

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

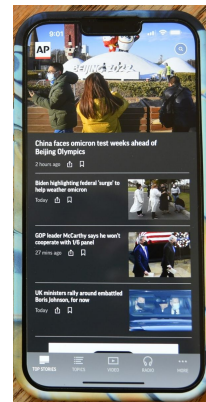
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

March 23, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this March 23, 2022,

Please join me in congratulating our colleague **Kathy Gannon** on her nearly 35-year career with The Associated Press.

It was announced Tuesday that Gannon, AP’s news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan and one of the most talented, courageous and beloved journalists in the AP, will retire on May 15.

“I feel so incredibly grateful to have had the career I have had,” she told Connecting, “It has been such a privilege to have been able to meet the Afghans and Pakistanis who shared their stories, their lives, the worst and best of it.”

If you have a favorite memory of working with Kathy, please send it along.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Kathy Gannon to retire after AP career of distinction, courage



Kathy Gannon, AP's news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan and a journalist who nearly lost her life covering Afghanistan elections in 2014, will retire from The Associated Press on May 15 after a career of nearly 35 years.

“Kathy joined the AP in 1988 and quickly became an integral part of our coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan, building unrivaled expertise and relationships across the region,” said Julie Pace, AP’s executive editor, in a note to staff Tuesday. “Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Kathy can also attest to her kindness, humility and tenacity.

“Throughout her remarkable career, Kathy has covered war, unrest, and politics, including the withdrawal of Russian soldiers from Afghanistan, the assassination of Pakistan’s Benazir Bhutto, and the rise and fall - and rise - of the Taliban. She was the only Western journalist allowed in Kabul by the Taliban in the weeks preceding the 2001 U.S.-led offensive in Afghanistan. And she was there last year as American forces withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban returned to power. Throughout, Kathy has also sought to tell stories of daily life in Afghanistan and Pakistan, bringing richness and context to the world’s understanding of the region.”



Kathy Gannon (left) and Anja Niedringhaus in 2012. (AP Photo)

Gannon was seriously wounded in 2014 – hit by seven bullets - when an Afghan police officer opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle and emptied it into the back seat of a car where she and her AP colleague and dearest friend Anja Niedringhaus were sitting alone. They were covering the presidential elections in a remote area of Afghanistan. Niedringhaus, a noted AP photojournalist, was killed in the attack. Gannon underwent 18 surgeries; two bullets shattered her right shoulder blade and punctured her lung, another three bullets destroyed her left forearm and almost severed her left hand, which was barely attached, and another bullet took out part of her right hand and another destroyed her right wrist.

“The doctor who saved my life was an Afghan doctor at a small local hospital in Khost in Afghanistan,” Gannon said in a Connecting profile several years ago. “When he took me into surgery to stop the bleeding that was slowly killing me, he said ‘I just want you to know that your life means as much to me as it does to you.’ For me this doctor represents and characterizes most Afghans - NOT the shooter who was arrested on the spot and was sentenced to 20 years. Neither Anja's family nor I believe in the death penalty and did not challenge the shooter's appeal of the original death sentence he was handed. I had several surgeries in Germany and the remainder at the Hospital for Special Surgeries in New York.”

Gannon took a year and a half break from surgeries in 2016 and the first half of 2017 to return to Pakistan and Afghanistan “to be sure that I didn't see people differently, that fear was not clouding my vision. I couldn't tell their many stories if I saw them through a lens distorted by fear. When I returned, I found just joy at being back and felt the real privilege of being able to tell the story of so many truly courageous people in both countries - who live with loss and suffering with such strength and courage and yes, often with sadness. I am truly grateful to be able to do this job.”

She was named news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2020.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Overseas Press Club's President's Award, the International Women's Media Foundation Courage in Journalism Award and AP's own Gramling Journalism Award.

A native of Timmins, Ontario, she was the city editor at the Kelowna Courier in British Columbia and worked at several Canadian newspapers before her career took her overseas. She has lived in Israel, Japan, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Her first AP job was as a stringer in northwestern Pakistan's Peshawar on the border with Afghanistan. She was freelancing at the time, in 1987 – a time when 150,000 Russian soldiers, then the Soviet Union's Red Army, were in Afghanistan propping up the communist government and Peshawar was the staging ground for the U.S-backed Afghan mujahedeen. Islamabad bureau chief Bryan Wilder hired her as stringer and later as a local hire to fill the No. 2 spot in Islamabad at the bureau - in August 1988. One of her first jobs was covering the plane crash of Gen. Zia-ul Haq whose death ended 11 years of military rule.

Gannon is married to respected Pakistani architect Naeem Pasha, and has a stepdaughter, Kyla Pasha. She is the youngest of six children. Her brothers Brian and Lorne were also journalists, her brothers Robert and Terry were prominent in their fields and her sister, Patricia Ann, was a nurse in Canada's north for 40 years.

"We'll celebrate Kathy more fully in the coming weeks," Pace said. "For now, please join me in congratulating her on her retirement and thanking her for her unwavering service and dedication to the AP. We are all so lucky to have been able to call her a colleague."

Connecting mailbox

Thanks for tribute to AP-Honolulu's Greg Small

Steve Elliott - Thanks to David Briscoe for such a nice tribute to AP-HULA's Greg Small (in Tuesday's Connecting). It brought back memories of learning from Greg during my four years in the Honolulu bureau, and not just when it came to journalism. From Greg I gained an appreciation of Adam Hall's "Quiller" espionage series and the joys of spending my dinner break at the counter of Columbia Inn next door to the Honolulu Newspaper Association building (though unlike Greg I was never seen reading a thick book explaining chaos theory). I've had a Pavlovian response to AP style on "judgment" ever since Greg caught me writing in a broadcast split that "marijuana clouds your judgment" ("Hey kid, are you on drugs?"). He was understandably proud of his City News Bureau experience in Chicago, and that experience showed when something big would pop on the night shift and Greg would handle it deftly. I'm a better person for knowing Greg in my younger days and am very sorry to hear he has passed.

-0-

Bob Burns honored by Defense Secretary on final overseas reporting trip



Bob Burns was feted by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his press secretary, John Kirby, aboard Austin's military aircraft on a flight back to Washington Saturday (March 19) after stops in Brussels, Belgium; Bratislava, Slovakia, and Sofia, Bulgaria. It was the final overseas reporting trip for Burns, national security writer, who is retiring May 1 after 45 years with the AP. Photo by Cami McCormick, CBS Radio correspondent.

-0-

AP photo team's Operation Family Rescue project honored by NPPA



Photographer Doug Parker, right, copies photos as volunteers with Family Photo Rescue copy photos, damaged by Hurricane Ida, in September 2021, at the 1811 Kid Ory Historic House in LaPlace, Louisiana. Digital copies of the photos are being retouched by volunteers with the nonprofit Operation Photo Rescue, with the finished copies sent back to their owners. Sony donated the use of Sony mirrorless cameras and copying equipment for the effort. For more information and tips to preserve damaged photos, visit Family Photo Rescue's Facebook page. Photo by Scott Threlkeld.

NPPA Special Citations: These citations are given for making significant contributions that advance the interests of photojournalism. This year, the awards committee chose two groups that made meaningful impacts on their local communities.

Family Photo Rescue for its work in restoring photographs for members of the community following flooding in LaPlace, Louisiana, after Hurricane Ida. The team, organized by Gerald Herbert, a staff photographer for The Associated Press, along with Kathy Anderson, Matthew Hinton, John McCusker, Doug Parker, Edmund Fountain and others, worked with the backing of Operation Photo Rescue, a national nonprofit, in the effort.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Mike Stewart.

Finding Solace Through Helping a TV Show Understand War



This image released by NBC shows, from left, Vanessa Bell Calloway as Edie, Griffin Dunne as Nicky, Justin Hartley as Kevin, Noah Salsbury Lipson as Matty, Jennifer Morrison as Cassidy, in a scene from "The Guitar Man" episode of "This Is Us." (Ron Batzdorff/NBC via AP) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Associated Press journalist and Marine Corps veteran James LaPorta (right) agreed to advise the NBC-TV show "This Is Us" about depicting the military authentically, he found more than he'd bargained for.



By JAMES LAPORTA, Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The car door opens, then slams. The ignition rumbles. Music roars. Hands fixed on the wheel. Ten and two. Then we're off, hurtling down empty Santa Monica side streets before dawn.

Milo Ventimiglia is as composed as a Top Gun pilot. First gear grinds, then second — but in that cool way where velocity bursts with a swish and car lights blur.

Riding shotgun is an exercise in grip strength. Knuckles white, wheels screaming, heart pounding, music blaring. Today's feature: "Red Eyes" by The War on Drugs.

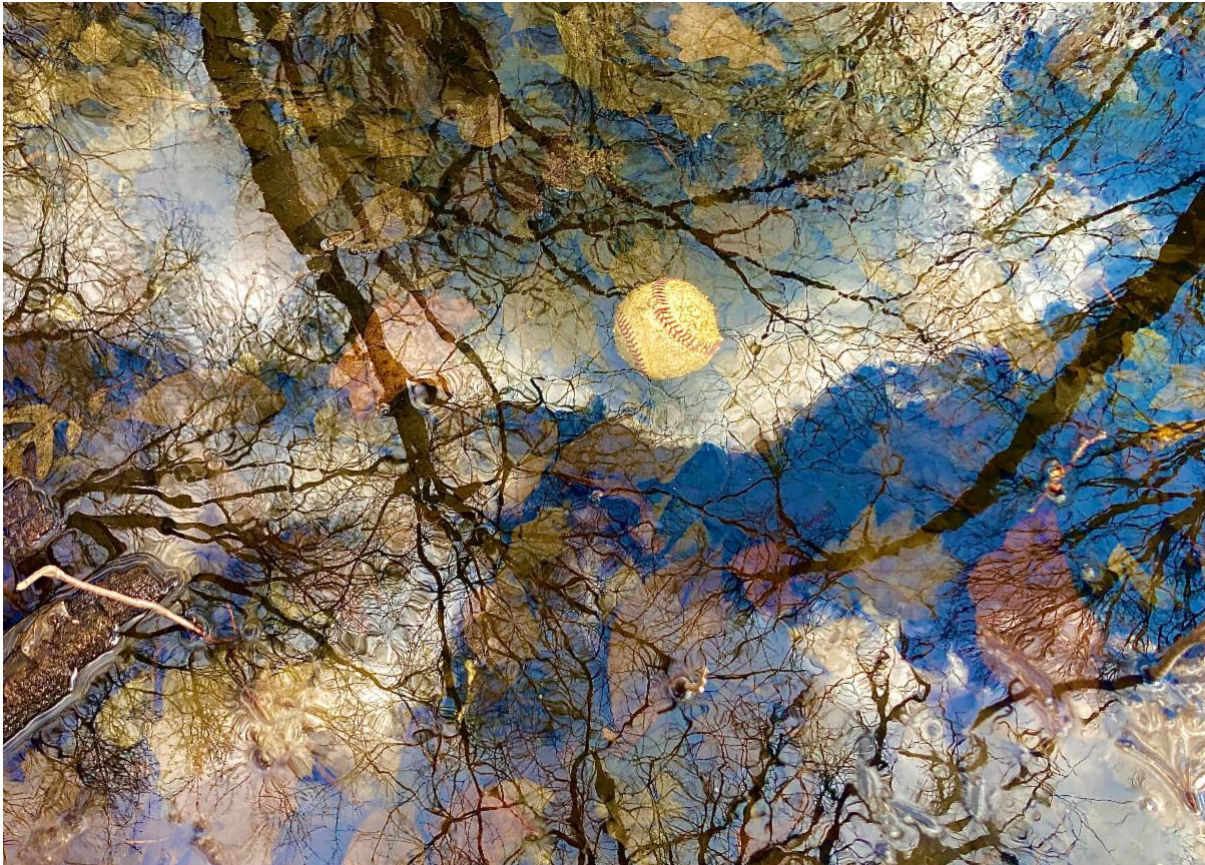
For the man who has been held up as America's dad for the past six years on NBC's "This Is Us," this is simply controlled chaos. For me, a U.S. Marine veteran of the war in Afghanistan, the entire experience — the early morning car ride, the story you're

reading and how I came to work on his television show — is equal parts surreal and ridiculous.

It is also my own melancholic — and, ultimately, therapeutic — reflection of my war experiences and life afterwards.

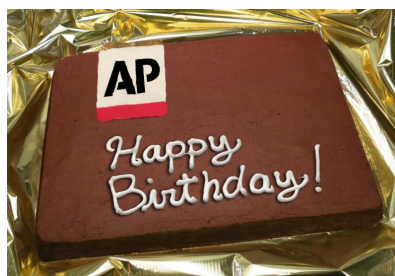
Read more [here](#).

Connecting (indirect) Sky Shot



Malcolm Ritter - This puddle reflected trees and the sky in what we journalists like to call a wooded area near the Charles River in Newton, Mass. After I posted it on Instagram, a follower asked for the original to make a print for his baseball-themed bedroom.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bill Gillen

Stories of interest

Maury Povich retiring from daily talk show after 31 years (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK - Veteran daytime talk show host Maury Povich is retiring, with the last original episodes of "Maury" set for broadcast in September after 31 years on the air. NBC Universal confirmed the impending exit of the 83-year-old Povich on Monday. Old episodes are likely to live on in some form, however, with the company saying that "the show has thousands of lively, entertaining and dramatic episodes that will continue to be successful in daytime for years to come."

"I'm so proud of my relationship with NBC Universal and all those who worked on the 'Maury' show but as I occasionally tell my guests on 'Maury,' enough already," he said.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Ex-journalist for Russian state TV says she quit over war (AP)

PARIS (AP) — A former Paris-based Europe correspondent for Russian state-controlled broadcaster Channel One said Tuesday she resigned this month due to Russia's war against Ukraine and voiced fears she'll be accused of being "a highly paid spy."

Zhanna Agalakova quit as the war broke out in Ukraine, joining a string of colleagues from Russia's strictly state-controlled network. She told a press conference in Paris that "when I spoke to my bosses, I said I cannot do this job anymore ... I left Channel One specifically because the war started."

The 56-year-old, who used to be a newsreader at the channel, said she believed Russian networks had been commandeered by the Kremlin to broadcast lies and propaganda for years now, leaving little remaining in the way of independent media. Russians, she said, were being "zombified" as a result.

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

-0-

Family of slain journalist takes Taliban leaders to ICC

(AP)

NEW DELHI (AP) — The family of a Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photographer who was killed in Afghanistan last year filed a formal complaint with the International Criminal Court on Tuesday to investigate his killing and bring to trial the Taliban's top leadership for "committing war crimes."

Siddiqui worked for the Reuters news service and was embedded with Afghan special forces in July last year when he was killed as the commando unit battled for control of the Spin Boldak crossing, on the border between southern Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The family's complaint cites several media reports, including from Reuters, that say Siddiqui was captured by the Taliban and later executed. The complaint also says his body was mutilated while in the custody of the group.

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

Today in History - March 23, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 23, the 82nd day of 2022. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 23, 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.

On this date:

In 1775, Patrick Henry delivered an address to the Virginia Provincial Convention in which he is said to have declared, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

In 1806, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.

In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers.

In 1942, the first Japanese-Americans evacuated by the U.S. Army during World War II arrived at the internment camp in Manzanar, California.

In 1965, America's first two-person space mission took place as Gemini 3 blasted off with astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and John W. Young aboard for a nearly 5-hour flight.

In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *H.L. v. Matheson*, ruled that states could require, with some exceptions, parental notification when teenage girls seek abortions.

In 1993, scientists announced they'd found the renegade gene that causes Huntington's disease.

In 1994, Aeroflot Flight 593, an Airbus A310, crashed in Siberia with the loss of all 75 people on board; it turned out that a pilot's teenage son who was allowed to sit at the controls had accidentally disengaged the autopilot, causing loss of control.

In 1998, "Titanic" tied an Academy Awards record by winning 11 Oscars, including best picture, director (James Cameron) and song ("My Heart Will Go On").

In 2003, during the Iraq War, a U.S. Army maintenance convoy was ambushed in Nasiriyah (nah-sih-REE'-uh); 11 soldiers were killed, including Pfc. Lori Ann Piestewa (py-ES'-tuh-wah); six were captured, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who was rescued on April 1, 2003.

In 2010, claiming a historic triumph, President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, a \$938 billion health care overhaul.

In 2020, President Donald Trump said he wanted to reopen the country for business in weeks, not months; he asserted that continued closures could result in more deaths than the coronavirus itself. Britain became the latest European country to go into effective lockdown, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered the closure of most retail stores and banned public gatherings.

Ten years ago: Urging Americans to "do some soul searching," President Barack Obama injected himself into the emotional debate over the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin in Florida, saying, "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon." The U.S. Army formally charged Staff Sgt. Robert Bales with 17 counts of premeditated murder in the deaths of 17 villagers, more than half of them children, during a shooting rampage in southern Afghanistan. Pope Benedict XVI landed in Mexico to throngs of faithful who lined more than 20 miles of his route into the city of Leon.

Five years ago: Abandoning negotiations, President Donald Trump demanded a make-or-break vote on health care legislation in the House, threatening to leave "Obamacare" in place and move on to other issues if the next day's vote failed.

(Trump and GOP leaders ended up pulling their bill when it became clear it would fail badly.)

One year ago: A cargo ship the size of a skyscraper ran aground and became wedged in the Suez Canal; hundreds of ships would be prevented from passing through the canal until the vessel was freed six days later. Israeli voters took part in parliamentary elections that would leave Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu without a majority, forcing him from office. George Segal, nominated for an Oscar for his role in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," died in California at 87; he had worked into his late 80s on the ABC sitcom "The Goldbergs."

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Mark Rydell is 93. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Craig Breedlove is 85. Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is 70. Singer Chaka Khan is 69. Actor Amanda Plummer is 65. Actor Catherine Keener is 63. Actor Hope Davis is 58. Actor Richard Grieco is 57. Actor Marin Hinkle is 56. Rock singer-musician Damon Albarn (Blur) is 54. Actor Kelly Perine is 53. Actor-singer Melissa Errico is 52. Rock musician John Humphrey (The Nixons) is 52. Bandleader Reggie Watts (TV: "The Late Late Show With James Corden") is 50. Actor Randall Park is 48. Actor Michelle Monaghan is 46. Actor Keri Russell is 46. Actor Anastasia Griffith is 44. Gossip columnist-blogger Perez Hilton is 44. Actor Nicholle Tom is 44. Actor Brandon Dirden is 44. Country singer Brett Young is 41. Actor Nicolas Wright is 40. Actor Ben Rappaport is 36. NBA point guard Kyrie Irving is 30.

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
paulstevens46@gmail.com