in an unmarked grave in a Catholic cemetery near the NJ Turnpike. Her husband, Tomasz, returned to his Polish hometown in 1921, taking with him his American-born daughters. He would be arrested by the Nazis as a political prisoner in 1943 and spend 18 months at the Nazi concentration camp in Stutthof, Poland, before passing away on Sept. 3, 1944 and being put in a crematorium. My mother had returned to America at age 21 on June 14, 1937, which she always fondly recalled was Flag Day. She then lived with a sister of her late mother and the wife of her godfather, Aunt Michalina Zadroga, in Harrison, NJ. Michalina is the paternal great-grandmother of James Zadroga, the deceased New York City police detective and 9-11 responder for whom the Zadroga Act was named ...the legislation signed by President Barack Obama to provide compensation for first responders suffering from the health effects of the Twin Towers attacks. And Barack Obama is the young freshman state senator from Chicago who approached me at the Capitol Rotunda in the Illinois Statehouse to introduce himself in January 1997. I went back to the AP office in the Press Room thinking this handsome guy, Harvard Law School grad, University of Chicago lecturer, only in his 30s, could become the first Black president. But maybe he will have to change his name first! LOL. One decade later, I was asking him as a U.S. Senator in DC when exactly was he going to announce for the presidency as he was ducking into an elevator at the Hart Senate Office Building. Obama smiled and said, "Dennis, I was really impressed with your daughter." I looked at him as if to say: "Come on, senator, answer my question and stop playing games with me." (Back story: Illinois senators Obama and Dick Durbin held weekly Thursday morning meetings open to the public that were primarily intended for visiting Illinois constituents. Reporters such as myself dropped by. The Q&A sessions were for constituents only but reporters could privately corner the senators afterward. This session, my daughter showed up from graduate school at Carnegie Mellon University. She would chat with Obama privately out of my listening range.) When Obama took note of my negative facial reaction, he settled a foot back out of the elevator and said, "Dennis, I REALLY was impressed with your daughter." Back into the elevator he went. When I asked Julia about it, she quickly repeated her remarks made to Obama where she made a passionate plea for him to run for president of the United States of America. The next thing I know my daughter travels to Springfield for when Obama actually declares at the Old State Capitol that

he is a candidate for president. She is among those watching in the bitter cold. She became an early organizer at Carnegie Mellon University for Obama in 2007. I told AP. AP told me to stop covering Obama. I told Julia. She stopped volunteering for Obama. In August 2007, I cornered Obama privately after an Illinois constituent meeting about a speech he delivered the previous day about his willingness to go into Pakistan, if need be, to get 9-11 plotter Osama bin Laden, even at the risk of conducting military operations within the borders of a nuclear power.

His response, to put it charitably, was confusing if not incoherent and suggested he had not given thorough consideration to the possible consequences of his plan. Once the story hit the AP wire, it got a lot of attention from rivals in the presidential campaign and drew criticism from the likes of Senators Clinton and Biden. Network news broadcasts focused on it. Chris Matthews on MSNBC's "Hardball" played a section from my taped interview where Obama says, "DENNIS..." I joked, semi seriously, with Senator's Durbin's press staff that we probably won't be seeing Obama at any more constituent coffees. I personally never saw him again until I was retired in North Carolina. He came to the University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill campus to speak to an outdoor rally for Clinton in the closing days of the 2016 presidential election. It was an unusually warm day. As the speech ended, and the crowd began to head home, I collapsed. I was taken by ambulance to the nearby UNC emergency room. Fortunately, I lived for another day. And I remain "Connected." By the way, anybody know whatever happened to Osama bin Laden?

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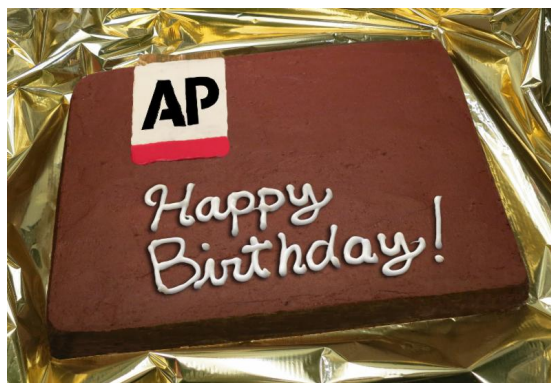


Dave Lubeski (Email) - Your photo of your first trip with Linda to New York in 1971 (in yesterday's Connecting) reminded me of this photo of me with my five-year-old daughter Maureen. She recently posted it on her Facebook page. It was taken in the mid-70s when she was five years old.



The second photo is from the top of one of the WTC towers in December of 1981. We were on the outside observation deck. That's me on the left, former AP Radio news anchor Cynthia Hecht in the middle and former AP Radio news anchor Tom Martin. Cindi and I went to New York to visit Tom who had moved there to be a news anchor for the network known at the time as RKO. Cindi and I were married eight years after that photo was taken.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Michelle Morgante - michellemorgante@gmail.com

Rick Pienciak - rpienciak@gmail.com

Niko Price - nprice@ap.org

Stories of interest

Delta delays office return for US news giants - mask and vaccine policies vary (PressGazette)

By William Turvill

The Delta variant of Covid-19 has forced many of America's largest newsrooms to delay their return-to-office plans indefinitely.

Out of eight US newsgroups surveyed by Press Gazette, none have yet compelled employees to return to their desks, although all are open to optional returns.

Some large news companies, including Reuters, are currently planning to implement return-to-office plans in October. But none of the groups spoken to by Press Gazette are yet planning for a full return.

Policies on vaccination, proof of vaccination and masks vary between the publishers we surveyed (the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, Gannett, Los Angeles Times, Reuters, BDG Media and BuzzFeed).

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

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Meghan McCain slams CNN's Brian Stelter for tweeting claim that the real leaders of 9/11 were ANCHORMEN 'with political leaders in bunkers or out of sight' (Daily Mail.com)

By SANDRA SALATHE

CNN host Brian Stelter has been slammed for tweeting a claim that the 'real leaders' of 9/11 were news anchormen - and adding that 'political leaders were in bunkers or out of sight'.

Stelter tweeted a quote from an article written by AP writer David Bauder, saying: 'Network TV anchors were the closest thing that America had to national leaders on

9/11. They were the moral authority on that first day'.

He then added, 'especially with political leaders in bunkers or otherwise out of sight'.

DailyMail.com columnist and former host of The View, Meghan McCain was one of the first to criticize Stelter, saying: 'I don't know what this is even designed to mean other than to be incendiary on a dark anniversary'.

'First responders led & ran into danger and died. Mayor Giuliani, Hillary Clinton, George Pataki, President Bush, Chuck Schumer... there were many real leaders leading us,' McCain tweeted in response to Stelter's initial tweet.

Read more [here](#).

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'Everything Changed Overnight': Afghan Reporters Face an Intolerant Regime (New York Times)

By Sharif Hassan

Beloved shows removed from the airwaves. A television station cutting from a news report a story about a pregnant police officer who was reportedly fatally shot by the Taliban. A radio editor telling his colleagues to edit out anti-Taliban cheers from coverage of demonstrations in the capital.

Afghanistan's vibrant free press and media industry, once celebrated as a success story and labeled one of the country's most important achievements of the past two decades, has abruptly been transformed after the Taliban takeover of the country. Now, its survival is threatened by physical assaults, self-censorship and a dwindling journalist population less than a month after the Taliban seized control of Kabul, the capital, and began enforcing their hard-line Islamist policies.

The Taliban's crackdown on the free press was even more evident on Wednesday after two Afghan journalists were detained and violently assaulted for covering a protest in Kabul. Photos showed the backsides of both reporters covered with bruises and gashes from being whipped repeatedly with cables, sparking an international outcry.

"The situation of free media is very critical," said Neda, an anchor for a local television station in Kabul, identified by her nickname to protect her identity. "No one dares to ask the Taliban about their past wrongdoings and the atrocities they have committed."

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

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Pakistani journalists rally against proposed new media law (AP)

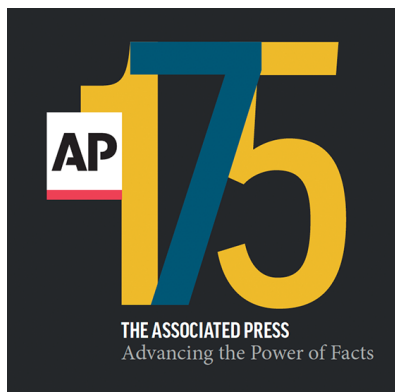
ISLAMABAD (AP) — Hundreds of Pakistani journalists rallied outside parliament Monday to reject a proposed law that critics say would further curtail media freedom if passed.

The protest in the capital of Islamabad, also attended by senior opposition leaders and civil society members, asked the government to refrain from passing the “black law.” The legislation envisages the establishment of a new regulatory body called the Pakistan Media Development Authority.

“We reject PMDA. It is aimed at stifling the voice of media,” said Nasir Zaidi, a prominent leader of Pakistani journalists.

Another journalists union leader, Afzal Butt, vowed to continue protesting the proposed law, which he said Khan’s government was using to try and silence the media.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

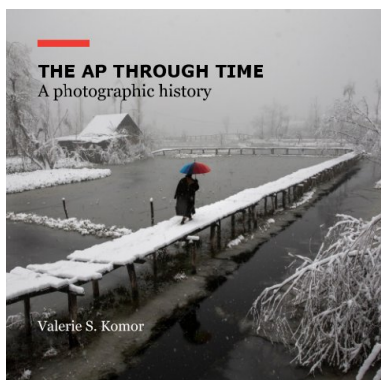
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 14, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2021. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" (later "The Star-Spangled Banner") after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British naval bombardment during the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte's troops entered Moscow following the Battle of Borodino to find the Russian city largely abandoned and parts set ablaze.

In 1836, former Vice President Aaron Burr died in Staten Island, N.Y., at age 80.

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly film star Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY'-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and clogged public squares on a day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a flag-waving, bullhorn-wielding show of resolve.

In 2010, Reggie Bush announced he was forfeiting his 2005 Heisman title, citing a scandal over improper benefits while he was a star running back at Southern California; it was the first time college football's top award had been relinquished by a recipient.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai.

In 2015, Rowan County, Kentucky, clerk Kim Davis returned to work for the first time since she was jailed for defying a federal court and announced that she would no longer block her deputies from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Ten years ago: A government panel released a report saying that BP bore ultimate responsibility for the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Five years ago: Hillary Clinton's campaign released a letter from her doctor saying the Democratic presidential nominee was "recovering well" from pneumonia and remained "fit to serve as President of the United States." President Barack Obama said the U.S. was lifting economic sanctions and restoring trade benefits to former pariah state Myanmar as he met with former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee), the nation's de facto leader. Tyre King, a Black 13-year-old, was fatally shot by Columbus, Ohio, police after authorities said he pulled a BB gun from his pants.

One year ago: In Northern California for a briefing on the West Coast wildfires that had killed dozens of people and burned millions of acres, President Donald Trump dismissed the scientific consensus that climate change was playing a central role in the historic fires; he renewed his unfounded claim that failure to rake forest floors and clear dead timber was mostly to blame. Democrat Joe Biden labeled Trump a "climate arsonist" in a speech in which Biden said the response to the wildfires would require stronger presidential leadership. The mayor of Rochester, New York, fired the city's police chief amid the upheaval over the suffocation death in March of Daniel Prude, a Black man who died several days after officers put a hood over his head to stop him from spitting and pressed his face into the pavement.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 85. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 81. Singer-actor Joey Heatherton is 77. Actor Sam Neill is 74. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 74. Actor Robert Wisdom is 68. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 66. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 65. Actor Mary Crosby is 62. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 62. Country singer John Berry is 62. Actor Melissa Leo is 61. Actor Faith Ford is 57. Actor Jamie Kaler is 57. Actor Michelle Stafford is 56. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 55. Actor Dan Cortese is 54. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 52. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 52. Actor Ben Garant is 51. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 51.

Actor Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 50. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 48. Rapper Nas is 48. Actor Austin Basis is 45. Country singer Danielle Peck is 43. Pop singer Ayo is 41. Chef/TV personality Katie Lee is 40. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 39. Actor Adam Lamberg is 37. Singer Alex Clare is 36. Actor Chad Duell (TV: "General Hospital") is 34. Actor Jessica Brown Findlay is 34. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 32. Actor Emma Kenney is 22.

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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