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Connecting  
September 17, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Sept. 17, 2021,

Today's issue brings most interesting profiles of former AP chief medical writer **Marilynn Marchione**, who recently retired from AP after a long career in journalism, and former AP Korea bureau chief **Jean H. Lee**, who opened the Pyongyang bureau in 2012, making the AP the first international media outlet with a full-time presence inside North Korea.

Connecting's question of the day, borrowed from a post by colleague **Amy Sancetta** on Facebook:

*Who is the most famous person you ever found yourself with in an elevator?*

I look forward to your response, and the story behind it.

Our colleague **Chris Connell** ([Email](#)) capped a series of Remembering 9/11 stories for the Fauquier (Va.) Times with a portrait of Marine Corporal Larry Bailey and the

sacrifice he made fighting the war in Afghanistan. The story is included in today's edition. Chris's story on a lost photograph from Arlington National Cemetery on the morning the Pentagon was attacked ran earlier in Connecting (Sept. 8).

Here's to a great weekend for our colleagues who are attending the inaugural AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. More than 60 people have registered.

Have a great weekend wherever you'll be (me, in Iowa City with high school friends for our annual Iowa football outing). Be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## How I Did It: Marilyn Marchione concludes an impressive career in medical writing



**BY TARA HAELE**  
**Association of Health Care Journalists**

Marilynn Marchione was the Associated Press's chief medical writer for the last 10 years of her long career in journalism.

Deciding to retire this year was not easy because she loved her job and rarely woke up thinking, “How long till I don’t have to do this anymore?” The pandemic delayed her plans for more than a year because she didn’t want to miss the chance to report an important story and because it didn’t feel right to leave the job at a time of such enormous need.

Marchione took time out of her busy schedule recently — between relaxing on the beach and reading a good book — to share what she learned over her long career of covering medical research. From emphasizing the substantial responsibility of health journalists to get their reporting right, to discussing what she’s learned from her mistakes, to highlighting what chops are needed to report on medical research well, her wisdom is like a 10-minute master class on what it takes to be an accurate, thoughtful, responsible, and incisive medical reporter.

*Tell us a bit about how you got into health journalism and covering medical research initially.*

A mystery illness that hospitalized my first child made me realize there was nothing more important to write about than health. I initially intended to major in science in college before switching to journalism, so I already had an appreciation for the scientific method and evidence. I worked for three large daily newspapers in various reporting and editing jobs before joining the AP. I focused on building general news writing and reporting skills while watching for an opportunity to specialize.

At what was then the Milwaukee Journal, medical writer Neil Rosenberg became a mentor and threw stories my way that he couldn’t get to; I succeeded him when he left the beat in the early 1990s. I sought opportunities to cover medical conferences and had roughly a dozen science reporting fellowships that gave me sources and a national and international perspective. Through these, I met AP’s medical editor, Daniel Q. Haney, who also became a mentor and encouraged me to apply to succeed him when he retired in 2004. And that sick baby of mine? She fully recovered and is now a doctor.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Malcolm Ritter.

## A Journalist’s Unmatched Access



Lee prepares to give a live broadcast from Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, in April 2013. COURTESY JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

By Nathalie Alonso '08  
Columbia College Today

In February 2013, after conducting a widely condemned nuclear weapons test and just days before leader Kim Jong Un infamously welcomed visiting NBA star Dennis Rodman, North Korea launched its first mobile internet network. Though it was only available to foreigners, it was a newsworthy move for a totalitarian regime with a decades-long policy of extreme isolation.

As the Korea Bureau chief for the Associated Press, Jean H. Lee '92, JRN'95 reported all of this news from the capital city of Pyongyang. The day the internet service went

live, she tweeted, Hello world from comms center in #Pyongyang. It is considered the first Twitter missive sent from a cellphone inside North Korea. “It was a significant moment, connecting North Korea to the outside world,” says Lee.

In an extraordinary three-year period that began in early 2011, Lee spent most of her time working in North Korea, which rarely grants entry to Western journalists. In addition to covering the rallies and military parades that have become emblematic of the communist nation, she visited farms, villages, schools, factories, military academies and private homes — an unmatched level of access for an American reporter. Lee was responsible for officially opening the Pyongyang bureau in January 2012, making the AP the first international media outlet with a full-time presence inside the country.

“Jean was there when news happened,” says the AP’s former chief Asia photographer, David Guttenfelder, who helped to open the Pyongyang bureau and often worked alongside Lee. “She was there for some of the most heated moments between North Korea and its neighbors and the United States. She was there when North Korea expanded and tested its nuclear capabilities. But more than that, we both had a chance to see real people with real lives.”

Lee was the only AP reporter allowed to stay in the country for extended periods. She believes her Asian heritage — she was born in Minnesota to South Korean emigres and is fluent in Korean — was key to securing such unprecedented access. “I didn’t look like anybody they thought of as American,” Lee says. “That worked to my advantage.”

A decade after her pioneering efforts, Lee is now a senior fellow at the Hyundai Motor-Korea Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The highly regarded Washington, D.C.-based think tank informs public policy debates about the Koreas through research.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Charles Hanley.

## Tomlin for school board!



## **DAVE TOMLIN**

### **RUIDOSO SCHOOL BOARD, SEAT 5**

- **Ruidoso School Parent**
- **School and Community Volunteer**
- **Retired Attorney**

***I believe the interests of my daughter and all RMSD students are best served when community and school leaders make policy and decisions in an atmosphere of teamwork, mutual respect and good faith effort to identify and balance the facts, expert advice and educational values in play. If elected, I will do my part to maintain a positive and cooperative spirit in Ruidoso school governance.***

**Dave Tomlin** ([Email](#)) – First try for elected public office? Yes. Although I was board president for three years of the enormous red brick apartment complex we lived in for many years in the Bronx before the kids left home, the dog died and we sold out and moved to 56th and Lexington. Skyview on the Hudson consisted of three 20-story cooperative apartment towers, 1,300 units, plus a gym, pool and tennis courts on 23 acres. It had an eight-figure operating budget somewhat larger than that of the Ruidoso Municipal School District. But this is my first, and probably last, bid for elected public office. (My secret weapon pictured with me in the ad - daughter Lizzy!)

(**Mark Mittelstadt** shared, with this note: “But can we entrust the future of our children to someone who would name a Nebraska newspaper editors’ social event APECRAP (AP Editors Canoe Ride Across the Platte)?

To which Candidate Tomlin replied: “Mark almost had it right: APECRAP, which was a two-day drinkfest along the Niobrara River from Valentine NE to someplace downstream, was the AP Editors Canoe Ride Across the PRAIRIE. The name was supposed to mock the midwestern custom of naming annual events with acronyms, but I see now it was just like all the others. We did it three times, had a t-shirt, our own song book, etc.

## **Ready for first AP Connecting Regional Reunion in Texas!**



**Diana & Paul Heidgerd of Dallas wear their AP 175th Anniversary/AP Connecting Regional Reunion T-shirts made especially for this weekend's gathering in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.**

**Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#))** - Welcome to Texas! It's time for this weekend's inaugural AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

More than 60 people have registered for the Texas gathering, with dinners Friday and Saturday nights, plus the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon. We hope everyone is fully vaccinated as we also strive for social distancing.

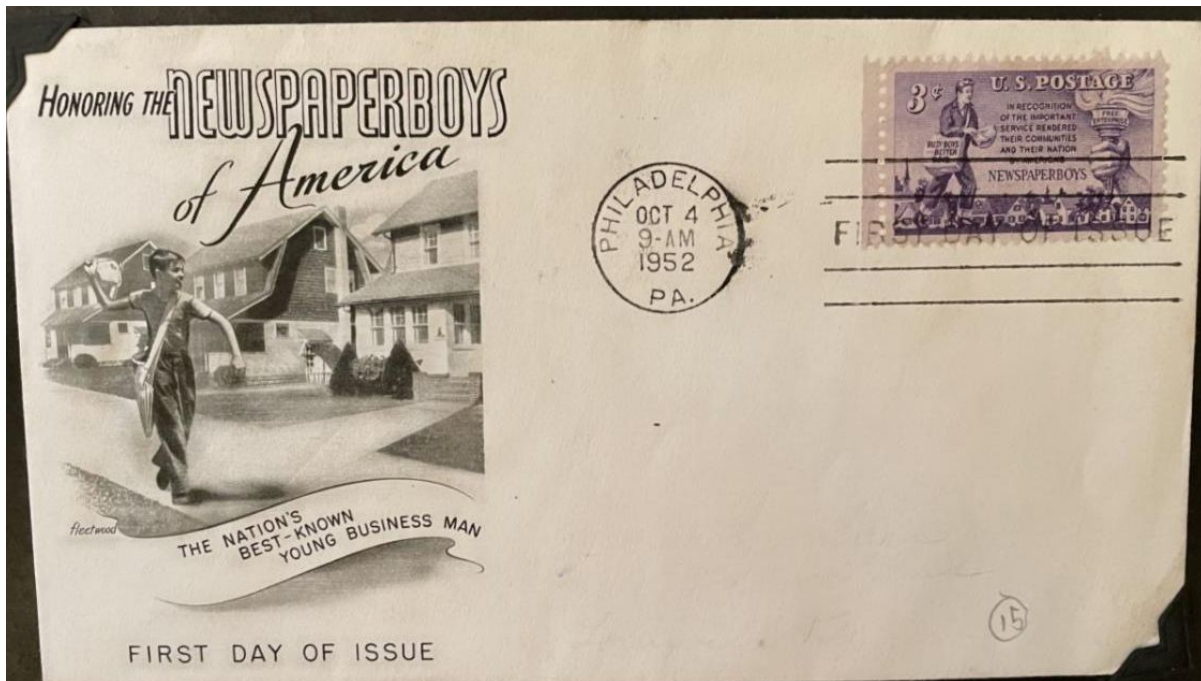
I'd like to thank reunion co-hosts Mike Holmes of Omaha & Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee, plus Friday night BBQ hosts David and Ellen Sedeño of Dallas.

I'd also like to thank ye old AP Connecting editor Paul Stevens for helping to promote this event and also the AP Corporate folks, especially Lauren Easton, Julie Tucker, Hal Hilliard, Nicole Timme, Eric Bandy & Valerie Komor for their behind-the-scenes help.

So thanks again to everyone who's helping make this work and clearing the way for what could become similar AP Connecting Regional Reunions elsewhere.

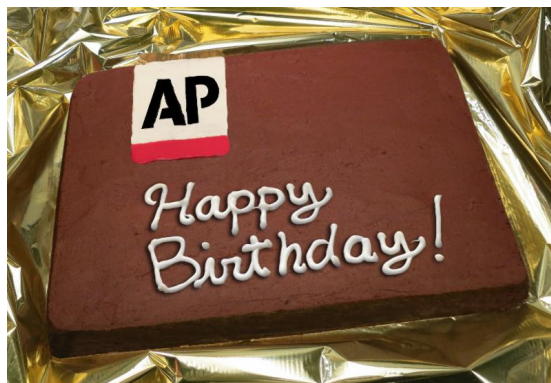
Meanwhile, check out the snazzy AP 175th Anniversary/AP Connecting Regional Reunion T-shirts as a celebration of both events.....

## Celebrating newsboys



**Hank Ackerman** ([Email](#)) - This from my grandad's collection of First Day Covers, for Oct 4 1952, or 67 years ago when some of us were first delivering papers (like your Connecting dog!) Note the engraving and the stamp and postmark.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Rod Richardson - [rodrichardson@att.net](mailto:rodrichardson@att.net)

Suzanne Vlamis - [svlamis13@gmail.com](mailto:svlamis13@gmail.com)

*On Saturday to...*

Erin Madigan White - [erinmadiganwhite@gmail.com](mailto:erinmadiganwhite@gmail.com)

*On Sunday to...*

John Hartzell - [jchartzell@mac.com](mailto:jchartzell@mac.com)



# Stories of interest

*A wounded warrior remembers battling the Taliban  
in Afghanistan*



Inspired by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Marine Cpl. Larry Bailey II served in Afghanistan battling the Taliban. He now lives in Sumerduck. Times Staff Photo/Coy Ferrell

## As told to Christopher Connell/Piedmont Journalism Foundation

*A decade after an improvised explosive device left Marine Cpl. Larry Bailey II clinging to life in combat against the Taliban in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, the triple amputee and Purple Heart recipient recalls that day. Bailey, 35, lives in Sumerduck in a fully accessible home that a 9/11 charity, the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation, helped construct.*

Twenty years ago I was 15, in freshman year at Zion Benton Township High School in Illinois. I'm from a military family so we moved around a lot. Both my parents were in the Navy; my Dad made it a career.

It was before first period. We had TVs on in the common areas. I was watching when the second plane hit.

After a little bit of college, I started talking to the military recruiters more. The Air Force and Navy offered me two special forces programs for para-rescuers and air combat commandos, but I signed a five-year, security forces contract with the Marines and went to boot camp in California.

In 2011, I deployed to Afghanistan. We had a lot of really ridiculous rules of engagement that kept our hands tied in a lot of cases. The day I got blown up [June 28, 2011] was one of the first times they lifted a lot of those rules of engagement so we could go do an operation.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***'No journalist should die': EU calls for better media safety*** (AP)

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive arm asked its member countries Thursday to better protect journalists amid a rise of physical attacks and online threats against media professionals.

According to the European Commission, 908 journalists and media workers were attacked across the 27-nation bloc in 2020. A total of 23 journalists have been killed in the EU since 1992, with the majority of the killings taking place over the past six years.

"No journalist should die or be harmed because of their job. We need to support and protect journalists; they are essential for democracy," said Vera Jourova, the commission vice-president for values and transparency. "The pandemic has showed more than ever the key role of journalists to inform us. And the urgent need for public authorities to do more to protect them."

Murders of reporters remain rare in Europe, but the killings of journalists in Slovakia and Malta in recent years have raised concerns about reporters' safety in developed, democratic societies.

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

## The Final Word

*At 101, she's still hauling lobsters with no plans to stop* (AP)



Virginia Oliver, age 101, works as a sternman, measuring and banding lobsters on her son Max Oliver's boat, Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, off Rockland, Maine. The state's oldest lobster harvester has been doing it since before the onset of the Great Depression. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

By PATRICK WHITTLE and ROBERT F. BUKATY

ROCKLAND, Maine (AP) — When Virginia Oliver started trapping lobster off Maine's rocky coast, World War II was more than a decade in the future, the electronic traffic signal was a recent invention and few women were harvesting lobsters.

Nearly a century later, at age 101, she's still doing it. The oldest lobster fisher in the state and possibly the oldest one in the world, Oliver still faithfully tends to her traps off Rockland, Maine, with her 78-year-old son Max.

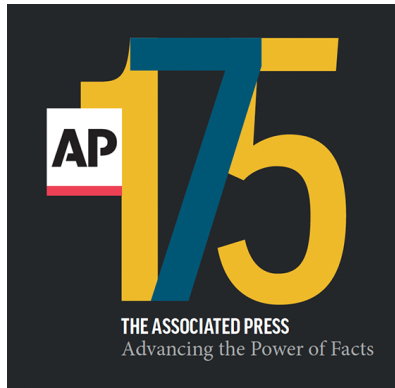
Oliver started trapping lobsters at age 8, and these days she catches them using a boat that once belonged to her late husband and bears her own name, the "Virginia." She

said she has no intention to stop, but she is concerned about the health of Maine's lobster population, which she said is subject to heavy fishing pressure these days.

"I've done it all my life, so I might as well keep doing it," Oliver said.

The lobster industry has changed over the course of Oliver's many decades on the water, and lobsters have grown from a working class food to a delicacy. The lobsters fetched 28 cents a pound on the docks when she first starting trapping them; now, it's 15 times that. Wire traps have replaced her beloved old wooden ones, which these days are used as kitsch in seafood restaurants.

Read more [here](#).



## 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. 17, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 17, the 260th day of 2021. There are 105 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

### On this date:

In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam (an-TEE'-tum) in Maryland.

In 1908, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge of the U.S. Army Signal Corps became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer, at Fort Myer, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C.

In 1937, the likeness of President Abraham Lincoln's head was dedicated at Mount Rushmore.

In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland during World War II, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany had launched its assault.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands. (After initial success, the Allies were beaten back by the Germans.)

In 1954, the novel "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding was first published by Faber & Faber of London.

In 1971, citing health reasons, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, 85, retired. (Black, who was succeeded by Lewis F. Powell Jr., died eight days after making his announcement.)

In 1978, after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a

peace treaty.

In 1980, former Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza (suh-MOH'-sah) was assassinated in Paraguay.

In 1987, the city of Philadelphia, birthplace of the U.S. Constitution, threw a big party to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic document; in a speech at Independence Hall, President Ronald Reagan acclaimed the framing of the Constitution as a milestone "that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

In 1994, Heather Whitestone of Alabama was crowned the first deaf Miss America.

In 2001, six days after 9/11, stock prices nosedived but stopped short of collapse in an emotional, flag-waving reopening of Wall Street; the Dow Jones industrial average ended the day down 684.81 at 8,920.70.

Ten years ago: A demonstration calling itself Occupy Wall Street began in New York, prompting similar protests around the U.S. and the world. Charles H. Percy, 91, a Chicago businessman who became a U.S. senator and was once widely viewed as a top presidential contender, died in Washington.

Five years ago: A bomb explosion rocked Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, injuring 30 people. (An Afghan-born U.S. citizen was convicted in the bombing and sentenced to life in prison.)

One year ago: At a drive-in campaign event in Pennsylvania, Democrat Joe Biden denounced President Donald Trump's handling of the pandemic as "close to criminal." Marking the 233rd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, Trump downplayed the historical legacy of slavery in the United States and blasted efforts to address systemic racism as divisive. Firefighter Charles Morton, a member of an elite Hotshot crew, died while battling a blaze in the mountains east of Los Angeles; the fire was sparked when a couple used a device that was supposed to emit blue or pink smoke to reveal their baby's gender. Rescuers on the Gulf Coast of Florida and Alabama used boats and high-water vehicles to reach people cut off by floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Sally.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, is 88. Retired Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter (SOO'-tur) is 82. Singer LaMonte McLemore (The Fifth Dimension) is 86. Retired U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni is 78. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson is 76. Singer Fee Waybill is 73. Actor Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira, Mistress of the Dark") is 70. Comedian Rita Rudner is 68. Director-actor Paul Feig is 59. Movie director Baz Luhrmann is 59. Singer BeBe Winans is 59. TV personality/businessman Robert Herjavec (TV: "Shark Tank") is 58. Actor Kyle Chandler is 56. Director-producer Bryan Singer is 56. Rapper Doug E. Fresh is 55. Actor Malik Yoba is 54. Rock singer Anastacia is 53. Actor Matthew Settle is 52. Rapper Vin Rock (Naughty By Nature) is 51. Actor-comedian Bobby Lee is 50. Actor Felix Solis is 50. R&B singer Marcus Sanders (Hi-Five) is 48. Actor-singer Nona Gaye is 47. Singer-actor Constantine Maroulis is 46. NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson is 46. Country singer-songwriter Stephen Cochran is 42. Rock musician Chuck Comeau (Simple Plan) is 42. Actor Billy Miller is 42. Rock musician Jon Walker is 36. NHL forward Alex Ovechkin



(oh-VECH'-kin) is 36. Actor Danielle Brooks is 32. Gospel singer Jonathan McReynolds is 32. Actor-singer Denzye Tontz is 27. NHL center Auston Matthews is 24.

## 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