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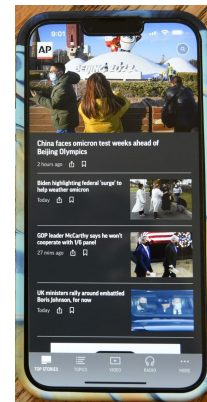
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# Connecting

February 3, 2022

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AP - front row, center, in new White House briefing seating chart. See lead item in Stories of Interest

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Feb. 3, 2022,

A memorial service was held last Saturday in Fort Worth, Texas, for AP's renowned correspondent, **Mike Cochran**.

Among those in attendance were his wife Sondra and many of Mike's extended family, as well as current and former AP staffers, past presidents of Texas Associated Press Managing Editors, journalists and friends.

Our colleague **John Lumpkin** and Cochran were friends and colleagues for more than half a century, first meeting when Lumpkin was a reporter for the Fort

Worth Star-Telegram, where Cochran's AP office was adjacent to the city desk.

John presents an account of the memorial as our lead story in today's Connecting.

#### **AN EMAIL SHOWER FOR SISTER**

**DONALDA:** Today, the only Catholic sister and the greatest typewriter aficionado in the Connecting family, **Sister Donalda Kehoe**, turns 94 years young. Take a few minutes right now to drop her a note of congratulations and best wishes. She has become pen (er, typewriter) pals with several of you. Send the note to her at this email address: [hillj@osfdbq.org](mailto:hillj@osfdbq.org)



Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## **Mike Cochran – ‘a poet on deadline’**

**John Lumpkin** ([Email](#)) - I was one of three speakers last Saturday at the memorial service in Fort Worth, Texas, for AP's renowned correspondent, Mike Cochran. In the audience were four rows of Mike's extended family, including widow Sondra and great-grandchildren, as well as present and former AP staffers, past presidents of Texas Associated Press Managing Editors, a wider community of Texas journalists and a couple of members of Mike's octogenarian social group of imbibers he called "The Snakes."



Mike Cochran (left) and John Lumpkin in 1989. Photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives.

Mike and I were friends and colleagues for more than half a century, first meeting when I was a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where his AP office was adjacent to the city desk..

I quoted Lauraine Miller Rose, a longtime Texas journalist, about Mike's passing on January 11 - "The stories about Mike are almost as good as the stories that he reported and wrote." I added the Connecting comment by Mike Holmes - "In my 27 years with the AP in four states, ...no one could compare to Mike Cochran. Whether it was urgent breaking news or a Sunday feature, Mike was a poet on deadline."

After a couple of references to Cochran's colorful persona, I offered the gathering excerpts from Mike's writing - his brand of "poetry," much of which appeared in AP dispatches while I was Dallas Chief of Bureau, starting in 1982.

Of Marj Carpenter, who was on the staff of the Pecos Enterprise that won the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of conman Billie Sol Estes, Mike noted she went to Washington, D.C., and then returned to West Texas to be elected national moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.: "She was a "tough, salty, Scotch drinking...merry messiah."

Referring to the Cybill Shepherd movie portrayal of Jacy Farrow in Larry McMurtry's 'Texasville' – she was always "racy Jacy."

Mike also "found a 'splendidly daft' undertaker in Brownwood, Texas,...the name being 'Groner Pitts.' No, he didn't make that up..."

And this, a passage from Mike's book Texas vs. Davis: "About Racehorse Haynes, the attorney who successfully defended Fort Worth millionaire murder defendant Cullen Davis – the nickname (Racehorse) stuck...but in reality, Haynes had the physique of a floor safe, and was just as tough...He claimed to be five feet nine, but that surely took into account the ostrich or anteater boots that had become his trademark..."

"Of Tom "Pinkie" Roden, bootlegger and later Odessa Chamber of Commerce's 'Man of the Year': Pinkie was 'as crafty as a coyote...a shy, gentle, stuttering, freckle-faced, enigmatic hulk who grew up dirt poor, made a fortune on illegal whisky and then founded the most curious and far-flung liquor store chain in all of Texas'

"Of Dickens, Texas, population 322, in a story entitled 'The Big Empty': it had 'the essentials of all West Texas towns, a Church of Christ, a Baptist Church and a cemetery.' Alas, no Dairy Queen, I might add. That is now in Spur, 12 miles away.

"Of the demise of Jacksboro Highway not far from here, nicknamed Thunder Road in its 1950s heyday: 'It was simply a ten-mile neon ribbon of revelry, a crude symbol of Fort Worth's rough-and-tumble heritage and a playground for the brave, bold, adventuresome and fool-hardy. The lights flickered and dimmed years ago and, with the millennium, the party's about over...'

"Of all-star quarterback Sammy Baugh, alone and widowed on his Double Mountain Ranch near the little town of Rotan: 'His deep blue eyes radiated from a leathery face like twin gemstones embedded in an old and well-worn saddle.'

"Of Brownwood's Gordon Wood, perhaps the most accomplished high school football coach in Texas: he 'walked like a listing ship, and there was always paint or ink or some mysterious smudge decorating his best dress slacks. He talked funny, like maybe through his nose, and he could eat grass like a goat, especially when excited, which was most of the time.'

"There is a dotted line between Gordon Wood and the last award that Mike received in his lifetime of many honors – Mike's 2021 induction into the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame," Lumpkin recalled.

"Before moving to Brownwood, Wood was football coach at Stamford High School in Mike's hometown near Abilene. As an aside, Wood also coached the tiny school's golf team, of which Mike was a member. They won the state championship despite Wood kicking Mike off the team for – as Wood put it – 'getting all beered up' on the senior trip to New Orleans. That was the end of Mike's scholastic sports career, but he and another member of the team remained lifelong friends – Masters golf champion Charles Coody.

"Suffice to say the lords of the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame in Abilene selected Mike not for his unfulfilled potential at high school golf but for a half century of telling the stories of West Texas sports legends like Baugh, Wood and the state champion girls' basketball teams from the Texas Panhandle's smallest towns."

Then there was this quote from a book Mike and I co-wrote entitled West Texas about a Panhandle rancher Malouf Abraham, known as "Oofie."

"When (Oofie) passed on at the age of 78, his grandsons buried him...with a bottle of Jack Daniels, a wooden nickel (he) used as a campaign token as a Texas legislator, a pack of cigarettes, and a lighter.

"But first they ordered the hearse driver to cruise through the rodeo grounds en route to the cemetery...'they knew their granddaddy would want to make the drag one last time.'"

There was someone (male voice) about 10 rows back on right side of the chapel that intoned on several occasions an "Amen" when one of the quotes seemed to resonate.

As I said to the standing-room-only crowd, "Mike...how I wish we could take such a ride together one last time."

## Remembering Ralph Gage

**John Lee (Email)** – I knew Ralph Gage since the early 1950s, when we were grade school students in Ottawa, Kan., and it was clear even then that he was destined for a noteworthy life.

During my years as an executive with the Harris newspapers, I often travelled to trade meetings and conferences around the country. In the mid-1990s, I began to meet colleagues from other companies who were eager to know more about Ralph and his technological innovations at The Lawrence Journal-World. And then, with the passing of a few more years, the curiosity had turned to appreciation – and, in some cases, awe.

Because of Ralph's leadership, the Journal-World had gained a well-earned reputation for cutting-edge applications of technology. As covered extensively in trade press articles at the time, the Journal-World's newsroom coordination of print, cable TV, and digital were of particular note, and by the mid-2000s it seemed that the entire industry was looking to Lawrence for ideas and guidance.

Most fascinating to me, Ralph led all this activity at the same time that he had budget and bottom-line responsibility for the Journal-World and its associated newspapers. I often wondered when or whether he had time to sleep.

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**Beth Grace (Email)** – Ralph Gage was such a fine newsman, and an overall great person. Even though I was in Kansas City for such a short time, we bonded and I really enjoyed our visits. He knew everything and everybody, and wasn't sparing in sharing it with this newbie chief of bureau. Long after I left KAN and the AP, he would check in one from time to time, just to see how things were. The power of the Connecting newsletter — we got to follow each other's path. I'm grateful to have known him.

## *Connecting series:* Retirement: does it leave void in your life



(Photos by Zhang Wanli and Patrick Casey)

**Patrick Casey** ([Email](#)) - Does retirement leave a void in your life? Interesting question. The short answer is it can if you're not careful. I retired/was bought out by the AP in April 2008 after 22 years and after editing stints in Beijing at the state news agency Xinhua and CCTV television network that began in October 2008 officially retired on Jan. 12, 2021. I had never actually thought much about the realities of not working and at first the prospects seemed daunting. I have good health and was prepared financially thanks to a smart wife, prudent savings, pensions and home ownership but it was another story mentally.



What to do every day after more than 40 years in the news game? How to make up for the rush from breaking stories, the newsroom banter, the showing the youngsters how to work the AP way? What I have found is that the answers don't come all at once, that you learn a little bit day by day. I pay attention to my high school and

college classmates and former AP colleagues who are already a few years down this road. They all offer excellent advice. Eat well, exercise daily, read more, stay active, stay busy.

Mostly because of working nightside so long at the AP, I never watched much TV and that fortunately remains true today. My wife and I instead walk a lot together and we also go off on our own taking photographs. We discuss and study photographic styles - she likes color landscapes, sunsets and nature while I like black-and-white street photography -- and also spend a couple of hours each day editing our photos and learning more about the Lightroom and PhotoShop editing programs. That and our day-to-day responsibilities keep us very busy. We, like the rest of the world, are hampered by the Covid pandemic and are frustrated that we can't travel. But we see it as a challenge, too, to try and get the best photos we can in an area that we have shot in daily for months and months. That keeps us motivated and busy and that seems to be the key to filling any retirement voids.

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**Bruce Lowitt (Email)** - After nearly 40 years as an ink-stained wretch facing deadlines with the now-defunct Port Chester (N.Y.) Daily Item, 1965-67; The Associated Press in Los Angeles and New York Sports, 1967-86; and the St. Petersburg (now Tampa Bay) Times, 1986-2004, I retired from full-time newspapering.

For a number of years thereafter I freelanced, writing occasional Tampa Bay Rays sidebars and features for the now defunct Tampa Tribune, covering Toronto Blue Jays spring training (15 minutes from my home) for AP Sports, and writing features with Hal Bock for the Major League Baseball Players Association and Where-Are-They-Now features (Don Larsen, Bart Starr, Chuck Wepner and others) for AARP.

Fourteen months ago, after kvetching to tolerant friends about the state of the world in general and politics and sports in particular, I created a free-to-anyone blog, THELOWITLOWDOWN.COM, namely satirical columns on each subject, sometimes writing two or even three in a week's span, sometimes one every two or three weeks, depending on my mood and the day's headlines. I find it challenging, fulfilling and, most important, it limits the negative adrenaline rushes that used to engulf me.

Careening toward my 80th birthday, closing in on 46 years with Arlene, Face Timing often with children and grandchildren in Boston and Los Angeles (and visiting them in person last year), life is good. Very good.

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**Top: Our Community News volunteers surrounded by papers to be sorted into postal bins. Right: Our Community News volunteers unloading papers from a rental truck to be carried inside.**

**Michael Weinfeld** ([Email](#)) - When I retired in August 2014 after 33 years at the AP, people asked, “Are you getting another job? Are you going to write a book?” And I’d always reply, “You don’t seem to grasp the concept of retirement.” I’d been on deadlines in local radio or as an AP newsman and finally Entertainment Editor of AP Broadcast for nearly 40 years. I didn’t want to do anything but relax. The thought of having to be somewhere or do something at a scheduled time exhausted me.



Funny how opinions change.

When my wife Tia and I moved from Herndon, Virginia to Monument, Colorado it was mainly to be near our daughter, son-in-law, and newborn grandson. A month after we arrived in May 2018, we were reading the local monthly newspaper, *Our Community News*, and there was a tiny notice in the back saying they needed reporters to interview longtime residents in advance of Monument’s 140<sup>th</sup> birthday in June. I thought that would be a great way to learn about our new hometown, so I signed up.

The interviews were fascinating, and I got to talk about what I learned about the town at a booth at the birthday celebration in a local park.

An offshoot of that project came from the next town over. The Palmer Lake Historical Society had conducted its own interviews with Palmer Lake and Monument founders. Their interviews were on cassette. I offered to digitize them, and they accepted.

One of my fellow interviewers told me he volunteered for *Our Community News*, and they needed people to help prepare the paper to be trucked to the post office for delivery to all homes in the Tri-Lakes area. So, I signed up. Once a month, I help fill postal bins with 140 papers each, slip inserts inside each of the 22,000 copies when necessary and load them onto a rental truck to be driven to three post offices.

The same volunteer who got me involved in that project told me he'd been working for 11 years to correct all the error in the town's cemetery records. I thought that sounded interesting, so I've been doing that for four years. We've finally finished, and I already have my next volunteer project: Working with the town clerk to digitize town records.

When we lived in Virginia, we were election judges. It was a one-day job, setting up computers and checking in voters. When we moved to Colorado, I contacted the El Paso County elections office and found out that since Colorado is an all mail-in-ballot state, it would take a minimum of three weeks to process the ballots. I've been doing that each election since 2018.

So, from a wish to never do another day's work to several volunteer jobs, I'm now a busy and happy volunteer retiree.

## Another AP spawning ground – Albany

**Lew Wheaton** ([Email](#)) - In the February 1 Connecting post about northern Nevada, you asked about other bureaus that were spawning grounds for AP talent. In my 16 years as Albany COB (1982-1998), I can remember a few stellar journalists who started there. Below is an incomplete list:

**Dave Bauder**, AP TV writer whose stories are linked frequently in Connecting.

**Donna Cassata**, upstate sports editor and writer to AP WDC news editor to Washington Post, recently named politics breaking news editor

**Peter Coy**, Albany to inaugural Rochester correspondent to Bloomberg to The New York Times, where he writes an opinion column on economics

**Ed McCullough**, Albany to AP Buffalo to illustrious career overseas (Europe, Latin America) to director of AP Hispanic Markets.

**Nekesa Moody**, Albany to NYC, global entertainment and lifestyles editor, to editorial director, The Hollywood Reporter

**Terry Petty**, Albany to NYC to distinguished career overseas, including a decade in Germany. Read his book, "Enemy of the People," about a small newspaper that defied Hitler. (Get it on Amazon.)

**Randy Picht**, who succeeded Peter in Rochester and went on to COB slots in Kansas City and Minneapolis en route to Missouri School of Journalism, where he directs the Donald Reynolds Journalism Institute.

I'm sure there are more that escape my tired old brain.

## Connecting mailbox

### *He believes this publisher will prevail*

**Al Cross** ([Email](#)) - Re Bob Daugherty's recent email saying "it's hard to see how the publisher wins" in Benson, Minnesota: I think Reed Anfinson and the weekly Swift County Monitor-News will prevail, because Reed has always done a good job of explaining the essential role that his newspaper plays in the life of Swift County, and I think that has built up a store of trust that is not easily expended – "laying up treasure," as we say in Appalachia. One example of that was a Benson City Council meeting; after the city manager introduced council and staff, he looked back across four rows of empty chairs and said, "And Reed Anfinson, representing the people of Benson." Reed told me, "Coming from a public official, it was even more meaningful."

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### *The way we were...covering White House in 2013*



**Nedra Pickler** ([Email](#)) - Flashback to the days when working together in close proximity was not only healthy, but required in the West Wing. Former AP photographer Charles Dharapak took this 2013 photo of the AP team that was at the time covering the Obama White House. From L-to-R, Julie Pace, now AP's executive editor; Darlene Superville, who continues to cover the White House for AP; Nedra Pickler, a partner at Washington consulting firm Finsbury Glover Hering; Josh Lederman, NBC News correspondent; and Jim Kuhnhehn, a freelance writer since his retirement from AP in 2015.

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## ***A shout-out to those who have helped in her cancer battle***

**Kathy Willens** ([Email](#)) - Time to go public with some negative health news. In September, after several months of tests, I was diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer. It had spread considerably in my belly and into my lymph system, but I had no symptoms (except exceptional thirst)... why I didn't realize I had it. I read that it's common in post-menopausal women. Tuesday's my second chemotherapy treatment, (four more to go, every three weeks, and after the third, a CT scan to see if it's working.



I want to give a shout-out to all the people who've gone above-and-beyond in helping me recover from surgery and a subsequent lengthy hospitalization. Maye-e Wong, Mary Altaffer, Beth J. Harpaz, and last but, far from least, the intrepid Peter Morgan who drive me through this weekend's "bomb cyclone" snowstorm for a medical procedure. All my wonderful Brooklyn apartment neighbors (Eileen Anderson, Denise Drossos, Karen MacDonald, Rieke Celebi, and even some of my birdwatching friends: Karen O'Hearn, Virginia Cahill, and her husband Daniel K. Smith. I never realized how large a community were so willing to help at the drop of a hint. For their support, and everyone else who has been supportive, I'm eternally grateful and indebted. Big virtual hugs to all my friends from the chemo suite at Memorial Sloan Kettering Outpatient Cancer Treatment Center.

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### ***Brendan Riley was a special correspondent***

**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - Since others already have praised Brendan Riley's mentoring, I want to add that as bureau chief in San Francisco one of my favorite trips was to visit Brendan in Carson City. He was one of those special correspondents who knew what to do and when to do it without any suggestions or directions. Added bonuses were his wonderful family in Vallejo and that rolltop desk. I hope he kept it when he retired.

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### ***A medical writer contracts covid***

**Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)) - Julie Anderson is the medical reporter for the Omaha World-Herald and has been producing excellent coverage of the Covid pandemic since the start.

This item ran in the paper this week. I wonder if there are other Covid reporters who've had the same thing happen?

## I HAVE A BREAKTHROUGH CASE, TOO

After nearly three years of living with the pandemic, I, too, have contracted a COVID-19 breakthrough infection.

My family and I took all the precautions we reasonably could. We're fully vaccinated and boosted. We were the ones who usually wore masks in the grocery store, and we usually got takeout rather than dining in restaurants. For the most part, we've gathered outdoors when we've gotten together with friends.

But we live in the real world. I've worked from The World-Herald's downtown office for most of the pandemic. It made it easier to coordinate the constant flow of breaking news. My husband has to work in person at his job, and our youngest son returned this year to in-person high school.

We don't know how we caught the virus. My husband and son tested positive on Monday. I tested positive Friday. Only one of those positive tests will be recorded in the official tallies. The two others were based on at-home tests.

While I wish we had avoided the virus, we are thankful that our symptoms have been mild so far – thanks to the vaccines. – **Julie Anderson**

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### *The neighborhood hawk*



**Doug Pizac** ([Email](#)) – This shows the return of our neighborhood red-tailed hawk, taking off from the roof corner of a new home under construction next door.

## Stories of interest

*The White House's new press briefing seat chart says a lot about where each reporter stands* (Washington Post)



**Fox News White House Reporter Peter Doocy raises his hand to question White House press secretary Jen Psaki, left, at a news briefing at the White House in Washington on Jan. 26. (Andrew Harnik/AP)**

**By Paul Farhi**

The Daily Mail is in. BuzzFeed and Breitbart are out.

The conservative Catholic EWTN network is in, and so is the LGBTQ-friendly Washington Blade. But the Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune and the Russian Tass news agency won't get seats in the White House briefing room.

The White House Correspondents' Association has laid out new seating assignments for reporters who attend daily briefings and news conferences. It's the first time since 2017 that the journalists' organization, which controls the 49 press seats in the

cramped James S. Brady Briefing Room, has rejiggered who sits where, or doesn't sit anywhere at all.

On one hand, the reorganization is merely a quadrennial exercise in bureaucratic reshuffling, the grown-up equivalent of assigning new desks in a middle-school homeroom.

But the assignments have practical and symbolic import, too. An assigned seat stands as a marker of a news organization's prominence — quite literally, given that a seat in the first few rows ensures the greatest visibility. Not only are these spots the most camera-friendly for network TV correspondents, they also increase the odds of getting a question answered during crowded briefings, especially when the president makes a rare appearance.

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

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## ***CNN president resigns after relationship with co-worker*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN President Jeff Zucker abruptly resigned Wednesday after acknowledging a consensual relationship with another network executive — an entanglement that came to light during an investigation of now-fired anchor Chris Cuomo.

Zucker said he was asked about his relationship with longtime aide Allison Gollust as part of the Cuomo investigation, which revealed that the former anchor had aided his brother, then-New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as he navigated a sexual harassment scandal.

"I acknowledged the relationship had evolved in recent years," Zucker wrote in a memo announcing the end of his nine-year tenure. "I was required to disclose it when it began but I didn't. I was wrong."

A memo to employees from Jason Kilar, CEO of CNN parent WarnerMedia, said three senior executives at CNN would run the network on an interim basis.

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

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## ***What an All-Women News Network in India Shows Us About Democracy*** (New York Times)

By Farah Stockman



*Ms. Stockman is a member of the editorial board.*

It started out as a literacy project. Dalit women, formerly known as untouchables, hand-wrote a newsletter about issues that mattered to them: Broken water pumps. Unpaved roads. Known rapists walking free. In 2002 they started a newspaper that covered everything from illegal mining to murders. Perhaps because Dalits make up about 20 percent of the population of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, some government officials started paying attention. Roads got paved. Toilets got built. Hospitals got stocked with medicines.

“Almost every month, our reporting brings justice to people,” Kavita Devi, the paper’s editor in chief, told me in an email originally written in Hindi.

Today the paper, Khabar Lahariya, whose name in Hindi means “news waves,” is a digital-first rural news network with its own talk shows and nearly 550,000 subscribers on YouTube.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Susana Hayward.

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## ***‘MJ’ Broadway Musical Removes Variety Reporter for Asking About Michael Jackson Sexual Abuse Allegations*** (Variety)

**By Michael Appler**

On Tuesday evening in New York City, “MJ The Musical,” a new biographical musical celebrating the life and work of Michael Jackson, opened on Broadway.

“MJ The Musical,” written by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage and produced in arrangement with the Michael Jackson estate, depicts the rehearsal process for Jackson’s 1992 “Dangerous” world tour—set one year before allegations of sexual misconduct first surfaced about the artist.

And the show’s backers were quick to shut down any mention of the scandal that still clouds the King of Pop’s life and legacy at the red-carpet premiere of the musical, kicking out this Variety journalist for bringing up the topic of Jackson’s alleged abuse. In response to questions that asked how audience members should balance potential discomfort with enjoyment of the show’s theatrical artistry, cast members gave considered and conscientious responses.

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

## **Today in History - Feb. 3, 2022**



## By The Associated Press

**Today is Thursday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2022. There are 331 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. (Four Army chaplains on board gave away their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship.)

### **On this date:**

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a shipboard peace conference off the Virginia coast; the talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1988, the U.S. House of Representatives handed President Ronald Reagan a major defeat, rejecting his request for \$36.2 million in new aid to the Nicaraguan Contras by a vote of 219-211.

In 1994, the space shuttle Discovery lifted off, carrying Sergei Krikalev (SUR'-gay KREE'-kuh-lev), the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a U.S. spacecraft.

In 1995, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off with a woman, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins, in the pilot's seat for the first time in NASA history.

In 1998, a U.S. Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

In 2006, an Egyptian passenger ferry sank in the Red Sea during bad weather, killing more than 1,000 passengers.

In 2009, Eric Holder became the first black U.S. attorney general as he was sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden.

In 2020, in closing arguments at President Donald Trump's first impeachment trial, Democratic prosecutors urged senators to stop a "runaway presidency" and recognize Trump's actions in Ukraine as part of a pattern of behavior that would allow him to "cheat" in the 2020 election; Trump's defenders accused Democrats of trying to undo the 2016 election and said voters should decide Trump's fate.

Ten years ago: The breast cancer charity Susan G. Komen for the Cure abandoned plans to eliminate its funding for Planned Parenthood, following a three-day furor that resounded across the Internet, in Congress and among Komen affiliates. Federal prosecutors dropped their investigation of Lance Armstrong, ending a nearly two-year effort aimed at determining whether the seven-time Tour de France winner and his teammates had participated in a doping program. (In January 2013, Armstrong publicly admitted taking performance-enhancing drugs.) Actor-director Ben Gazzara, 81, died in New York.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump launched his long-promised attack on banking rules that were rushed into law after the nation's economic crisis, signing new orders after meeting with business and investment chiefs and pledging further action to free big banks from restrictions.

One year ago: A white Columbus, Ohio, police officer, Adam Coy, was charged with murder in the December 2020 shooting death of a Black man, Andre Hill. (Coy has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.) Country star Morgan Wallen was suspended from his label and his music was pulled by radio stations and streaming services after a video surfaced showed him shouting a racial slur. Tennis Hall of Famer Tony Trabert, a five-time Grand Slam singles champion, died at his Florida home at the age of 90.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 82. Actor Bridget Hanley is 81. Actor Blythe Danner is 79. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 77. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 75. Singer Melanie is 75. Actor Morgan Fairchild is 72. Actor Pamela Franklin is 72. Actor Nathan Lane is 66. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 66. Actor Thomas Calabro is 63. Rock musician/author Lol Tolhurst (The Cure) is 63. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 61. Actor Michele Greene is 60. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 58. Actor Maura Tierney is 57. Actor Warwick Davis is 52. Actor Elisa Donovan is 51. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 46. Actor Isla (EYE'-luh) Fisher is 46. Human rights activist Amal Clooney is 44. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 40. Actor Matthew Moy is 38. Rapper Sean Kingston is 32. Actor Brandon Micheal Hall is 29.

# 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 in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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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