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## Connecting November 01, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Nov. 1, 2021,

We bring you sad news of the death of **Ron Jenkins**, veteran statehouse reporter for The Associated Press in Oklahoma City, who died at the age of 77.

Our thanks to colleagues **Lindel Hutson** and **Linda Sargent**, who worked with Ron in Oklahoma City, for producing an obituary that leads today's issue that includes numerous comments from his friends and colleagues. Jenkins was the gold standard for statehouse reports, said Hutson, who was once Oklahoma City chief of bureau.

If you have a favorite memory of working with Ron, please send it along.

### **AUTHORS ALERT! DEADLINE APPROACHING:**

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 November – 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.

Here's to the new month – have a great day, be safe and stay healthy!

Paul

# AP's Ron Jenkins, dean of Oklahoma's statehouse press corps when he retired in 2009, dies at age of 77



**Lt. Gov. Jari Askins gives retiring Associated Press capitol correspondent Ron Jenkins a proclamation in 2009. Photo/Daily Oklahoman**

Ron Jenkins, veteran Oklahoma state Capitol correspondent for The Associated Press, has died. He was 77.

Jenkins covered five governors, political conventions from New York City to San Diego, and countless elections and legislative sessions during nearly 30 years at the statehouse. He retired as dean of the state Capitol press corps in 2009.

“Ron was the gold standard of statehouse reporters,” said former Oklahoma City Bureau Chief Lindel Hutson. “He was quick, he was thorough, he was accurate. He had smarts, speed and style.

“Ron was aware of anything that moved in state government. He made the AP look good and I often received praise from members about his work. He had a terrific work ethic. He never turned out the lights until all the bases were covered.”

Jenkins, inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 1997, died peacefully at his home in Harrah, Okla., on Oct. 5 from dementia complications, according to an obituary from the Asa Smith Funeral Service.

Jenkins joined the AP in Oklahoma City in 1971 after working for The Southwest American in his hometown of Fort Smith, Ark., and also The Oklahoma Journal, a small daily newspaper in Oklahoma City.

His first AP assignments included covering sports and the University of Oklahoma's national championship football teams of the mid-1970s.

Jenkins appeared regularly on the Oklahoma Educational Television Network Authority show Oklahoma Forum/Capitol Reporters Roundtable. He covered several national political conventions for AP, including the 1976 Democratic convention in New York.

After retirement, he did public information work for state government before stepping down in 2016.

"When it came to Oklahoma politics, he was a walking encyclopedia. His election predictions were uncanny," Hutson said. "I had complete confidence in his ability to predict winners. He epitomized the AP standard, 'be first, but first be accurate.'"

Former Oklahoma City AP News Editor Linda Franklin agreed. "Ron could look at county-by-county results as they came in and tell you without a doubt who had won and why it was fine to call the race. Then he would quickly move into getting his next lede ready for the wire all while reaching out for comment from the winners and losers.

"Ron was also vital in covering the state angle in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing."



**The Fab Four: Veteran Oklahoma City state Capitol reporters pose for this photo circa early 2000s. From left: Ron Jenkins, AP; Chuck Ervin, Tulsa World; John Greiner and Paul English, the Oklahoman. All are deceased except Greiner, who provided this photo.**

John Greiner, who covered the statehouse for The Oklahoman, said Jenkins ``was a good friend, a consummate professional, and really good writer. He always managed to get the story.

“Often, he covered the Capitol for the AP by himself. I never heard him complain. He could make sense of complicated issues. Being a former sports writer, he sometimes had to cover both politics and sports issues. He had a great sense of humor. I am choked up to learn of his death.”

Mike Smith, who worked for UPI and AP in Oklahoma City and later covered the Indiana statehouse for AP, said that in his early years, ``I was bright enough to tag along on Ron’s heels almost everywhere he went. Speaker’s office. Up to the Senate gallery. Over to the governor’s office. Everyone in the press corps knew Ron was ahead of the game and he let me follow him around like a puppy dog and he quietly showed me the ropes.

“...we last hooked up in San Diego covering the Republican National Convention in 1996. I was with AP in Indianapolis then and Ron was still Ron – same sense of humor and quiet confidence and command. Never once saw Ron mad or out of sorts or unsure about anything. I always looked up to him and still do.”

AP staffer Ellen Knickmeyer worked with Jenkins in Oklahoma City. “He was a good, solid journalist.”

Oklahoma City newsman Ron Jenkins is using his notepad for more workaday purposes as he interviews an AP College Lineman of the Week, Oklahoma defensive end Jimbo Elrod, at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman. Jenkins was asking Elrod about his 19-tackle performance in a game against Colorado. Jenkins has covered the current Sooner dynasty since its beginning in 1971.



Photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Pat Casey, former Oklahoma City and New York staffer, called Jenkins the consummate AP reporter. “I worked with him for 10 years and was always in awe of him and his amazing abilities.

“He could give you 500 flawless words in mere minutes or dictate the smoothest story you'd want just as quickly. He was justifiably the dean of the state Capital press corps and knew everybody from floor sweepers to the governor himself.

“He particularly shined on election nights, constantly updating his stories into the wee hours. Ron knew as well just when to call a race, congressional or presidential, and never was wrong. He was old school, crisp and the best.”

Rochelle Hines, former Oklahoma City AP staffer, said Jenkins “was unflappable, even under pressure from a Friday evening deadline for his weekly Capitol features.

“The only time I ever saw anything different in his face was a day after the Oklahoma City bombing. I had come in mid-afternoon and he was sitting across from me at one

of the dozens of computers set up in the newsroom.

“We both looked up at each other at the same time, and he mouthed the words, ‘Can you believe this?’ I shook my head ‘no,’ and logged in. He was a class act.”

Jack Elliott Jr., who worked with Jenkins in Oklahoma City before transferring to Jackson, Miss., said, “I learned a lot from him. Even though I’d covered politics and state government for some time, I learned much about handling people. Ron steered me in the right direction but mostly steered me away from places I shouldn’t go. I have nothing but fond memories of the big fella.”

Bill Hancock, executive director of the College Football Playoff and a native Oklahoman, said, “I knew Ron well beginning when he worked for the Journal. He was a total professional who was dedicated to the truth. We thought he loved sports best of all, then it was fun to watch him move so easily up to the statehouse beat. He left us sports people behind, but not really, because he remained our friend.”

After his retirement, Jenkins worked until 2016 as public information officer for the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

Jenkins’ family remembered that one of his favorite interviews actually came when he spent the day covering former President Harry S Truman in Truman’s hometown of Independence, Mo. Truman’s words to remember that “there’s no such thing as a little fellow” stuck with Jenkins.

“How many of us can attest that Ron followed that advice? As a relief staffer or being relatively clueless at taking dictation from the Capitol (guilty), he never treated you as anything but a peer.

“What a legend,” wrote AP Golf Writer Doug Ferguson, who began his career in Oklahoma City.

Survivors include his wife, Cheryl; children Dana Louis Jenkins of Midwest City, Okla., Sara Lynn Wertz of McCloud, Okla., stepson Joshua and his wife, Heather, of Choctaw, Okla.; brothers Noel Dean Crouch of Aurora, Colo., and Bobby Jenkins of Fort Smith, Ark., and 11 grandchildren.

No information was available on services.

(Written and shared by Lindel Hutson and Linda Sargent.)

## *Twist of fate involving AP reporter* **Southwest Airlines Under Fire After Pilot Says “Let’s Go Brandon” Over Intercom**

**BY DANIEL POLITI, Slate**

Southwest Airlines has vowed to investigate after at least one of its pilots uttered the words, “Let’s go Brandon” over the plane’s public address system. The phrase has

become popular as a way to insult President Joe Biden. And in a weird twist of fate, Associated Press reporter Colleen Long was writing about the increased popularity of the phrase and just happened to be on the flight. “That feeling when you’re trying to go on vacation and then the pilot says the very thing you’re working on over the loudspeaker and you have to try to get him comment but then almost get removed from plane,” Long tweeted. A TikTok video purportedly showing a Southwest pilot saying the phrase also spread like wildfire on social media, although it’s unclear whether it’s from the same flight.

Long said she heard the phrase on a Southwest flight from Houston to Albuquerque on Friday morning, noting there were “audible gasps from some passengers” when the pilot used it as a sign off to his greeting over the public address system. Long said she recognized she “probably sounded insane” because she was asking airline staff “to open a locked cockpit.” Southwest immediately said that it “takes pride in providing a welcoming, comfortable, and respectful environment” and that “behavior from any individual that is divisive or offensive is not condoned.” The airline later issued a more forceful rejection of the comment. “Southwest does not condone employees sharing their personal political opinions while on the job serving our customers, especially when comments are divisive and offensive,” the airline said.

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

And click [here](#) for Colleen Long’s story, “How ‘Let’s Go Brandon’ became code for insulting Joe Biden.” (Shared by Carl Robinson)

# Remembrances

## *Of Ely Antar*

**Harry Dunphy (Email)** - Arriving in Lebanon in 1970 on my first overseas assignment, I joined a team in Beirut under COB Roy Essoyan that included Dennis Neeld, a talented British reporter and editor, the irrepressible photo editor Harry Koundakjian and Ely Antar.

All were very helpful in getting me started, but Ely was exceptional.

He explained in detail that Beirut news gathering operation that spanned the Middle East from Iran to the gulf to Egypt, including dealing with stringers in these areas and monitoring Arabic radio broadcasts by leaders such as Egypt’s Gamel Abdul Nasser.

He took me around Beirut and introduced me to prominent political leaders, businessmen and journalists, some of whom became good friends.

When I was ready for reporting trips around the region, he provided all kinds of information and background. For example, he said, when you interview King Hussein of Jordan don’t plunge right in. The king likes small talk with reporters, asking them where they’ve been and what they have heard.

He was fun to work with and unflappable when we were dealing with big stories, sometimes standing over my shoulder as we did some of them live on the telex to London.

It was also fun hearing phone conversations with his wife, Mona, a rapid-fire mixture of Arabic, French and English. They attended my wedding to Verity in 1971, Dennis was best man and Harry took the pictures.

We kept in close touch after he left Beirut for Paris. Later when I was COB in Cairo, who should come along to replace me in 1977 - Ely Antar.

It was the smoothest transition possible. He knew the staff, spoke the language and had an apartment. All we had to do was reconcile the cash box.

As retired VP Claude Erbsen noted, he then played a major role in London expanding the AP Dow Jones news service. All of us who served in the Middle East, I think, are very grateful to Claude for taking the initiative to round up all the details and get Ely a great send-off in the obit.

## *Of the soon-to-retire Marty Crutsinger*

**Harry Dunphy ([Email](#))** - I had the privilege and the pleasure of working with Marty over a 20-year period in Washington as we did the twice-a-year meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

We first became acquainted when he visited Paris for one of the G-7 meetings with White House correspondent Terry Hunt. They were a great reporting team with skills that complemented each other. I don't think I was present at the Paris dinner where he wound up with a slab of ham, but as he noted he made it an amusing moment.

He had a formidable command of the issues in involving reporting the dismal science of economics, including making complex issues understandable to the ordinary reader.

And he said I do trade stories on my lunch hour.

We shared good times and many long hours in the IMF World Bank press room. Sometimes the story was obvious as in the Asian financial crises of the late 1990s. Other times it was not, and we had to buttonhole IMF board members to get an inkling of what was going on. The big players, the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, were not helpful and sometimes our best informants were second tier countries in Europe or Asia.

We often faced an array of competitors who had more people on the ground, but we had the satisfaction of seeing our bylined stories on back-to-back days in the Washington Post, no small achievement for wire service reporters.

Marty was great company and a good friend and I wish him and Chris (a.k.a. Mrs. Crutsinger) all the best as he heads into retirement.

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**Larry Margasak (Email)** - Marty Crutsinger's pending retirement not only would end reporting from a bedrock of AP economic coverage, but brings us closer to the end of an era in the AP's Washington staff.

When many of us arrived in the late 1970s and early 1980s, we replaced a staff from the post-World War II era. And Marty's retirement signals that our era is close to ending.

Nearly all of us at that time came from other AP bureaus, unlike today when there are plenty of competent journalists hired from other organizations. The rule in Washington was that everyone had to work the desk for two years. Those who wanted to be editors could, of course, stay there and those of us who wanted to be reporters would start lobbying long before two years were up to get off the desk (Me: "Gee, I know the overnight is important, but it's really hard to sleep in the daytime.") But the reality was, the desk work made you a much better reporter.

We arrived (1977, in my case) when we still had skilled operators to punch copy, super-fast dictationists to take in our stories from the field, typewriters and paper with several carbons. And spikes for the paper - metal that could go through the palm of your hand if you slammed the paper onto them while angry or frustrated.

When first-generation computers came along, there were so few of them that those of us on the Hill staff, for instance, had to wait in line to use one.

We covered every federal agency, and every demonstration, even if just 10 people showed up. Our assignment editor in those days simply wanted to avoid any rockets from the bureau chief or New York asking why we missed something. We had separate editors in charge of AMS and PMS, no such thing as a single 24-hour news cycle. We wrote separate stories for each cycle. I imagine that some current young staffers have no idea what I'm talking about.

I'm happy to say that by the time our group started retiring (I left in 2013 after 48 AP years) we were into the early stages of attaching video to our coverage and talking on AP television about our stories. That would seem ancient to today's all-format writing-video-photo journalists (and thank goodness we still have our world-class, award-winning Washington photo staff) but we knew we were at the start of a major change. Remember, we started with typewriters and paper copies.

Finally, nothing indicates the changes more than this. Before cell phone cameras, Washington reporters were given video cameras to take on stories. But for the really important coverage, our online video section would send a real videographer. One online video staffer who went with me several times was a very talented Julie Pace. You want change? Who would have thought, in the old days, that someone who came up as a video journalist, instead of a print staffer, would become Washington bureau chief and now, executive editor. It's a welcome change that fits today's all-format journalism.

I mentioned that our era in Washington is ALMOST gone. It hasn't disappeared yet, because a few of us remain, including editor extraordinaire Bob Furlow and congressional staff stalwart Alan Fram. Bob always made our stories better and if

another staffer would make three calls to sources, Alan would make 10. I doubt that those things have changed.

So, bye Marty. Hello journalism 2021 and beyond. AP Washington staffers: it's your era now. Make the most of it.

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***Of Rick Vernaci (and a rage-walk)***

# Richard Louis Vernaci



Born: October 10, 1953

Born into Eternal Life: October 18, 2021

*"For it is in giving that we receive."*

*—Francis of Assisi*



## Success

*To laugh often  
and much*

*To win the  
respect of  
intelligent people and the affection of  
children*

*To earn the appreciation of honest  
critics and endure the betrayal of false  
friends*

*To appreciate beauty, to find the best  
in others, to leave the world a bit  
better whether by a healthy child, a  
garden patch, or a redeemed social  
condition*

*To know even one life has breathed  
easier because you lived*

**Kathy Rizzo (Email)** – wife of Rick Vernaci, who died Oct. 18 and who worked for AP in Detroit, Bismarck and Washington – Rick's funeral was last Thursday.

About 20 minutes before it was to begin, the immediate family and friends with roles in the service are gathered in the vestibule of the church and reading the program.

I had glanced at the photos, was satisfied, and moved on.

But others read more closely and said Rick would find the typo hilarious.

Where the names of the pall bearers were listed, the church secretary spelled "pall" with a "b".

Our son said he couldn't remember the last time he'd seen me rage-walk that fast.

She corrected that and fixed October (from Octobre) and got them reprinted in time.

Alas, I realized only after taking my place in the front pew that they'd also forgotten to remove the wilted roses from a service earlier in the week.

I glared. Rick would have laughed his butt off.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Meg throws out first pitch*



**Meg Kinnard (Email)** – who recently returned to work as an AP national political writer based in Columbia, S.C., after being declared cancer free after a battle with the disease - This photo was taken at the Congressional Women’s Softball Game last Wednesday, where I ran into Dave Espo, pictured here with my kids (from left: Hannah, Alex and Adair) and me. I was asked to throw out the ceremonial first pitch, and we all had an absolute blast. Plus, the Bad News Babes won! [Here](#) is a blurb about the game which, as the story notes, raised a record amount of money for breast cancer awareness.

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*An image from the past, link to his love*



**Peter Leabo (Email)** - I had just gotten a new scanner that could scan some older film formats (pre-35mm) and Kim was asking what formats I had. Rather than trying to explain the formats, I grabbed the binder of my oldest negative sleeves and showed her. As I pulled out a page of negatives that I'd shot when I was 11 years old, I saw that there were images of Kim, her sister, and my two sisters. She thought I was kidding until I showed her the corresponding contact sheet and she was shocked. We were on a summer vacation trip in 1967 to Excelsior Springs, MO, outside Kansas City, to see my father's childhood best friend, Kim's father. With my trusty Kodak Instamatic 104, I took a couple of photos of Kim outside her grandmother's home (that was back in the days when you could get a six-state vacation on two rolls of 12-exposure film!). Kim was five years old. Little did either of us know that some 51 years later we would be married.



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## Meet Leo, 11 weeks, cub reporter



Shared by Ann Blackman ([Email](#)), who notes that Leo is the fifth Golden Retriever owned by she and husband Mike Putzel ([Email](#)) in 40 years.

*Best of the Week*

**AP investigation reveals police using force disproportionately against Black, brown children**





AP PHOTO/NAM Y. HUH

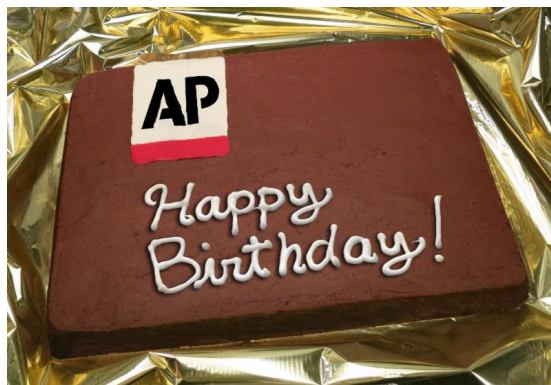
When San Francisco-based data reporter Camille Fasset obtained from a non-profit a national dataset on police use of force, she and Washington-based law enforcement team leader Colleen Long pored over the numbers. They wanted a new way into the thorny issue of police force, a well-trod topic since George Floyd's murder. Then Helen Wieffering, a Washington-based investigative fellow, hit on something — the data included numerous instances of force used against teens and kids.

The three set off to take a deeper look, and the results were stunning: Data from 25 police departments showed some 3,000 cases over the past 11 years where police used force against children, some as young as 6. The trio then filed Freedom of Information Act requests to get the reports behind the incidents. They combed through thousands of records, checking with police to confirm the ages weren't mistakes.

To put faces and voices to the numbers, AP talked to the parents and kids behind the data. The reporters spent months interviewing children, teens and adults — sensitive and difficult interviews with families still struggling with what happened. The team also secured police body camera footage that backed up the stories, and gave police time to respond to the claims.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jacqui Cook - [Jacqueline.k.cook@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.k.cook@gmail.com)

Steve Graham - [sdgraham@duckswild.com](mailto:sdgraham@duckswild.com)

## Stories of interest

### *Mexican journalist dies from wounds; 2nd slain in week* (AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Photojournalist Alfredo Cardoso died in a hospital Sunday two days after being shot in Acapulco, the second Mexican journalist to be killed during the week, a international journalism group said.

Jan Albert Hootsen, Mexico's representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists, reported Cardoso's death, saying he had direct confirmation from Cardoso's family.

Prosecutors in Acapulco said Friday that Cardoso, who worked for a news portal, had been found sitting on a city street with gunshot wounds and was taken to a hospital. According to the National Union of Press Editors and information from the family relayed by CPJ, Cardoso had been taken from his home earlier Friday by armed men.

On Thursday, reporter Fredy López Arévalo, who contributed to several local, national and foreign media outlets, was shot to death when he arrived at his home in San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas state.

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

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### ***THE ATTACK***

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's assault on American democracy began in the spring of 2020, when he issued a flurry of preemptive attacks on the integrity of the country's voting systems. The doubts he cultivated ultimately led to a rampage inside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, when a pro-Trump mob came within seconds of encountering Vice President Mike Pence, trapped lawmakers and vandalized the home of Congress in the worst desecration of the complex since British forces burned it in 1814. Five people died in the Jan. 6 attack or in the immediate aftermath, and 140 police officers were assaulted.

The consequences of that day are still coming into focus, but what is already clear is that the insurrection was not a spontaneous act nor an isolated event. It was a battle in a broader war over the truth and over the future of American democracy.

Since then, the forces behind the attack remain potent and growing. Trump emerged emboldened, fortifying his hold on the Republican Party, sustaining his election-fraud lie and driving demands for more restrictive voting laws and investigations of the 2020 results, even though they have been repeatedly affirmed by ballot reviews and the courts. A deep distrust in the voting process has spread across the country, shaking the foundation on which the American experiment was built — the shared belief that the nation's leaders are freely and fairly elected.

Read more [here](#).

**RELATED:** Letter from Washington Post Executive Editor Sally Buzbee about The Post's Jan. 6 investigation. Click [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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## ***Official: Afghan journalist survives attack by gunmen*** (AP)

By TAMEEM AKHGAR

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Gunmen on a motorcycle brandished small arms and fired on a broadcast journalist in his car in the Afghan capital of Kabul, lightly wounding him.

Ali Reza Sharifi, a journalist for Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, survived the late Friday night attack, Taliban deputy spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press.

"We are investigating to find the perpetrator," he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The assault comes just days after an Afghan media watchdog reported more than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists over the last two months, with nearly 90% committed by the Taliban.

Sharifi told the AP he was driving home when two men riding a motorcycle opened fire on his car. "A bullet fired from the left just touched my lip," he said, adding that "shredded window pieces hit my left eye."

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

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## ***Book excerpt: Steven Roberts' 'Cokie: A Life Well Lived'*** (ABC News)

*An excerpt from legendary journalist Cokie Robert's husband's new book.*

**By ABC News**

This is an excerpt from "Cokie: A Life Well Lived" by Steven V. Roberts, published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. Copyright © 2021 by Steven V. Roberts. Published with permission.

Cokie always saw herself as an advocate for women, and she used her visibility to highlight the issue of breast cancer long before she was diagnosed with the disease herself.

A turning point came in 1991, when two of her friends died of breast cancer in the same week.

As she told journalist Ali Rogin: "They were in adjoining rooms in the funeral home. The masses were staggered so everybody could go to both. And I just got mad. I wrote an op-ed for the Washington Post that was picked up around the country. At that point the funding for all of cancer and all of heart disease combined was less than the funding for AIDS. And of course I'm for AIDS funding but that was because of advocacy. I do remember doing Nightline one night when I was the anchor, and there was some new data out on breast cancer. I insisted on doing a whole show on it, and they basically treated me like I wasn't there, like I was just invisible. And everybody was just eye rolling. I remember saying to the executive producer, 'You know men really might care because they want somebody to fold their socks.' And of course, it turned out to be an incredibly well-watched show because it affects so many people."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.



## **Celebrating AP's 175th**

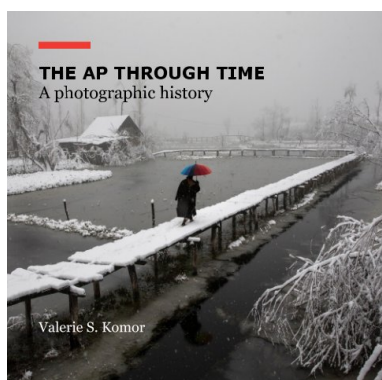
## AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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 - Nov. 1, 2021



## By The Associated Press

**Today is Monday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2021. There are 60 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Nov. 1, 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

### **On this date:**

In 1478, the Spanish Inquisition was established.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

In 1949, an Eastern Airlines DC-4 collided in midair with a Lockheed P-38 fighter plane near Washington National Airport, killing all 55 people aboard the DC-4 and seriously injuring the pilot of the P-38.

In 1950, two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to force their way into Blair House in Washington, D.C., in a failed attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman. (One of the pair was killed, along with a White House police officer.)

In 1952, the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb, code-named "Ivy Mike," at Enewetak (en-ih-WEE'-tahk) Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1973, following the "Saturday Night Massacre," Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork appointed Leon Jaworski to be the new Watergate special prosecutor, succeeding Archibald Cox.

In 1989, East Germany reopened its border with Czechoslovakia, prompting tens of thousands of refugees to flee to the West.

In 1991, Clarence Thomas took his place as the newest justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1995, Bosnia peace talks opened in Dayton, Ohio, with the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia present.

In 2003, Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean stirred controversy within his party by telling the Des Moines (duh-MOYN') Register he wanted to be "the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks." (The former Vermont governor explained that he intended to encourage the return of Southern voters who had abandoned the Democrats for decades but were disaffected with the Republicans.)

In 2015, the Kansas City Royals won their first World Series crown since 1985, beating the New York Mets 7-2 in Game 5, which lasted 12 innings, ending after midnight.

Ten years ago: Europe's days-old plan to solve its crippling debt crisis and restore faith in the global economy was thrown into chaos by Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou's stunning decision to call a referendum on the country's latest rescue package. (Papandreou dropped the referendum plan two days later.) Dorothy Rodham, 92, mother of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton's mother-in-law, died in Washington.

Five years ago: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon fired the commander of the peacekeeping force in South Sudan after an independent investigation sharply criticized the military response to deadly attacks in July on a U.N. compound housing 27,000 displaced people. Most of an African-American church in Greenville, Mississippi, was destroyed by an arson fire; the building was spray-painted with the words "Vote Trump." (A member of the church later pleaded guilty to arson and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.) The Chicago Cubs forced a deciding Game 7 in the World Series as they defeated the Cleveland Indians 9-3.

One year ago: Two days before Election Day, the Texas Supreme Court denied a Republican-led petition to toss nearly 127,000 ballots cast at drive-thru voting places in the Houston area. (A federal judge also rejected that effort the following day.)

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player is 86. Country singer Bill Anderson is 84. Actor Barbara Bosson is 82. Actor Robert Foxworth is 80. Country singer-humorist Kinky Friedman is 77. Actor Jeannie Berlin is 72. Music producer David Foster is 72. Actor Belita Moreno is 72. Country singer-songwriter-producer Keith Stegall is 67. Country singer Lyle Lovett is 64. Actor Rachel Ticotin is 63. Apple CEO Tim Cook is 61. Actor Helene Udy is 60. Pop singer-musician Mags Furuholmen (a-ha) 59. Rock singer Anthony Kiedis (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 59. Rock musician Rick Allen (Def Leppard) is 58. Country singer "Big Kenny" Alphin (Big and Rich) is 58. Singer Sophie B. Hawkins is 57. Rapper Willie D (Geto Boys) is 55. Country musician Dale Wallace (Emerson Drive) is 52. Actor Toni Collette is 49. Actor-talk show host Jenny McCarthy is 49. Actor David Berman is 48. Actor Aishwarya Rai (ash-WAHR'-ee-ah reye) is 48. Rock singer Bo Diddley is 46. Actor Matt Jones is 40. Actor Natalia Tena is 37. Actor Penn Badgley is 35. Actor Max Burkholder is 24. Actor-musician Alex Wolff 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.



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