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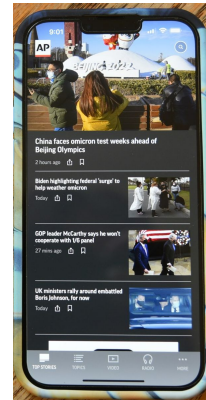
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# Connecting

March 2, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this March 2, 2022,

Our congratulations go out to colleague [Robert Burns](#), national security writer for The Associated Press, who plans to retire May 1 after a 45-year career that took him from statehouse reporting in Jefferson City, Mo., to the Washington bureau by way of St. Louis, New York and Brussels.

Announcement of the retirement plans of a journalist whose byline is one of the most recognizable on the AP wire and who is well-known throughout the AP world was made Tuesday.

Burns told Connecting: “Looking back on my 45 years with AP I remember the hundreds of staffers in Washington and around the world



whose experience and example helped mold me as a reporter. They taught me that our individual competitive spirit and hard work are not enough. We need to work with each other and cheer for each other.”

We lead today’s Connecting with the story.

Three AP photojournalists - **Kim Johnson Flodin**, **Julio Cortez** and **Andrew Harnik** – will be featured Thursday night [in a conversation](#) at Northern Kentucky University on how the free press plays an essential role in sustaining an informed democracy.

The event will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. CST. You can RSVP by clicking [here](#).

Our colleague **Sonya Zalubowski** shares [this link](#) to The Kyiv Independent, for colleagues who would like to see how it is reporting the war.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Robert Burns, AP National Security Writer, to retire May 1 after 45-year career



At Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq in 2004 (Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on right)

Robert (Bob) Burns, who has covered the Pentagon and national security issues for the past three decades, plans to retire from The Associated Press on May 1.

The announcement was made Tuesday by Washington Chief of Bureau Anna Johnson, who said his last day at work will be April 29. (Joining Johnson in the staff note were Mike Tackett, deputy bureau chief, and Ken Guggenheim, news editor.)

“There are those who know AP from working here and those who know it from the names and stories that fly by on the wire,” Johnson said. “One of those names that carries special weight is the byline ‘By Robert Burns.’ When that name is on top of a story, one can be certain of its fairness, its accuracy, its fierceness and its force.

“If you were to define the traits that give definition to the word ‘professional’ you would inevitably be describing Bob. Calm. Gracious. Intrepid. Dogged. One who cared more about getting the story than about who received the credit. With Lita Baldor, he’s formed one of the strongest, seamless partnerships in our business, and with all his colleagues, in DC and around the world, he’s unfailingly cordial and cooperative.

“Bob also has deep expertise on the some of the most technical subjects – nuclear weapons, missiles systems and more. In addition to his great ability to break news, Bob also makes these complicated subjects clear to readers around the world.”

“In the 32 years Burns has covered the Pentagon and national security issues, the U.S. has been involved in five wars. He covered two of those from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, earning the respect not simply of his colleagues in journalism, but also from those in the military. He has worked in the Washington Bureau since 1988.”

Burns has traveled the world with two presidents, 12 secretaries of defense, one secretary of state and many top military leaders.



## In Afghanistan with US troops, November 2012

From January 1999 to November 2008, Burns was the AP's military writer. In that role he traveled widely with the U.S. military and covered defense leaders, including the secretary of defense, the service chiefs and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He made 24 reporting trips to Iraq during the 2003-2011 war and reported frequently from Afghanistan during the 20-year American war.

From November 2008 to January 2011, Burns was based at the State Department and traveled regularly with the secretary of state while also writing on defense topics. He returned to his post at the Pentagon in January 2011. In 2013 he received the AP's highest honor, the Oliver S. Gramling journalism award.

Burns began his AP career as a legislative reporter in Jefferson City, Mo., in 1977.

He recalled that first AP job:

"Jim Drinkard and I started in Jeff City as legislative relief. I arrived on the scene a few days before Christmas. I raced from my home in Seattle because (Kansas City CoB) Fred Moen, who hired me sight unseen, insisted on the phone that I get to Jeff City as fast as I possibly could. On my way there my car broke down on a mountain pass in Oregon, and determined not to disappoint by delay, I swapped my Fiat for a dilapidated VW bug at a gas station in La Grande, Oregon, and continued on my way. When I got to Jeff City on about Dec. 22 and called the correspondent (Jim Willis), he said, in effect, what the heck are you doing here? The legislature is closed for the holidays and there is nothing for you to do this week."

Burns reported for AP in St. Louis from 1978-80 and from AP's New York headquarters from 1980-84, where he was a Business News staffer covering a range of topics from banking to the international oil industry.

Burns transferred to the AP's international staff in May 1984, covering NATO and the European Community from his base in Brussels, Belgium, until he transferred to the Washington bureau in August 1988.

During his years in Washington, Burns has covered a range of government agencies, including the Energy and Labor departments and the Central Intelligence Agency. He has covered two presidential campaigns -- in 1992 and 1996.

Burns was born in Stanwood, Washington, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Washington in 1977. He is married and resides in Reston, Virginia.

## No high horses, please

**Dave Tomlin** - In 1976 I was Sunday editor of the San Antonio Express-News and ran a staff-written section front piece calling out car salesmen for their predatory negotiating tactics. Every dealer in town pulled their ads.



I wasn't shocked; quite the opposite. For years the paper had run a weekly "news" section promoting cars, and everybody in the newsroom knew we were expected to avoid offending our largest cohort of advertisers. I knew I was asking for it, and I got it.

The publisher took me to the woodshed, and the reporter who wrote the story was yanked from my department. He quit and in a few weeks I did too.

I deliberately returned to AP because it had no advertisers. I wanted to work in a newsroom of "independent" journalists, i.e. shielded from anxiety over where the money to keep my computer lit up and pay my salary might come from. I enjoyed my sheltered life, and it sounds like many of you did too.

The ethical quandaries raised by taking money from interested outside entities are certainly serious, but they're not new. I don't think they're an occasion for moralizing but for problem solving.

I know AP leadership worked hard to structure the climate change deal in a way that keeps AP values intact. Maybe they will need to work harder on the next one.

I hope the enterprising people starting non-profit local news websites with grants and donations to fill the vacuums left by the collapse of local newspapers are doing the same.

## Big Grants for Topic-Specific Journalism Bring Opportunity, Concerns Over Independence

By Mike Scutari  
Inside Philanthropy

In mid-February, the Associated Press announced it received a three-year, \$8 million grant from five funders, including the Rockefeller and Walton Family foundations, to hire 20 new reporters to cover climate change's impact on agriculture, migration, urban planning, the economy, culture and other areas around the world.

AP News Vice President Brian Carovillano called the arrangement "mutually beneficial" for the nonprofit agency and its funders, each of which has made tackling climate change a top priority in recent years.

Funding for topic-specific coverage has always been a component of the journalism giving ecosystem, with funders like the Gates Foundation earmarking support for priorities like education and global health. But the AP grant caught my attention for two reasons.

The first is its size. The \$8 million grant is AP's largest single expansion bankrolled by philanthropy and exceeds the Gates Foundation's biggest journalism commitment between 2020 and 2021 by a whopping \$3 million. Just as important, the AP grant is

earmarked for climate change, a field that our deep dive into journalism giving identified as the most promising funding opportunity for organizations in the months and years ahead.

This topic-restricted funding approach can also raise questions about who, exactly, is calling the editorial shots. While Carovillano stressed that AP's patrons would have no influence over the reporting, it hasn't stopped some critics from arguing that its funders were essentially paying for coverage that would advance their funding priorities. In the likely event that funders ramp up this kind of support in the future, it will be incumbent on outlets to eliminate even the slightest perception of conflict of interest.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Al Cross.

## How Do Election Results Work?

By Alicia Parlapiano and Nate Cohn  
The New York Times

The 2022 primary season begins on Tuesday with elections in Texas, and The New York Times will be reporting the results live on its website and apps. Here's how it all works.

### The Results

#### How does The Times get live election results?

Our live results are provided by The Associated Press. To produce its results, The A.P. combines data feeds from state and county websites with on-the-ground reporting by more than 4,000 correspondents who gather vote tallies from county clerks and other local officials after polls close. The Times has also occasionally published data from other results providers.

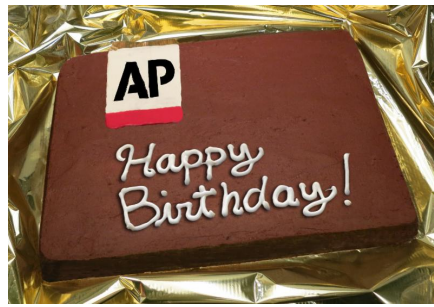
#### How often are the results updated on election night?

When The A.P. gets reports from states, it checks the vote totals for potential inconsistencies or errors. Then it sends the updated data to The Times and other customers about every one to three minutes. Calls projecting winners are sent immediately.

Times journalists and engineers have written software that automatically downloads and publishes the results within seconds. Don't worry about refreshing the page — the results will update automatically.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Greg Brock

Ken Fields

Maryann Mrowca

## Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. 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  
Elaine Light  
Joe McGowan  
Sam Montello  
Charlie Monzella  
Jack Pace  
Bob Petsche  
Arlon Southall  
Sal Veder  
Harold Waters

**Doris Webster  
Arnold Zeitlin**

**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  
Harry Cabluck  
Sibby Christensen  
Shirley Christian  
Don Dashiell  
Bob Daugherty  
Don Deibler  
Bob Dobkin  
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**  
**Gene LaHammer**  
**Carl Leubsdorf**  
**David Liu**  
**John Marlow**  
**Dave Mazzarella**  
**Walter Mears**  
**Yvette Mercourt**  
**Reid Miller**  
**Harry Moskos**  
**Ray Newton**  
**Greg Nokes**  
**Lyle Price**  
**Charles Richards**  
**Bruce Richardson**  
**Mike Rouse**  
**Denis Searles**  
**Richard Shafer**  
**Mike Short**  
**Rick Spratling**  
**Ed Staats**  
**Karol Stonger**  
**Marty Thompson**  
**Hilmi Toros**  
**Kernan Turner**  
**Jack Walker**  
**Mike Waller**  
**Bob Walsh**  
**Dean Wariner**  
**Jeff Williams**  
**Johnny Yost**  
**Kent Zimmerman**

## **Stories of interest**

## ***White House Photographer Discusses His Time Covering 7 Presidents*** (PetaPixel)

**JARON SCHNEIDER**

Pulitzer Prize winner Doug Mills has been a photojournalist for nearly four decades and has been responsible for photographing everything from major sporting events to seven different presidents of the United States. He is currently a photographer for the Washington bureau of the New York Times and has been in that position since 2002. Prior to that, he worked for 15 years as the chief photographer for The Associated Press in Washington, which he joined after working for four years in the Washington bureau of United Press International.

It has been said that Mills was the first photographer to use a remote camera to photograph a president, which he did in 2001. On his Instagram, Mills has been publishing photos from the Beijing Olympics, his 16th time covering the Olympic Games.

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

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## ***Michele McNally, Who Elevated Times Photography, Dies at 66*** (New York Times)

**By Sam Roberts**

Michele McNally, who elevated photojournalism at The New York Times as its director of photography and later as a top newsroom manager in a 14-year tenure that brought the paper six Pulitzer Prizes for news and feature photography, died on Feb. 18 in a hospital in Yonkers, N.Y. She was 66.

The cause was complications of pneumonia, her daughter Caitlin McNally said.

Ms. McNally was named The Times's director of photography in 2004 by Bill Keller, the executive editor at the time. The next year, she was promoted to assistant managing editor, becoming the first photo editor to join the top echelon of newsroom management known as the masthead.

"She was a transformational figure in photojournalism," said Dean Baquet, The Times's current executive editor. "She walked into newsrooms where photography had taken a back seat for too long, and forced it into the fore."

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

# Today in History - March 2, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 2, the 61st day of 2022. There are 304 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 2, 1962, Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points for the Philadelphia Warriors in a game against the New York Knicks, an NBA record that still stands. (Philadelphia won, 169-147.)

### On this date:

In 1861, the state of Texas, having seceded from the Union, was admitted to the Confederacy.

In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.

In 1917, actor, producer, director and bandleader Desi Arnaz was born in Santiago de Cuba.

In 1932, the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, which moved the date of the presidential inauguration from March 4 to Jan. 20, was passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification.

In 1939, John Ford's classic Western "Stagecoach," starring Claire Trevor and John Wayne, opened in New York.

In 1943, the three-day Battle of the Bismarck Sea began in the southwest Pacific during World War II; U.S. and Australian warplanes were able to inflict heavy damage on an Imperial Japanese convoy.

In 1955, nine months before Rosa Parks' famous act of defiance, Claudette Colvin, a Black high school student in Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white passenger.

In 1985, the government approved a screening test for AIDS that detected antibodies to the virus, allowing possibly contaminated blood to be excluded from the blood supply.

In 1989, representatives from the 12 European Community nations agreed to ban all production of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), the synthetic compounds blamed for destroying the Earth's ozone layer, by the end of the 20th century.

In 1990, more than 6,000 drivers went on strike against Greyhound Lines Inc. (The company, later declaring an impasse in negotiations, fired the strikers.)

In 1995, the Internet search engine website Yahoo! was incorporated by founders Jerry Yang and David Filo.

In 2011, the Supreme Court ruled, 8-1, that a grieving father's pain over mocking protests at his Marine son's funeral had to yield to First Amendment protections for free speech in a decision favoring the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas.

Ten years ago: Some 40 people were killed by tornadoes that struck Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Major League Baseball expanded its playoff format to 10 teams, adding a second wild card in each league.

Five years ago: Under intensifying pressure, Attorney General Jeff Sessions abruptly agreed to recuse himself from any investigation into Russian meddling in America's 2016 presidential election, acting after revelations he twice spoke with the Russian ambassador during the campaign and failed to say so when pressed by Congress. The Senate confirmed retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson as secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry to be energy secretary.

One year ago: FBI Director Chris Wray told senators that the attack on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump was "domestic terrorism"; Wray warned of a rapidly growing threat of homegrown violent extremism. Thirteen people were killed when an SUV carrying 25 people collided with a semitruck on a California highway near the U.S.-Mexico border. (A Mexican man was charged with organizing a smuggling run in which the SUV drove through a hole in a border fence.) Texas became the biggest state to lift its mask rule, joining a growing movement to loosen COVID-19 restrictions despite pleas from health officials not to do so. The business responsible for preserving the legacy of children's author Dr. Seuss said six of his books would no longer be published because of racist and insensitive imagery. Bunny Wailer, the last surviving founding member of the legendary reggae group The Wailers, died in his native Jamaica at 73.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Cullum is 92. Former Soviet President and Nobel peace laureate Mikhail S. Gorbachev is 91. Actor Barbara Luna is 83. Author John Irving is 80. Actor Cassie Yates is 71. Actor Laraine Newman is 70. Former Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., is 69. Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is 67. Singer Jay Osmond is 67. Pop

musician John Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 66. Former tennis player Kevin Curren is 64. Country singer Larry Stewart (Restless Heart) is 63. Rock singer Jon Bon Jovi is 60. Blues singer-musician Alvin Youngblood Hart is 59. Actor Daniel Craig is 54. Actor Richard Ruccolo is 50. Rock singer Chris Martin (Coldplay) is 45. Actor Heather McComb is 45. Actor Rebel Wilson is 42. Actor Bryce Dallas Howard is 41. Former NFL quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is 40. Actor Robert Iler is 37. Actor Nathalie Emmanuel is 33. Country singer Luke Combs is 32. Singer-rapper-actor Becky G is 25.

## 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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in 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.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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