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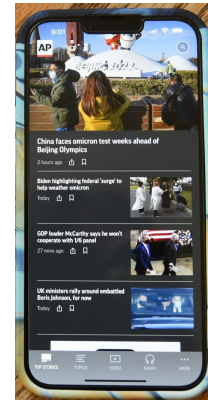
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Connecting

March 15, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 15, 2022,

Covering wars has been an essential function of The Associated Press since its founding 176 years ago - and those AP journalists now involved in coverage of the Russian invasion of Ukraine continue that sad but necessary tradition. We salute and pray for them and all journalists involved in dangerous circumstances who are telling the story to the world.

Our lead story is a heart-breaking photo and account of a pregnant woman carried on a stretcher from a maternity hospital that had been bombed by Russian forces. The AP later reported the woman and her baby had died.

We also bring you a wire story that moved Monday by colleague **Lynn Elber** that explores the female war reporters who are covering the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Her story cites a 2021 book by Elizabeth Becker, "You Don't Belong Here," that profiles three pioneering women who covered the Vietnam War and said there's "absolutely

no doubt that the reporting is what I would call more humane, looking at the human side of war.”

There are a number of women who are Connecting colleagues who have covered wars, and I am hoping that if you are one of them, you take time to read through Elber’s story and share your thoughts on your experiences – whether your war was Vietnam, the Gulf, Bosnia or Afghanistan. You too are pioneers for those involved in Ukrainian coverage.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A horrific outcome to a grim photo from Ukraine



Ukrainian emergency employees and volunteers carry an injured pregnant woman from the damaged by shelling maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine on March 9. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

By TOM JONES
The Poynter Report

It might be the most striking photo of the war so far in Ukraine. A pregnant woman, badly injured and her face a ghostly white, being carried on a stretcher outside of a

maternity hospital that had been bombed by Russian forces.

It was that photo, captured by Evgeniy Maloletka for The Associated Press, that showed not only the gruesome realities of war, but that Russia would stop at nothing in its attack of Ukraine. It proved that even a maternity hospital could be a target of troops sent into Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Now we have heartbreaking news. [The Associated Press' Mstyslav Chernov reports](#) that the woman in that agonizing photo and her baby have died.

AP journalists had [video and photos](#) outside the hospital after the attack. Chernov wrote, "It was among the most brutal moments so far in Russia's now 19-day-old war in Ukraine. The woman was taken to another hospital, closer to the front line, where doctors tried to save her. Realizing she was losing her baby, medics said, she had cried out to them, 'Kill me now!'"

According to a doctor on scene, the woman's pelvis had been crushed and her hip had been detached. After the woman's heart stopped, hospital personnel tried to resuscitate her for more than 30 minutes, but to no avail. The doctor said the baby was born via cesarean section but showed "no signs of life."

The woman's name has not been revealed.

Read more [here](#).

In Ukraine, female war reporters build on legacy of pioneers



This image released by ABC shows Martha Raddatz, center, with Sam Sweeney and Yuriy Zalizniak, left, while on assignment in the Ukraine. (Scott Munro/ABC via AP)

By LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clarissa Ward interrupted her live TV report on Ukrainian refugees to help a distraught older man, then a woman, down a steep and explosion-mangled path, gently urging them on in their language.

A day later, Lynsey Addario, a photographer for The New York Times, captured a grim image of a Russian mortar attack's immediate outcome: the bodies of a mother and her two children crumpled on a road, amid their suitcase, backpacks and a pet carrier.

The memorable reports illustrate both the skill and gutsiness of female journalists serving as eyewitnesses to Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the way their presence has changed the nature of war reporting.

They cover the tactics of war, but give equal measure to its toll.

The author of "You Don't Belong Here," a 2021 book that profiles three pioneering women who covered the Vietnam War, said there's "absolutely no doubt that the reporting is what I would call more humane, looking at the human side of war."

Elizabeth Becker argues that Frances FitzGerald of the U.S., Kate Webb of Australia and Catherine Leroy of France were foundational to modern war reporting. Arriving in Southeast Asia on their own dime, without a staff job and little or no journalism experience, they broke the male grip on war reporting with daring and innovation.

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

As some governments misinform, Sunshine Week is a better time than ever to advocate government openness, honesty

[AI Cross](#) - This is Sunshine Week, but I fear it's dimming.

The annual observance to remind Americans of the importance of open government seems to be fading, as journalism and the news business face business-side challenges that are more pressing than government secrecy.

The observance is led by the News Leaders Association, formerly the American Society of News Editors, and before that the American Society of Newspaper Editors. The name's evolution reflects the flattening of the editorial corps at U.S. newspapers, who have been the leading advocates of open government. Editors and other leaders are more pressed for time than ever; you can detect that in the papers' content every day.

Perhaps reflecting all that, the NLA Sunshine Week page offers no content for news outlets to share with their audiences, its Sunshine Week page on Facebook hasn't been updated since 2021, and its last tweet about the observance was March 9. That didn't even appear on the @SunshineWeek page on Twitter, which hasn't been updated since last year's Sunshine Week. NLA has not replied to my request for comment.

Thankfully, open-government activists are posting on social media about #SunshineWeek, often sharing articles and graphics posted by state newspaper associations, which seem to have taken the lead. That's great, but most of the articles I've seen from them are designed for use in their home states. We're missing a broader overview, at what seems to be an ideal time for it.

Read more [here](#).

New-member profile: Lil Mirando

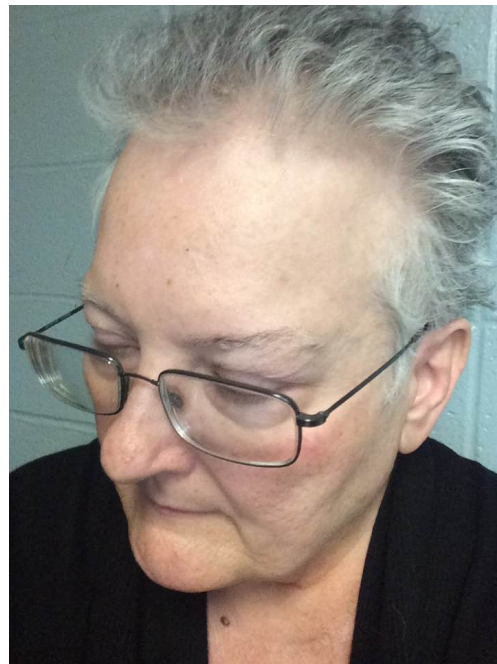
[Lil Mirando](#) - My career began with newspapers in Mississippi and Alabama. As a journalism graduate student at the University of Alabama in 1977-78, I met Joseph A. Mirando, who had been a reporter from Elmira, New York. We got jobs as reporters at the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Mississippi, and married in 1981 before moving to Hammond, Louisiana, where he accepted a job as the local university's journalism professor and I found work as a reporter for The Daily Star in 1982.

Hammond and the "Bloody Tangipahoa" parish community are a journalist's mecca. Steady experience with wrecks, murders,

hurricanes, explosions and floods sharpened my skills. The crime and emergencies beat also was perfect for learning the city streets, the back roads, the people and their stories.

I received the APME's Frank Allen Award for News Writing in 1984 for a story about a grieving father's vigil at the notoriously dangerous railroad tracks that define our community. Also in 1984 came a promotion to assistant city editor, which was followed by more promotions and leadership responsibilities before the era of downsizing.

Early on, I had recognized the importance of focusing the newspaper's editorial resources on the local community while relying on The AP for news happening outside our coverage area. Our close relationship with The AP earned us several AP Instant Citations, The AP's Mark Twain Award in 2005 and other honors in addition to, for many years, a solid reputation as the news leader in our little corner of the globe.



Throughout the years, my husband and I helped launch the careers of dozens of young journalists who continue to make us proud.

While we sat at our desks all those years, our daughter visited or lived all over the world — yes, even Antarctica. She is engaged to an architect in Tuscany, so travel may be in our future. My husband, Dr. Joseph A. Mirando, plans to retire in May. Meanwhile, I'm getting my legs back by "running the roads" with our 16-year-old granddaughter and her friends. Also, I'm working at recycling, repurposing, reusing and trashing things that have collected dust for decades.

Modernizing the US news report

[Lauren Easton](#) – AP is taking steps to make its U.S. news report more visual and digital friendly to help local newsrooms thrive in an increasingly digital environment.

In the weeks ahead, AP will begin producing more video, photos, audio and graphics, as well as explanatory content and localization guides to help customers make major stories local news.

We will also make available AP StoryShare, a platform that allows local outlets to share plans and content with one another, to members in all 50 states.

“These changes are really about the AP doubling down on our commitment to news for the U.S. states,” said AP Executive Editor Julie Pace. “What we’re doing is providing the content and capabilities our member news organizations need to really meet their audiences where they are, which is in a digital space.”

AP maintains an unrivaled U.S. footprint with a reporter in every statehouse.

Pace talks about the upgrades in this AP video:

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Russian News

[Dick Lipsey](#) - This might be of interest, from an online news service that covers the north of Russia, Finland, Norway and that general region:

For almost 15 years they have published independent news from the Russian North. Now they are blocked. Online journal 7x7 have repeatedly repelled attacks from Russian censorship authorities. This week, the independent newsroom based in the north Russian region of Komi was switched off from the RuNet.

Click [here](#) to view.

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When "Lede" Works: It's Part of Our World

[Ford Burkhart](#) - When I joined the AP in Philadelphia in 1969, the slot, Jim Lamb, once wrote on my copy "Good lede!"

It made my day.

In my previous job, the city editor -- the Tucson Citizen desk's rewrite master Tom Duddleston -- wrote to a youngster, "Don't bury the lede." Chastened, I tried hard not to.

So far, we've used slot, copy, desk, rewrite, and, of course, lede. We live in a world of jargon. Somehow "lede" fits right in.

I learned to spell "lede" from Sherman Miller at the U of Arizona J Department, formerly of the NY Times. Those were the days of metal type used to "lead out" a paragraph.

No doubt today's professors have good reasons to spell "lede" as "lead." Fine. But if a slot wants to cheer up the new kid on the desk, a scribbled "Good lede!" will have that effect.

I see the "Filing the Wire" section of the AP stylebook uses "1st Ld" or "10th Ld."

But in the world of heds, rims, slugs and bulletin kills, I hope there will always be a place for the "lede."

It's not right or wrong. If it works, use it.

Between AP folks, "Good lede!" will always warm your heart.

And...

Bill Kaczor - I couldn't help but get a chuckle out of the two consecutive entries from Dennis Conrad on "lead" vs. "lede" and Frank Aukofer on his days as a Linotype operator. The difference between "lede" and "lead," of course, is that "lede" is the first sentence or paragraph of your story and "lead" is what the Linotype turns it into. (For anyone who don't get the joke, be thankful you are so young.)

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Birthdays...

Estes Thompson - Speaking of birthdays, as in today's Connecting, my 74th was Sunday the 13th. I live alone and my family took care of me with a beautiful steak dinner in Raleigh, NC, at my niece's house. It was attended by six relatives, one friend and three dogs. My sister, whose 84th birthday is the 15th, was there. All in all a very warm evening. Afterward, I drove north about an hour through the frigid and dark, two-lane countryside. My life is at a cottage on a point at Buggs Island Lake in Southside Virginia. My little white dog, Henrietta, greeted me at the door and ate her late supper with tail wagging. We snuggled into the recliner, checked news from Ukraine and stayed up to see what Saturday Night Live had concocted before bed. The next morning began my first full day as a slightly older man.



The photo above shows her sleeping on the couch. The little girl chases a herd of deer across the point regularly. They must be dumb to not realize how small she is, about 10-12 pounds of energy. She must think she can fly because she always chases birds.

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How many basketballs can you find?

By Chloe Meister and Jake Crump

The Washington Post

Illustration by Greg Kletsel

March Madness officially has tipped off with the unveiling Sunday night of the 68-team brackets for the NCAA men's and women's tournaments. The illustration below

features a selection of this season's mascots, players and coaches from the men's and women's fields — as well as 68 basketballs. How many can you find? Click [here](#). (Shared by Peggy Walsh)

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AP logo police sighting



Steve Hendren - Here's golfer Viktor Hovland playing on Sunday in the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL... Apparently in this context, AP refers to one of his sponsors - Audemars Piguet.

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Connecting Sky Shot -- Lourdes, France



Kevin Walsh - The Sanctuary of our Lady of Lourdes, site of the grotto where Saint Bernadette had her visions of the Virgin Mary, as seen from the Chateau Fort de Lourdes.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jack Limpert

Janis Magin

Stories of interest

Employee bursts onto live Russian state TV to denounce war: 'They are lying to you here' (Washington Post)

By Mary Ilyushina and Hannah Knowles

A woman burst onto the set of Russian state TV's flagship evening news program Monday, chanting "stop the war" and denouncing government "propaganda" — a striking moment of public protest as the Kremlin cracks down on any criticism of its invasion in Ukraine.

OVD-Info, a human rights group that tracks protest activity and detentions in Russia, identified the woman as Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor and producer with the broadcaster, and said she has been detained. Before storming the set of Channel One, Ovsyannikova recorded a video message in which she said, "What is going on in Ukraine is a crime."

"Unfortunately, I have been working at Channel One during recent years, working on Kremlin propaganda," Ovsyannikova said. "And now I am very ashamed. I am ashamed that I've allowed the lies to be said on the TV screens. I am ashamed that I let the Russian people be zombified."

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

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Fox News correspondent hospitalized after being injured in Ukraine (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy

New York (CNN Business) Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall, who had been deployed in recent weeks to cover the war in Ukraine, has been hospitalized after being injured while reporting near Kyiv, the network said on Monday.

"We have a minimal level of details right now, but Ben is hospitalized and our teams on the ground are working to gather additional information as the situation quickly unfolds," Fox News chief executive Suzanne Scott said in a memo to employees.

"The safety of our entire our entire team of journalists in Ukraine and the surrounding regions is our top priority and of the utmost importance," Scott added. "This is a stark reminder for all journalists who are putting their lives on the line every day to deliver the news from a war zone."

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

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NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week (AP)

By The Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

Video spreads false claim that vaccine booster shots increase risk of death

CLAIM: People who have received COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are at a greater risk of dying from the virus.

THE FACTS: Research shows the opposite – booster shots reduce the risk of hospitalization and death, experts said. Footage circulating widely on social media recently shows a doctor telling Tennessee lawmakers that people who get vaccine booster shots are at a higher risk of death from the coronavirus. In the clip, Dr. Richard Urso testifies on March 1 at the House Health Subcommittee of the Tennessee General Assembly on a bill that would ban private businesses and public agencies from enacting rules that treat people considered to have natural immunity from COVID-19 differently from those who are vaccinated. “If you look at the studies in England, in Scotland, and in northern countries in Europe where they get real data, that there, actually, the triple vaccinated are the most likely to die,” said Urso, a Houston-based ophthalmologist. The video of Urso’s testimony has spread across social media platforms. But the claim is false. No credible evidence has been presented showing that people who get COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are more likely to die, medical and immunology experts told the AP. “There’s really nothing that supports that assertion,” said Francesca Torriani, a professor of clinical medicine at the University of California, San Diego. “It has to be categorized as misinformation.” Ross Kedl, a professor of immunology and biology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, said the data shows the “exact opposite” of Urso’s claim. Kedl cited a March 2022 article in the New England Journal of Medicine that found that booster doses “substantially increased protection” against the omicron variant. “I’ve never seen anything that shows an increased risk of mortality for individuals with the third dose and repeated doses to the vaccines,” said Robert Carpenter, a clinical associate professor at Texas A&M University College of Medicine. “That’s completely false based upon all of the data that is available, everything that I’ve seen both in the U.S. and outside it from reputable sources.” Carpenter cited data published in January 2022 by the U.K. Health Security Agency that determined booster shots significantly reduce the risk of death caused by the omicron coronavirus variant. He also pointed to a December 2021 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine that found that people who received a booster shot had “90% lower mortality” due to COVID-19 than those who did not get a booster. Urso did not respond to the AP’s requests for comment.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 15, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 15, the 74th day of 2022. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 15, 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

On this date:

In 1493, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrived back in the Spanish harbor of Palos de la Frontera, two months after concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1917, Czar Nicholas II abdicated in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, who declined the crown, marking the end of imperial rule in Russia.

In 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force from World War I convened in Paris for a three-day meeting to found the American Legion.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied bombers again raided German-held Monte Cassino.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote; the result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1972, "The Godfather," Francis Ford Coppola's epic gangster movie based on the Mario Puzo novel and starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, premiered in New York.

In 1977, the situation comedy "Three's Company," starring John Ritter, Joyce DeWitt and Suzanne Somers, premiered on ABC-TV.

In 2005, former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

In 2011, the Syrian civil war had its beginnings with Arab Spring protests across the region that turned into an armed insurgency and eventually became a full-blown conflict.

In 2019, a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, streaming the massacre live on Facebook. (Brenton Tarrant, an Australian white supremacist, was sentenced to life in prison without parole after pleading guilty to 51 counts of murder and other charges.)

In 2020, the Federal Reserve took massive emergency action to help the economy withstand the coronavirus by slashing its benchmark interest rate to near zero and saying it would buy \$700 billion in treasury and mortgage bonds. After initially trying to keep schools open, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the nation's largest public school system would close in hopes of curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Convicted former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) walked into a federal prison in Colorado, where the 55-year-old Democrat began serving a 14-year sentence for corruption. (He was released in February 2020 after President Donald Trump commuted his sentence.) The American campaign in Afghanistan suffered a double blow as the Taliban broke off talks with the U.S., and President Hamid Karzai said NATO should pull out of rural areas and speed up the transfer of security responsibilities to Afghan forces nationwide.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump, speaking in Ypsilanti, Michigan, announced that his administration would re-examine federal requirements governing the fuel efficiency of cars and trucks, moving forcefully against Obama-era environmental regulations that Trump said were stifling economic growth; Trump then flew to Nashville to lay a wreath at the tomb of President Andrew Jackson. For the second time, a federal court blocked Trump's efforts to freeze immigration by refugees and citizens of some predominantly Muslim nations.

One year ago: A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 42% of Republicans said they probably or definitely would not be vaccinated against COVID, compared with 17% of Democrats. The Senate confirmed New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland as interior secretary, making her the first Native American to lead a Cabinet department. Academy Award nominees included two female directors for the first time, Emerald Fennell for "Promising Young Woman" and Chloé Zhao (the eventual winner) for "Nomadland." Actor Yaphet Kotto, whose films included "Midnight Run," the James Bond movie "Live and Let Die" and "Alien," died in the Philippines at 81.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Judd Hirsch is 87. Jazz musician Charles Lloyd is 84. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 82. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 81. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 79. Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War; Lowrider Band) is 76. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 75. Actor Frances Conroy is 69. Actor Craig Wasson is 68. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 67. Actor Joaquim de Almeida is 65. Actor Park Overall is 65. Movie director Renny Harlin is 63. Model Fabio is 61. Singer Terence Trent D'Arby (AKA Sananda Maitreya) is 60. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 59. R&B singer Rockwell is 58. Actor Chris Bruno is 56. Actor Kim Raver is 55. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 54. Rock musician Mark Hoppus is 50. Country singer-musician Matt Thomas (Parmalee) is 48. Actor Eva Longoria is 47. Rapper-musician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) is 47. Rock DJ Joseph Hahn (Linkin Park) is 45. Rapper Young Buck is 41. Actor Sean Biggerstaff is 39. Actor Kellan Lutz is 37. Actor Caitlin Wachs is 33.

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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