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Success! AP Connecting Regional Reunion in Texas



About 60 people attended last weekend's AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, which included a BBQ dinner Friday night, a Tex-Mex meal Saturday night and a Texas Rangers game on Sunday. Here's the "unmasked" version of the group photo. (Photo by David Woo).

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Sept. 20, 2021,

Lots of stories and memories were shared over the weekend at the first AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where about 60 took part. Thanks to all who worked to make it a success. This from attendee **John Lumpkin** – “thank you, first to **Diana Heidgerd** for her leadership in the Reunion arrangements and implementation, and to **Mike Holmes, Brent Kallestad** and **David and Ellen Sedeno** for the great teamwork and focus.”

We bring you photos from the reunion in today's issue.

We lead Connecting with a note to AP staff on the latest word on an overall, company-wide return to the office. Bottom line from Senior Vice President **Jessica Bruce**: no date can yet be set and it's unclear when that can happen. See more detail below.

Thanks to our colleague **Amy Sancetta** for sharing the idea to ask, “Who is the most famous person you ever found yourself with in an elevator?” as a bit of escapism from all the distressing news of the day. Enjoy the responses in today's issue. And here's an invitation to share your own story.

Finally, you know you've arrived when they name a beer after you. Right, **Sally Buzbee**??? Read on...

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

An update on AP's return to offices

Senior Vice President Jessica Bruce, in an all-staff note sent last Friday:

Earlier this summer, AP pushed back its formal date for a return to our offices and said we would provide an update on those plans in mid-September. I'm writing today with that update.

Based on our ongoing assessment of pandemic conditions around the world we have decided AP cannot yet set a date for an overall, company-wide return to the office. It remains unclear when we will be able to do so because of the vast disparity in pandemic conditions across AP's 250 locations around the world. That same disparity also means it is very likely that different AP offices will open for regular in-office work on different dates.

We will continue to keep you informed about AP's plans. In our note in August, we mentioned that we would be working on a formal process for employees to apply to either change their work location, or work remotely on a full time basis. Those plans are being developed on schedule and we will be able to tell you more in the next update, which will be provided in mid-October, and in all cases, AP will provide you with at least 30 days of notice before any new policy takes effect.

As we've said from the onset of the pandemic, your health and safety are paramount. AP will not require a return to our offices until it is safe to do so. We will make our decisions based on the best scientific information available, we will adhere to local rules and laws, and that commitment will continue to guide our future decision making.

Given the different conditions around the world, when we do set a date for a return to the office, it's likely that local laws, regulations and pandemic conditions will mean that some of our offices will remain closed for regular work. In each location, we will follow local mandates on maintaining a safe workspace — for example, some countries allow employers to mandate vaccines and others do not, some countries, states or cities may have a mask mandate, while others do not. AP will follow all local safety requirements.

In the meantime, AP continues to strongly encourage all employees to get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available to them.

Please continue to familiarize yourself with AP's return to office policies, frequently asked questions and other information on InsideAP. As a reminder, all of AP's offices are now open — if local rules and regulations allow — for a voluntary return. Everyone who returns during this voluntary period must fill out this form each week before coming into the office.

Thank you sincerely for your continued hard work and commitment to AP's mission.

For one Capitol reporter, Jan. 6 was the final straw — but he had watched a crisis brew for years



By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist, The Washington Post

Andrew Taylor began his journalism career in the late 1980s, clipping newspaper articles for the politics reporters at Congressional Quarterly.

This spring, more than 30 years later, he quit his longtime job as a Capitol Hill reporter for the Associated Press.

He leaves daily journalism disgusted by what Congress has become and traumatized by the Jan. 6 riot — which he witnessed from inside the Capitol. He also leaves the profession doubtful that traditional, objective-style journalism is up to the job of covering today's politics and government.

His is not a simple cause-and-effect story: At 59, with a spouse who works full time as an editor and the demands of three school-age children, Taylor was thinking of wrapping things up anyway.

But he's very glad to be out of the Capitol — not just for the unanticipated danger he experienced there, but also for the political and societal culture surrounding it.

"I've been covering the Hill for a long, long time, and the Hill right now, to an unacceptably large extent, is a real cesspool," Taylor told me in an interview.

Taylor was at his desk in the Daily Press Gallery on Jan. 6 when the Senate abruptly gavelled out of session. "I jumped to check it out," he wrote later, in a rare-for-him first-person story. "Soon word came to huddle in the chamber. 'Lock the doors,' gallery staff was instructed. . . . Maybe a dozen reporters and aides in the gallery and virtually the entire Senate huddled inside."

Taylor said he never felt himself at the time to be in physical peril. It only sank in for him in the days and weeks that followed.

"I was having a hard time with it," he told me with characteristic understatement. He became angry and agitated, and increasingly uninterested in returning to the place where he had spent decades as a particularly knowledgeable and respected reporter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Harry Dunphy, Richard Chady.

Who's the most famous person you found yourself with in an elevator?

Dave Bauder ([Email](#)) - I love that elevator question, and think I'll steal it for Facebook myself! I have two: One was David Letterman. We were headed to the same screening. I had just taken over the TV beat at the AP, and figured I should introduce myself. He radiated unapproachability, however, and I thought better of it. The other was Muhammad Ali, backstage at the "Today" show final episode for Bryant Gumbel. I

wanted to turn and tell him he'd always been a hero of mine, but since I was there as a journalist and not a fanboy, I kept quiet. I've always regretted it.

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Maggie Bergara (Email) - At 50 Rock, I was making a run from the 6th floor photo library to hand some negatives to a photo editor on the 4th floor. We had a dumbwaiter between the library and the darkroom on 4, but I wanted to make sure this editor had the negs in hand immediately. The elevator doors were about to close and I yelled "Hold the elevator please!" They popped back open, I hopped on and thanked the lone passenger, a woman roughly my own age. We smiled and nodded and I wondered why she seemed familiar. Where had I seen her before? The elevator arrived on 4 and as I walked out I realized who it was and turned back to confirm. It was Caroline Kennedy!

At 1501 Broadway in the heart of Times Square, where I occasionally would drop by our union's offices, I would routinely run into the odd kind-of sort-of celebrity. There were a lot of theatrical agents in the building at the time and using the elevator often felt like the scenes that wound up on the cutting room floor from "Broadway Danny Rose." The most notable of these was Bob Keeshan, known to children of the 1960s as "Captain Kangaroo." He had the same hairstyle in real life as in character.

At 450 West 33rd, returning from lunch with the girls, we crowded on to an elevator with other office workers – and Tim Gunn of "Project Runway" fame. He was very kind about obliging us with a selfie, but the iPhone's camera kept misfiring and now there is no evidence this actually happened.

But my all-time favorite celebrity run-in didn't occur on an elevator, but in the actual photo library at 50 Rock. John William Cummings, known to the world as Johnny Ramone of the godfathers of punk, my beloved Ramones, came to the library to go through a section of our collection. Another librarian who happened to also be a musician was chatting him up and introduced me to him. And he actually smiled! I didn't know Johnny Ramone could smile!

Finally, the one that got away, again at 50 Rock. It was my day off. My phone at home rang several times that day, and each time it was a different staffer, either from the library or from the photo commercial sales department, whispering excitedly, "You're not going to believe who's here today!" It was John F. Kennedy Jr. On my day off. Why? WHY?

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Carolyn Carlson (Email) - After Ted Turner created CNN in Atlanta and subsequently moved the operation into what is now called CNN Center, he was delighted to learn the AP Atlanta bureau was already located there with a long-term lease, using that idea to lure other news outlets to co-locate in then-empty office spaces.

To make things convenient, Turner had an apartment built into the top floor next to a helicopter pad, so he could stay there after events in town rather than journey to wherever he was living at the time.

One night shift I had eaten dinner late in the food court area on the ground floor and was on my way back to work, when the elevator door opened and there was Ted Turner, who had gotten on in the basement.

Turner, obviously tipsy, had already taken off his tuxedo jacket and tie, and had almost completely unbuttoned his shirt. He was startled when the door opened and he saw me. His face turned red as he quickly started rebuttoning his shirt. He apologized for his state of undress and said, "I didn't think there'd be anyone in the building this late." I assured him there was always someone in the AP bureau, 24/7, and wished him a good evening as I got off on the 5th floor.

I laughed all the way down the hall to the newsroom.

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Robert Glass (Email) - I once found myself on a hotel elevator in Chicago with Valerie Harper, though I couldn't place her at first. The exchange went something like this:

"Excuse me, but don't I know you?"

"Yes, I'm Rhoda."

"You must get that all the time."

"Not from you."

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Molly Gordy (Email) - Answer to Amy Sancetta's question: CATHERINE DENEUVE! Already in her 60s, but still breathtakingly beautiful, and tiny -- no more than 5 feet tall in heels. It was at the Peninsula Hotel in NYC. She was all in black, with big black Chanel sunglasses, but instantly recognizable, nonetheless. What hair! What skin! And wearing Chanel No 5 perfume as well.

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Michael Weinfeld (Email) - It's hard to answer to your question, "Who's the most famous person you ever found yourself with in an elevator?" I was Entertainment Editor for AP Broadcast for 27 years, so it's not easy to pick one celebrity. Was it Cher? Bruce Springsteen? Meryl Streep?

But there was only one celebrity who ever yelled at me in an elevator the entire time it took to go from the 6th floor to the lobby at 1825 K. St. NW in Washington, DC.

John Denver.

I had interviewed John many times before about his various causes and his music. This one was about his autobiography, "Take Me Home" in 1994. In the book, he wrote about an incident with his ex-wife Annie. You know, the one he wrote so lovingly about in "Annie's Song." He didn't feel so loving after their divorce and one day he

became incensed when he heard she cut down his favorite aspen tree after their split. He writes in the book about how he went over her house (she got the house in the divorce) with a chain saw and when she opened the door, he chased her around with the saw running. He finally cut the headboard to what used to be their bed in half.

Needless to say, I brought this up in the interview. He answered my questions calmly. It took up maybe 2 minutes of a half-hour interview.

Afterward, when we were in the elevator, he started yelling, asking why I'd asked him about the chain saw and why I didn't ask about his philanthropic activities. I told him it was a fair subject, since it was in his book. Besides, I told him, I'd asked about his charity work many times previously.

When we got to the lobby, he stormed out of the elevator and into the street.

The next morning, I got a call from "Entertainment Tonight." They were scheduled to interview Denver after me. The reporter asked what I'd done to Denver. Turns out the reporter's first question was about the chain saw incident and Denver stormed out of the studio.

We Shall Not Be Moved: Remembering the 1961 Freedom Rides



A Freedom Rider bus went up in flames when a fire bomb was tossed through a broken window near Anniston, Ala., May 14, 1961. The bus, which was testing bus station segregation in the south, had stopped due to flat tires inflicted by a white mob at the Anniston bus station. Passengers escaped without serious injury, but endured beatings by a white mob that followed the bus as it left Anniston. (AP Photo)

AP Images Blog

"We were determined not to let any act of violence keep us from our goal. We knew our lives could be threatened, but we had made up our minds not to turn back."

In 1961, civil rights activists set out to test a 1960 Supreme Court decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* that segregation of interstate transportation facilities, including bus terminals, was unconstitutional. The Freedom Riders planned to integrate bus terminal waiting rooms, restaurants, and other services at bus stops throughout the South, where local Jim Crow laws preserved racial segregation in defiance of federal law.

Organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), two groups of riders left Washington, DC on May 4, 1961. Among the original group of freedom riders was John Lewis (1940-2020). Lewis, the legendary civil rights activist and a member of the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020, was beaten up and imprisoned for 40 days while participating in the Freedom Rides.

The two buses (one a Greyhound bus and one a Trailways bus) that set out from Washington, DC arrived in Alabama on May 14, 1961, where they were met by members of the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist mobs. When the Greyhound bus arrived in Anniston on that afternoon they found the terminal locked. A mob organized by the Ku Klux Klan attacked the bus, smashing windows, slashing tires and denting the outside of the bus. The bus left Anniston but was soon abandoned by its police escort just six miles out of town on Route 202, where it was again surrounded by an angry white mob. A member of the crowd tossed a firebomb through a broken window, others tried to block the doors, forcing the Freedom Riders to escape through a window. The Freedom Riders were finally rescued by a convoy from the Black community in Birmingham organized by Civil Rights Leader, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth.

When Governor John Patterson announced that he was unable to guarantee the safety of the Freedom Riders in Alabama, seventeen of the group were forced to fly to New Orleans, after enduring hours of delays because of bomb threats at the Birmingham airport.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

Cheers to Sally!

From Kansas Alumni Magazine

When Geoff Deman, Free State Brewing Company's director of brewing operations/head brewer, saw the news that The Washington Post had named alumna Sally Streff Buzbee, j'88, executive editor, his unnamed brew awaiting its debut suddenly became Buzbee American Pale Ale.

Demam, c'95, notes that founder Chuck Magerl, '78, is a "huge fan of journalism" who "reads newspapers pretty voraciously," so he was confident the boss would approve. An added benefit was the opportunity to honor a woman rather than the dusty men who had previously graced Free State brews: "I thought it would be cool to recognize something that was a contemporary achievement, of the here and now, and also show that we are just really proud that the Post's first female executive editor is from my alma mater, and Kansas."



Demam reports that "people love this beer," a "classic American pale ale" distinguished from the flagship Copperhead Pale Ale by exclusively American hops and malt, so he anticipates it will be offered on draft three or four times a year for the foreseeable future.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Spotted and shared by Jeannie Eblen, who noticed that Sally has yet another connection to famed community journalist William Allen White. As Martha Stewart says, in each case, "It's a good thing." In addition to her bachelor's degree from the William Allen White School of Journalism and her 2019 William Allen White Citation Award, both she and William Allen White have beers named in their honor. Both originated in Kansas-owned breweries. The Radius Brewing Company in Emporia has William Allen Wheat. And Free State Brewery now has Buzbee Pale Ale.

Best of the Week

AP investigation reveals pattern of beatings, shrouded in secrecy, by Louisiana State Police



Photo/Trooper Larry Shappley, Louisiana State Police/via AP

Law enforcement reporters Jim Mustian and Jake Bleiberg built on their previous reporting to reveal a devastating pattern of violence and secrecy at the Louisiana State Police, identifying at least a dozen beating cases over the past decade in which troopers or their bosses ignored or concealed evidence, deflected blame and impeded efforts to root out misconduct.

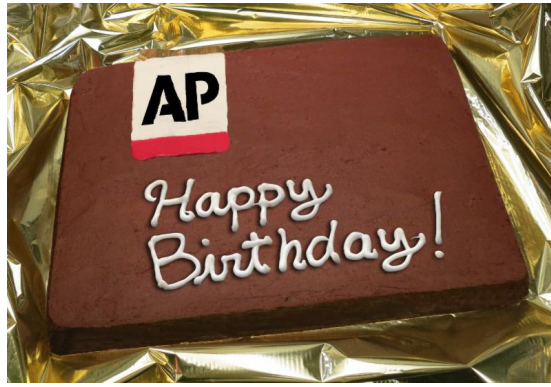
Their work, which included newly obtained video of some of the beatings, wins a Best of the Week award, emerging from an exceptionally strong week of entrants.

Their exclusive investigation was part of the fallout from the deadly 2019 arrest of Ronald Greene, whose death along a northern Louisiana road was initially blamed by troopers on a car crash. But the case was blown open this spring when the AP published long-withheld video showing what really happened — troopers stunning, punching and dragging the Black motorist as he pleaded for mercy and gasped for air.

Mustian and Bleiberg scoured investigative records and worked their sources to find out how often this kind of secrecy and obfuscation happens in the state police. And what they found went far beyond a string of similar cases and four new, long-buried videos.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Terry Petty – tcraigpetty@outlook.com

Julie Inskeep – jinskeep@jg.net

Teresa Walker - tessandruss@bellsouth.net

Stories of interest

Bully Pulpit No More: Jen Psaki's Turn at the Lectern

(New York Times)



Peter van Agtmael for The New York Times

By Michael M. Grynbaum

WASHINGTON — Jen Psaki, President Biden’s press secretary, may be the most prominent spokeswoman in American politics, but political fame hits different in the post-Trump era.

The daily White House briefing, once a highly rated staple of daytime TV, rarely appears anymore on cable news. Sean Spicer and Sarah Huckabee Sanders, two former Trump press secretaries, became B-list celebrities; after nine months on the job, Ms. Psaki has not even rated an impersonation on “Saturday Night Live.”

But a cult of Psaki has proliferated online, where clips of her restrained, if occasionally withering exchanges with reporters have established this once obscure political strategist as an unlikely cultural force. Her retorts earn “yas queen” praise from liberals, while conservatives jeer her attempts at spin, particularly over the past month, when the confluence of the withdrawal from Afghanistan, extreme weather and coronavirus confusion meant the questions were more pointed and the answers more scrutinized.

Ms. Psaki, 42, a veteran communications operative who was twice passed over for the top job under her previous boss, former President Barack Obama, is an unlikely avatar for the smack-down-happy, we-have-no-choice-but-to-stan culture of modern social media. A onetime competitive swimmer who grew up with a Republican father in Greenwich, Conn., she was until this past year barely recognized beyond the Beltway in-crowd, who knew her as a capable technocrat type with deep ties to Democratic leadership.

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

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How news organizations used automated news to cover COVID-19 (Poynter)

By: Samuel Danzon-Chambaud

In a sense, COVID-19 could be the perfect story to automate. As the virus spread across the world at the beginning of 2020, governments and health authorities made a considerable amount of open-source data available to the public, such as the number of deaths, patients in intensive care units, and seven-day incidence rates.

This type of well-arranged data, which can fit into narratives that can be created in advance, lays the groundwork for a recent journalistic development known as “automated journalism,” a computational process that creates automated pieces of news without any human intervention, except for the initial programming.

Automated journalism generally implies the use of algorithms that fetch information on external or internal datasets, and then fill in the blanks left on templates that have been prewritten. This process, which can be compared to the word game Mad Libs, constitutes a basic application of Natural Language Generation, a computer technique

that has been around for several decades in domains such as weather forecasts, sports and financial results.

NLG made a leap into journalism and was more widely discussed in the first half of the 2010s as The Los Angeles Times used automated text to report on homicides and earthquake alerts, while The Associated Press partnered with the firm Automated Insights to automate stories on corporate earnings. Numerous media organizations have subsequently adopted or experimented with automated journalism, including major ones like Le Monde, The Washington Post and the BBC.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Harry Traynor's Legacy: New Beverly Hills Fire Documentary (WVXU)

By John Kieseewetter

Former WKRC-TV producer Harry Traynor died this week, two months after completing a new documentary about the 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire which killed 165 people.

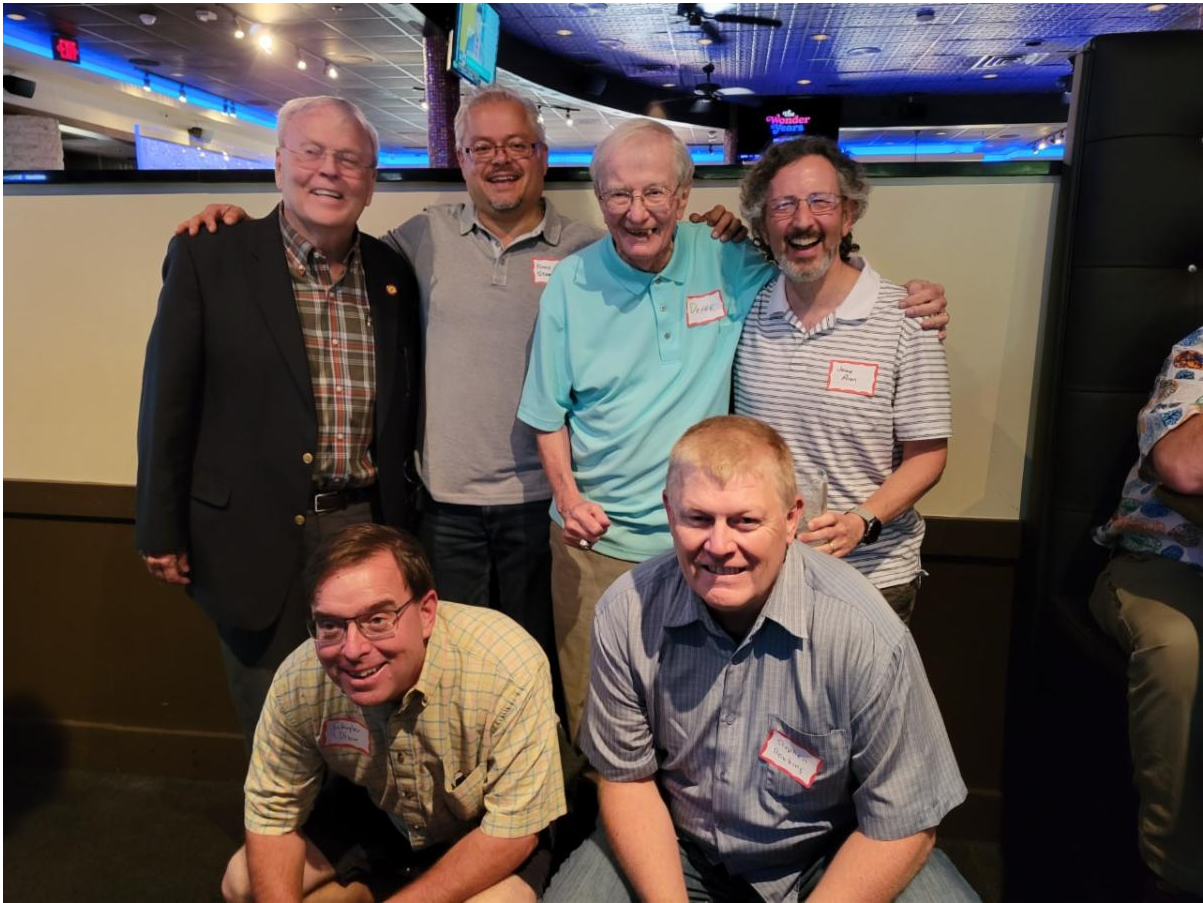
Fire On The Hill: Memories Of The Beverly Hills Tragedy, a combination of new interviews and WKRC-TV video from the fire, was telecast on CitiCable last month, making it eligible for a regional Emmy Award.

Traynor—who worked for WKRC television and radio, WSAI-AM and ABC News over four decades—was trying to get the film on public television, says David Striet of I & Eye Productions, who edited Fire On The Hill for his longtime friend.

"He came to us at the end of 2019 with this project. I'm glad we got it done. He had never won an Emmy, and he wanted to win one," says Striet, who worked at Channel 12 in the 1980s and '90s.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Andy Lippman, Norm Clarke.

More snaps from the Texas AP reunion



Current & former AP sportswriters include (front row L-R): Schuyler Dixon & Stephen Hawkins. (back row L-R): Brent Kallestad, Arnie Stapleton, Denne Freeman & Jaime Aron.



Some of the photo folks included (L-R): Greg Smith, David Woo, Peter Leabo & Ron Heflin.



The Tex-Mex dinner included (Left side): Barbara Staats, Ed Staats & Joei Bohr. (Right side): John Lumpkin, Doug Kienitz, Mark Woolsey & Mark Lambert.



AP reunion baseball fans watched the Chicago White Sox beat the Texas Rangers 7-2. Sportswriter Stephen Hawkins (front row/center) covered part of the game from socially distanced Section 240 at retractable roof Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.



Thanks to everyone who attended the Sept. 17-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in Texas, from your co-hosts (L-R): Mike Holmes, Brent Kallestad – with guests Susana Hayward & Terry Leonard – and Diana Heidgerd. We'll put together a website with more photos from the event. Now we're challenging other AP folks to host similar reunions in their areas!



Celebrating AP's 175th

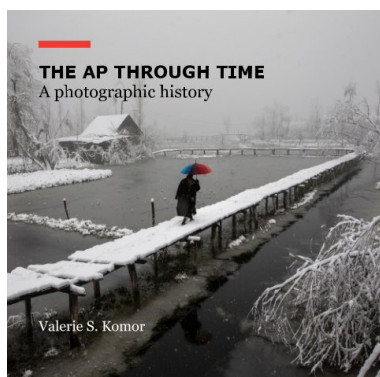
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 20, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2021. There are 102 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 20, 2001, during an address to a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush announced a new Cabinet-level office to fortify homeland security and named Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge its director.

On this date:

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States, succeeding the assassinated James A. Garfield.

In 1946, the first Cannes Film Festival, lasting 16 days, opened in France.

In 1962, James Meredith, a Black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.)

In 1967, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 was christened by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in Clydebank, Scotland.

In 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome.

In 1976, Playboy magazine released an interview in which Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter admitted he'd "looked on a lot of women with lust."

In 1984, a suicide car bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy annex in north Beirut, killing at least 14 people, including two Americans and 12 Lebanese. The family sitcoms "The Cosby Show" and "Who's the Boss?" premiered on NBC and ABC, respectively.

In 1995, in a move that stunned Wall Street, AT&T Corporation announced it was splitting into three companies.

In 2000, Independent Counsel Robert Ray announced the end of the Whitewater investigation, saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges against President and Mrs. Clinton.

In 2004, CBS News apologized for a "mistake in judgment" in its story questioning President George W. Bush's National Guard service, saying it could not vouch for the authenticity of documents featured in the report.

In 2017, Hurricane Maria, the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years, struck the island, wiping out as much as 75 percent of the power distribution

lines and causing an island-wide blackout.

Ten years ago: Repeal of the U.S. military's 18-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" compromise took effect, allowing gay and lesbian service members to serve openly. A suicide bomber posing as a Taliban peace envoy assassinated former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani (boor-HAHN'-uh-deen ruh-BAH'-nee).

Five years ago: In their final speeches at the annual gathering of world leaders, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon railed against leaders who kept "feeding the war machine" in Syria, while U.S. President Barack Obama said there was no military solution to the five-year conflict. A Black police officer fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott, a Black man, at a Charlotte, North Carolina, apartment complex, prompting days of civil unrest. (Charlotte-Mecklenburg police later said that the shooting was justified.)

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said the Republican effort to approve a replacement for the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg before the November election was an "abuse of power"; he said voters should pick the president who would pick the justice. (Amy Coney Barrett would be confirmed days before the election.) "Schitt's Creek," a Canadian show about a fish-out-of-water family, made history at the Emmy Awards by sweeping the comedy categories; the virtual awards ceremony included remote links to 100-plus nominees. Byron DeChambeau closed with a 3-under-par 67 for a six-shot victory over Matthew Wolff in the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in Mamaroneck, New York, on a course so tough that no one else broke par. Tour de France rookie Tadej Pogacar won cycling's showpiece race on the eve of his 22nd birthday.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sophia Loren is 87. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 73. Actor Tony Denison is 72. Hockey Hall of Famer Guy Lafleur is 70. Actor Debbi Morgan is 70. Jazz musician Peter White is 67. Actor Betsy Brantley is 66. Actor Gary Cole is 65. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 61. Country-rock musician Joseph Shreve (Flynnville Train) is 60. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 57. Actor Kristen Johnston is 54. Rock singers Gunnar and Matthew Nelson are 54. Rock musician Ben Shepherd is 53. Actor Erika Okuma is 49. Actor-model Moon Bloodgood is 46. Actor Jon Bernthal is 45. Singer The-Dream is 44. Actor Charlie Weber is 43. Rock musician Rick Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) (Lifehouse) is 42. Rapper Yung Joc is 41. Actor Crystle Stewart is 40. Actor Aldis Hodge is 35. Rock drummer Jack Lawless is 34. Actor Malachi (MAL'-ah-ky) Kirby is 32.

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
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