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## Connecting December 15, 2021

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Photo of Charlie Riedel in 1988, by David Burnett/LIFE

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Dec. 15, 2021,

Yes, **Charlie Riedel**, you can go home again.

That's where the assignment took him when the AP photojournalist returned to his western Kansas roots to cover a story of worldwide interest: the memorial services last Saturday for Bob Dole in the former senator's hometown of Russell, just 25 miles from Charlie's hometown of Hays. To Russell, population 4,500, Hays is the big city with 20,000 residents.

It was in Hays, at the Daily News, where Riedel developed his chops as a photographer from 1983 to 2000, winning wide recognition for his work before he was lured away by The Associated Press to join the Kansas City bureau, thanks to the persistent efforts of then-ACoB **Cliff Schiappa**, himself a former AP photojournalist.

(Several Connecting colleagues held the editor and publisher title at the Daily News during Riedel's time there - **John Lee**, who hired him, and **Julie Doll** and **John Montgomery**, as well as Kay Berenson and Jim Hitch. Our colleague **Greg**

**Halling** was managing editor at Hays during part of Riedel's time there.)

Connecting asked Riedel, who has been called on frequently for assignments all over the globe in his two decades with AP, for his thoughts on getting an assignment right in his own backyard. His response leads today's issue, along with a few of his photos.

Which brings me to this question: Have you ever "gone home" to cover a story from the place where you grew up? If so, how about sharing your story?

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



## A story brings him back home



**Pallbearers await the flight carrying Bob Dole back home to Kansas for the final time.**  
AP Photo/Charlie Riedel



Scenes from Russell where a memorial service was held Saturday for Bob Dole in his hometown. Dole's wife Elizabeth at his casket inside the church. AP Photos/Charlie Riedel

**Charlie Riedel (Email)** - I spent all of the '80s and '90s cutting my teeth as a photojournalist in Hays, Kan. located 25 miles from Bob Dole's hometown of Russell. In fact, my early childhood home was just 10 miles from Russell. You might say, I grew up photographing Dole.

My era of newspaper photography coincided with Dole's heyday in politics and though he didn't often come back to Russell, I photographed him most every time he did. This became ever more frequent during Dole's presidential runs as Russell served as the perfect backdrop for his major campaign announcements.

As the photographer at a small paper in the neighboring town, I rarely got any special access (that was reserved for the big national media). I did however get caught up in the Dole whirlwind as seemingly media from all over the United States and even other countries took an interest in Russell in the summer of 1996. As Dole became the apparent Republican nominee for President, I found myself as the go-to guy for copies of old family photos, pictures of Dole's siblings and endless scene setters showing the world what Russell looked like.



**Bob Dole jokes with local kids at his birthday celebration in Russell during his run for President in 1996. Photo/Charlie Riedel, Hays Daily News**



**Bob Dole greets supporters at a rally kicking off his bid for the Republican nomination in 1988. Photo/Charlie Riedel, Hays Daily News**

That all ended as quickly as it began and in 2000, I moved on to join AP in Kansas City. I remember thinking at the time that I'd be back to cover Dole in Russell at some point, maybe for some big event but certainly when he dies. I did cover him some after coming to AP, but never in Russell.

I feel covering Dole's final trip to Russell closes a chapter in my life as well. It was good shooting in an environment where at least a few people recognized me from my past life as a small-town newspaper photographer. It took me back to the days when I never needed a credential to cover anything and I shot film - a simpler time in a simpler place. That was a bygone era in photojournalism just like Dole represents a bygone era in politics.

It was good to go back if only for a day.

## Obituary for Maurice Billups



**January 30, 1953 - December 8, 2021 (age 68)**

Maurice was born in the Bronx, New York City to Lucille Fennell Billups and Harold Billups on January 30, 1953. He was the third born of their four sons. The family moved to Queens where he attended Middle School and High School. He graduated with honors from Touro College, NY, with a BA in Business Management in 1980.

Maurice worked for United Press International as a clerk in the Financial Department from 1972-1974. In September 1974 he began working for Associated Press at 50 Rockefeller Plaza as a Tabulator and Supervisor in the Commodity Dept. and worked as an Aggregate in the Business News Department. He retired from AP on his birthday in 2018 after 44 years of service.

Growing up, Maurice was quite an athlete. He was an excellent basketball player and a proficient martial artist, practicing Weng Chung (Kung Fu). His social and community service included membership to Emanuel Lodge No.1 in Brooklyn. He was a 33rd degree Mason and held many positions: Worshipful Master, Past Master and Secretary of the Supreme Council. Maurice was also an active member of Unity Church of Christ in Maywood, NJ, and had served as Board Secretary. He enjoyed meeting new visitors, making coffee for after service, and donated the TV monitors for Harmony Hall. For fun, Maurice could be found making his annual September pilgrimage to the Capitol

Jazz Festival in Maryland. He and his wife, Vanessa, enjoyed going to concerts, Latin dancing, and cruising to several destinations each year. He was an avid movie buff, a collector of signed sports memorabilia and enjoyed watching sports and movies in his mancave. Maurice was very proud of his watch collection and most proud of his cars which he kept shining like new and nicknamed after himself. He also loved fishing on the boats off the Jersey shore. Maurice also studied guitar and was a 1st level Reiki Practitioner. He will be remembered for his smile, jokes, and ready-to-help disposition, particularly to those contemplating retirement.

Maurice transitioned on December 8, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, and older brothers Ronald and Myron. He is survived by his loving wife, Vanessa Billups, his cherished daughter Barbara Prophet, adored granddaughter Jordyn Prophet, son-in-law Joseph Prophet, brother Harvey Billups and host of nieces and nephews, church family, friends, and neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Maurice's name to Unity Church of Christ 471 Maywood Ave. Maywood, NJ 07607 ([www.unitymaywood.org](http://www.unitymaywood.org))

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Maurice, please visit our floral store.

Click [here](#) for link to the obituary.

## Connecting mailbox

*I 'heart' Kabul, and all of Afghanistan*





**Kathy Gannon** ([Email](#)) – *AP news director, Afghanistan and Pakistan* - I do indeed “heart” Kabul, well all of Afghanistan - a country of kind caring people. They were that yesterday, they are today and they will be tomorrow. They have also suffered greatly - yesterday, today and sadly tomorrow weighs heavy. A kind young Afghan man took the photo. I don’t know if he was Taliban, not, from Kabul or elsewhere in the country. I just know he was very kind. He offered to take the picture seeing I was struggling with taking a selfie. Kind.

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## ***Ebony Reed Joins The Marshall Project as Chief Strategy Officer***

The Marshall Project, the Pulitzer-winning nonprofit media organization covering criminal justice, is excited to announce the hire of its first-ever Chief Strategy Officer. Ebony Reed will oversee the launch and rollout of The Marshall Project's local newsroom strategy, as well as managing the communications, marketing and developing strategies to grow the organization's reach. The Marshall Project recently announced its first local news operation, in Cleveland, which will launch in 2022.



Reed joins The Marshall Project from The Wall Street Journal, where she oversaw audience engagement as Chief of New Audiences and Community. She also reviewed the Journal's coverage to examine issues of race and other types of diversity within its stories, authored WSJ newsletters on race and women, and anchored a live video series covering such topics as policing, re-entry programs and race in the workplace.

Read more [here](#).

## Henry T. Waskow and the Ernie Pyle tribute that made him famous

**Marc Lancaster**  
**WW2 on Deadline**

By the end of 1943, Ernie Pyle's dispatches had become the indispensable lens through which Americans on the home front viewed their war. Though he was twice as old as many of the men whose toils he chronicled, Pyle's humble, in-the-trenches approach endeared him to four-stars and grunts alike. All it took was a glance at a couple of his columns, though, to see that the latter mattered far more to him.



If World War II was everyman's conflict, no one did a better job of telling that amorphous character's story than Pyle. And no single piece drove home the theme of Pyle's work better than his masterfully crafted tribute to a 25-year-old who died on a nameless ridge in Italy on December 14, 1943.

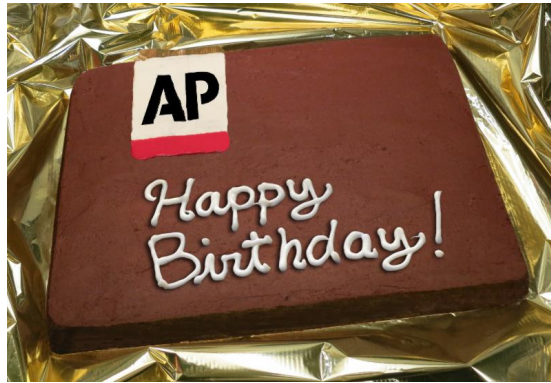
"In this war I have known a lot of officers who were loved and respected by the soldiers under them," Pyle's story began. "But never have I crossed the trail of any man as beloved as Capt. Henry T. Waskow of Belton, Texas."

Pyle never met Waskow, but as with the subjects of many of his stories, the young officer served as a stand-in for the countless men uprooted from their anonymous lives to serve as fodder in a global conflict of almost incomprehensible scale.

The Scripps-Howard correspondent was with elements of the 36th Infantry Division near San Pietro Infine at the foot of what U.S. Army maps called simply "Hill 1205," a 4,000-foot peak known locally as Monte Sammucro.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mavis Amundson](#)

[John Strachan](#)

## Stories of interest

***Myanmar journalist reported to have died in army custody*** (AP)

By GRANT PECK

BANGKOK (AP) — A local freelance photojournalist in Myanmar has died in military custody after being arrested last week while covering protests, colleagues and a friend of his family said Tuesday.

Soe Naing is the first journalist known to have died in custody since the army seized power in February, ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 100 journalists have been detained since then, though about half have been released.

Soe Naing, who was a graphic designer as well as a freelance journalist, was arrested Friday when he and a colleague were in downtown Yangon taking photos during a “silent strike” called by opponents of military rule. It was the biggest nationwide protest in several months, and the streets were virtually empty as people answered the call to stay home and businesses to shut down for six hours.

Soe Naing is not the first detainee to die in government custody. There is no clear total, but the others reported dead while in custody have been political activists and members of Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy party. In several cases where the bodies could be seen, they bore marks that suggested the individuals had been tortured, according to human rights activists.

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

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## ***Judge Clarifies Order on New York Times Coverage of Project Veritas*** (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbbaum and Marc Tracy

A New York trial court judge on Tuesday issued a clarification in an order that has temporarily prevented The New York Times from seeking out or publishing certain documents related to the conservative group Project Veritas, allowing The Times some latitude to report on the organization until a final ruling is reached.

The clarification, by Justice Charles D. Wood of State Supreme Court in Westchester County, came in response to a formal request from Times lawyers on Monday. In the request, The Times asked that the order be dissolved, while also requesting that the court clarify what it could and could not publish.

Justice Wood’s original order, issued on Nov. 18, came about as part of a lawsuit filed by Project Veritas in 2020 that accused The Times of defamation because of its description of the group’s reporting practices. In the order, Justice Wood ordered that The Times cease further efforts to solicit or acquire attorney-client privileged material, effectively limiting the newspaper’s ability to report on Project Veritas.

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

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## ***Why I don't trust the mainstream media***

Robert Reich

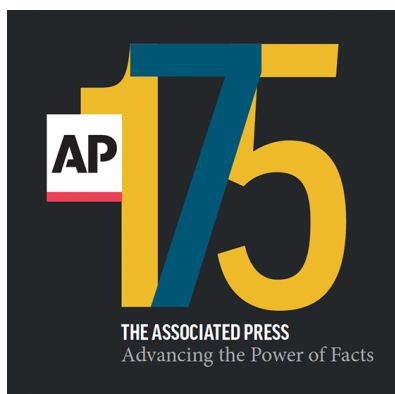
I’m often asked how I keep up with the news. Obviously, I avoid the unhinged rightwing outlets pushing misinformation, disinformation, and poisonous lies.

But I've also grown a bit wary of the mainstream media -- the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, and other dominant outlets -- not because they peddle "fake news" (their reporting is usually first-rate) but because of three more subtle biases.

First, they often favor the status quo. Mainstream journalists wanting to appear serious about public policy rip into progressives for the costs of their proposals, but never ask self-styled "moderates" how they plan to cope with the costs of doing nothing or doing too little about the same problems.

A Green New Deal might be expensive but doing nothing about the climate crisis will almost certainly cost far more. Medicare for All will cost a lot, but the price of doing nothing about America's cruel and dysfunctional healthcare system will soon be in the stratosphere.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.



## 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. 15, 2021



### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 15, the 349th day of 2021. There are 16 days left in the year.

#### Today’s Highlight in History:

On Dec. 15, 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he would grant diplomatic recognition to Communist China on New Year’s Day and sever official relations with Taiwan.

#### On this date:

In 1791, the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a confrontation with Indian police.

In 1939, the Civil War motion picture epic “Gone with the Wind,” starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, had its world premiere in Atlanta.

In 1967, the Silver Bridge between Gallipolis (gal-ih-puh-LEES’), Ohio, and Point Pleasant, West Virginia, collapsed into the Ohio River, killing 46 people.

In 1971, the Secret Service appointed its first five female special agents.

In 1974, the horror spoof “Young Frankenstein,” starring Gene Wilder and directed by Mel Brooks, was released by 20th Century Fox.

In 1989, a popular uprising began in Romania that resulted in the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHEHS’-koo).

In 2000, the long-troubled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was closed for good.

In 2001, with a crash and a large dust cloud, a 50-foot tall section of steel — the last standing piece of the World Trade Center’s facade — was brought down in New York.

In 2010, the U.N. Security Council gave a unanimous vote of confidence to the government of Iraq by lifting 19-year-old sanctions on weapons and civilian nuclear power.

In 2012, a day after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, President Barack Obama declared that “every parent in America has a heart heavy with hurt” and said it was time to “take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this.”

In 2013, Nelson Mandela was laid to rest in his childhood hometown, ending a 10-day mourning period for South Africa’s first Black president.

Ten years ago: The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered in a low-key Baghdad airport ceremony marking the end of a war that had left 4,500 Americans and 110,000 Iraqis dead and cost more than \$800 billion.

Five years ago: A federal jury in Charleston, South Carolina, convicted Dylann Roof of slaughtering nine Black church members who had welcomed him to their Bible study.

One year ago: Hundreds more hospitals around the country began dispensing COVID-19 shots to their workers in a rapid expansion of the U.S. vaccination drive. The Food and Drug Administration cleared the first kit that consumers could buy without a prescription to test themselves for COVID-19 entirely at home. After weeks of holding out, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Joe Biden on winning the presidential election. Biden nominated his former rival Pete Buttigieg (BOO’-tuh-juhj) as secretary of transportation. Two-time reigning NBA MVP Gannis Antetokounmpo

(YAH'-nihs an-teh-toh-KOON'-poh) said he'd signed an extension keeping him with the Milwaukee Bucks for at least five more seasons.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Cindy Birdsong (The Supremes) is 82. Rock musician Dave Clark (The Dave Clark Five) is 79. Rock musician Carmine Appice (Vanilla Fudge) is 75. Actor Don Johnson is 72. Actor Melanie Chartoff is 71. Movie director Julie Taymor is 69. Movie director Alex Cox is 67. Rock musician Paul Simonon (The Clash) is 66. Movie director John Lee Hancock is 65. Democratic Party activist Donna Brazile is 62. Country singer Doug Phelps (Brother Phelps; Kentucky Headhunters) is 61. Movie producer-director Reginald Hudlin is 60. Actor Helen Slater is 58. Actor Paul Kaye (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 57. Actor Molly Price is 56. Actor Garrett Wang (wahng) is 53. Actor Michael Shanks is 51. Actor Stuart Townsend is 49. Figure skater Surya Bonaly is 48. Actor Geoff Stults is 45. Actor Adam Brody is 42. Actor Michelle Dockery is 40. Actor George O. Gore II is 39. Actor Camilla Luddington is 38. Rock musician and actor Alana Haim (HYM) is 30. Actor Maude Apatow (AP'-ih-tow) is 24. Actor Stefania Owen is 24.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?





- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

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