

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting
September 27, 2021

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



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

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

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Sept. 27, 2021,

We lead today's Connecting with story and photos on the induction of our colleague **Kia Breaux** into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame. Kia is a regional director for AP based in Kansas City - and her family and her AP family helped in celebration at the historic Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs.

We bring you reports on the Washington memorial service held Saturday for **Chuck Lewis**, who served as Washington bureau chief for AP and Hearst Newspapers.

Connecting correspondents **Sandy Johnson** and **Bill McCloskey** provided stories to share with their colleagues, and we thank them.

Perhaps the topic that has created the most Connecting feedback in the history of our newsletter keeps on keepin' on – tales of the most famous people you've encountered in an elevator. More are in today's issue.

A reminder from **Dodi Fromson** ([Email](#)) that on Tuesday, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press will celebrate (virtually) 50+ years since it was formed. It airs by Zoom at 8pm EDT. To register, click [here](#). The program will be about an hour. As you likely know, RCFP provides pro bono legal aide to journalists who need same. Your contributions are welcomed.

Here's to a great week ahead as we start the first full week of Fall 2021. Be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Kia Breaux inducted into Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame





Kia with her father and sisters

After a year-long delay caused by the pandemic, **Kia Breaux** ([Email](#)) was formally inducted into the

Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame Friday night in Excelsior Springs. The honor was given in recognition of her contributions to the Missouri newspaper industry. Among those in attendance was her high school journalism teacher **Karen Black**, who put the path to journalism 30 years ago. (Karen is recording Kia's acceptance speech in photo at right, next to David Wilkison.)



Some of her AP family was on hand.

In the photo above, from left: former AP Springfield correspondent Connie Farrow, managing director for local markets Jim Clarke, Kia, retired AP regional vice president Paul Stevens, AP elections coordinator Peg Coughlin and AP vice president for local media markets David Wilkison. Former Kansas City AP colleague Glenn White also attended but was not available when the photo was taken (babysitter!)

Memories of Chuck Lewis shared at National Press Club



Photos from the memorial: from left, former APers Lisa Zagaroli, Jim Rowley and Sandy Johnson.



And...from left, former Hearst colleague Rick Dunham and former AP staffers Peggy Simpson and Bill McCloskey.

Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - Close to 100 family, friends and colleagues attended the Saturday (Sept. 25) memorial for Charles J. Lewis, sharing memories of the longtime journalist and toasting him with champagne at the National Press Club in Washington.

Lewis, who served as Washington bureau chief for the AP and Hearst Newspapers, died March 20 of complications from cancer.

Lewis' wife, Dr. Vivian Chen, remembered him this way: "He was selfless and generous, a perfect gentleman. We found we never had enough time to do all we wanted but it didn't matter as long as we were together, he'd say. We were inseparable for 17 years." She recalled the hundreds of Washington VIP events they attended together, "Though Chuck interacted with America's leaders, he remained humble and never boastful. He often said that one reason we got along so well was because our Midwestern values meshed so well. ... He'd have us review the bios of notables before attending events, probably more for me than for him. To me they were friends and colleagues, but he knew them as potential players on the stage of history – and how he loved being there when history was made!"

A Hearst colleague, Stewart Powell, noted that when the Gulf War erupted, Lewis was the lone Washington bureau chief to win a coveted slot on the battlefield as a pool reporter. During that time, Lewis met an Army sergeant from Ohio who had been wounded by friendly early in the war and returned to the battlefield only to be killed by friendly fire days later. "The episode became the cornerstone of a series by Hearst Newspapers, co-authored by Chuck, that revealed the unprecedented rate of friendly-

fire casualties during the 43-day Persian Gulf War,” Powell said. “The series received awards but, more importantly to Chuck, it moved the Pentagon to make changes that could save American lives in the future.” On a sentimental note, Powell said Lewis would check his office computer every morning for the weather in Pony, MT, where he was born and his ashes interred last summer.

Frank Aukofer, now retired from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, interviewed Lewis as part of a study on the relationship between the military and the media. Lewis defended the rights of reporters to ask any question at military briefings, including a beleaguered reporter from Mirabella magazine whose questions were about gender, sex, relationships — not F-14s. “People who had their helmets on too tight didn’t like that,” Lewis said, a reference that stuck with Aukofer.

Sandy Johnson, who was AP’s Washington bureau chief after Lewis departed for Hearst, recalled his efforts to move women into the management ranks in the old boy’s club that was the Washington bureau. “During Chuck’s leadership, he promoted Carole Feldman to a news editor role in 1985, the first woman to join Washington management ranks. And then after the 1988 election, Chuck appointed me to a news editor role. Carole and I will be forever grateful to Chuck for helping crack that glass ceiling in DC.”

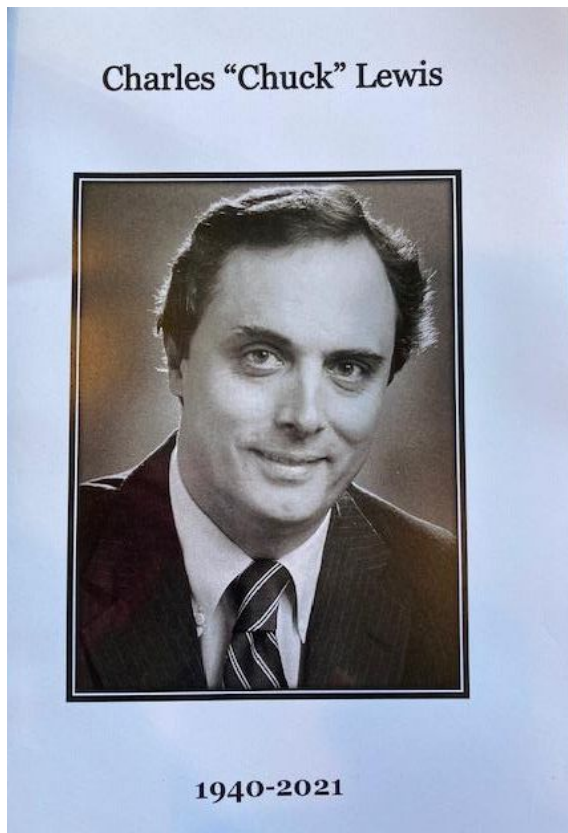
Lewis had fundraising skills too, as described by Lucy Dalglish, now journalism dean at the University of Maryland and previously the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Lewis, who served on the RCFP board for five years, warmly welcomed Dalglish to Washington 20 years ago and opened doors for her. “Journalists by nature don’t like to ask people for money but it never seemed to bother Chuck. He was one of the rare media leaders in Washington to immediately agree to make the ‘ask’ of potential media donors or dinner speakers,” Dalglish said.

The crowd included many retired Washington bureau chiefs and members of the Gridiron Club. Gridiron historian George Condon had the room in stitches as he recalled a Gridiron menu tasting dinner in which Lewis unsuccessfully advocated to include Brussels sprouts on the menu, which Condon called “the most detested and hated vegetable in the United States.” When Lewis became Gridiron Club president in 2013, he prevailed — his dinner menu included dan dan noodles, bamboo shoots, roasted sea bass, succotash and Brussels sprouts. Condon said, “They tell me he was raised in Montana. But is that a Montana menu? No beef, but bean succotash? No potatoes, but dan dan noodles, bamboo shoots and Brussels sprouts?”

And this report from...

Bill McCloskey (Email) – “How he loved being there when history was made,” Dr. Vivian Chen, told a gathering of masked participants at a memorial service Saturday for her late husband, former AP and Hearst Washington Chief of Bureau Chuck Lewis.

AP, Hearst, Gridiron Club, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and other friends gathered Saturday at the National Press Club in Washington



to remember Lewis, 80, who died in March.

Speakers noted Chuck's skills. He did not develop networks, said Hearst colleague Stewart Powell, he just had "a genuine impulse to bring people together." Former AP Washington judiciary reporter Jim Rowley remembered that Chuck not only insisted that reporters honored AP sourcing rubrics, but understood their nuances, as he walked Jim through use of an anonymous but insightful quote about the demeanor of a sitting federal judge. (The quote ran.)

Former AP Washington bureau chief, Sandy Johnson, remembered Chuck's time in AP human resources where he would visit bureaus, including hers in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to talk to employees and identifying those he

thought should be moved up the ranks. She noted that AP-WX was the ultimate Old Boys Club when Chuck arrived and started to change things by appointing Carole Feldman as news editor, a title Johnson later added.

Lucy Dalglish, deal of the Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland recalled her arrival in Washington to join the Reporters Committee. "He made me feel like I belonged, that I knew what I was doing, even though I didn't. Lewis was a rainmaker for the committee, sharing contacts and fundraising opportunities. He was always willing "to make the ask," she said. She concluded, "He was a lovely man."

Your encounters with famous people in an elevator

Norm Abelson (Email) - It was early in 1963, and, having left my AP career behind, I had just begun my new job as news secretary to a United States senator. I didn't know it, but I was about to have an unexpected meeting with a rather famous guy also new to the Senate.

My boss, Sen. Tom McIntyre (D-NH), was to make one of his first speeches on the Senate floor, and I was on my way to cover it. To say I didn't yet know my way around the Capitol was an understatement, but fortunately I found an elevator with an open door and got aboard with the only other occupant.

It took only seconds for me to recognize my fellow traveler, and I said: "Good morning, Senator Kennedy." (Ted had been elected in a November 1962 special election to

succeed his brother, the president.) He responded casually, and before the doors closed, three or four young women, probably congressional employees, crowded in and, all smiles and giggles, greeted the seemingly uncomfortable senator. He returned their greeting as he dropped his gaze downward.

I learned that day that all the stars weren't in Hollywood.

-0-

Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - During the Thanksgiving break in Guild contract negotiations with AP at the Warwick hotel in the 1990s, I stayed in New York rather than going home to New Hampshire. On the ride to the lobby, a familiar figure entered the elevator. It was Buffalo Bob, host of the Howdy Doody children's TV show. It was the first TV I had seen in my life, soon after arriving in the United States as an 11-year-old World War II refugee in 1952. I said something like, "Haven't seen you in about 40 years!" Buffalo Bob was pleased to be remembered and confirmed that he was heading to his position in the Macy's parade.

-0-

Ron Fournier (Email) - On May 8, 1991, while covering state government for the AP in Arkansas, I went to the Little Rock convention center where the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission was co-hosting an economic conference. In addition to covering the conference, I wanted to corner then-Gov. Bill Clinton for quotes about his presidential ambitions. After his unremarkable speech, I posted up at the bottom of an escalator, near where the convention center connected to the Excelsior Hotel. I had been told that the governor would be coming down the escalator enroute to his car, and sure enough, I didn't wait more than 10 minutes before he appeared from the hotel/convention center floor above with a plain-clothed state police officer. I fell in step with Clinton and peppered him with questions about his political future as we walked about the length of a football field to where his car was parked. I filled a few pages of notes and drove back to the bureau, where I filed an unremarkable 400-word story.

I thought nothing more about that story until 1994, when I was covering the Clinton White House and an AIDC employee named Paula Jones filed a lawsuit against Clinton, claiming she was sexually harassed in a room at the Excelsior Hotel on May 8, 1991, just before he departed the AIDC conference through the convention center.

It was not the first or last time I missed a lede.

-0-

Masha Hamilton (Email) - Mine comes from Moscow, where I was working as a journalist. It was the Gorbachev era of glasnost and perestroika, and Paul Simon was in town to perform with Lady Blacksmith Mambazo in Gorky Park. Heading into a hotel for a meeting with a government source, I hopped onto an elevator with my eight-month-old daughter in a stroller. She was chewing on a toothbrush and Simon commented something like "you are teaching her to brush awfully early." We laughed; I quickly introduced myself as a reporter and asked for an interview. That elevator pitch worked: he agreed, and I went the next day to his hotel room at a prearranged

time to interview him about what it felt like to perform in the USSR. He told me about getting a fan note that had been passed onstage and said "my friends and I know well your music for 70 years." Simon, 47 at the time, laughed and said, "He may have gotten a little carried away with the 70 years part." Not groundbreaking, but it made for a sweet little story.

-0-

Steve Graham (Email) - Back in the '80s, when the APME (I think) held its annual meeting in Portland, Ore., I helped one of the visitors up to a room at the Portland Marriott hotel.

Coming down in the elevator, I realized I was sharing it with basketball icon Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. (The LA Lakers were in town to play the Trailblazers).

He looked a bit odd, but I quickly realized the elevator ceiling was too low for his 7-foot-2 height and he had to crank his head sideways to fit.

-0-

Mike Harris (Email) - Reading all the responses on Connecting to the call-out for stories about being on an elevator with a celebrity left me scratching my head, trying to remember an elevator story of my own. I interviewed and even hung out with numerous celebrities during my time with AP, but I couldn't remember a single elevator meeting. Just when I had decided it was futile, one such incident popped into my head - although it wasn't exactly a celebrity.

I was making one of my rare working appearances in the sports department at 50 Rock sometime in the early 1980s when I got into the elevator to head for the cafeteria. There was only one other person on the elevator and it took me a few moments to realize the dapper man in the dark suit and rep tie was Keith Fuller, the president of AP.

He said nothing and nervously I turned to him and said, "Mr. Fuller, I'm Mike Harris. I'm the motorsports writer for AP." He barely acknowledged me, grunting something unintelligible before the door slid open for my floor. I quickly got out, shrugged and continued my day. The only person I told about the odd meeting was my wife.

I put the incident out of my mind, chalking it up to Mr. Fuller probably just being lost in thought.

A few days later, I arrived at 50 Rock to find an inter-office envelope in my mailbox. It was addressed simply to "Mr. Harris."

In it was a brief note from Keith Fuller which read: "Mr. Harris. I was pleased to finally put a face to the name I have read on the wire so many times. Keep up the good work. Keith"

-0-

Sue Price Johnson (Email) - In its heyday, the North Carolina Press Association held its annual conventions at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville every three years or so. As COB, it was my duty, of course, to attend.

During one of the last conventions I attended there, I decided to invest in some time at the Inn's spa and get a pedicure there. Time was tight, and my pedicure was completed just before the cocktail party for the awards night was to begin.

As I got onto the elevator to go to my room to change, I met the evening's guests of honor, Shelby, NC, banjo great Earl Scruggs and his wife. I introduced myself, apologizing for wearing pedicure toe-spreaders. We shared a laugh before I exited to change.

-0-

Peter Mattiace (Email) - I ran into the late Dick Howser, then manager of the New York Yankees, in a hotel elevator in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. I couldn't resist asking for a handshake. But when I said, "AP," his expression turned from fan-pleaser to "Oh, man, a reporter followed me here...." I said, "Don't worry, I'm not a sports guy ... I didn't even follow the Yanks last season."

-0-

Bruce Pomerantz (Email) - I met Walter Cronkite on the elevator at CBS. I was photo editing the CBS 50th anniversary book with support from Photo manager John Filo. We were gathering comments from various celebrities to accompany a vast number of historical news and entertainment pictures. I met Cronkite for just a few moments on the elevator at the CBS building in New York and mentioned the book. Filo facilitated Cronkite's short verbal comments about CBS News.

-0-

Chris Sullivan (Email) - Great stories about elevator rides with the famous. A memorable one for me happened a year or so before I joined AP, when I worked for the Times of West Palm Beach, the afternoon sister of the Palm Beach Post. It was 1978, late fall or winter, a time of year when lots of celebrities came to speak at conventions in sunny South Florida. Some group had invited the recently retired president, Gerald Ford, to address its meeting at a swanky Boca Raton hotel.

Being still pretty green as a reporter and wanting (a.) to see my first president, even an ex-, up close, and (b.) assuming I might just walk up, ask a few questions and scoop others who'd be covering the speech, I decided to arrive early and drop by Ford's hotel suite. My knock on the door brought me face-to-face with a couple of unamused Secret Service agents. Ford was somewhere inside, out of sight.

And, no, he would not answer a few questions.

As I turned to leave, the former president appeared, obviously dressed to leave just then to head to his engagement. He looked at me, got a quick word from the security guys and said something like, "Let's go." I received a brisk Secret Service escort to the

elevator, with Ford following behind, maybe with a staffer at his side. We all got on the elevator. Nobody spoke. No real eye contact.

No scoop. But now, at long last, my "reporting" that day has made it into a story.

-0-

Mike Tharp (Email) - In 1979 U.S. Treasury Secretary J. Michael Blumenthal paid a surprise visit to Tokyo. Behind the shoji, he pressured the Japanese about the yen-dollar rate and to restrain their vehicle exports to the U.S.

(This gets better, I promise.)

Because it was a low-key event, the embassy planned no news conference. So I was pleased to get a call from my favorite flack asking if I wanted to interview the treasury secretary one-on-one for the Wall Street Journal. We wound up in an ornate suite at the Okura Hotel, then and now one of the finest in the world.

After the interview I was almost skipping down the hotel corridor, confident that I had nailed a scoop that would make news. Could hardly wait for the elevator doors to open.

When they did, out stepped John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

She was wearing a beret, he wore what the Brits call a cheese-cutter cap woven with Harris tweed. While she directed the two bell caps pushing and pulling two luggage trolleys, John and I stood outside the Japanese room where they'd stay--tatami floors, a small shrine, low table and chairs.

After the Beatles split up in 1970, John and Yoko made several long trips a year to Tokyo. They liked that the Japanese didn't invade their space.

John did his best to avoid looking at me, which at 6'3" with a bushy black beard was hard to manage in the narrow corridor. My thoughts churned--Jeez, he 'd heard it all by now. Even though he wasn't the subject of my interview, I felt that vintage wire service reluctance to ask for an autograph.

Finally I just blurted, "John, can I shake your hand?"

He looked at me and said, "Sorry, man, I'm not into that anymore."

Can't even remember how the treasury secretary yarn turned out.

Connecting mailbox

AP gathering in Milwaukee



Dinesh Ramde ([Email](#)) – Here are photos from an unofficial Milwaukee reunion last week. I live in California now but was back in town for a wedding, so I got together with a few dear friends.

Top photo is me with former Wisconsin COB Lee Hughes.

Next photo is, from left: Dave DeGrace (former editorial assistant), Chris Jenkins (former sports reporter), Carrie Antfingler (current AP videographer), Dinesh Ramde (former reporter), and the smaller one in front in the striped top is Michelle Johnson (former reporter/editor).

AP launches AI readiness survey for local newsrooms

By Lauren Easton

This week AP started surveying local news outlets in the U.S. to assess their readiness to adopt technologies that use artificial intelligence, a first step in the news agency's two-year commitment to help local newsrooms expand their use of AI tools.

The project is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

AP is distributing AI readiness scorecards to leaders of local newsrooms in the form of short surveys that can be completed online through early November.

The scorecard seeks information about technologies and applications that are currently being used, and how automation and AI might streamline news and business functions. For example, automation and AI can be used to help with Friday night football coverage; transcribe video and audio recordings; sort story, photo and video archives; convert website traffic into subscriptions; and many other tasks.

The findings will help inform a free, online curriculum that AP will build next year.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the Week

AP has rare access as Haitian migrants, in bid to reach US, face perilous jungle crossing of Darien Gap



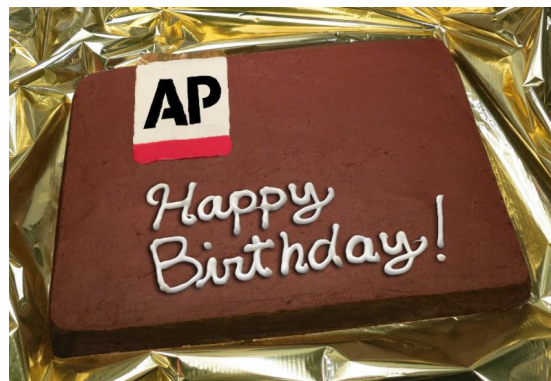
AP Photo/Fernando Vergara

Hundreds of migrants try each day to cross the Darien Gap — a thick jungle between Colombia and Panama traversed by many ultimately seeking the U.S. border — yet journalists rarely observe more than the first few steps of the journey.

But after days of negotiations with locals who participate in a human-trafficking network that shows migrants the way for a fee, the Bogota-based all-formats team of correspondent Astrid Suárez, photographer Fernando Vergara and video journalist Marko Álvarez were given exclusive access to the first hour of a treacherous six-day journey. Immigration officials say it's a passage that is being undertaken at record levels — with some 70,000 migrants making the trek so far this year.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Herb Hemming - herb@ojaimail.net

Joe Kay - joekay617@aol.com

Lyle Price - lyleprice7@comcast.net

Story of interest

Former ABC News executive says Chris Cuomo harassed her (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — A television executive who accused Chris Cuomo of groping her at a party 16 years ago says the CNN anchor needs a public education about sexual harassment and if he did that, “he’d be a hero instead of a cad.”

The executive, Shelley Ross, said Friday she’s concerned that Cuomo’s reaction to her story and his role advising his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, indicates that he’s learned little about harassment and what it does to women.

“I don’t want to see anybody lose their job,” Ross told The Associated Press. “I want to see people learn and to make the news business a better place and the workplace a better place.”

Her story represented another embarrassment for the host of “Cuomo Prime Time,” generally the network’s top-rated show. He has been criticized for his role advising his brother, Andrew Cuomo, who resigned as New York governor last month over allegations of sexual harassment from multiple women.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Americans stood up to racism in 1961 and changed history. This is their fight, in their words. (USA Today)

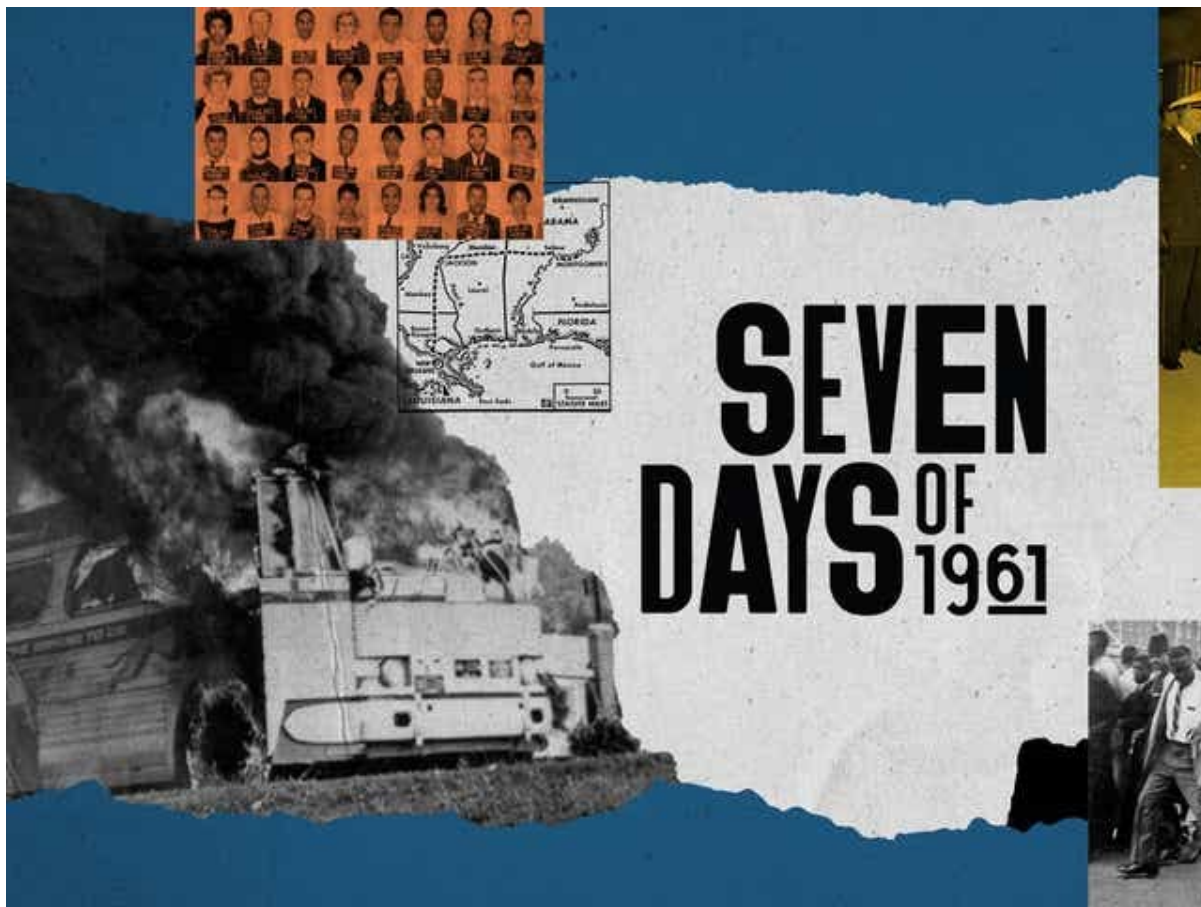


ILLUSTRATION: ANDREA BRUNTY, USA TODAY NETWORK

By DEBORAH BARFIELD BERRY

Walking a picket line, sitting at a lunch counter, asking for a book in a library: It could get them arrested, beaten or killed. They did it anyway.

It was 1961, and across the South, college students, faith leaders, shop owners, high school students, civil rights leaders and many others risked their lives to battle white supremacy. They wanted voting rights and the integration of schools, businesses, public transit and libraries.

They lost their jobs, were kicked out of school. Their bodies were bloodied and battered. Others were banished for days, weeks or months to prisons across the South.

For "Seven Days of 1961," reporters across the USA TODAY Network retraced crucial moments that set in motion a new era of civil rights that continues to inform social justice movements today. Sixty years later, as the nation still grapples with systemic racism, as well as access to voting, police violence and how we teach American history, the stories of these civil rights veterans show there is no single moment that topples tyranny: The fight for freedom must be fought each day.

"In 1961 I used to hear people say, 'The struggle continues,'" said Courtland Cox, 80, a veteran of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, one of the most pivotal organizations of the civil rights movement. "I just thought it was some words. It is, in

fact, not just words. There is a reality behind it, which says those in power do not want to ever give up power.”

Read more [here](#).



Celebrating AP's 175th

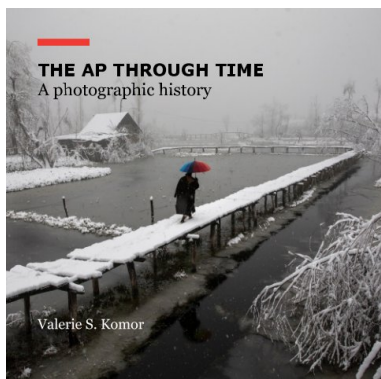
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.

Today in History - Sept. 27, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2021. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Sept. 27, 1996, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, a band of former seminary students, drove the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of Kabul, captured the capital and executed former leader Najibullah.

On this date:

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War’s peace terms with Britain.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1917, French sculptor and painter Edgar Degas died in Paris at age 83.

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1941, the United States launched the first 14 rapidly built “Liberty” military cargo vessels.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In 1979, Congress gave its final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons, and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture. The Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked, 7-7, on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the “Contract with America,” a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

In 1999, Sen. John McCain of Arizona officially opened his campaign for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, the same day former Vice President Dan Quayle dropped his White House bid.

In 2016, scientists announced the first baby born from a controversial new technique that combined DNA from three people — the mother, the father and an egg donor. (The goal was to prevent the child from inheriting a fatal genetic disease from his mother.)

In 2018, during a day-long hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Christine Blasey Ford said she was “100 percent” certain that she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh when they were teenagers, and Kavanaugh then told senators that he was “100 percent certain” he had done no such thing; Republicans quickly scheduled a recommendation vote for the following morning.

Ten years ago: Opening statements in the Los Angeles trial of Michael Jackson’s personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, took place as prosecutors accused Murray of killing the superstar through irresponsible use of the anesthetic propofol, and the defense maintained Jackson had caused his own death. (Murray was later convicted of felony involuntary manslaughter.) Israel gave the go-ahead for construction of 1,100 new Jewish housing units in east Jerusalem; the announcement met with swift criticism from the United States and the European Union.

Five years ago: The United States provided another \$364 million in humanitarian aid to Syrians as their nation’s civil war appeared to be getting worse. President Barack Obama announced career diplomat Jeffrey DeLaurentis as his choice to become the first U.S. ambassador to Cuba in more than a half-century.

One year ago: The New York Times reported that President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president and in his first year in the White House; Trump dismissed the report as “fake news.” Louisville, Kentucky, saw its fifth night of protests after a grand jury declined to charge officers in the fatal

shooting of Breonna Taylor. The French Open, pushed back from May and June because of COVID-19, began in Paris with just 1,000 spectators allowed per day.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kathleen Nolan is 88. Actor Claude Jarman Jr. is 87. Author Barbara Howar is 87. World Golf Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth is 82. Singer-musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 78. Rock singer Meat Loaf is 74. Actor Liz Torres is 74. Actor A Martinez is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 72. Actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa is 71. Actor/opera singer Anthony Laciura is 70. Singer Shaun Cassidy is 63. Comedian Marc Maron is 58. Rock singer Stephan (STEE'-fan) Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 57. Former Democratic National Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz is 55. Actor Patrick Muldoon is 53. Singer Mark Calderon is 51. Actor Amanda Detmer is 50. Actor Gwyneth Paltrow is 49. Actor Indira Varma is 48. Rock singer Brad Arnold (3 Doors Down) is 43. Christian rock musician Grant Brandell (Underoath) is 40. Actor Anna Camp is 39. Rapper Lil' Wayne is 39. Singer Avril Lavigne (AV'-rihl la-VEEN') is 37. Bluegrass singer/musician Sierra Hull is 30. Actor Sam Lerner is 29. Actor Ames McNamara is 14.

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