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Colleagues:

Good Wednesday morning on this Dec. 8, 2021.

Tom Jory, former director of AP election information who died Monday, was at the helm as AP transitioned from state-by-state results tabulation in bureau conference rooms to centralized vote entry centers on each of the coasts. A core AP Elections Team of election and stringer coordinators, research and quality control specialists, and technology experts would replace bureau administrative assistants who did everything from hiring stringers to ordering pizza, and statehouse correspondents, news editors and ACOBs who built databases in between their daily duties. Much of the Elections Team worked remotely long before the pandemic, when election night vote entry also went virtual.

Two lessons Tom taught me that have held true from the time he trained me in AP electioneering in 1994 as Kansas City ACOB until today as an AP election coordinator: No matter the best-laid plans for an election night, something that is not good and has never, ever happened can - and likely will - happen. It's how we respond that matters.

Stay well.

Peg Coughlin
pcoughlin@ap.org



Tom Jory with grandchildren Annika and Matthew.

Remembering Tom Jory

Ron Fournier (Email) - Election nights are what make The AP special. The sense of mission, the foxhole camaraderie, the traditions launched decades before the first automobile and a century before the first computer – all these and more make everybody working elections at AP grateful for the privilege. For years, Tom Jory was the beating heart of our vote-counting operation. Humble, hard-working and intensely proud of AP's role in the democratic process, Tom was as critical to election night as any one of us lucky enough to carry a byline on the wire. Rest in peace, Tom. All precincts have reported and your memory now lives in us.

Brian Scanlon (Email) - Tom was very generous with his time and guided many through their careers and life. He mentored many about a lot more than just challenges at work.

We used to try to have breakfast once a week together to discuss the future of the elections department and those sessions turned into the basis of a great friendship. He shared his wisdom about elections, The AP and life with great care.

His selflessness, professionalism and dedication to the mission carved a path for everyone who works in elections and The AP in general.

Kent Prince (Email) - Tom Jory kept popping up in Louisiana. His first correspondence was Baton Rouge, not your typical legislative training ground. He arrived as country singing Gov. Jimmie Davis was still in the news and John McKeithen was at the end of eight years as governor, running (unsuccessfully) for the U.S. Senate. It was the first Louisiana election crunched through a

computer, and Jory learned how far disaster can reach when the programmers — hired through social connections by COB Ed Tunstall — proved clueless.

Although McKeithen lost, covering him left Jory a connection that served him well. Years later, after countless computer upgrades, Jory made one of his pilgrimages back to Louisiana to talk to the secretary of state — McKeithen's son Fox — about getting the AP a direct feed from the state's election computer. It's little known that Louisiana, ranked near the bottom in so many national categories, has one of the very best election operations.

Sitting in the Capitol office, Fox's surrogate jabbed at Jory about wanting to mess with "that Napoleonic Thing" so he could sell election numbers for profit. He was referring to Louisiana's unique government, so different from other states. Jory parried it well, one of his main points being the AP was non-profit and would funnel the results to any member. Louisiana elections supervisor Faye Prince, also at the meeting, threw in the number of members, and Jory just twinkled at her including states other than Louisiana. It worked, and Louisiana became a pilot project for state coverage: piping incremental results directly into AP elections computers in code, ready for relay untouched by human hands.

Truth be told, elections weren't the only thing that drew Jory back to New Orleans so frequently. There were all those good restaurants, not just the upscale, but the exceptional neighborhood eateries as well. He and his party — sometimes both Tim Gullivan and Jimmy Ho — were instantly recognized by the owner at Uglesich's where Jory seemed to order one of everything on the menu, especially the crab claws. Another of his favorites was Chez Helene, prototype of the TV "Frank's Place," with its renowned gumbo and fried chicken. Jory honed his sophisticated palate on the house specials, seafood at Uglesich's, soul food at Chez Helene. As he soaked in the calories, his belt size grew. But so did his profile, professionally as well as literally.

Kiki Georgiou (Email) - Tom enjoyed teaching younger Electioneers the ropes. He trained the "youngsters" the importance of voting and the process of the voting system and tabulation system too.

He had an integrity that is the cornerstone of elections, honesty. Numbers/ results were checked and triple checked if questionable. You always went to Tom if there was a question.

Andy Lippman (Email) - Yesterday was emptier because I learned that Tom Jory had died.

The thought of Tom and his partner pioneer Tim Gullivan always makes me smile. They were there almost at the beginning of the electronic vote gathering in the AP.

One of the first elections they did was in Louisville where I happened to be bureau chief, and the election was a few days after Kentucky Derby day. I remember Tom smoking a cigar like a racetrack tout and I seem to recall Tim wearing a suitably colorful sports jacket for the occasion. They were making each other smile, and having such a good time.

I also remember Tom and Tim earlier trying to explain what we were going to be facing on election night. Luddite that I was, Tom had his hands full. He'd put his head down until his chin was almost in his chest, run his hands through his thinning hair, and then look up and patiently explain it again.

I think he lost more hair the evening (it may be another election) when the system went down, and we were counting results on adding machines. We got the winners right, at least.

Then, he probably lost more hair when I was in Los Angeles, and both the main election system and the backup both went down. Rick Spratling, then COB in San Francisco, and I had to recruit people to count ballots again on adding machines. I don't recall Tom or Tim being there at the time, but oh, Rick and I could sure have used them - at least to count votes since both systems were down.

Tom always kept his patience as did Tim, and after any good or bad election night, he'd be back with that great smile and great laugh. He was a pro. And a class guy, and the quintessential AP person.

Bless you Tom.

Lillian Toll (Email) - My condolences to Tom's family and all those whose lives he touched. I'll always remember Tom as a good and generous man - thoughtful, with a wry sense of humor. He was the backbone of AP Elections, lending perspective and support through so many eventful (and stressful) election years. I always knew that no matter what happened, Tom had my back. And he always knew how to make me laugh when I was taking things too seriously. I learned so much about politics and news gathering from Tom. His stories of past elections and reporting were interesting and insightful. Tom passionately believed in the importance of being an informed voter - not just for the top races, but all the way down the ticket. With Tom, AP Elections was so much more than just "counting the votes", and he passed on that sense of purpose to me and to the election team. Tom was an amazing person, and I feel lucky to have known him.

Sylvia Wingfield (Email) - Tom Jory was my husband Will Wingfield's boss in AP Elections for many years. I also had the pleasure of working directly with Tom in his role assisting AP's local bureaus' preparations for national political conventions.

My bureau chief Ed Bell gave me the exciting opportunity in 2004 to help plan for the Democratic National Convention in Boston. It was the first held after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on New York. Security concerns and the possibility that we could be covering two huge stories informed our decisions on hotels, transportation and even temporary news assistants. It was a great cooperative effort by all the AP departments accustomed to organizing coverage and support for big news events. Tom's kind guidance and patience helped me succeed in doing my part.

Malcom Ritter (Email) - Tom Jory was one of my first friends when I arrived at AP in New York in 1984, fresh from a newspaper in South Dakota and uncertain about fitting in with a new staff in this big city. His easygoing and welcoming presence made me feel like one of the gang. I've always been grateful for that.

Dave Tomlin (Email) - I will never forget Tom Jory. Like Tim Gallivan, he helped key people in every AP office deal with the extreme novelty and stress of implementing technology that changed the way we did our jobs. He did it with empathy, humanity, optimism and almost always with joy.

Hal Bock (Email) - I was terribly saddened to learn of the death of Tom Jory. He was a dear friend, a big sports fan. He always stopped by to talk Giants football and Mets baseball. He was also a big supporter of his grandkids and loved to post pictures of his grandson playing high school baseball. Also attended a couple of my book signings. Just a terrific guy. May his memory be a blessing to his friends and family.

Lynne Harris (Email) - Of the 16 ½ years I worked at AP, I probably worked almost every election, both primaries and general elections. For a person from the administrative side of the organization, working elections was a great experience and Tom was always welcoming and gracious to those of us who raised our hands to help out. Tom was tough but wonderful to work with, and I totally enjoyed the experience ... he will be missed.

More memories of Bob Dole

Carl P. Leubsdorf (Email) - Bob Dole first emerged as a national figure in the early 1970s, defending President Richard Nixon's Vietnam policies and excoriating such Democratic opponents as Sens. Edward Kennedy and George McGovern.

The Senate had no more partisan member, and it made his national political career, first as Nixon's Republican national chairman and, in 1976, as the GOP vice presidential nominee.

Later in the long life that ended Sunday, Dole's other side emerged: the legacy of the poor boy from rural Kansas who was severely wounded in World War II. He became a leading advocate of expanded government food programs, working closely with like-minded Democrats like McGovern and Kennedy.

Reporters loved his quick wit, often flavored with sarcasm, and he was enlisted four times as the GOP speaker for Washington's annual Gridiron dinner, which trades in humorous depictions of the powerful.

They also respected how he overcome his wartime injuries and, in his later years, became something of a symbol for a less partisan Washington, despite the way he first made his name.

Read more [here](#).

Helen Mitternacht (Email) - Not many people know this, but I worked for Bob Dole for a brief while.

I had always leaned Democrat, but nobody told me that once I got a job as a press secretary on the "other side of the aisle" in Congress, there was no crossing back, so I took the first job I could get and I was stuck on the Republican side of the aisle working for a Congressman who was not only the wrong politics, but also a truly terrible person.

Still, a job is a job, and I was determined and idealistic enough to want to do my very best for him, rationalizing that everyone deserves to be heard if they are elected, even if their views are a little crazy.

We were holding a fundraiser to get him re-elected in the small hardscrabble town that had sent him to Congress. The highlight was to be a speech from Bob Dole, leagues above my boss in celebrity.

The Senator's campaign manager – Dole was gearing up for a Presidential run back then – told me that Dole's travel plans had changed and he would have to cut out early, speaking first and leaving my not-great-speaker boss to finish the show. I had enough experience to know that this would be a disaster for my boss since most of the guests were there to hear Bob Dole and would leave when he did.

I told the campaign manager that, if he did leave early, I would get on the microphone and tell the whole audience that the great Bob Dole had so little consideration for the audience that he couldn't wait to leave.

Read more [here](#).

Major outage hits Amazon Web Services; many sites affected, including AP

By ASSOCIATED PRESS STAFF

Amazon Web Services suffered a major outage Tuesday, the company said, disrupting access to many popular sites.

The company provides cloud computing services to many governments, universities and companies, including The Associated Press.

Amazon said in a post an hour after the outage began that it had identified the root cause and was “actively working towards recovery.” The issue primarily affected its services in the Eastern U.S., it said. It did not disclose any additional details about the cause.

Amazon later updated the dashboard to note that the company was “starting to see some signs of recovery. We do not have an ETA for full recovery at this time.”

The outage also affected Amazon’s ability to provide status updates, it said.

Problems began midmorning on the U.S. East Coast, said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis at Kentik Inc, a network intelligence firm. “AWS is the biggest cloud provider and us-east-1 is their biggest data center, so any disruption there has big impacts to many popular websites and other internet services,” he said.

Customers trying to book or change trips with Delta Air Lines were having trouble connecting to the airline. “Delta is working quickly to restore functionality to our AWS-supported phone lines,” said spokesperson Morgan Durrant. The airline apologized and encouraged customers to use its website or mobile app instead.

Dallas-based Southwest Airlines said it switched to West Coast servers after some airport-based systems were affected by the outage. Customers were still reporting outages to DownDetector, a popular clearinghouse for user outage reports, more than three hours after they started. Southwest spokesman Brian Parrish said there were no major disruptions to flights.

Also according to DownDetector, people trying to use Instacart, Venmo, Kindle, Roku, and Disney+ have reported issues. The McDonald’s app was also down. But the airlines American, United, Alaska and JetBlue were unaffected.

Toyota spokesperson Scott Vazin said the company’s U.S. East Region for dealer services went down. The company has apps that process dealer warranty claims and other services, over 20 of which were affected.

Madory said he did not believe the outage was anything nefarious. He said a recent cluster of outages at providers that host major websites reflects how the networking industry has evolved.

“More and more these outages end up being the product of automation and centralization of administration,” he said. “This ends up leading to outages that are hard to completely avoid due to operational complexity but are very impactful when they happen.”

Kentik saw a 26% drop in traffic to Netflix, among major web-based services affected by the outage, Madory said.

It was unclear how, or whether, the outage was affecting the federal government. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said in an email response to questions that it was working with Amazon “to understand any potential impacts this outage may have for federal agencies or other partners.”

Top 25 news photos of 2021

By ALAN TAYLOR
The Atlantic

As we approach the end of the year, here is a look back at some of the major news events and moments of 2021. The breach of the U.S. Capitol on January 6 set the stage for a contentious year in the United States, and COVID-19 variants and regional surges slowed worldwide efforts to return to pre-pandemic life. The delayed 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were finally held,

even though stadium seating was empty. The United States withdrew its troops from Afghanistan after 20 years of war, leading to a chaotic evacuation and one of the largest airlifts in history. And natural disasters took the world stage once more, as record-setting wildfires and floods affected millions. Here, we present the top 25 news photos of 2021. Be sure to check back throughout the week for more comprehensive stories, presented as "2021: The Year in Photos, Parts 1-3." Shared by Richard Chady.

Read more [here](#).



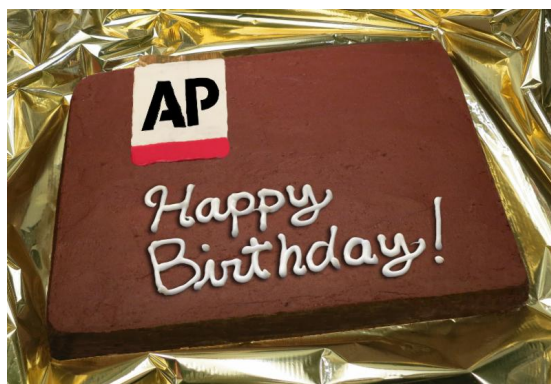
Stephen Mudoga, 12, tries to chase away a swarm of locusts on his farm as he returns home from school in Elburgon, in Nakuru County, Kenya, on March 17. (Photo by Brian Inganga, AP)

Inside AP



Reporter Brian Melley climbs a giant sequoia while reporting on a project to [plant tiny seedlings](#) to replace massive trees that burned in a wildfire last year in Sequoia Crest, Calif., Oct. 26, 2021. (Photo courtesy of Ethan Swope)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Dennis Redmont - dennisredmont600@hotmail.com

Kathy Willens - kathywillens@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Pearl Harbor: When a global story hits home

By MARC LANCASTER
World War II on Deadline

Honolulu Star-Bulletin editor Riley Allen arrived at his desk by 6:30 a.m. every day, seven days a week. For most of the nearly three decades he had led the paper, those early mornings -- particularly on the weekend -- had offered mostly peace and quiet to churn through a never-ending pile of work.

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, though, the 57-year-old editor's longtime habit positioned his newspaper for a remarkable performance that would see the Star-Bulletin produce one of the most famous front pages in history.

According to a 1975 profile of the editor in his hometown Seattle Times, the only other people in the Star-Bulletin building when the Japanese attack began around 7:55 that morning were four pressmen doing maintenance on the press.

Robert Clark, the assistant foreman of the advertising composing room, told the Times he had been in around 7 a.m. to catch up on some pre-Christmas advertising but ran out of cigarettes and left the building shortly before 8 to buy some more. He noticed planes flying over the city and like most other locals accustomed to regular activity from Oahu's numerous military bases assumed they were just training exercises -- until an explosion at King St. and Bishop St. made it clear something was wrong.

As I was standing on the corner, Riley Allen came tearing out of the office. 'Get into the building!' he shouted. 'We're getting out an extra! The Japanese are bombing Pearl!'

As Clark began the process of getting the metal melted for typesetting, which could take up to 45 minutes, Allen was at work planning an eight-page extra edition -- the most their presses could handle with some of the rollers down for maintenance.

Mr. Allen wrote out a one-word headline, 'WAR!' and told me to set it in the biggest type we had. Together, we went to the job-printing department where there was bigger type than in the news composing room. I pulled out the various types, and Mr. Allen selected one. It was about five inches high.

That hammer headline would soon take its place in journalism history. Shared by Paul Albright.

Read more [here](#).



Over 200 papers quietly sue Big Tech

By SARA FISCHER, KRISTAL DIXON
AXIOS

Newspapers all over the country have been quietly filing antitrust lawsuits against Google and Facebook for the past year, alleging the two firms monopolized the digital ad market for revenue that would otherwise go to local news.

What started as a small-town effort to take a stand against Big Tech has turned into a national movement, with over 200 newspapers involved across dozens of states. Shared by Richard Chady and Doug Pizak

Read more [here](#).

The last word



Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Even at the Auburn, Alabama, landfill I have to be a proofreader.



Celebrating AP's 175th

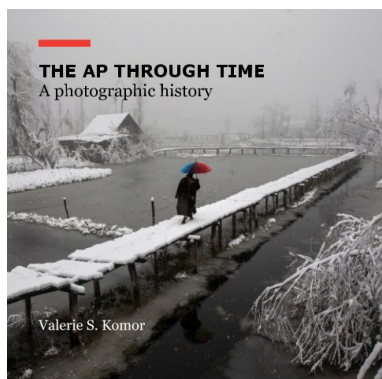
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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 - Dec. 8, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2021. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date:

In 1813, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, was first performed in Vienna, with Beethoven himself conducting.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star and former Beatle John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by Mark David Chapman.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1991, AIDS patient Kimberly Bergalis, who had contracted the disease from her dentist, died in Fort Pierce, Florida, at age 23.

In 1998, struggling to stave off impeachment, President Bill Clinton's defenders forcefully pleaded his case before the House Judiciary Committee. The Supreme Court ruled that police cannot search people and their cars after merely ticketing them for routine traffic violations.

In 2001, the U.S. Capitol was reopened to tourists after a two-month security shutdown.

In 2008, in a startling about-face, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told the Guantanamo war crimes tribunal he would confess to masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks; four other men also abandoned their defenses.

In 2014, the U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to topple the Taliban-led government.

In 2017, Japanese pitching and hitting star Shohei Ohtani announced that he would sign with the Los Angeles Angels.

Ten years ago: Former MF Global CEO Jon Corzine was called before Congress to explain the collapse of the securities firm just over a month earlier; Corzine told the House Agriculture Committee he didn't know what happened to an estimated \$1.2 billion in missing clients' money. The 161-day NBA lockout ended when owners and players ratified the new collective bargaining agreement.

Five years ago: John Glenn, whose 1962 flight as the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth made him an all-American hero and propelled him to a long career in the U.S. Senate, died in Columbus, Ohio, at age 95.

One year ago: The Supreme Court rejected Republicans' last-gasp bid to reverse Pennsylvania's certification of President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the electoral battleground; the court refused to call into question the certification process in the state. A retired British shop clerk, 90-year-old Margaret Keenan, received the first shot in the country's COVID-19 vaccination program, the start of an unprecedented global immunization effort. Idaho public health officials abruptly ended a meeting to discuss a proposed mask mandate after the Boise mayor and chief of police said intense protests outside the health department building — as well as outside some health officials' homes — were threatening public safety.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 82. Singer Jerry Butler is 82. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 80. Actor Mary Woronov is 78. Actor John Rubinstein is 75. Actor Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 68. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 65. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 64. Country singer Marty Raybon is 62. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 60. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 59. Actor Wendell Pierce is 58. Actor Teri Hatcher is 57. Actor David Harewood is 56. Singer Sinéad (shih-NAYD') O'Connor (AKA Shuhada' Davitt) is 55. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 55. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Mussina is 53. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 49. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 45. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 43. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 42. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 39. Actor Hannah Ware is 39. Country singer Sam Hunt is 37. MLB All-Star infielder Josh Donaldson is 36. Rock singer-actor Kate Voegelé (VOH'-geh) is 35. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 32. NHL defenseman Drew Doughty is 32. Actor Wallis Currie-Wood is 30. Actor AnnaSophia Robb 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.

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