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## Connecting November 17, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Nov. 17, 2021,

With sadness we bring news of the death of colleague **Paul Webster**, a highly respected Communications executive during his career with The Associated Press.

Paul, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, died on Nov. 10 – two days after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and a day before Veterans Day.

We will bring you further information when available. If you have a favorite memory to share about Paul, please send it along.

Connecting's annual books edition published Tuesday got nice reviews from several colleagues. Said **Hank Ackerman**, "What a gift, your rundown of books published by Connectors!" And from **Ray Newton**, "Gave me a good reading list for the holidays."

The PBS documentary, Storm Lake, aired Monday night, telling the story of its local newspaper and Pulitzer Prize-winning editor Art Cullen. It can be viewed by clicking [here](#). "It'll remind many of people of what local news means," said colleague **Peggy Walsh**. Another colleague, **Chris Connell**, called it "extraordinary."

AP Executive Editor **Julie Pace** announced Tuesday the appointment of three journalists to the News leadership team. We congratulate them.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Paul Webster dies; served in AP Communications for 39 years

Paul Webster, who began his AP career as a technician in New York and climbed to the position of Communications Executive in New York headquarters, died Nov. 10 at Northside Hospital Cherokee in Canton, Ga.

Webster, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, died two days after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and a day before Veterans Day.

"'Reliable' was the word that came to mind when I heard Paul Webster's name," said Lou Boccardi, AP's president and CEO from 1985-2003. "No show-boating, no flash, just get it done...and he did. Kinda the AP way."

Webster retired from the AP Jan. 1, 1997, after a 39-year career that began in 1958 with technician positions in New York Communications and the Miami bureau, Assistant Chief of Communications in Atlanta, Assistant Communications Manager in New York and Communications Executive in New York.

Survivors include his wife Doris Webster, daughters Karen Webster (Paul Foretich) and Kristine Webster, granddaughters and great grandsons - Stephanie Kroll, Sharon and James Seiter, Eric and Adam Seiter, grandson Shaun Kroll and brother Dennis Webster.

Click [here](#) for his obituary.



## Additions to AP's news leadership team announced Tuesday

Executive Editor Julie Pace announced Tuesday three key additions to AP's news leadership team. Here is her memo to staff:

In September, we announced a new leadership structure for News, including new positions overseeing global news gathering, global news production and global beats coverage. The goal of this structure is to increase our competitiveness across formats, particularly on breaking news; modernize our production processes; deliver high-impact investigative and enterprise work; and create more growth opportunities for our staff around the world. In short, we want to make it easier for you, the journalists of The Associated Press, to do the kind of work you came here to do.

I'm very pleased to announce new additions to the team that will help lead this effort.

**Paul Haven** will serve as vice president and head of global news gathering. In this new position, Paul will launch the daily news report across all formats, with a focus on identifying and elevating the day's top stories. Paul brings to this position considerable experience across the AP, particularly in some of our most important international locations. He served as AP's bureau chief for Afghanistan and Pakistan, for Spain and Portugal, and in Cuba, before becoming news director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2018, Paul has overseen the Top Stories Hub, creating a new standard for competitiveness and excellence across our lead stories of the day and expanding the desk's focus on visuals and digital presentation.



**Derl McCrudden** takes on the new role of vice president and head of global news production, overseeing the output and production of AP's daily news report across all formats. Derl will lead an effort to modernize this vital arm of the News department, with a focus on speed and the changing demands of a digital audience. Derl will continue to be based in London, where he has overseen AP's global video and audio operations since 2018, leading efforts to expand our video footprint around the world and reach into new areas, including streaming. His creativity and deep technical knowledge also helped our video and audio departments

seamlessly transition to fully remote work at the beginning of the pandemic, one of the most challenging operational hurdles we faced at the time.

Finally, **Michael Giarrusso** will serve as deputy head of global news gathering for global beats, reporting to Paul, and overseeing teams covering Sports, Entertainment, Health and Science, Business and Religion. Since 2013, Michael has served as AP's global sports editor, leading one of our most innovative, well-sourced and audience-focused teams. He'll bring that same approach to our coverage of the other global beats, all of which drive significant news around the world. Michael has also long been a leading force at the AP on diversity and inclusion efforts, including co-leading the formation of our successful Inclusion Champions program, and will continue to be an important adviser to me on this front.



As Paul, Derl and Michael assume their new roles, Maria Sanminiatelli will serve as interim head of the Top Stories hub; Tanja Popovic will oversee Global Video on an interim basis; and Howie Rumberg will serve as interim head of global sports.

As we build out our new structure in News, we'll have more leadership opportunities available to staff around the world. We also have numerous news gathering and production positions open right now. To help ensure that we can quickly identify the right journalists for these jobs, we'll be hiring a Director of Talent in News - a leader who will lead our external recruitment efforts and work with AP journalists to identify growth opportunities at the company. One of their first priorities next year, in partnership with Human Resources, will be the resumption of a Future Leaders program, aimed in particular at increasing leadership training and opportunities for women and journalists of color.

Click [here](#) for link to this announcement. Shared by Patrick Maks.

## An update on Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Jim Reindl (Email)** - Terry Petty's engaging account (in Monday's Connecting) of his tours of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) during the war years inspired me to provide an update on the situation in BiH. I've been working here for USAID since August 2020.

The politics of the Bosnian war years, 1992-1995, never have fully evolved from the tensions that led to the war, which is to say there were the politics, then the war, and then a return to the political divisions that sparked the conflict. A single word can describe the political environment today: deteriorating.

A brief and oversimplified history lesson for those who need it. Following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in 1991, what was then the Socialist Republic of BiH held a referendum on independence. BiH was and is a multi-ethnic country composed of Serbs (Eastern Orthodox), Bosniaks (Muslim), and Croats (Catholic). Serbs boycotted the referendum and mobilized forces to create a Serbian enclave. The resulting war played out worldwide on CNN. The 1995 Dayton peace accord consecrated the Republika Srpska (RS) and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH). The guns have been silent for 25 years.

The politics, fueled by ethno-nationalist and religious-cultural divisions, have been as loud as ever. Today they are growing louder, due largely to threats from the RS leadership to secede. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs recently completed a diplomatic mission here and felt compelled to create a video for social media with a direct message: "There will be no war."

Other observers aren't so certain that if not war, at least outbreaks of violence are growing increasingly more probable.

The catalyst for moving from 25 years of relative peace to secession and violence talk, was a decision in the summer by the outgoing High Representative (also a product of Dayton), who imposed a law making it a crime to deny genocide. The low point of the war was the three-day genocide inflicted upon more than 8,000 Bosniak men and

boys in and around the eastern town of Srebrenica. RS politicians have always met talk of genocide with the challenge that there were war crimes on both sides. And now, talk of secession.

There is more complexity to the situation than I have taken space or time to explain. Local English language media is full of finger pointing, theories, blame and a few seemingly constructive suggestions. The EU and the USA have taken lumps for being less than fully engaged, though what "fully engaged" looks like is a matter of opinion.

My Bosnian friends are concerned but also see this as more of the same. They know the tensions that spawned a devastating war have never fully eased. From my perspective, I sincerely hope that no modern-day Terry Petty ends up with an engaging story to tell from a new conflict. This beautiful country and its people will be the losers of that one — again.

## The Chemo Chronicles: Week 3

**Mike Tharp** ([Email](#)) - It's official!

I'm done with three week-long tranches of chemotherapy for bone marrow cancer. Three weeks between each session.

We marked the holiday in an original way. As I was pushing my walker to the car, Jeralyn leading as per, my shorts fell down to my knees. (I've lost 30 pounds in five months and am back to my college playing weight of 180.) Luckily, I had on black Equipo undies, which seemed to distract the lady in the wheelchair who had witnessed the spectacle. I pulled 'em up and pushed on. That's how we roll.

Anyway, I'm lucky. I get two shots in my belly. It takes 25-30 seconds to empty the needle. Other patients have to sit for hours in one of 17 recliners on the first floor of the Texas Oncology Clinic. They also serve who only sit and wait while one kind of poison drips from a plastic bag hanging from a trolley into their veins.

Inside, the dangerous dope will seek and destroy cancerous cells, like Pac-Man chasing the dots in a video game. It can cause such side effects as hair loss, nausea and mouth sores. My chemo is Azacitidine.

For us lucky few on this chemo, the effects are less severe. Still have my George Clooney locks, but I throw up like clockwork--four to five hours later, I feel like Brother Love in Neil Diamond's hit: "...Starting soft and slow/Like a small earthquake." Then when I let go, not much happens besides the dry heaves. Like any college kid who's been overserved, I can handle that.

What I can't handle is the fatigue. I'm tired all the time. Besides the walker, I'm tethered to a portable oxygen device. My cancer destroys red blood cells that normally carry oxygen to the lungs. I'm constantly short of breath. That was the symptom that tipped off my platoon of doctors that all was not right with this 76-year-old. Dr. K, my oncologist, suggested a bone marrow test.

Voila! Cancer! I had had prostate cancer in 2005, so it didn't freak me out. I considered it another way Agent Orange (or Blue or any of the other rainbow defoliants I encountered as a soldier in Vietnam a half-century ago) still clutched me in its grip.

The fatigue affects everything I do--and most of what I can't do. Saint Jeralyn has picked up the slack like Saint Christopher carrying that child across the river.

The prognosis: Who TF knows? I'm off three weeks, then go back Dec. 10 for five days of needles. Then three weeks off. Then rinse and repeat.

We won't know for awhile. The possibilities: 1)continued chemo; 2)bone marrow transplants, if a match can be found; 3)cure; 4)hospice.

I was a career gym-rat. Besides playing college basketball and everywhere I've lived, I ran distance, including a 3:25 marathon at age 36. After my Agent Orange neuropathy set in 11 years ago, and took away feeling in my feet, I hit the gym three days a week to push weights around for an hour.

We'll see if any of that macho stuff helps me live longer.

Crossing fingers, legs and eyes for this one.

If I make it, it'll be because of Jeralyn.

Wish us luck.

Meanwhile comma peace.

(Mike Tharp is a Connecting colleague and veteran newspaper journalist.)

## Kristallnacht: The night the world took notice

**Marc Lancaster**  
**World War II On Deadline**

Shortly after 9:35 a.m. on Nov. 7, 1938, a teenage refugee from Poland named Herschel Grynszpan talked his way into the second-floor office of Ernst vom Rath, a German diplomat working at his country's embassy in Paris.

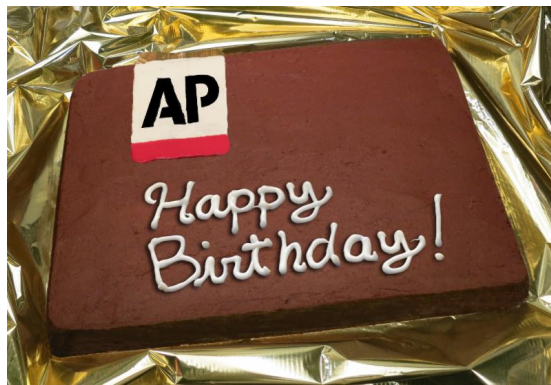
Grynszpan, 17, had been born in Germany but was a citizen of Poland, his parents' birthplace. The family was Jewish, and that was the reason behind Grynszpan's visit to the embassy that morning. Two weeks earlier, German officials had ordered the deportation of all Polish Jews in the country, and the Grynszpans were among those rounded up and put on trains to Poland.

Herschel had moved to Paris in the fall of 1936 but had been living in France illegally for more than a year when he walked into the embassy at 78 Rue de Lille within days of hearing about his family's plight. Earlier that morning, the teenager had bought a gun and written a farewell note to his parents on a postcard, which he put in the pocket of his full-length raincoat.

He went to the embassy and asked to see the ambassador, Johannes von Welczeck, but was instead directed to vom Rath, a junior secretary. After making some sort of statement to the diplomat about avenging his countrymen, Grynspan pulled out the pistol and fired at vom Rath from point blank range.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Robert Dobkin - [dobkinbob@gmail.com](mailto:dobkinbob@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### *China, US to ease restrictions on each other's journalists* (AP)

BEIJING (AP) — China and the U.S. have agreed to ease restrictions on each other's journalists amid a slight relaxation of tensions between the two sides.

The official China Daily newspaper on Wednesday said the agreement was reached ahead of Tuesday's virtual summit between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden.

The agreement represents a degree of progress on an issue that has long aggravated relations, but details remain to be ironed out. COVID-19 travel restrictions and long-standing obstacles faced by foreign media within China are also factors standing in the way of a major breakthrough in media relations.

Under the agreement, the U.S. will issue one-year multiple-entry visas to Chinese journalists and will immediately initiate a process to address “duration of status” issues, China Daily said. China will reciprocate by granting equal treatment to U.S. journalists once the U.S. policies take effect, and both sides will issue media visas for new applicants “based on relevant laws and regulations,” the report said.

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

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## ***Richardson adds to diplomatic wins with journalist’s release*** (AP)

By WILL WEISSERT and ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Richardson’s success in helping secure journalist Danny Fenster’s release from a Myanmar prison is the latest demonstration of the former New Mexico governor’s knack for flying into some of the most closed societies on earth and persuading those in charge to do Washington a favor.

From Iraq to Sudan to North Korea, Richardson has repeatedly proven willing to talk with dictators, military juntas and reclusive strongmen — forging relationships with notorious regimes outside formal diplomatic channels.

“I think there was a certain amount of trust between myself and the commanding general,” Richardson told reporters in New York on Tuesday, referring to Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar’s ruler. “I treated him with respect, he treated me with respect.”

Richardson’s missions have often come with the blessing of Democratic presidents, though their open public endorsement is rarer until after the fact. Striking that balance allows foreign officials to believe they are talking to someone who can be an informal conduit to top U.S. authorities even as the administration says publicly it won’t negotiate with rogue states.

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

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## ***Maryland newsman posthumously ousted from media hall of fame over ‘viciously racist’ coverage*** (Baltimore Sun)

By JONATHAN M. PITTS

A newsman who helped shape public opinion on Maryland’s Eastern Shore for decades during the mid-20th century has been stripped of one of the region’s top professional honors after a review of his work found writings that were “viciously racist” and even promoted lynching.



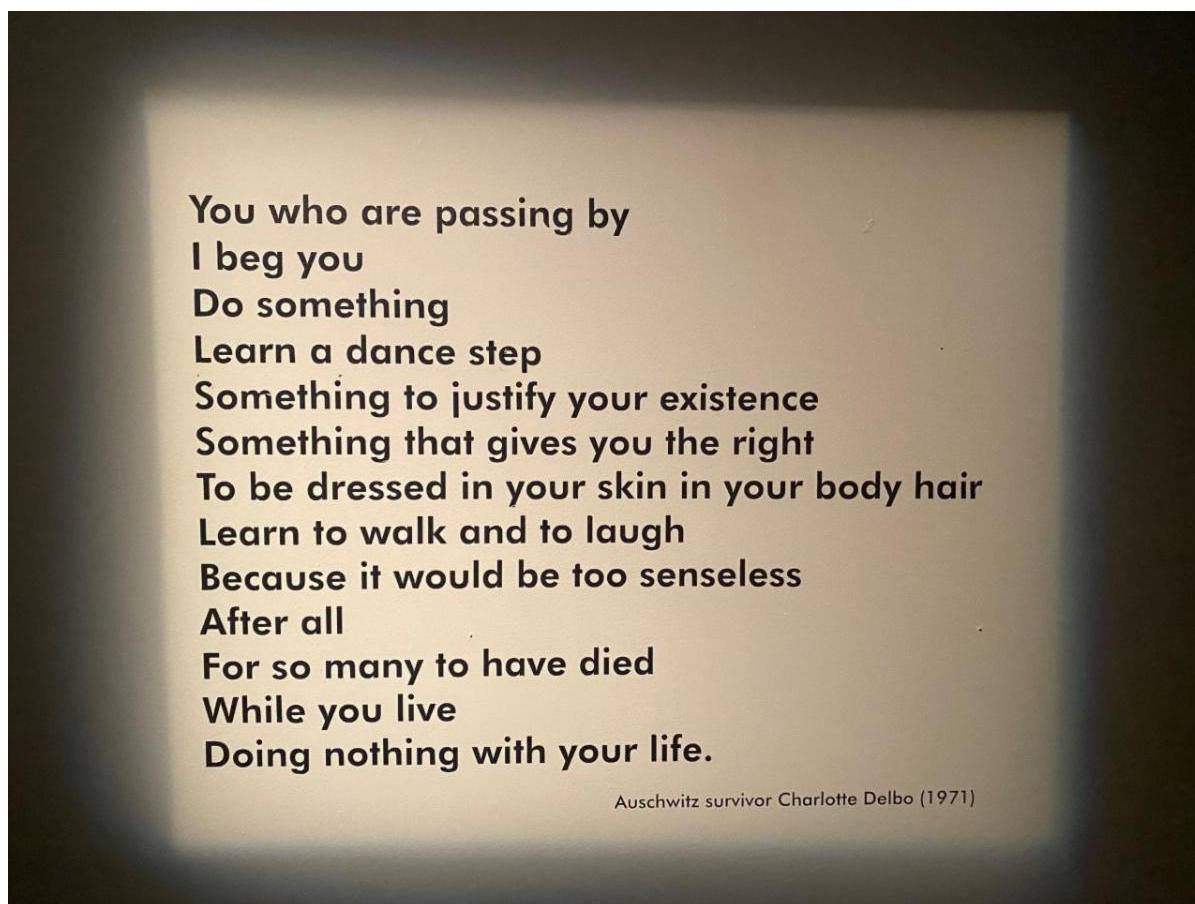
The Maryland-D.C.-Delaware Press Association inducted Edward J. Clarke, the longtime owner and editor of the Worcester Democrat newspaper, into its Hall of Fame in 1954 after a decadeslong career.

The organization's board of directors voted last week to terminate that honor after Gabriel Pietrorazio, a University of Maryland journalism student, brought to light editorials written by Clarke that likened the Black suspects in a 1940 homicide to "a rabid dog," "a disease-spreading germ" and "garbage."

Clarke scorned the idea of waiting for the legal system to act, issuing a call instead for "a good stout rope, a noose at one end, good stout arms at the other, a neck and a limb of a tree" as the best way to deal with the "fiends who violated the home" of a white couple in Pocomoke City.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey.

## The Final Word



**Paul Stevens** ([Email](#)) –Words to live by – this featured at the end of an exhibition dedicated to the history of Auschwitz and its role in the Holocaust at Kansas City's Union Station. The exhibition, which we attended Sunday, brought together more than 700 original objects and 400 photographs from over 20 institutions and museums around the world.



## Celebrating AP's 175th

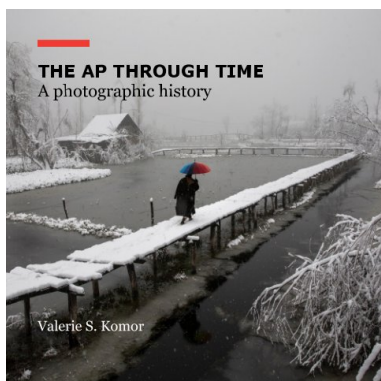
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 17, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2021. There are 44 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 17, 1997, 62 people, most of them foreign tourists, were killed when militants opened fire at the Temple of Hatshepsut (haht-shehp-SOOT') in Luxor, Egypt; the attackers, who also hacked their victims, were killed by police.

### On this date:

In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of her half-sister, Queen Mary, beginning a 44-year reign.

In 1800, Congress held its first session in the partially completed U.S. Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1889, the Union Pacific Railroad Co. began direct, daily railroad service between Chicago and Portland, Oregon, as well as Chicago and San Francisco.

In 1969, the first round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union opened in Helsinki, Finland.

In 1970, the Soviet Union landed an unmanned, remote-controlled vehicle on the moon, the Lunokhod 1.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini (ah-yah-TOH'-lah hoh-MAY'-nee) ordered the release of 13 Black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1989, the Walt Disney animated feature "The Little Mermaid" opened in wide release.

In 2002, Abba Eban (AH'-bah EE'-ban), the statesman who helped persuade the world to approve creation of Israel and dominated Israeli diplomacy for decades, died near Tel Aviv; he was 87.

In 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in as the 38th governor of California.

In 2018, Argentina's navy announced that searchers had found a submarine that disappeared a year earlier with 44 crewmen aboard; the government said it would be unable to recover the vessel.

Ten years ago: Occupy Wall Street protesters clogged streets and tied up traffic around the U.S. to mark two months since the movement's birth and signal they weren't ready to quit, despite the breakup of many of their encampments by police. Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL Cy Young Award. Demi Moore said she was ending her 6-year marriage to Ashton Kutcher.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump, at Trump Tower in New York, held his first meeting with a world leader, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (SHIN'-zoh AH'-bay), and received advice from former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

One year ago: President Donald Trump fired the nation's top election security official, Christopher Krebs, who had refuted Trump's unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud and vouched for the integrity of the vote. Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller said the U.S. would reduce troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan to about 2,500 in each country by mid-January, accelerating troop withdrawals during Trump's final days in office. Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California easily won reelection as House Republican leader. The White House coronavirus task force warned of an "aggressive" and "unrelenting" spread of the coronavirus as the nation headed into the Thanksgiving holiday. U.S. regulators allowed emergency use of the first rapid coronavirus test that could be performed entirely at home and delivered results in 30 minutes.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe (IHN'-hahf), R-Okla., is 87. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 83. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio (GOW'-dee-oh) is 80. Movie director Martin Scorsese (skor-SEH'-see) is 79. Actor Lauren Hutton is 78. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 77. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 77. Movie director Roland Joffe is 76. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 73. Former House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) is 72. Actor Stephen Root is 70. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 64. Actor Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 63. Actor William Moses is 62. Entertainer RuPaul is 61. Actor Dylan Walsh is 58. Former National Security Adviser Susan Rice is 57. Actor Sophie Marceau (mahr-SOH') is 55.

Actor-model Daisy Fuentes is 55. Blues singer/musician Tab Benoit (behn-WAH') is 54. R&B singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 54. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 54. Actor David Ramsey is 50. Actor Leonard Roberts is 49. Actor Leslie Bibb is 48. Actor Brandon Call is 45. Country singer Aaron Lines is 44. Actor Rachel McAdams is 43. Rock musician Isaac Hanson (Hanson) is 41. Former MLB outfielder Ryan Braun is 38. Actor Justin Cooper is 33. Musician Reid Perry (The Band Perry) is 33. Actor Raquel Castro is 27.

## 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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