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Connecting
October 21, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Oct. 21, 2021,

You've probably heard the journalistic bromide, "If your mother tells you she loves you, check it out!"

Well, our colleague and Washington newsman **Doug Daniel** knows that his 92-year-old mother loves him, but when she told the story of seeing President Harry Truman march in a parade in Little Rock in 1949, he decided to check it out.

And he learned that she knew what she was talking about – words, Doug wrote in our lead essay today, that all of us will want to hear the older we get.

AUTHORS ALERT! WRITTEN A BOOK IN THE PAST YEAR?

If you have written a book in the past year, Connecting would like to feature it in our annual listing of books authored by Connecting colleagues. The book issue will appear in a couple weeks – so this is an invitation to send me the following: Name of book,

jpg image of the cover and your headshot, and 300 words on the book including where it can be purchased. Also, if you have a book in the works for near-future publication, include it. Send along the information soon.

Have a great day - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

The case of the parading president
'I guess she knew what she was talking about'



Phillip, Holly and Doug Daniel with their mother, Dot in June 2021. Doug works in the AP's Washington bureau.

Doug Daniel (Email) - "Well, don't worry" my friend interrupted, in his effort to be kind. "This sort of thing happens when you get older."

I had just finished telling my friend about an episode with my 92-year-old mother that had surprised and concerned me.

My brother and I were having dinner with Mom the other evening and the conversation wandered to the topic of presidents. Phillip recalled being in Ahearn Field House at Kansas State University when Ronald Reagan spoke there in 1982. I recollected being in a room at the Daniel Boone Hotel in Charleston, W.Va., when Reagan spoke there in, I think, 1976.

Mom chimed in with a story we'd never heard before. It went something like this:

I saw Harry Truman one time. I was in Little Rock visiting my dad and Harry Truman was in a parade. He came along wearing a white suit -- even his hat was white -- and he was holding a cane. He was in this big parade and instead of riding in a car like many other people he marched down the street, proud as a peacock. I can still see him strutting down the street with a big smile and waving and everybody cheering.

She choked up recalling this memory and finished it through tears. "I don't know why I'm upset," she said.

Phillip and I just looked at each other; we knew memories and movies could roil her emotions. We asked what year this took place, but Mom couldn't remember. Or recall what the occasion was. Or even if Truman was president at the time. Given our mother's diminished short-term memory, I for one wondered if this event had even taken place.

That's why my friend suggested what I had already thought: this happens when you get older. But as a journalist I don't lack for curiosity when it comes to establishing facts and solving a mystery.

I went to the Truman Presidential Library website and found out that, indeed, Truman had visited Little Rock, Ark., in 1949, for a reunion of fellow Army veterans. But the photo of Truman receiving the key to the city showed him in a dark suit, not a white one, and without a hat.

White suit, dark suit ... Mom is 92, after all. But then I went to YouTube and typed in "Harry Truman and Little Rock." What



came up was a Pathe newsreel with the title, "Truman and Buddies in Little Rock." And, to my surprise, there was Truman, in a white suit and white hat, marching in a veterans parade, smiling and waving, just as Mom had described.



I wasn't through sleuthing. I checked the date of the parade -- June 11, 1949. Coincidentally, June 11 is my brother's birthday. But more to the point, June 12 is my grandfather's. He was born in 1899, which meant Mom would have been visiting her dad on his 50th birthday. And Truman was in town while she was there, having recently turned 20 herself on June 2. Case closed.

I shared the newsreel link with my friend. As he watched it, he said, "Huh ... I guess she knew what she was talking about." I

suspect that those are words all of us will want to hear the older we get.

When I showed [the newsreel clip](#) to Mom, she threw up her arms as if she had scored a touchdown. And, as far as I was concerned, she had.

Colin Powell – my forever hero

Bobbi Bowman was Diversity Director of the American Society of News Editors from 1999-2009. Previously she was managing editor of the Utica (N.Y.) Observer Dispatch and assistant city editor at the Washington Post.

By **BOBBI BOWMAN** ([Email](#))

For the past 20 years, I've looked forward to sitting two pews behind Gen. Colin Powell at our Episcopal Church every Sunday morning. Often we both arrived at the same time, he in his Corvette with license plates dedicated to his wife, Alma, and a large U.S. Army sticker on the rear bumper. We would wave and chat on our way into church.

A few years ago both Gen. Powell and I were at the 8 am service and, as usual, the only two Black people in the sanctuary. One of our ministers began talking about Emmett Till in her sermon. When the minister sat down, I walked to the front of our church. I apologized to my fellow church members for interrupting our service, and said, "...everything she just said about Emmett Till is wrong and I need to correct that."

My problem with our minister's reference was that she left out crucial facts. She failed to explain that Emmett Till was only a 14-year-old boy who was spending the summer with relatives in Mississippi. One day he had some interaction with a white woman store clerk. Oddly our minister did not mention that a few days later, the woman's husband and his half-brother kidnapped Emmett Till from his bed in the middle of the night. Tortured him. Shot him in the head and threw his body in the Tallahatchie River

— a cotton gin fan wrapped around his neck with barbed wire. No one was ever convicted of his murder.

Nor did she explain how Emmett Till's murder became a symbol for the total disregard for the lives of Black people especially those in the South.

As I started back to my pew, Gen. Powell immediately stood up. He said everything I related was correct but he wanted to add a few things. He explained that all the historic markers erected to remember the Till murder had been stolen, riddled with bullets or thrown in the river.

I was so proud that Gen. Colin Powell had supported me and we had both interrupted the service, something that is unheard of.

After service I thanked him profusely for his support. I told him it meant the world to me. He smiled. Hugged me and said, "Good job."

He is my forever hero. We have lost an irreplaceable American hero.

Saddened by covid news for Fox News' Neil Cavuto, former classmate

Christopher Bacey (Email) – I was sorry to hear the news about Neil Cavuto (Fox News anchor who has tested positive for COVID-19 – Wednesday Connecting).

Hope he will be OK. Cavuto was a classmate at St. Bonaventure Journalism School. He was C on the class roster, and I was B. I led him in all things alphabetical -- but not in winning the Mark Hellinger Award as top-graduating senior. He was marked for that from the day he walked into the school. Also, he was editor-in-chief of the SBU



university newspaper and I was sports editor, so watching him every day on Fox as I do, is like still being in school -- he provides lessons in journalism every time he appears. He was hired by fledgling "Nightly Business Report" out of college and I was hired by AP NY Sports. The other members of our Bonaventure editorial staff included Features Editor Dan Barry, NYTimes columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner, and Photo Editor Chris Carola, who went on to serve as a 30-plus year AP Albany veteran. We also had Chris LaPlaca a year earlier in sports, and he was the No.3 hire at ESPN and current VP of Corporate Communications in Bristol. Our other editor-in-chief was Carol Schumacher, who went on to execute the "Where's the Beef?" PR campaign for Wendy's. Quite a crew of graduates!

Fog of war, fog of warmongering

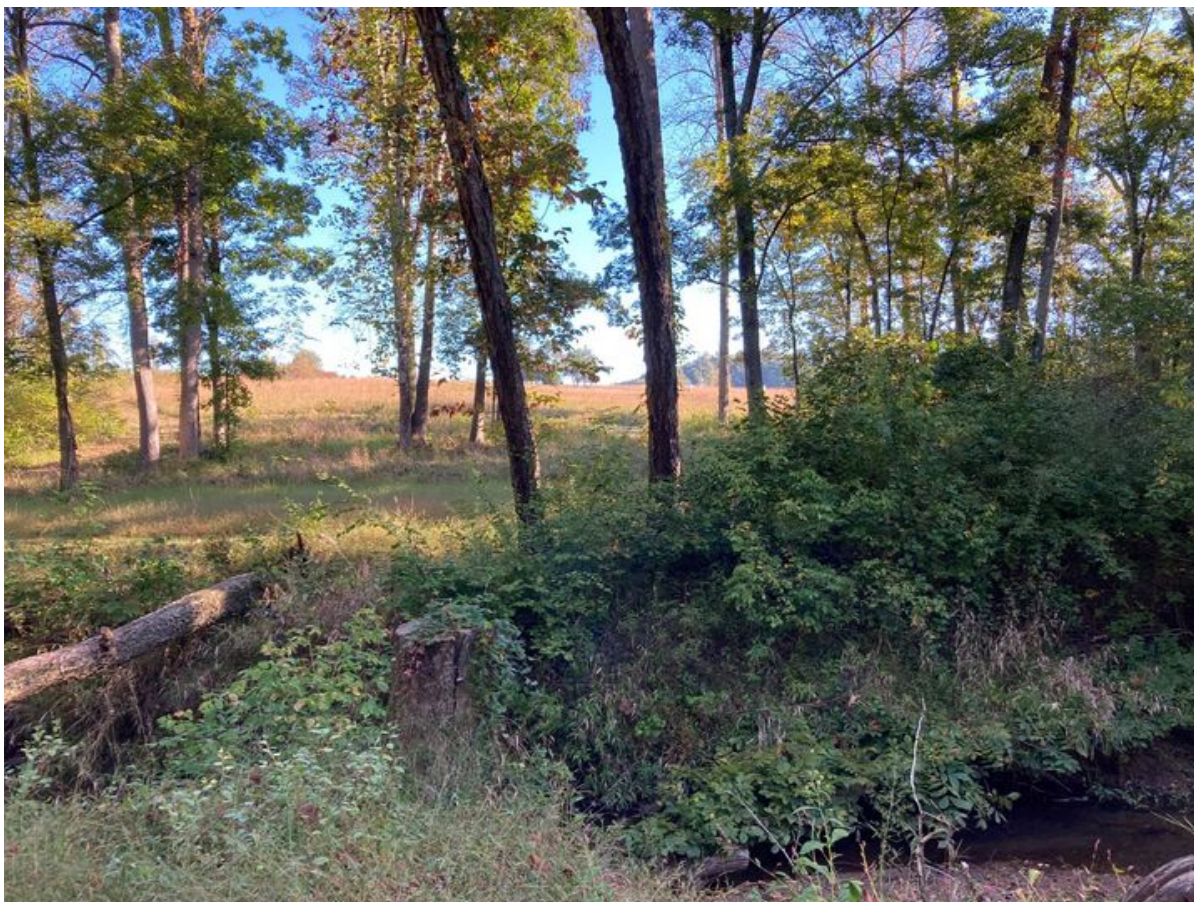
Joe Galu (Email) - American reporters came back from Vietnam and could not believe what their newspapers and magazines had written, wildly different from the reports from Vietnam. Time magazine was among the worst offenders and promised once again never to do it again.

Time also apologized for its jingoistic reporting after World War II only to do it again in Korea and again in Vietnam and yet again regarding Iraq.

During the Korean "conflict," the AP and UPI wrote about one battle so totally differently that the Troy Record ran both stories on Page One under the headline 'Are they reporting about the same war?' Both wire services called the Troy Record and were furious. So what?

There is the fog of war, and there is the fog of warmongering. The American media totally suck at seeing through warmongering. Before we invaded Iraq, a prominent TV host and journalist suddenly showed up on set with a very military-looking buzz cut. Was this part of that network's warmongering? It can be very subtle.

A walk into history



Bob Burns (Email) – Wednesday, I walked a portion of a Civil War battlefield that is among the least remembered, despite its importance. The battle at Sailor's Creek

(about 60 miles west of Richmond) happened on April 6, 1865, three days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Some famous officers clashed here, including George Custer and George Pickett. Pickett came out on the short end, an inglorious final defeat.

A terrific photo

Mail 11:41 AM Wed Oct 20

27%



"I actually threw it better than I thought." Luke Jackson said of the letter-high 95-mile-per-hour fastball that Bellinger crushed over the fence. Marcio Jose Sanchez/Associated Press



Michael Rubin (Email) - Bellinger's Blast Breathes Life Into Dodgers Offense - What a terrific photo! Taken by Los Angeles AP photojournalist Marcio Sanchez.

AP logo police sighting



Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - An AP logo, a luxury watch store on 57th St in NYC.

Tiny wrists in cuffs: How police use force against children



In this Sept. 23, 2021, photo Jhaimarion, 10, reacts as he listens to his mother, Krystal Archie talking with an Associated Press reporter in Chicago. Archie's three children were present when police, on two occasions, just 11 weeks apart, kicked open her front door and tore through their home searching for drug suspects. She'd never heard of the people they were hunting. Her oldest child, Savannah was 14 at the time; her youngest, Jhaimarion, was seven. They were ordered to get down on the floor. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

By HELEN WIEFFERING, COLLEEN LONG and CAMILLE FASSETT

CHICAGO (AP) — Royal Smart remembers every detail: the feeling of the handcuffs on his wrists. The panic as he was led outside into the cold March darkness, arms raised, to face a wall of police officers pointing their guns.

He was 8 years old.

Neither he nor anyone else in his family's Chicago home was arrested that night two years ago, and police wielding a warrant to look for illegal weapons found none. But even now, he's tormented by visions of officers bursting through houses and tearing rooms apart, ordering people to lie on the floor.

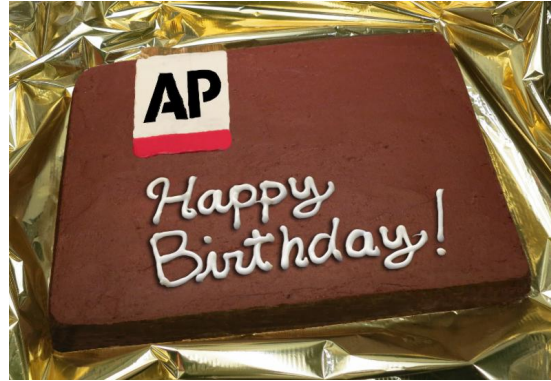
"I can't go to sleep," he said. "I keep thinking about the police coming."

Children like Royal were not the focus after George Floyd was killed by police in 2020, prompting a debate on the disproportionate use of force by law enforcement, especially on adults of color. But in case after case, an Associated Press investigation found kids as young as 6 have been treated harshly by officers — handcuffed, felled by stun guns, pinned to the ground. Departments nationwide have few or no guardrails to prevent such incidents.

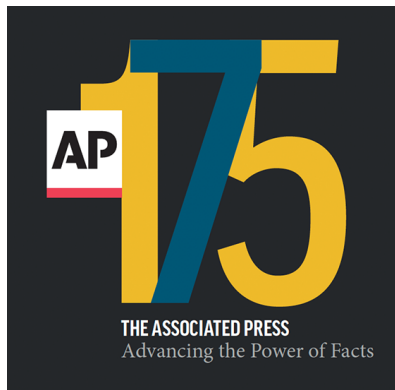
The AP analyzed data on approximately 3,000 instances of police use of force against children under 16 over the past 11 years. The data, provided to the AP by Accountable Now, a project of The Leadership Conference Education Fund aiming to create a comprehensive use-of-force database, includes incidents from 25 police departments in 17 states.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



John Montgomery - johndmont2@gmail.com



Celebrating AP's 175th

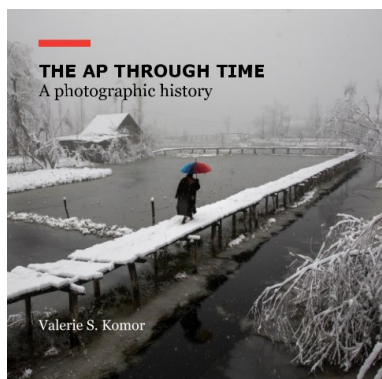
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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 - Oct. 21, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 21, the 294th day of 2021. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 21, 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

On this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1945, women in France were allowed to vote in parliamentary elections for the first time.

In 1967, the Israeli destroyer INS Eilat (ay-LAH'T') was sunk by Egyptian missile boats near Port Said (sah-EED'); 47 Israeli crew members were lost. Tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters began two days of demonstrations in Washington, D.C.

In 1969, beat poet and author Jack Kerouac died in St. Petersburg, Fla., at age 47.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 2001, Washington, D.C., postal worker Thomas L. Morris Jr. died of inhalation anthrax as officials began testing thousands of postal employees.

In 2012, former senator and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern, 90, died in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In 2014, North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington.

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden announced he would not be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Rodham Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama declared that America's long and deeply unpopular war in Iraq would be over by the end of 2011 and that all U.S. troops "will definitely be home for the holidays."

Five years ago: Cyberattacks on server farms of a key internet firm repeatedly disrupted access to major websites and online services including Twitter, Netflix and PayPal across the United States.

One year ago: Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the party's 2012 presidential nominee, told CNN that he had voted in the Nov. 3 election, but not for Donald Trump. Former President Barack Obama made his first in-person campaign pitch for Joe Biden, urging voters in Philadelphia, especially Black men, not to sit out the election and risk seeing Trump reelected. Spain became the first western European country to reach more than 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases. The Justice Department said drugmaker Purdue Pharma, the company behind the powerful prescription painkiller OxyContin that experts said had helped touch off an opioid epidemic, would plead guilty to federal criminal charges as part of a settlement of more than \$8 billion. At least 10 bodies were found in an unmarked mass grave in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where investigators were searching for the remains of victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joyce Randolph is 97. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 81. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 80. Singer Elvin Bishop is 79. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 79. Actor Everett McGill is 76. Musician Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn) (Chicago) is 75. Actor Dick Christie is 73. Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 72. Actor LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 72. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 68. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 66. Singer Julian Cope is 64. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 64. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 62. Actor Melora Walters is 61. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 50. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 48. Actor Jeremy Miller is 45. Country singer Matthew Ramsey (Old Dominion) is 44. Actor Will Estes is 43. Actor Michael McMillian is 43. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH'-ee-uhn) West is 41. Actor Matt Dallas is 39. Actor Charlotte Sullivan is 38. Actor Aaron Tveit (tuh-VAYT') is 38. Actor Glenn Powell is 33. Country singer Kane Brown is 28.

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

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