

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting November 10, 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 Wednesday morning on this Nov. 10, 2021,

It was a unique assignment for Los Angeles newswoman **Linda Deutsch**.

It was late April of 1975 and the Vietnam War was nearing an end when the AP dispatched her to Guam – an island that was to be the evacuation point for thousands of Vietnamese refugees who were expected to flee within days. On April 30, Saigon fell and the exodus began and she was the lone AP reporter when ships began arriving and a tent city began filling up. It would eventually hold 50,000 refugees at a time and more than 100,000 would move through there.

Her assignment was also to locate and ensure the safety of 46 Vietnamese AP staffers evacuated with their families. Among them was the then recent Pulitzer Prize winner **Nick Ut** and famed photographer **Dang van Phuoc**, his wife and children including a newborn daughter.

Fast forward to the present day, when Linda received an email from an old friend she had met during her six-week assignment on Guam. Back then, she was caught up in the search for two young members of an AP family who seemed to have disappeared during the refugee transfer. She remembers the ensuing drama as a life-altering experience for all of them. Now the woman she knew as a teen-ager was a grandmother and she was visiting California. Of course, they had to meet. Linda brings us the story of that reunion in today's lead story.

ARE YOU A VETERAN? Connecting plans to publish tomorrow - Veterans Day 2021 – a listing of Connecting colleagues who have served in the military. If that's you, please send me your name, branch of service, and years served - and briefly, please, the biggest life's lesson learned from your service. Thanks to those who have already responded.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Their reunion harkens back to evacuation of Vietnamese refugees at end of Vietnam War



Phuong and her husband Alex with Linda Deutsch in photo taken last week.

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - Some stories that we cover vanish from memory quickly and others, which change our lives, return over the years to remind us how important they were. So it was last week when I was reunited with Phuong Robinson, a woman I met 46 years ago during the most traumatic time of her young life.

In late April of 1975 I was dispatched to Guam to cover the impending end of the Vietnam War. Guam was to be the evacuation point for thousands of Vietnamese refugees who were expected to flee within days. On April 30, Saigon fell and the exodus began. I was the lone AP reporter on Guam when ships began arriving and a tent city began filling up. It would eventually hold 50,000 refugees at a time and more than 100,000 would move through there. I stayed for six weeks.

My assignment was not just to cover the story but to locate and ensure the safety of 46 Vietnamese AP staffers evacuated with their families. Among them was the then recent Pulitzer Prize winner Nick Ut and famed photographer Dang van Phuoc, his wife and children including a newborn daughter. The bureau's beloved secretary, Miss Tu, also was there, as were numerous mainstays of the Saigon bureau. The goal was to get them out of Guam to the United States. Most of them had no identification papers.

Before long, I realized I had an even greater challenge. Another AP Pulitzer winner, photographer Sal Veder, arrived to back up my coverage. He told me he had just encountered a woman at the airport in great distress. She was Kim-Dung Robinson, the wife of AP Saigon photographer Carl Robinson, and Sal said she was shivering and crying so hard he could barely get her story. It turned out she had left Saigon separately from Carl, fleeing with their two children to Laos. He was evacuated aboard a Navy ship with her teen-age niece and nephew, Phuong and Vinh. And now she could not find them. She had left their children in Laos with family while she came to Guam to search for the missing teen-agers.



(G AM) AGANA, Guam, May 12-(AP) Mrs. Kim Dung Robinson, left, wife of AP writer Carl Robinson, is reunited with her adopted daughter, Hong Phuong, 15, and brother, Phan Tan Vinh, 22, at evacuee center Guam Monday. On her lap Mrs. Robinson holds Phan Nguyen Dlem Ai. (AP RADIOPHOTO) (s/jv/str) 1975

Phan Tan Vinh 22, at Crote Pt. Evacuee center Guam Monday. On her lap Mrs. Robinson holds Phan Nguyen Diem Ai. (AP RADIO PHOTO) (sjv/stf) 1975.

(Connecting Editor's note: sjv are initials for Sal Veder, the AP photographer who took this photo (and a Connecting colleague). Accuracy of ages in caption is uncertain. The child in Kim's lap is unrelated to anyone in the photo. She was included at the last moment because Vietnamese consider it unlucky to have three people in a picture.)

The story was dramatic. When Carl's ship arrived in the Philippines, he was in agony with what turned out to be an appendicitis. He was offloaded to a hospital, leaving the two young relatives behind. He would recall later that he gave them one stern instruction: "Wherever you wind up, stay there. Don't let them keep moving you around or we won't be able to find you."

Kim and I began our search for them by going to the Navy headquarters every morning to check the endless lists of names of refugees as they arrived on Guam. We were sure that the kids who were using the surname Robinson would be easy to find. But for two weeks we came up blank. Meanwhile, Kim and I became great friends, dining together every night, and I learned more about the war and the Vietnamese culture from her than I had anywhere else. I managed to get most of the AP people moved out to Camp Pendleton in California. But still no sign of Phuong and Vinh. We were starting to lose hope.

Then, one day, Kim and I were making our usual check of new lists when a man approached us.

"You wouldn't happen to be looking for two young people who refuse to leave here, would you?" He asked.

"Yes, Yes," we both screamed. "Where are they?"

He said he would take us to them. We called Sal and a short time later were at their tent with him taking a historic picture of the reunion. Phuong was 14 and Vinh was 17. Everyone cried. We found out they had been there for weeks. We asked if we could bring them something to eat from town. They said they craved Kentucky Fried Chicken. We provided that and other treats while we began the process of getting them out.

Carl and Kim and I remained friends over the years. When they first landed in Los Angeles they came to my home and she cooked me a Vietnamese meal. They moved to Australia, and I heard that Phuong went with them. But I heard nothing from Phuong until about 15 years ago when she sent me an email with a clipping attached. It was the picture (below) of her and Vinh on the day we found them and she said she wanted to thank me for rescuing her. I cried.



Phuong and Vinh standing by a wall while they were waiting to get on a plane to be evacuated from Saigon.

A few years later she and her boyfriend were in Los Angeles and we had a meal with some other journalists. She had settled in Washington, D.C. and we kept in touch. When I spoke at the Newseum there, she came. But we had little time alone to really connect.

And now, 46 years after we met, I received an email from Phuong. She and her husband (the boyfriend I had met long ago) were coming to California to see their newest grandchild born during the pandemic. Could we get together? I was so excited. I invited them to my home for dinner, just the three of us. And the conversation went on for hours until they had to leave to return to their daughter's home. We shared memories and I told her in detail the story of how her aunt and I searched for them every day and how miraculous it was to find them. She showed me pictures of her wedding to husband Alex and there in the photos were Carl, Kim and Vinh, older and happier, survivors of war.

Several times, at my dining room table, Phuong took my hand and said, "I can't believe I'm sitting here with you."

It felt like we were family and in a way we are. We were brought together by our ties to the AP family and a war that tossed her into my world. I'm sure we will meet again.

Personal Ring of Honor for Denne Freeman



ARLINGTON, Texas - Retired Texas AP sports editor Denne Freeman (left) displays his championship-style ring as a new member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Freeman joined Rod Richardson (right) and other current and former Associated Press staffers on Sept. 18, 2021, during the AP Connecting Regional Reunion in Arlington, Texas.

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) - Happy 85th birthday on Tuesday to my longtime pal retired Texas AP Sports Editor Denne Freeman! (See Tuesday's Connecting)

I'm not exactly sure when my venerable friend started calling me "Diana-mite," but I immediately recognized it as a personal reference of affection combining my name with the word dynamite.

Ditto, Denne.

He's the guy who generated thousands of stories during more than 30 years as Texas AP sports editor, combining his energy and love for the games with an easy-going but precise writing style.

I'll never forget asking Denne, many moons ago – what is your favorite event to cover? I thought he'd mention the Dallas Cowboys and Super Bowls, or maybe the glory days of pitching ace Nolan Ryan.

I was surprised when Denne said The Masters, because he sometimes was allowed to play the course.

Spoken like a true golf dude!

Denne and his wife, Judy, were among the more than 60 attendees at the September AP Connecting Regional Reunion in Arlington, Texas.

Denne, never one to draw undue attention to himself, at one point said he wanted to show me something – and produced a massive ring honoring him as a member of the Texas Sports of Hall of Fame in Waco. [8 new media members to join the Texas Sports HOF - Texas Sports Hall of Fame](#)

Denne, following the reunion, sent me a lovely thank-you email and included this message: “To have worked for the AP created somewhat of a brother and sisterhood for our deadline every minute jobs. And we got to share those memories perhaps one final time.”

You are beloved, Denne. The world is a better place with you here.

-0-

Doug Tucker (Email) – *longtime AP Kansas City sports writer* - Eighty-five years old and still as sharp as the tip of one of those long horns on a Texas cow! Looks like I’ve found one more reason to admire Denne Freeman.

The late Dave Goldberg, AP’s great New York-based NFL writer, once imparted some sound advice to a young staffer just beginning to cover sports in Kansas City.

“If you want to see how to write a football game story,” Dave told me, “Read Denne Freeman’s stuff. I can’t tell you how much he’s taught me.”

Denne crafted so many terrific ledes he couldn’t possibly remember them all. One that always stuck in my mind concerned the Texas Rangers, who tired of feuding with volatile Billy Martin and fired him as manager. It was the third time Martin had been dismissed and he swore he was through for good.

Denny’s lede:

“Billy Martin says it’s three strikes and he is out of baseball.”

Happy birthday, Denne.

-0-

Sylvia Wingfield (Email) - Happy Birthday to Denne Freeman, an awesome colleague and a dear friend. Will and I so enjoyed spending time with him and Judy at our Dallas Connecting Reunion this fall.

We finally got to see the Texas Sports Hall of Fame ring he received for his “super” years leading AP’s Texas sports coverage — and scoring his own competitive wins. His writing flair also made his



weekly “Freeman File” column one of the most popular fixtures with Texas AP members and sports fans around the state.

As important to all of us, Denne helped make the Dallas bureau a congenial place to work, and his advice came with Texas humor:

_ “Sometimes you just have to grind corn to make tortillas.” As in, we all need to discipline ourselves for the less-than-fun routine.

_ “Don’t get behind; you never know when a hurricane will hit.” As in, stay organized for a plane crash, or a disastrous crowd surge at a rap concert at Astroworld.

Connecting mailbox

North Carolina scenes



Hank Ackerman ([Email](#)) - Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain, NC, looking NW to 6,000 ft Craggy Dome as Appalachians undergo leaf changes.

RIGHT: On a sunny day with Greybeard Mountain (5,400 ft) in background! (We

are very fortunate to have this view when we walk mornings!)

-0-

Remember this essential darkroom tool?



Ed Williams (Email) - Vintage darkroom timer. I loved working in the darkroom. No phones in there. No people. Just me, the film, chemicals and pictures. Magic being made.

Walter Cronkite made a name for himself covering World War II



Walter Cronkite, right, with the crew of B-26 "U.S.O." (Imperial War Museum)

By Marc Lancaster
WW2 on Deadline

Walter Cronkite's path to becoming "the most trusted man in America" began during World War II.

Far from the venerable elder statesman who became a television fixture decades later, the young Missourian -- born Nov. 4, 1916 -- was a United Press correspondent eager to get near the action. He would end up seeing plenty.

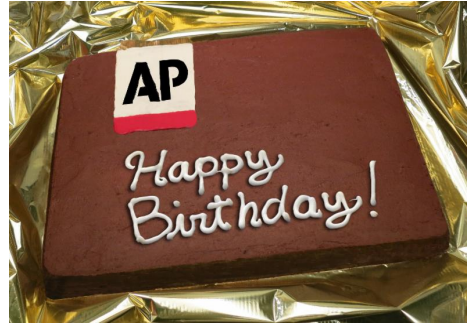
Beginning with coverage of transatlantic convoys in 1942, Cronkite proved a reliable workhorse for UP throughout the war. He covered Operation Torch, the Allied landing in North Africa, that fall, but later carved out a niche with his reporting on the air war.

In early 1943, Cronkite and seven other correspondents in England (including his future CBS colleague Andy Rooney) got approval from the Eighth Air Force to accompany bombing missions -- an opportunity they had sought for some time. As a prerequisite, the men went through an intensive but abbreviated boot camp in which

they learned how to use parachutes and fire .50-caliber machine guns, though the Geneva Convention did not permit non-combatants to use weapons.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Eva Parziale – eparziale@ap.org

Stories of interest

Brian Williams Says He's Leaving NBC News (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

Brian Williams, the square-jawed news anchor laid low by a fabulism scandal who mounted a career comeback with a popular 11 p.m. talk show on MSNBC, announced on Tuesday that he would step down from his program after a five-year run and depart NBC News entirely at the end of the year.

The exit of Mr. Williams, whose contract is set to expire next month, comes amid a ratings decline in the cable news industry and restlessness among some of MSNBC's star personnel. Rachel Maddow, the network's top-rated anchor, is expected to refocus soon on projects outside her nightly prime-time show, although she has announced no formal plans.

"Following much reflection, and after 28 years with the company, I have decided to leave NBC upon the completion of my current contract in December," Mr. Williams wrote in a statement on Tuesday. "I have been truly blessed. I have been allowed to spend almost half of my life with one company. NBC is a part of me and always will be."

Mr. Williams revealed no immediate plans for a new on-air role. "This is the end of a chapter and the beginning of another," he wrote. "There are many things I want to do, and I'll pop up again somewhere."

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

-0-

James Duffy, former ABC Television Network president, dies (Chicago Tribune)

By BOB GOLDSBOROUGH

James E. Duffy started with ABC Radio in Chicago in 1949 and went on to become the president of ABC Television Network for 15 years in the 1970s and '80s.

Duffy, 95, died of heart failure Sept. 29 at his home in Bradenton, Florida, said his longtime partner, Julie Baker.

Born in Decatur, Duffy graduated from Oak Park & River Forest High School in 1944. After a hitch with the Army Air Forces, he received a bachelor's degree in English from Beloit College in 1949 while also working as an announcer at radio station WBNB in Beloit.

Shortly after graduating, Duffy joined ABC in Chicago as a publicity writer for radio and TV shows including "Don McNeill's Breakfast Club" and Studs Terkel's "Studs' Place" TV show. He moved to New York in 1960 after being named director of sales for the ABC Radio Network.

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

-0-

Tow Center study captures local news life (Editor and Publisher)

Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher

Last year, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Columbia University's Tow Center for Digital Journalism hosted an online survey to understand better what professional life is like for people who own or work at small-market newspapers around the country. The survey delved into topics like COVID-19's impact on the news business; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); business models and innovation; social media, platform distinctions, professional development and other timely concerns.

Damian Radcliffe and Ryan Wallace spent the time since compiling and analyzing the results. Wallace is a researcher and doctoral candidate at the University of Texas School of Journalism. Radcliffe, a journalism professor at the University of Oregon and a Fellow at Columbia University's Tow Center for Digital Journalism, shared the results of their study with Editor & Publisher (E&P).

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.



Celebrating AP's 175th

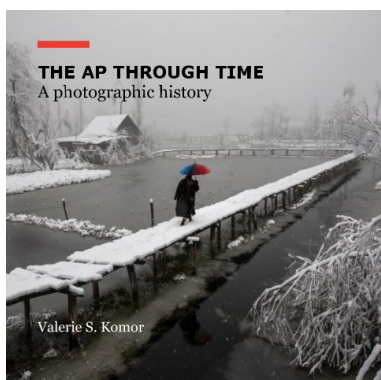
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 10, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2021. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 10, 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

On this date:

In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis.

In 1928, Hirohito (hee-roh-hee-toh) was enthroned as Emperor of Japan.

In 1944, during World War II, the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood (AE-11) exploded while moored at the Manus Naval Base in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific, leaving 45 confirmed dead and 327 missing and presumed dead.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991).

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication. Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

In 2006, actor Jack Palance died in Montecito, California, at age 87.

In 2009, John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of the 2002 sniper attacks that killed 10 in the Washington, D.C. region, was executed. President Barack Obama visited Fort Hood, Texas, where he somberly saluted the 13 Americans killed in a shooting rampage, and pledged that the killer would be “met with justice — in this world, and the next.”

In 2017, facing allegations of sexual misconduct, comedian Louis C.K. said the harassment claims by five women that were detailed in a New York Times report “are true,” and he expressed remorse for using his influence “irresponsibly.”

In 2018, President Donald Trump, in France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, canceled a visit to a cemetery east of Paris where Americans killed in that war are buried; rainy weather had grounded the presidential helicopter. Authorities in Northern California said 14 additional bodies had been found in the ruins from a fire that virtually destroyed the town of Paradise.

Ten years ago: The National Archives released a transcript of former President Richard Nixon’s June 1975 grand jury testimony after a judge ordered the government to do so; in it, a feisty and cagey Nixon defended his legacy and Watergate-era actions.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump took a triumphant tour of the nation’s capital, where he held a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama, sketched out priorities with Republican congressional leaders and took in the majestic view from where he would be sworn in to office.

One year ago: Democrat Cal Cunningham conceded defeat to Republican Thom Tillis in their North Carolina Senate race; Democrats would now have to win both runoff races in Georgia in January in order to seize Senate control. (The Democrats would win both.) The U.S. hit a record number of coronavirus hospitalizations and surpassed 1 million new confirmed cases in just the first 10 days of November amid a nationwide surge of infections. A Vatican investigation found that bishops, cardinals and popes downplayed or dismissed reports of sexual misconduct by former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick; much of the blame went to Pope John Paul II, who appointed McCarrick archbishop of Washington, D.C. in 2000 despite an investigation that confirmed he had slept with seminarians. Tommy Heinsohn, who as a Boston Celtics player, coach and broadcaster over more than 60 years was with the team for all 17 of its NBA championships, died at 86.

Today’s Birthdays: Blues singer Bobby Rush is 87. Actor Albert Hall is 84. Country singer Donna Fargo is 80. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 78. Lyricist Tim Rice is 77. Actor Jack Scalia is 71. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 66. Actor Matt Craven is

65. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 65. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 62. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 61. Actor Vanessa Angel is 58. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 58. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 58. Actor Michael Jai (jy) White is 57. Country singer Chris Cagle is 53. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 53. Actor Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) is 52. Actor-comedian Orny Adams is 51. Rapper U-God is 51. Rapper-producer Warren G is 51. Actor Walton Goggins is 50. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 47. Contemporary Christian singer Matt Maher is 47. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 46. Rapper Eve is 43. Rock musician Chris Joannou (joh-AN'-yoo) (Silverchair) is 42. Actor Heather Matarazzo is 39. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 38. Actor Josh Peck is 35. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 31. Actor Genevieve Buechner is 30. Actor Zoey Deutch (DOYCH) is 27. Actor Kiernan Shipka is 22. Actor Mackenzie Foy is 21.

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