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Connecting December 14, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Dec. 14, 2021,

Gary Pruitt, who will retire at the end of this year as president and CEO of The Associated Press, shared thoughts on his nearly decade-long tenure as head of the worldwide news agency in a Vimeo distributed to AP worldwide staff on Monday.

The Vimeo was shared by **Daisy Veerasingham**, who will succeed him as the 14th person to head the AP, with this preface:

After nearly a decade as AP president and CEO, Gary Pruitt retires this month.

It's hard to imagine where AP would be today if not for Gary's vision and decisive leadership. The changes he instituted to improve AP's financial health will have a lasting impact on AP for generations to come.

Throughout his tenure, Gary has demonstrated an unrivaled ability to advance AP's mission to inform the world. He is deeply committed to the accurate, unbiased

journalism that AP produces day in and day out.

Gary has also been a tremendous advocate for a free press, speaking up on this issue at every opportunity. AP couldn't do what it does today without the freedom to report, and to do so without restriction or intimidation.

Please take a moment to watch this video message from Gary to all of you:
<https://vimeo.com/653784410/9c7d14a36f>

Thank you, Gary, for your enduring contributions and congratulations on your well-earned retirement.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Gary Pruitt to the AP world: Thank you... and Rock On!



Gary Pruitt President and CEO, The Associated Press

This is my last time speaking to you as president and CEO as I'll be retiring at the end of the month, after nearly 10 years at the AP.

A decade ago, AP was in a challenging position. Our finances were declining and our debt was growing. We had a pension shortfall of over 400 million dollars. It was our time to step up. And as I said during my first AP Town Hall in 2012, our successors would look back and judge whether we met the challenge of our time, and indeed we have.

Today, AP is in a much better position. Our finances are improving, we have no debt, our pension is almost fully funded and we are able to navigate through the pandemic in the right way. I'm proud of that and you should be too. Especially because of what it means for AP. We can look to the future without worrying that the past will weigh us down. Even more importantly, our financial strength allows us to more vigorously pursue our news mission. And that's the very reason we exist, reporting in all formats around the clock from every corner of the world, and often in difficult and dangerous situations.

In many ways, our news report has never been better or more highly regarded. Our journalism has garnered hundreds of awards including six Pulitzer Prizes in the past decade and AP's first for Public Service. AP is consistently rated as the most factual and unbiased news report, ensuring our value to customers who span the ideological spectrum.

Looking back on the past decade, I'm reminded of a quote from Robert Kennedy, who said, "The future is not a gift, it's an achievement." AP's current financial position and the quality of our journalism are achievements we all share. I want to sincerely thank you for your outstanding work over the past decade. Because of you, we have achieved a bright future, and make no mistake, that wasn't a gift. It was hard fought.

Once again, I want to sincerely thank each of you. It has been my great honor to work with you at the AP.

And I have one last message to the AP world - Rock On!

(Transcribed by Connecting)

AP General Agents, General Managers, and CEOs

1849-51	Alexander Jones, General Agent
1851-66	Daniel Craig, General Agent
1866-83	James W. Simonton, General Agent
1883-93	William Henry Smith, General Manager
1893-1921	Melville E. Stone, General Manager
1921-25	Frederick Roy Martin, General Manager
1925-48	Kent Cooper, General Manager
1948-62	Frank J. Starzel, General Manager
1962-75	Wes Gallagher, General Manager
1975-84	Keith Fuller, General Manager
1984-2003	Louis D. Boccardi, President and CEO
2003- 2012	Thomas Curley, President and CEO
2012- 2021	Gary Pruitt, President and CEO
2022-	Daisy Veerasingham, President and CEO

AP seeks answers from US gov't on tracking of journalists

By BEN FOX

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Associated Press sought answers Monday from the Department of Homeland Security on its use of sensitive government databases for tracking international terrorists to investigate as many as 20 American journalists, including an acclaimed AP reporter.

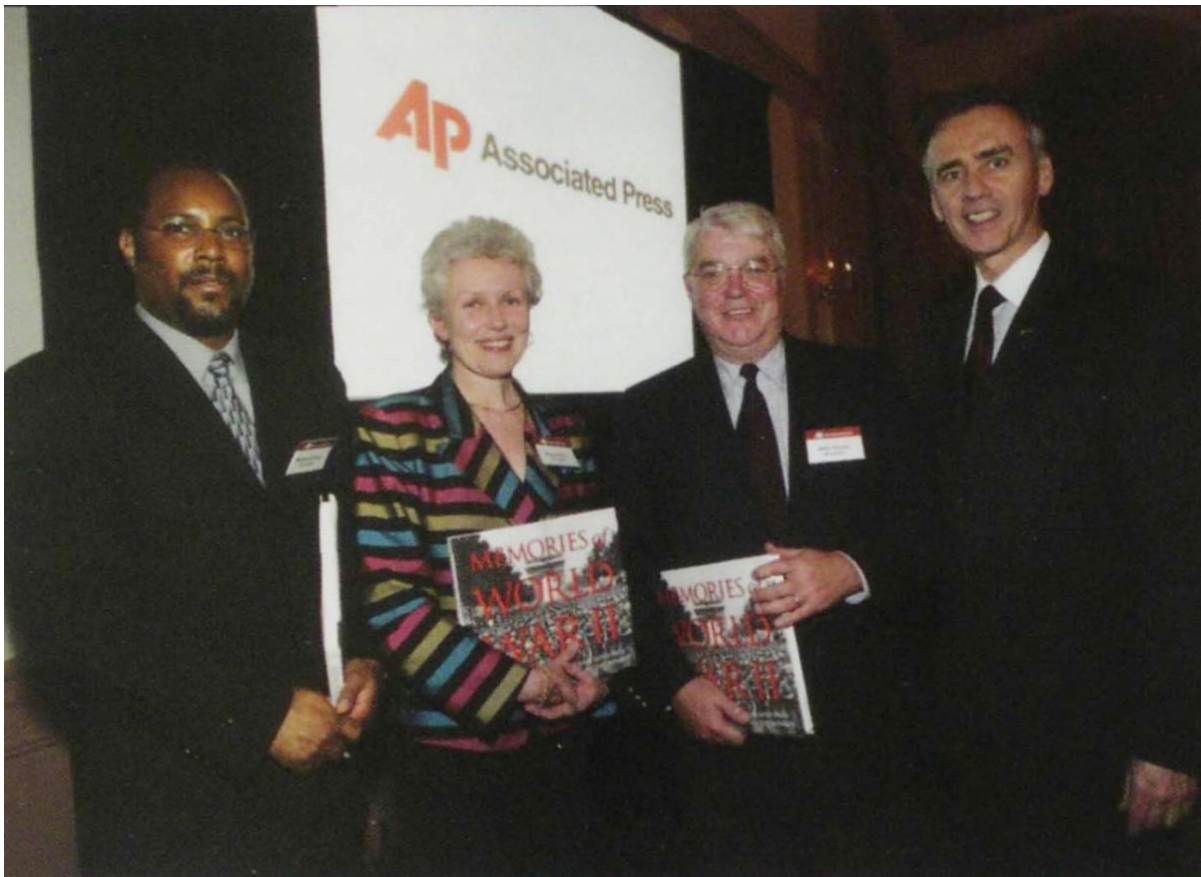
In a letter to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, AP Executive Editor Julie Pace urged the agency to explain why the name of Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Martha Mendoza was run through the databases and identified as a potential confidential informant during the Trump administration, as detailed in a report by Homeland Security's inspector general.

"This is a flagrant example of a federal agency using its power to examine the contacts of journalists," Pace wrote. "While the actions detailed in the inspector general's report occurred under a previous administration, the practices were described as routine."

The DHS investigation of U.S. journalists, as well as congressional staff and perhaps members of Congress, which was reported by Yahoo News and AP on Saturday. It represents the latest apparent example of an agency created in the wake of the 9/11 attacks using its vast capabilities to target American citizens.

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

Remembering Maurice Billups



Maurice Billups (left) with colleagues honored for 30 years of service at the 2004 AP anniversary dinner. From left: Billups, markets content and marketing computer maintenance controller; Margy McCay, director of personnel; Matt Yancey, Washington news editor, and AP President/CEO Tom Curley.

Marty Rose ([Email](#)) - *former Market Tables Editor* - Maurice came to the AP from UPI in the early 70's. He was working in the commodities department of Business News. He was there before me when I started in tabulations in '73. Eventually the two departments merged into one Markets Department. For many years he worked closely with Jim Gaines and Vickie Cacioppo. The three of them along with Joe Pereira and myself were the entire Markets team which in its heyday had as many as nine people. Maurice was quiet and efficient and always got the job done and often did more than his share. His wife Carmen predeceased him by several years also from cancer.

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Robert Burns ([Email](#)) - My years as a reporter in Business News in New York in the early 1980's put me in regular contact with Maurice Billups. I remember him as a highly skilled and mild-mannered colleague with a ready smile and a high tolerance for chaos.

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Lee Mitgang ([Email](#)) - I go back a long way with Maurice. He and I worked at UPI business news in the early '70s. He was a quick study: a smart, eager, incredibly good-

looking kid in his late teens, always affable and easygoing. When I moved to AP business news in 1974, my then-boss Steve Miller was looking to hire a news clerk and I suggested Maurice. Happily for him, for me, and for the AP, Maurice made the leap with me from UPI to "osn" and having served for 43 years, it certainly seems that he was a keeper. When we weren't in the thick of our work, we talked endlessly over lunch about sports, especially boxing and Muhammad Ali. We lost touch after I left the AP but I'm very sad to learn of Maurice's passing and will remember him as one of those people who made coming to work a little more fun.

Kudos to AP on tornado coverage



A car sits among the remains of a destroyed house after a tornado in Dawson Springs, Ky., Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021. A monstrous tornado, carving a track that could rival the longest on record, ripped across the middle of the U.S. on Friday. (AP Photo/Michael Clubb)

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - Kudos to AP for a truly amazing job under horrendous circumstances and no real warning of the truly historic wave of tornadoes Friday night and Saturday morning that ravaged areas simply not used to or prepared for such devastation.

The only news on at our home and office Saturday were play-by-play of two crucial football games, where the networks have a firm rule: If the Chinese or Russians launch a nationwide hyper-missile strike, mention it only if the game has ended and all the commercials have run. Our first comprehensive coverage came with Sunday's typical full-pound last full pre-Christmas shopping week edition. It has numerous wire services available, but its coverage was all-AP in our edition and we got the first truly clear picture of how serious the situation was.

For those who didn't see it, the lead by BRUCE SCHREINER and JIM SALTER managed to provide that picture in just 43 words--late Saturday afternoon (the World's Sunday deadline for a paper that big with that many inserts on a Sunday for the dividing line between suburban and state editions (they may have been combined that night), from a town with most communications, power, and most tables and chairs gone--they summed it all up:

MAYFIELD, Ky--A monstrous tornado, carving a track that could rival the longest on record, ripped across the middle of the U.S. in a stormfront that killed dozens and tore apart a candle family, crushed a nursing home, derailed a train and smashed an Amazon warehouse.

"I pray that there will be another rescue. I pray that there will be another one or two," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said...

The story that followed showed clearly just how much they packed into those first 43 words. No newspaper, even online, could keep track of all the fast-moving pieces in six states, Washington, and the meteorological, search and rescue, and rescue and human needs aid, but what AP did was provide a full-fledged program so any reader could keep track of what mattered.

Equally impressive was a photo by MICHAEL CLUBB from Dawson Springs, Ky. While there were thousands of shots from the air and ground showing block after block of buildings looking as if they had been leveled by waves of Hellfire missiles that would have darkened the skies for much of an hour, they soon lost their impact. CLUBB's shot focused on what was left of a single tree, likely 100 years old like the house it had once shaded. A lump, finally recognizable as the remains of a car covered with branch shreds, shattered wood from antiques likely used day-to-day by the great-great grandparents of the current resident of the now cleared lands. The few remaining boards suggested handmade furniture from a craftsman homeowner who used them every day. One limb is on the right, and small group on the left. It had what appeared to be the body of a squirrel wrapped around the limb where it died. The other branch had a pair of jeans that appeared intact except for a deep coating of mud permanently welded to it by the force of the winds, currently estimated at 150+ mph. That brought home that these were real people, who literally lost everything in a matter of moments.

Great work by AP backing up its field reporters with people working every bit as fast and accurately by phone or at dozens of briefings together, compile and often reconcile conflicting information.

Connecting mailbox

Reaction to AP investigation of minorities in military

Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - When my father was stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base, at Novato, California, some six decades ago, my 6th-grade teacher, Robert Long, a 35-year-old married father of two small children, did something remarkable and inspirational. Outraged by the events of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, in March

1965, he took off, at his own expense, to join the historic Selma to Montgomery March that followed and was led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. When he came back, he lectured at high schools in Marin County about his experience. I was quite happy to see in today's Connecting that The Associated Press has honored the terrific recent work of its staff for their investigation into the nation's military academies and their treatment of minorities in admissions and other matters.

I have had a lifelong interest in the subject matter dating back to when I was Mr. Long's pupil at Pacheco Elementary School. I kept Mr. Long in mind when I worked on my last major takeout for AP that ran in September 2010. Attached is the full article, "[Promises, Promises,](#)" about the decades-long, record of failure on Black admissions at the Coast Guard Academy as it appeared on the Boston Globe web site. Based on AP's current reporting, my effort 11 years ago resulted in absolutely no significant change. Let us hope the magnificent 2021 AP effort spurs progress at all the academies.

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Bartimus columns to be included in Missouri digital collection

Tad Bartimus ([Email](#)) - I am thrilled and honored to learn I have been given an early Christmas present from the STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI.

AMONG FRIENDS, my nationally syndicated column published weekly in hundreds of American newspapers from 2002 until 2012, has been chosen for the SHSM digital collection.

Every one of the 649 columns I wrote every Monday over 12 years will be available online to read and share, from No. 1 released on May 8, 1998, to No. 649, my last, on September 1, 2010.

This extraordinary gift has been a co-effort of Elizabeth Engel, and Heather Richmond, both Senior Archivists at the Center of Missouri Studies, The State Historical Society of Missouri, in Columbia, Missouri. Elizabeth Engel is a great source on all women journalists, past-present-future, a major scholar and archivist who is at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and a curator and a driving force in the creation of the of the NATIONAL WOMEN AND MEDIA COLLECTION at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

I am grateful to them for all their work to make it possible for these columns to live on in cyberspace long after I am gone.

The columns will soon be freely available on the digital collections [website](#).

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Retrieving belongings from empty newsroom



Kristin Gazlay (Email) - Sunday, I went to the office to retrieve the last of my things. I was the only one in the entire newsroom, which was surreal and more than a little

sad, since it's the people who have so made the place for me -- at 200 Liberty Street and all around the world. But it also was nice to sit at my desk in the still and the quiet and reflect on a career so very well-spent.

The second photo is from the AP Wall of Honor. I always spend extra time looking at this one. I started my career with Sharon in Texas and she was a remarkable woman.

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A scene from Kansas City bureau of late '80s



Andrew Selsky (Email) – I was looking through my old photos and thought you'd be interested, for Connecting.

Kansas City bureau of The Associated Press, late 1980s. Left to right: Assistant Bureau Chief Mercer Bailey (RIP), newsman Tim Curran (RIP), newsman Ron Creekmore, and newswoman Sally Buzbee (now Washington Post executive editor). Photo by Andrew Selsky, former KX newsman.

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New leadership positions in AP Digital News

Director of Digital News **Troy Thibodeaux (Email)** shared the following Monday:

I am excited to announce new leadership positions on the Audience and Platforms team within Digital News. These new roles will help build on AP's efforts to grow and

engage our digital audience on the APNews site and mobile app, on social media and on new and emerging platforms.

Josh Cornfield will serve as deputy director of digital news for new platforms and audience growth. In this role, Josh will build on the work he has already begun as part of the Nerve Center and through several significant strategy initiatives: developing our SEO strategy and training program, bringing metrics to bear on our news gathering and planning, and developing our social strategy. Josh will work to fully realize AP's potential audience on social platforms, news aggregators and other new platforms. He will lead a team focused on bringing new audiences to AP's journalism by reaching news consumers directly on these platforms and by driving more traffic from these platforms to our site and mobile apps.

Josh joined AP in 2013 as an editor in Philadelphia and has served as news editor for New Jersey and as the East Region audience engagement editor before moving to the Nerve Center, where he was deputy director for audience and content development. As a member of the APNews steering committee, Josh has worked with colleagues in Technology, Product, Marketing and Revenue to guide development of the site. He helped develop innovative, data-driven approaches to improving our speed as a leader on the Speed Team and developed our strategy for keeping AP's journalism at the top of search results with the SEO strategy and training initiative.

Shawn Chen will take on the role of deputy director of digital news for audience experience. In this role, Shawn will work with the Nerve Center and Top Stories to create an even more engaging experience for visitors to the APNews site and mobile app. In addition to spearheading curation and new feature design for APNews, Shawn's team will work with colleagues across AP to ensure that lessons we learn from our direct-to-consumer digital work will inform our news gathering and production, helping to keep our journalism essential for our customers as they serve their own digital audiences.

Shawn has been with AP since 2007, when he joined as the Washington, D.C. digital editor. Since then he has been digital storytelling editor for the Central Region and deputy director of Top Stories, where he has overseen graphics and interactives and helped to keep visual storytelling front and center in AP's biggest stories of the day. Before joining AP, Shawn was deputy managing editor for Atlantic Media, where he helped spearhead the development of Atlantic's subscription web sites and oversaw a hugely successful major redesign for The Atlantic.

Shawn and Josh will both report to me and will continue to work from the New York headquarters.

Sophie Rosenbaum will become our news editor for social media and audience engagement. Sophie has been a force for digital transformation since joining AP in 2018 as an editor on the East Desk. She has helped to bring an audience-centric approach to our journalism through her work on search and social strategy and training. Along with the speed team, she helped develop a speed tracking tool that helps us measure and improve the competitiveness of our coverage. Sophie's work has led to a string of successes, as AP stories have dominated search for major news events and our audience on social media has continued to grow.

Before joining AP, Sophie was a senior news editor for Time, Inc.'s digital news desk, where she assigned, edited, optimized and published news and feature stories for the digital sites of Time, Money and Fortune. Sophie will report to Josh Cornfield and will continue to work from New York.

Please join me in congratulating Josh, Shawn and Sophie, as they take on these exciting new roles. You'll be hearing more from them and from me and Head of News Audience Amanda Barrett soon, as the entire digital news team will be looking to our colleagues across AP for your ideas on how we can give our journalism the presence and presentation it deserves across all the digital platforms we serve. We'll be kicking off a series of sessions in January to talk in more detail about our process and strategy, to let you know how you can help and to hear how we can best work with all of you. We'll start with a Q&AP where you'll hear more from the new team and be able to ask any questions you have about digital news at AP. This discussion will be followed by a series of listening sessions with colleagues in each of AP's regions and beats, which will enable us to talk about specific ideas you all have for digital work in your areas of expertise.

In the meantime, please be sure to share your ideas through the newsideas@ap.org email address. Julie and the news leadership team have already shared with us some exciting digital ideas that came through that channel, and we're always looking for new ways our journalism can thrive online.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Joan Mower - mower.joan@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Twitter suspends DeSantis press secretary who urged followers to 'light up' (AP) reporter (New York Post)

By Ben Blanchet

A spokeswoman for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis allegedly harassed a reporter via Twitter — so the social media platform temporarily shuttered her account due to

“abusive behavior.”

Christina Pushaw apparently disagreed with a Tuesday story from Associated Press reporter Brendan Farrington, about a multimillion dollar DeSantis donor who also invested in a company producing Regeneron, a drug used to treat COVID patients.

DeSantis has pushed for the drug as a COVID-19 treatment in his state.

Pushaw shared Farrington’s report on her Twitter account and asked her followers to “drag them” before deleting the post.

The spokeswoman also threatened to put Farrington “on blast” if the story wasn’t changed, and retweeted a message about the AP, adding the words “Light. Them. Up.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.

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More than 6,150 news workers were laid off amidst the COVID-19 pandemic (Columbia Journalism Review)

By GABBY MILLER

KEY FINDINGS:

At least 6,154 news organization workers, which includes both editorial and non-editorial staffers, were laid off beginning March 2020 through August 2021.

At least 100 U.S. news organizations have closed throughout the pandemic, although 14 of those same outlets have since resumed operations to varying extents.

Another 42 outlets were absorbed by publications through mergers and acquisitions. This brings the number of news outlet eliminations up to 128.

Local news outlets particularly struggled to stay afloat, running on thin margins and operating with significantly diminished staff.

While the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and emergency relief funds from tech platforms helped partially mitigate the impact of the coronavirus on news organizations, in some cases it delayed layoffs and other cutbacks.

A lucky number of news organizations are emerging from the economic downturn in seemingly better financial positions now than they were prior to the pandemic. Others are staffing up or have big plans for workforce growth, although these efforts are less scaled at local news outlets.

Read more [here](#).

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FULL TEXT: Maria Ressa's speech at Nobel Peace Prize awarding

'Without facts, you can't have truth. Without truth, you can't have trust. Without trust, we have no shared reality, no democracy, and it becomes impossible to deal with the existential problems of our times: climate, coronavirus, now, the battle for truth.'

Veteran journalist and Rappler CEO Maria Ressa received the Nobel Peace Prize along with Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov on Friday, December 10, in Oslo, Norway. Ressa, who has become an international icon for press freedom and democracy, is the first Filipino to win the award.

Below is the full text of Ressa's speech delivered in Oslo. (Read Ressa's speech in Filipino [here](#), and Muratov's speech [here](#).)

Read more [here](#).

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Mehmet Oz Blasts Philadelphia Inquirer for Dropping 'Dr.' From His Name in Senate Campaign Coverage (The Wrap)

Lindsey Ellefson

Dr. Mehmet Oz on Monday accused the Philadelphia Inquirer of "putting their thumb on the scale" by not using "Dr." when covering his Senate campaign.

"They're putting their thumb on the scale. Here's the thing: There's such an enthusiastic response to the campaign. I'm here in Pittsburgh, talking to the people, and it makes me optimistic because they've got great ideas. Meanwhile, the Inquirer hates — hates — that I'm empowering you, hates that I'm taking on some of the established folks, hates that the entrepreneurial solutions I'm offering might make sense. They don't like that I say what I see so they want to silence me. I tell you, it's shocking that it would make them that uncomfortable this early in the campaign," he said on Fox News.

Anchor Steve Doocy followed up on a tweet from Oz posted last week: "They're trying to cancel you. I saw your Twitter. That's what you said." In the clip, Oz pointed out that past coverage in the paper included his title and insisted he won't be "canceled."

Read more [here](#).



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. 14, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2021. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 14, 2020, the Electoral College decisively confirmed Joe Biden as the nation's next president, ratifying his November victory in a state-by-state repudiation of President Donald Trump's refusal to concede he had lost; electors gave Biden 306 votes to Trump's 232. Speaking from Delaware, Biden accused Trump of threatening core principles of democracy, but told Americans that their form of self-government had "prevailed." A divided Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected Trump's lawsuit seeking to overturn his loss in the battleground state about an hour before the Electoral College cast Wisconsin's 10 votes for Biden.

On this date:

In 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, home at age 67.

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died at Windsor Castle at age 42.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (ROH'-ahl AH'-mun-suhn) and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson vetoed an immigration measure aimed at preventing “undesirables” and anyone born in the “Asiatic Barred Zone” from entering the U.S. (Congress overrode Wilson’s veto in February 1917.)

In 1939, the Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations for invading Finland.

In 1961, a school bus was hit by a passenger train at a crossing near Greeley, Colorado, killing 20 students.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, ruled that Congress was within its authority to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against racial discrimination by private businesses (in this case, a motel that refused to cater to Blacks).

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1985, former New York Yankees outfielder Roger Maris, who’d hit 61 home runs during the 1961 season, died in Houston at age 51.

In 2005, President George W. Bush defended his decision to wage the Iraq war, even as he acknowledged that “much of the intelligence turned out to be wrong.”

In 2012, a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, then took his own life as police arrived; the 20-year-old had also fatally shot his mother at their home before carrying out the attack on the school.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, visiting Fort Bragg in North Carolina, saluted troops returning from Iraq, asserting that the nearly nine-year conflict was ending honorably.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump convened a summit at Trump Tower for nearly a dozen tech leaders whose industry had largely supported Democrat Hillary Clinton; the CEOs included Apple’s Tim Cook, Google’s Eric Schmidt, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos and Tesla’s Elon Musk. Trump announced his selection of former campaign rival Rick Perry to be secretary of energy. Yahoo said it believed hackers had stolen data from more than one billion user accounts in Aug. 2013 (in Oct. 2017, Yahoo raised that figure to 3 billion).

One year ago: The largest vaccination campaign in U.S. history began with health workers getting shots on the same day the nation’s COVID-19 death toll hit 300,000. U.S. government agencies and private companies rushed to secure computer networks after the disclosure of a sophisticated, long-running cyber-espionage intrusion suspected of being carried out by Russian hackers. The owner of the Cleveland Indians said the team would drop the name it had used since 1915; he said it was “no longer acceptable in our world.” (The team would still be known as the Indians in 2021, with the new name, the Guardians, taking effect after that season.)

Today’s Birthdays: Singer-actor Abbe Lane is 90. Actor Hal Williams is 87. Actor-singer Jane Birkin is 75. Pop singer Joyce Vincent-Wilson (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 75.

Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz is 75. Actor Dee Wallace is 73. R&B singer Ronnie McNeir (The Four Tops) is 72. Rock musician Cliff Williams is 72. Actor-comedian T.K. Carter is 65. Rock singer-musician Mike Scott (The Waterboys) is 63. Singer-musician Peter "Spider" Stacy (The Pogues) is 63. Actor Cynthia Gibb is 58. Actor Nancy Valen is 56. Actor Archie Kao is 52. Actor Natascha McElhone is 52. Actor-comedian Michaela Watkins is 50. Actor-comedian Miranda Hart is 49. R&B singer Brian Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 46. Actor KaDee Strickland is 46. Actor Tammy Blanchard is 45. Actor Sophie Monk is 42. Actor-singer-musician Jackson Rathbone is 37. Actor Vanessa Hudgens is 33. Rock/R&B singer Tori Kelly is 29.

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