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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 7, 2022,

Here's a New Year's resolution to consider: Judging for journalism excellence.

Colleague **Becky Day** ([Email](#)) shares the following:

Dear AP pals - AP is no longer sponsoring state media awards, so several state broadcast and newspaper organizations have picked up the contest ball. Becky Day, Dan's spouse and former AP contest coordinator, is now supervising contests for state groups in Kentucky, Tennessee and New York. She needs some help judging them. She's also trading judges with other contest coordinators and working to build a judging pool to help everyone still involved in recognizing journalism excellence.

Many of you are familiar with the BetterBNC contest judging platform. BNC is still being used and everything is handled online. Some judging will start the beginning of February. More judging will be needed later in the year. You will have about two weeks to complete assignments.

Can you help? If you can, please send Becky at becky@kba.org with the following information for each judge:

Name of judge:

City/State:

Email address:

Phone number:

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Americans do not remember Jan. 6 Capitol riot as one people



With the U.S. Capitol building in the background, a person turns flameless candles on so that they can be distributed at a vigil Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, in Washington, on the one year anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Capitol. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

By CALVIN WOODWARD

WASHINGTON (AP) — Side by side at ground zero on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a Republican governor read from the Gettysburg Address and a

Democratic governor read from the Declaration of Independence as Americans everywhere mourned and remembered as one people.

On Thursday, in contrast, the anniversary of the assault on the U.S. Capitol exposed a nation of two peoples.

Democrats, led by one angry president standing in the gleaming hall of statues overrun a year ago by the pro-Trump mob, remembered. Republicans in large measure moved on.

How a nation mourns and remembers has long been fundamental to America's glossy ideal of shared values, common purpose and familiar sense of history. The division on this day showed a country far removed from that.

The counterpoint to President Joe Biden's plea to save democracy and to the moment of mute remembrance led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was a day of silence from most of the Republican lawmakers who, just like the Democrats, had been hunted by the attackers.

Read more [here](#).

The day I broke the news wire

Peter Eisner (Email) - Here's one I have never fessed up to. I think the statute of limitations has passed. I apologize.

Way, way before the internet, people on the AP news desk could file their own stories directly. Once filed, the stories lined up in virtual baskets on primitive tape-driven computers whirring in the glass house at 50 Rock. I was fascinated by how it all worked. Eventually, I got into computers and became involved in early computer transmission (I created and founded Newscom in 1985 and AP was a client, among others). I may be the first journalist to have ever transmitted a story on a wireless computer connection. (1992 Democratic National Convention, Madison Square Garden). But that's another story.

In the 1970s, transmission was handled by tickers and slow tape-driven analog computers. Each story we filed needed to include a priority. It went something like this

F - Flash, only for things like the Kennedy shooting.

B- Bulletin, If somebody was just convicted of a major crime, or Mt. Etna is erupting, or somebody big died.

U - The second take of a bulletin and other such things.

R ? - I don't remember the code for a plain old regular story. It doesn't matter for this story.

H - hold. There were lots of other codes, but not to digress any further

Very few humans ever sent out a flash. But we all had the ability to do it.

One day, at around 3 a.m. on the World Desk, I was thinking about flashes. When you sent a flash, it would immediately interrupt whatever was running on the wire -- in this case the World Wire -- and then print the flash, which was supposed to be two or three words -- "Kennedy Dead," "The Eagle has landed," that kind of stuff.

And then it would go back to printing the previous story that had been busted out.

So I wondered, "what would happen if somebody sent out two flashes in a row?" I started fiddling around on the computer and (hey, it was a slow night. I was a kid and a dope) I sent out two flashes to see what would happen.

Not good. The World Wire had been idle for a while. The first flash went out, it had no story to bust. But the second flash came up to bust the first story, which was already a flash. Then after busting the story, the second flash ran again. Then it reverted to the first flash, which then busted the second flash, which then busted the first flash. A LOOP. Paper started unfurling off the printers, coupled with an unending series of bells and flashes.

AP reporter tours righted USS Oklahoma

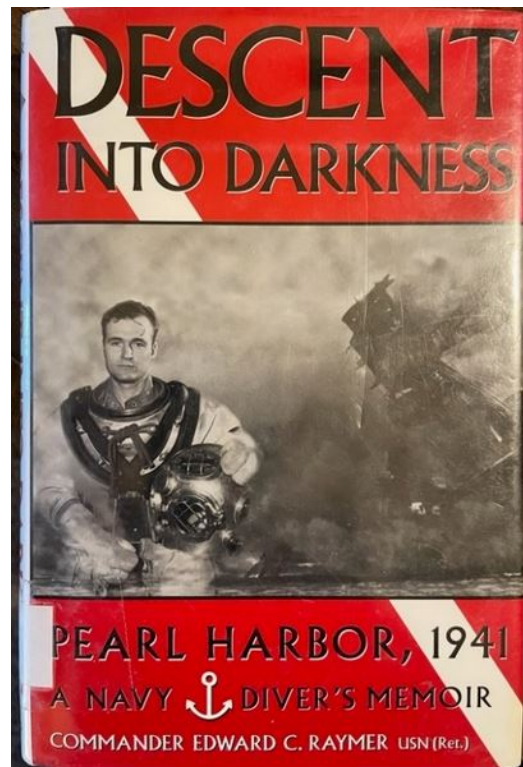


Eugene Burns, Associated Press staffer works on Aleutian assignment, in winter flying and "typhoon outfit" on June 26, 1943. (AP Photo)

Chris Carola (Email) - Not long after last month's 80th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, I got around to reading "Descent Into Darkness," a book that was recommended to me several years ago by a World War II researcher who specializes in MIA cases. The book includes an encounter the author

had with an Associated Press reporter who had a storied career during WWII only to die years afterward when he was attacked by a street mob during a military coup in the Middle East.

“Descent Into Darkness” is the late Navy Cmdr. Edward C. Raymer’s 1996 memoir of his wartime duties as a salvage diver working on American warships sunk or damaged in Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7 attack. He was the first to conduct a salvage dive on the USS Arizona just weeks after it sunk with more than 1,100 crewmembers aboard. Later, he and his fellow divers moved on to other ships, including the USS Oklahoma, which had capsized, entombing the bodies of more than 300 crewmembers.



Soon after the Oklahoma was righted and drydocked in late 1943, Raymer was ordered by his commander to give Honolulu-based AP correspondent Eugene Burns a tour of the battered battleship. Two years earlier, Burns was the first eyewitness to report the Dec. 7 bombing while it was still underway when, using a drug store’s telephone, he got through to AP’s San Francisco bureau on three separate calls before U.S. military authorities cut off all civilian communication between Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

Later, Burns spent five months aboard the USS Enterprise, an aircraft carrier whose planes played a key role in defeating the Japanese fleet at the Battle of Midway in early June 1942.

In his book, Raymer recounted taking Burns below deck aboard the Oklahoma, where the reporter stumbled upon human bones that hadn’t been recovered yet by military personnel tasked with that grisly duty. During the tour, the power cut out, leaving them momentarily without light and ventilation. Soon after, Burns said he had seen enough. Back on deck, Burns thanked Raymer for “a grim but informative tour.”

“It’s something we’re all interested in on the mainland, and I’ll write it the way you’ve explained it today,” Raymer said Burns told him.

Took group from soldiers' guard— Maddened Iraqi mob beat trio of Americans to death

BY STAN CARTER

BAGHDAD, Iraq, July 22—(AP)—Just a month after one of the plushiest hotels in the Mid-East opened, soldiers took away 11 of its guests. Four were beaten to death by a mob. Three barely escaped with their lives. The fate of the four others—all Jordanians—is still not known.

The dead included three Americans:

Eugene Burns of Sausalito, Calif.

George Colley of San Francisco.

Robert Alcock of Altadena, Calif.

A German, Heinrich Stempel of Grevenbroich, Germany, was the fourth killed.

ALL THE VICTIMS but the four unaccounted for apparently were seized on the whim of the soldiers. The soldiers did not physically mistreat them and even made a half-hearted effort to save them from the mob.

The Army officers who staged last Monday's revolution issued order to protect foreigners. In mob demonstrations that followed the arm's takeover, the British Embassy and the British Information Service and Consulate were sacked.

Retired British Col. P. L. Graham, comptroller of the household of the embassy, was shot dead on the embassy steps. There were no demonstrations against other embassies.

THE 90 GUESTS of the Baghdad Hotel when the soldiers arrived at 9:15 a.m. on Monday were all foreigners. The hotel with its 200 rooms and 200 baths is said to be the most luxurious—and most expensive—in this part of the world.

The soldiers, accompanied by two men dressed in open white shirts and slacks, rolled up in a sand-colored desert patrol car and a black limousine.

Their aim apparently was to get four Jordan ministers of the Arab federation of Iraq and Jordan; these were the four hotel guests whose fate is unknown.

The soldiers and plainclothesmen deployed around the entrance to the hotel and the hotel garage and forced taxi drivers, bellhops and doormen to raise their hands and stand against a wall. All were searched.

THE OFFICER in command entered the lobby with two enlisted men and directed the staff and several of the guests there to put up their hands and join the group outside.

The soldiers ripped out telephones and ransacked the desk in the office of the Swiss hotel manager.

The manager was forced at gunpoint to take the officer and two men to the rooms occupied by the Jordanian ministers. The first, second and third rooms were empty but they found the ministers all together in the fourth room.

The Jordanians were marched through the lobby and into the limousine.

MEANWHILE ROOM numbers of foreigners were demanded and the soldiers began

Carter was first to enter Baghdad

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stan Carter, Associated Press reporter who wrote the accompanying vivid account, is the first American correspondent to enter Baghdad since the revolutionary coup of July 14 destroyed the royal regime and set up a republic. Carter reached Baghdad by a route that has not yet been disclosed. He is regularly attached to the AP Rome Bureau and has covered newsfronts from Korea to the Middle East. He was a war correspondent in the Korean conflict, has worked in San Francisco, Chicago and New York on foreign and domestic news, is an alumnus of California's Pomona College and has a wife and child in Rome.

baby upstairs who needed her and was permitted to go back to the lobby. There was no baby.

Mrs. Killian's husband, who has been stationed in Saudi Arabia 10 years, is a vice president of the Bechtel Co. of San Francisco. He was one of the many guests missed in the search of rooms.

Mrs. Killian was downstairs with Colley when the soldiers entered. Colley also was a Bechtel vice president.

BURNS AND COLLEY told the soldiers they were Americans and should be let alone, but they were taken away.

The 11 persons seized by the soldiers were taken to Baghdad Radio Station, field headquarters for the revolt. The four Jordanians were held there but the others were put in a truck and started off for another destination.

The truck stalled and about 50 Iraqi civilians closed in. Reaching over the tailgate and low sides of the truck, they pounded the foreigners with stones, sticks and clubs.

The army driver and a soldier riding on top yelled at the crowd to stop and fired a few shots in the air, but then permitted the attack on the truck passengers to go on.

BEATEN BADLY and with their clothes in shreds, a German, a Syrian and an Egyptian managed to break away.

Their last sight of Burns, Colley, Alcock and Stempel came as the four were taking increasing punishment from the mob.

The three survivors were returned to the hotel at 6 p.m. They had lost their wallets, credentials and most of their clothing at the hands of the mob.

ONLY STEMPEL'S body was found.

Killian, who searched all hospitals and morgues in the city, believes the Americans were buried in a common grave with about 15 Iraqi victims of the revolution.

Army authorities also made an intensive search without finding any trace of the Americans. The U. S. Embassy concluded they were dead.

AFTER MONDAY'S events, the army placed a guard at the front of the hotel and assigned an officer to the lobby to protect the guests.

Sir Michael Wright, British ambassador, and his wife and secretary moved in after part of the embassy was wrecked by looters.

Many Americans and British have continued to go where they please in the city during the day.

Almost all the hotel guests are awaiting a chance to leave. Their first question to anyone from outside is when will the borders be opened.

There have been no reports of any later incidents involving members of the American and British communities here.

Gold Star Mothers' founder succumbs

NEW YORK, July 22—(AP)—Mrs. Mathilda Burling, founder and first president of the Gold Star Mothers of America, died yesterday in a nursing home of heart trouble.

Mrs. Burling, 78, who lost a son in France with the Rainbow Division in World War I, formed the Gold Star Mothers shortly after the war for all mothers whose sons had died in the service. She traveled extensively in Europe for the organization and became a friend of the late Gen. John J. Persh-



GEORGE COLLEY
... Clubbed to death



EUGENE BURNS
... Victim of mob

ing, World War I commander of the American Expeditionary Forces.

She organized the Gold Star Mothers of World War II two years after the end of the last war.

She and her husband, a retired policeman who survives her, made their home in Richmond Hill, Queens.



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rounding them up.
One hotel guest who had been watching the events from his screened balcony over the entrance heard soldiers in the corridor outside. He locked the door, turned out the lights and did not answer when the soldiers pounded on the door. They went away.
Downstairs two Britons were loaded into a hotel station wagon taken over by the soldiers. They asked and got permission to go back into the hotel for a drink of water. Inside, they mingled with the hotel staff and escaped.
Mrs. L. J. Killian, formerly of San Francisco, was shoved toward the cars. She told a young Iraqi officer she had a

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Image courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

Raymer wrote that Burns kept his word. The resulting two-part story that moved on the AP wires in February 1944 “was carried in every major newspaper in the nation,” Raymer recalled, resulting in the sailor’s mother in California getting calls about it from friends as far away as Maine.

The second story told of Burns’ brief yet harrowing tour below deck with Raymer serving as his guide. Burns spared few details about what he saw, including a skull and other bones stuck in an overhead hatch. He imagined the doomed sailor, like so many others on Dec. 7, rushing to his battle station upon hearing the first explosions that Sunday morning, only to die in a failed attempt to get topside.

“So hundreds must have died during Pearl Harbor,” Burns wrote.

Burns had covered the fighting in the Aleutian Islands earlier in 1943 as well as the Marshall Islands campaign and the Allied assault on Sumatra in early 1944. Afterward he headed to AP headquarters in New York, traveling west from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). According to an item in the AP World for May 1944, Burns was back in the U.S. when he learned that his wife, who remained in Honolulu, had given birth to twins on the 9th of that month. He also learned that his book about the Enterprise’s first year at war – “Then There Was One” -- had just been published.

Burns remained with the AP until WWII formally ended on Sept. 2, 1945. His resignation from the company was reported in the AP World for September-October of that year. Afterward Burns returned to his home in Sausalito, California and went on to write several books on wildlife and fishing as well as a syndicated nature column.

Burns, who was born in Russia, founded an organization dedicated to boosting tourism in Jordan and Iraq. In mid-July 1958, he was staying at a newly opened hotel in Baghdad when the military launched a coup and took control of the country. According to a story filed a week later by AP correspondent Stan Carter, the 53-year-old Burns, two other American men and a man from Germany were beaten to death by mob after soldiers had removed the men and several other guests from the hotel.

Burns was survived by his wife and then-14-year-old twin daughters.

Many thanks to Francesca Pitaro at AP Archives for providing Eugene Burns' background information for this story as well as his photo and the newspaper clipping.

Associated Press supports Hub Arkush in NFL MVP voting saga

By Jeff Agrest
Chicago Sun-Times

For those suggesting that Hub Arkush lose his vote for the NFL MVP award after revealing the reasons he won't give it to Aaron Rodgers, save your breath.

"We're not gonna throw out his ballot," Barry Wilner said.

Wilner is the Associated Press' national pro football writer, and he has overseen the voting process for NFL awards for about 30 years.

Since the 2010 awards, the league has used the AP's voting for the "NFL Honors" show that airs before the Super Bowl. It's a serious endeavor, but Wilner said he has never — and would never — take away someone's vote because of a difference in definition of "valuable."

"For MVP, because the word 'valuable' is judgmental, it would be unfair and unwise for us to set any parameters for that award," Wilner said. "We can't tell people how to think about what they consider most valuable."

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

A view from the old rocking chair

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - It has been a long summer and fall, and maybe more so because of that ugly and threatening virus.

I decided to bring into the house my old thinking rocking chair, which has aged along with its owner.

But, as I sit in it now, my elderly mind drifts back to a past, which now seems to be a fantasy. My father dying; moving back to Columbus, Ohio, and growing up in the middle of industrial section of town; going to work when I was eight years old; visiting the Ohio State Penitentiary to pick up my newspaper bundle, and helping the driver carry bundles of newspapers inside the pen; knowing some of the trustees, which included bank robbers, and murderers.

Ah, yes, that was my boyhood playground. But, that education prepared my mind, and behavior, to face that "strange" world "out there."

I took advantage of every opportunity to learn. The best decision I ever made was when The Associated Press hired me as an office boy, at age 16. Taking advantage of every opportunity to learn and advance, AP made me a staff photographer, which opened doors into life that I, nor anyone, could ever imagine. I am thankful to this day for what the AP, and God, has done to show me the way through life.

Be that as it may, that glorious adventure into the lives of humanity, as it was then, was something that most kids never get. The world then was a huge adventure into a society that seemed to be friendly, loving, caring, helpful, and respecting.

Ah, yes, but what happened?

As I rock away today, the peoples of this country seem to have "Lost it." In other words, the citizens of the United States, and especially the members of our government, but especially those who have chosen to blindly follow and believe in the antics and beliefs of the just previous President of the U.S., whose reputation and behavior has led to a schism in our democracy.

"You need to buy a gun because there will probably be an uprising." Oh my goodness, what have we become? There is a lot of talk about our old "Democracy," because some 50 per cent of the population has deemed to be "followers and believers" of that former president, even though he is under severe investigation by many federal and state authorities for alleged crimes he has committed before, and during his administration.

I don't ever remember this kind of crap in my years up till now. Where are the discerning and analytical minds of the peoples? Why do I sit in my rocking chair and worry about "His" alleged gangs" preparing for a coup?

Oh my goodness.

About a year ago, I wrote a letter expressing my views on the times to the editor of a local newspaper. When it was published, a preacher friend called me and asked "Have they shot you yet?" That is scary.

I've been through a lot of dangers covering disasters, and as a War correspondent for the AP in Korea, but I have never been so concerned for my life and that of relatives, and actually, the peoples of this country. It is scary now.

I receive a lot of e-mails from members of Connecting, and they too are concerned and write about the various things that might happen – and not too distant in the future.

One of the saddest things is that it appears little is being done to head off what appears to be trouble in our democracy.

Yes, I enjoy sitting in my rocking chair and thinking back on my earlier years.

Eagles and geese...



Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - Male bald eagle flying in with nest material at the San Gabriel Reservoir in the mountains close to Azusa, Calif., on Wednesday.



Peter Leabo ([Email](#)) - This is a Midwest response to Nick Ut's amazing photos of aircraft passing in front of the moon. We have geese like LA has aircraft ... but in the Midwest you have to freeze your ass off ... and pray a bit more. A migration of Canada geese flies toward a waxing crescent moon west of Kansas City, MO.

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

90s:

Norm Abelson
Henry Bradsher
Hal Buell
Frank Daniels Jr.
Albert Habhab
George Hanna
Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Sister Donalda Kehoe
Elaine Light
Joe McGowan
Sam Montello
Charlie Monzella
Bob Petsche
Arlon Southall

**Sal Veder
Harold Waters
Doris Webster**

80s:

**Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Malcolm Barr
Myron Belkind
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Ford Burkhart (as of 1/22)
Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Mike Cochran
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Don Deibler
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Dodi Fromson
Bill Gillen
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Chick Harrity
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude**

**Carl Leubsdorf
David Liu
John Marlow
Dave Mazarella
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Harry Moskos
Ray Newton
Greg Nokes
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Mike Rouse
Denis Searles
Richard Shafer
Mike Short
Joe Somma
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Karol Stonger
Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jack Walker
Bob Walsh
Dean Wariner
Jeff Williams
Johnny Yost
Arnold Zeitlin
Kent Zimmerman**

Welcome to Connecting



[Steve Helber](#)

Stories of interest

Opinion: The Jan. 6 mob surged at me. Then the trauma rushed in. (Washington Post)

By Kate Woodsome
Senior Producer, Opinions Videos

It's been a year since I lost my sense of safety. A year since thousands of angry Americans came like rain to my home city, flooding the streets where I ride my bike, surging up the Capitol steps, shattering windows and reality as we knew it.

On Jan. 6, 2021, I spent hours weaving through the pro-Trump mob, interviewing anti-government mercenaries and families duped into believing the 2020 election had been stolen.

Journalists were dragged and thrown over a ledge. They had their cameras smashed on the pavement. My colleague and I were accosted by snarling men and women. Video of me, unflinching, circulated. Many who saw it said journalists must have "nerves of steel." People lauded the "calm" and "grace" I showed in defusing the situation with humor. In fact, I was overwhelmed by the loss of control and ashamed I'd stood frozen for so long.

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

-0-

New York Times to purchase The Athletic for \$550 million (AP)

By JOE REEDY

The New York Times Company has agreed to acquire the sports-subscription site The Athletic for \$550 million.

The Times, which announced the deal Thursday after the markets closed, said the sale is expected to close during the first quarter of the year.

There is a bit of irony that an upstart sports media company is being bought by one of the world's largest legacy media companies. Alex Mather, a co-founder of The Athletic said during a 2017 interview with the Times that, "We will wait every local paper out and let them continuously bleed until we are the last ones standing. We will suck them dry of their best talent at every moment. We will make business extremely difficult for them."

The Athletic had 1.2 million subscribers as of December and gets the Times closer to its goal of having at least 10 million digital subscribers by 2025. The company currently has over 8 million paid subscriptions, with that total doubling over the past three years.

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

-0-

Miami Herald Reporter Advised Dem Lawmaker on Florida Redistricting Process (Washington Free Beacon)

Cole Carnick

A Miami Herald reporter advised a Florida state senator on how Democrats should prepare for a potential legal battle over the legislature's redistricting process.

Tallahassee bureau chief Mary Ellen Klas encouraged Democratic state senator Randolph Bracy to request racial demographic information of a proposed state Senate district, according to audio a staffer recorded following a Nov. 17 redistricting hearing. Klas, who is covering the redistricting process, said the information should be in the legislative record should Democrats challenge the map in court.

"That debate should be flushed out and we should hear about it in public forums like this," Klas said in the recording, which was obtained by the Florida-based news site Capitolist. "If nobody asks these questions, they don't get it on the record and if it's not on the record, they aren't gonna be held to it when [unintelligible] go to court."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Paul Albright.

-0-

Democratic hopeful Nick Kristof doesn't qualify to run for governor, Secretary of State Shemia Fagan

says (Portland Oregonian)

By Hillary Borrud | The Oregonian/OregonLive

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Nick Kristof does not meet Oregon's residency requirement to qualify to run for governor, Secretary of State Shemia Fagan announced Thursday morning.

Kristof grew up in rural Oregon, has owned property in the state for decades and returned to Oregon nearly every summer while working as a New York Times columnist in New York and abroad. He attested that he's been a resident of Oregon long enough to run for its highest office.

In ruling he has not, elections officials in Fagan's office focused on Kristof's record of voting in New York state as recently as the 2020 general election. But they said their case was bolstered by his decision to maintain his New York drivers license through December 2020 and to continue paying New York income taxes well past the November 2019 deadline for a 2022 gubernatorial candidate to establish residency in Oregon.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Paul Albright.

-0-

NPR is losing some of its Black and Latino hosts. Colleagues see a larger crisis. (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi

In recent years, NPR has taken pride in its efforts to diversify its ranks of on-air hosts, with the hiring of many Black and Latino journalists to lead its signature news programs, including voices such as Lourdes Garcia-Navarro, Noel King, Michele Norris and Audie Cornish.

But now the public-radio giant is contending with an exodus of the very same talent.

On Tuesday, it was Cornish, the co-host since 2012 of NPR's daily newsmagazine, "All Things Considered," who announced she would be leaving at the end of the week, destination unspecified. "I have never considered the host chair a tenured position," she said, though many of her predecessors have enjoyed decades-long runs in the job. "It's time for me to try my hand at new journalism projects and embark on new adventures."

Other prominent on-air personalities of color to depart NPR's airwaves recently include "Weekend Edition Sunday" host Garcia-Navarro, who left in September to host a New York Times podcast; "Morning Edition" host King, who left in November for Vox Media; and former "1A" host Joshua Johnson, who joined MSNBC.

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

The Final Word

High-flying flags



Paul Stevens (Email) – On a sunny January 2022 day, a brisk breeze keep the flags flying straight at a cemetery close to our house in Lenexa, Kan. I am told the Merchant Marines flag was not initially part of the display with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard – but was added after the omission was pointed out. A beautiful display nonetheless.

Today in History - Jan. 7, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2022. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

On this date:

In 1608, an accidental fire devastated the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia Colony.

In 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1955, singer Marian Anderson made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera."

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office raised the cost of a first-class stamp from 4 to 5 cents.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Mohammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.)

In 2019, Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly traded company in the U.S. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery.

Ten years ago: Three days before the New Hampshire primary, Mitt Romney brushed aside rivals' criticism in the opening round of a weekend debate doubleheader that left his Republican presidential campaign challengers squabbling among themselves and unable to knock the front-runner off stride. Record-shattering Drew Brees threw for 466 yards and three touchdowns, and the New Orleans Saints poured it on in the second half for a 45-28 NFC wild-card victory over the Detroit Lions.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump, in a series of tweets, said "only 'stupid' people or fools" would dismiss closer ties with Russia, and he seemed unswayed after his classified briefing on an intelligence report that accused Moscow of meddling on his behalf in the election that catapulted him to power. Nat Hentoff, an eclectic columnist, critic, novelist and agitator dedicated to music, free expression and defying the party line, died in New York at age 91.

One year ago: Hours after Congress certified Joe Biden's victory, President Donald Trump acknowledged in a video that a "new administration will be inaugurated" and said he'd focus on "ensuring a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power"; Trump condemned the violence from his supporters who stormed the Capitol but did not address his role in inciting the violence. Lawmakers of both parties spoke of ousting Trump from office, possibly through the action of his own Cabinet under the 25th Amendment. President-elect Joe Biden denounced the rioters at the Capitol as "domestic terrorists" and blamed Trump for the violence. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao resigned; in a resignation letter, DeVos blamed Trump for inflaming tensions in the assault on the Capitol. The head of the U.S. Capitol Police, Steven Sund, resigned. Facebook and Instagram said they would silence Trump's accounts for the rest of his presidency. The U.S. topped 4,000 daily deaths from the coronavirus for the first time. Former Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda died at 93.

Today's Birthdays: Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 76. Singer Kenny Loggins is 74. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 73. Actor Erin Gray is 72. Actor Sammo Hung is 70. Actor Jodi Long is 68. Actor David Caruso is 66. Talk show host Katie Couric is 65. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 63. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 63. Actor David Marciano is 62. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 61. Actor Hallie Todd is 60. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 59. Actor Nicolas Cage is 58. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 57. Actor Rex Lee is 53. Actor Doug E. Doug is 52. Actor Kevin Rahm is 51. Actor Jeremy Renner is 51. Country singer-musician John Rich is 48. Actor Reggie Austin is 43. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 43. Actor Lauren Cohan is 40. Actor Brett Dalton is 39. Actor Robert Ri'chard is 39. Actor Lyndsy Fonseca is 35. Actor

Liam Aiken is 32. Actor Camryn Grimes is 32. Actor Max Morrow is 31. Actor Marcus Scribner is 22.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career.

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:

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



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