

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

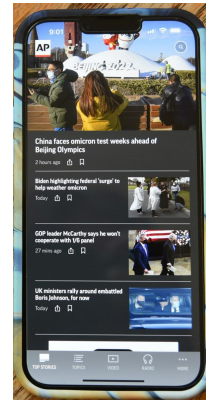
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

April 19, 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 Tuesday morning on this April 19, 2022,

Today's quiz: Who are the people at the helm of The Associated Press?

There's the **AP board of directors** – 13 men and women elected by U.S. newspaper members to provide corporate direction according to bylaws of the independent, not-for-profit cooperative that we know as the AP.

Its leader: Chairman **Steven R. Swartz**, president and CEO of the Hearst Corporation in New York.



And there's the **Associated Press Management Committee**, eight senior managers who meet regularly to make policy and

business decisions with the aim of keeping the AP at the forefront of accurate and trustworthy global journalism.

Its leader: AP's president and CEO **Daisy Veerasingham**, who assumed the position at the start of 2022.

Click [here](#) to view the names and photos of those on the board and on the management committee.



So now you know (...and should the question come up on a future Jeopardy show, Connecting has now armed you with the answers...) We thank them all for their service to the company we love.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

How an AP WWII story helped get a noted Holocaust survivor to Alaska



Gerda Weissmann Klein and Erin Knotek on March 29, 2008, at the school in Moose Pass, Alaska, where Klein spoke about her experiences during the Holocaust (Photo provided by Erin Knotek).

By [Chris Carola](#)

After hearing news of the death earlier this month of Gerda Weissmann Klein, my sister, Erin Knotek, reminded me of how one of my Associated Press stories helped get the famous Holocaust survivor and author to Alaska in 2008, up until then the only U.S. state she hadn't visited.

Klein died April 3, five weeks shy of her 98th birthday, in Phoenix, where she and her husband – the American soldier who rescued her in 1945 -- had retired to in 1985 after living most of the post-war years in Buffalo, N.Y. [Her obituary](#), written by Phoenix-based reporter Anita Snow, moved on AP's national and international news wires on April 15.

Klein was 15 when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, starting WWII. Her family, like other Polish Jews in her hometown, were eventually rounded up and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Her brother, Gerda's only sibling, and her parents died.

Klein wound up surviving stints in several camps as well as a 350-mile death march in the winter of 1945. She and about 120 other women were abandoned in a factory in what was then Czechoslovakia when on May 7, the day before Klein's 21st birthday and the day before Germany's surrender, two American soldiers arrived in a Jeep.

One of the soldiers was Lt. Kurt Klein, of Buffalo, a German Jew whose parents had sent him to the U.S. in 1937. Kurt and Gerda married in Paris in June 1946 and settled in Buffalo, where they raised two daughters and a son. Gerda was a frequent speaker at schools in the Buffalo area, telling her story of hope and survival to young audiences. After the Kleins retired and moved to Arizona, they started a foundation to promote tolerance and Holocaust education, giving talks across the U.S. and elsewhere.

Gerda wrote a memoir of her Holocaust experience and nine other books. She was the subject of a 39-minute film – "One Survivor Remembers" (1995) – that won the Oscar for best documentary short subject. In 2011, President Barack Obama bestowed her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom during a White House ceremony.



President Barack Obama presents Jewish Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein, a 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster) (Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Kurt Klein died in 2002. Gerda kept up her busy speaking engagement, and by 2007 she had visited 49 states. The only state she hadn't visited was the 49th one admitted to the union, Alaska.

That's where my sister Erin and my AP story come in.

Erin, the youngest of five children in our family, drove from our upstate New York hometown to Alaska in the early 1990s to work for the summer. She wound up staying, got married and settled in Moose Pass, near Seward on the Kenai Peninsula.

In June 2007, she visited the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. That moving experience inspired her to bring awareness of the Holocaust to her adopted hometown, then with a population of about 220. Erin contacted a history professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage who recommended Gerda Weissmann Klein as a featured speaker. Erin started a campaign to raise money to cover the cost of Gerda's speaking fee and travel expenses.

Later that year, I wrote [a story](#) on the reunion of a WWII veteran from upstate NY and three of the concentration camp survivors the veteran and other members of his Army unit had liberated from a Nazi SS train transporting 2,500 sick, starving Jewish prisoners, mostly women and children, near Magdeburg, Germany on April 13, 1945.

Matt Rozell, a high school history teacher in Hudson Falls, N.Y., initiated the reunion. His students' WWII class project included a website with the local veteran's recollection of rescuing Jewish people crammed into a train at the end of the war. Three of the survivors of that death train, now men in their 60s and 70s, read the story and contacted Rozell.

My story moved on AP's national and international wires, with photos of the reunion, on Sept. 14, 2007. Rochelle Abelson, one of my sister's teachers in our hometown of Mechanicville, read the story, recognized my byline and contacted Erin, who told Abelson how she was raising money to pay for Gerda Klein's trip to Alaska to speak about the Holocaust. Abelson went into action, enlisting the help of her local Jewish organizations.

Erin explains what happened next:

"Then all these old Jewish ladies in Schenectady started sending me money to help get Gerda to Alaska," Erin said.

However, Erin was still short of funds to cover transportation costs. That problem was solved when billionaire and Las Vegas casino mogul Shel Adelson, a friend of the Klein family, provided a private jet to fly Gerda and five family members to Anchorage. On March 29, 2008, Gerda gave her first public talk in Alaska to a standing-room-only crowd in the small gym at the school in Moose Pass. Some in the crowd of about 200 had driven two hours to hear Gerda speak.

Alysa Cooper, Gerda's oldest granddaughter, is executive director of Citizenship Counts, a nonprofit organization started by Gerda in 2008 to educate young people on citizenship and encourage pride in America. She accompanied her grandmother to hundreds of speaking events over the years, including Alaska, but Cooper said the Moose Pass visit was among Gerda's favorites.

"We were talking about Moose Pass about a week before her passing," Cooper told me recently. "It was a very special, magical evening."

More on upcoming retirement of AP's Denis Paquin

Cliff Schiappa - There's a saying in management circles that 20% of the staff takes up 80% of the manager's time. When I was Midwest photo editor, Denis Paquin, in his role as Illinois photo editor, probably required less than 1% of my time. From my perspective, the Chicago photo bureau operation ran smoothly and seamlessly, creating a strong report on a daily basis, thanks to Denis' steady hand. During one of our periodic phone calls I learned we both rode the same model motorcycle, a Honda Valkyrie... a beast of a bike with a six cylinder engine. I wish Denis well in his very well-deserved retirement, I hope he still has a bike of some kind to ride off into the sunset. He'll be leaving huge shoes to fill!

-0-

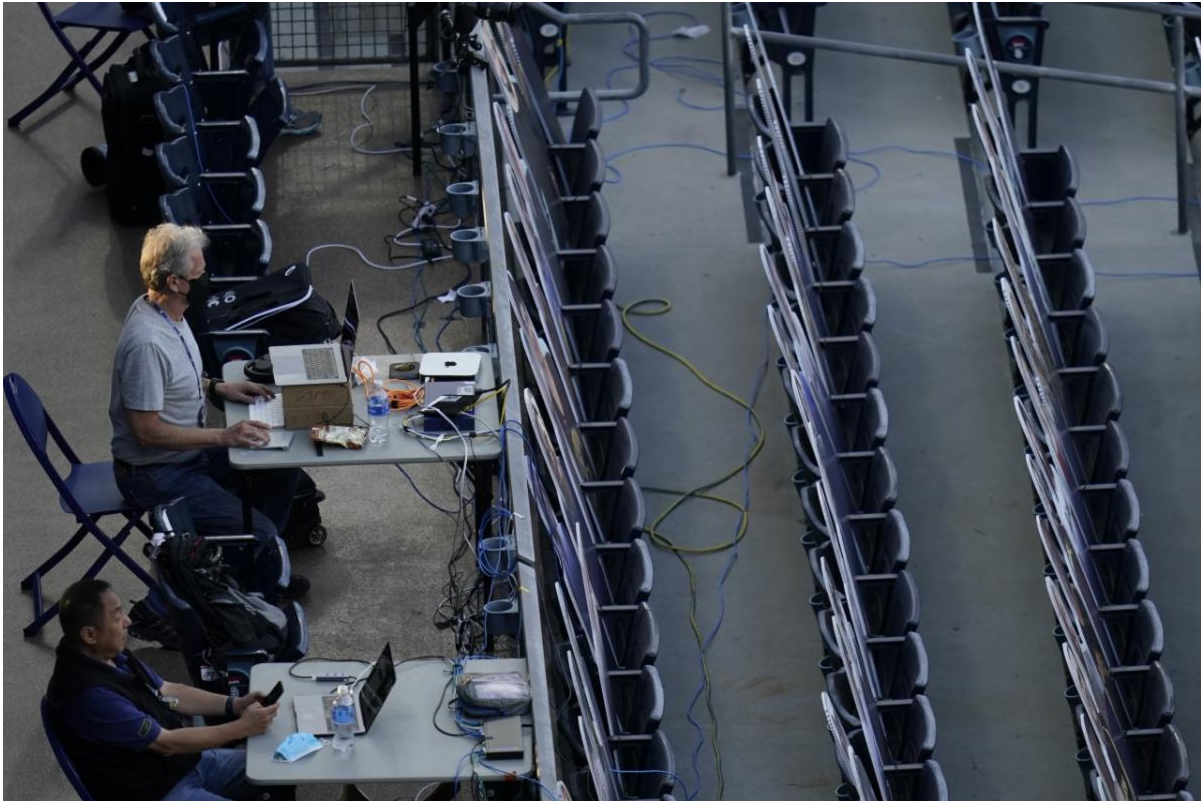
And these submissions from colleague [Chuck Zoeller](#). (How often do you see a photo credit to a former AP president/CEO?)



Photo editors, from left, Jim Collins, Tony Hicks, Director of Photography Santiago Lyon and Denis Paquin meet in the AP office at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, Feb. 11, 2010. (Photo by Tom Curley)



Deputy Director of Photography/Global Sports and Operations Denis Paquin at his desk in the New York headquarters newsroom, March 14, 2018. (AP/Chuck Zoeller)



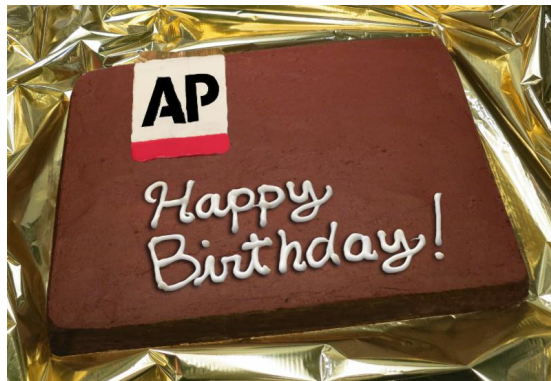
Denis Paquin at work during Game 7 of the American League Championship Series, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020, in San Diego. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

CNN's Richard Roth an AP alum



[David Lubeski](#) - Just wanted to add to [Monday's story in Connecting](#) of the kidney transplant for CNN's Richard Roth that he is also an AP alum. Richard, a native New Yorker, was at the AP Radio network in its early days. He was part of radio's Lake Placid Olympic coverage and was a newsroom leader with a unique sense of humor. He was portrayed in the 2002 movie *Live From Baghdad* by Hamish Linklater who did a good job of capturing Richard's quirky personality (two other AP alums, Peter Arnett and the late John Holliman were portrayed in the movie). Richard is one of those people you won't forget once you've met him.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Dorfman](#)

Stories of interest

How misinformers manufacture and embellish embarrassing presidential moments (Poynter)

By: Bill McCarthy

Former President Barack Obama returned to the White House for the first time since 2017, joining President Joe Biden for an April 5 event to celebrate the Affordable Care Act.

The event, at which Biden signed a new executive order to expand coverage under the Obama-era health care law, lasted roughly 45 minutes. But in the hours that followed, the Republican National Committee circulated two short, out-of-context clips from the event. One was trimmed down to 13 seconds.

Both clips quickly went viral, buoyed by conservative influencers. Eventually, they made their way onto Fox News' website and the primetime programs led by hosts Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham. "Biden looks on as Democrats gush over Obama at White House event," read the headline on one of several online stories Fox News ran based on the clips.

The two clips, stripped from their context, were misleading. One was framed as showing Biden lost and confused while people swarmed Obama. Biden was actually stepping away from the group to find someone. “Literally no one wants to talk to Joe Biden,” the RNC wrote.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

-0-

New CNN Boss Is Quitting Twitter: ‘It Can Skew What’s Really Important’ (The Wrap)

By Josh Dickey

“My last day on Twitter ... I’m logging off.”

What sane Twitter user hasn’t said this a hundred times?

But on Monday, it came from the unlikeliest of sources: Chris Licht, who is about to take over Jeff Zucker’s old role as head of CNN.

Though Twitter has long become the go-to for journalists both absorbing and distributing information, the new honcho at one of the nation’s top outlets seems to believe the echo-chamber nature of the platform has become too much of a downside to carry on.

“May 2 will be my first official day in the office at CNN & my last day on Twitter,” he tweeted Monday morning. “Twitter can be a great journalistic tool, but it can also skew what’s really important in the world. I’m logging off & looking forward to working with the incredible team at CNN.”

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Alex Jones’s Infowars Files for Bankruptcy (New York Times)

By Derrick Bryson Taylor

Three companies affiliated with the far-right broadcaster and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, among them the media outlet Infowars, filed for Chapter 11 protection on Sunday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, according to court documents.

Infowars is facing multiple defamation lawsuits from families of victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting, which Mr. Jones has claimed was a hoax. Two other companies connected to Mr. Jones, IWHealth and Prison Planet TV, also filed for bankruptcy protection on Sunday.

Last September, Mr. Jones lost two defamation lawsuits filed in Texas by victims' families because he failed to provide requested information to the court. Months later, in a case representing the families of eight others killed in the shooting, a Connecticut judge ruled that Mr. Jones was liable by default because he had refused to turn over documents ordered by the courts, including financial records. The rulings delivered sweeping victories to the families.

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

The Final Word



Paul Stevens - Ollie carries on the 54-year Stevens Dog tradition of assisting with Easter ham carving on Sunday. The motto of Chauncey, Tootsie and Murphy before him: let no stray piece of meat hit the floor. He succeeded. Same rules apply for the Thanksgiving turkey. Life is good for the shelter pup.

Today in History - April 19, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 19, the 109th day of 2022. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

On this date:

In 1865, a funeral was held at the White House for President Abraham Lincoln, assassinated five days earlier; his coffin was then taken to the U.S. Capitol for a private memorial service in the Rotunda.

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held; winner John J. McDermott ran the course in two hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In 1912, a special subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee opened hearings in New York into the Titanic disaster.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; about 80 people, including two dozen children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh, who prosecutors said had planned the attack as revenge for the Waco siege of two years earlier, was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a manhunt that had left the city virtually paralyzed; his older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn), was killed earlier in a furious attempt to escape police.

In 2015, Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man, died a week after suffering a spinal cord injury in the back of a Baltimore police van while he was handcuffed and shackled. (Six police officers were charged; three were acquitted and the city's top prosecutor eventually dropped the three remaining cases.)

In 2018, Raul Castro turned over Cuba's presidency to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, the first non-Castro to hold Cuba's top government office since the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro and his younger brother Raul.

Ten years ago: Republicans rammed an election-year, \$46 billion tax cut for most of America's employers through the House, ignoring a veto threat from President Barack Obama. (The measure went down to defeat in the Senate.) India announced the successful test launch of a new nuclear-capable missile. Levon Helm, drummer and singer for The Band, died in New York City at age 71.

Five years ago: Fox News Channel's parent company fired Bill O'Reilly following an investigation into harassment allegations, bringing a stunning end to cable news' most popular program. Former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, 27, who was serving a life sentence for a 2013 murder, hanged himself in his cell in a maximum-security prison in Massachusetts five days after being acquitted of murder charges in the shooting deaths of two men in Boston in 2012.

One year ago: Former Vice President Walter Mondale, a liberal icon who served as a Democratic senator from Minnesota and as Jimmy Carter's vice president before losing one of the most lopsided presidential elections in the nation's history to Republican Ronald Reagan in 1984, died at the age of 93. The D.C. medical examiner's office ruled that Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, who was injured during the Jan. 6 insurrection, suffered a stroke and died from natural causes. NASA's experimental Mars helicopter named Ingenuity took flight on Mars, rising 10 feet into the thin air above the dusty red surface to achieve the first powered flight by an aircraft on another planet.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Elinor Donahue is 85. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 80. Actor Tim Curry is 76. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 75. Actor Tony Plana is 70. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 66. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 60. Actor Tom Wood is 59. Former recording executive Suge Knight is 57. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 55. Actor Kim Hawthorne (TV:

"Greenleaf") is 54. Actor Ashley Judd is 54. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 54. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 52. Actor Jennifer Esposito is 50. Actor Jennifer Taylor is 50. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 48. Actor James Franco is 44. Actor Kate Hudson is 43. Actor Hayden Christensen is 41. Actor Catalina Sandino Moreno is 41. Actor-comedian Ali Wong is 40. Actor Victoria Yeates is 39. Actor Kelen Coleman is 38. Actor Zack Conroy is 37. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 37. Actor Courtland Mead is 35. Retired tennis player Maria Sharapova is 35. NHL forward Patrik Laine is 34.

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