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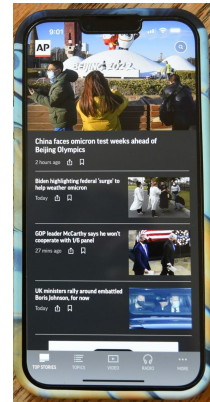
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# Connecting

April 22, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this April 22, 2022,

Today is Earth Day – and if you'd like to see how the first one was celebrated in 1970, click [here](#). And from the AP, click [this video](#) to learn more on Satellites and Climate Change. There's also an interesting item that leads Stories of Interest.

Today's issue brings you a wonderful account of a night in Mississippi with civil rights hero James Meredith and AP New York photographer **Richard Drew** - brought to us by Richard's wife **Molly Gordy**.

We also bring you a Vanity Fair excerpt on the new Jill Biden book written by AP journalists **Darlene Superville** and **Julie Pace**.

**CONNECTING VACATION RELIEF:** Ye Olde Editor will be away for the next few days and our colleague **Peg Coughlin** will serve as Connecting editor during his absence. Through Tuesday of next week, please send your contributions to Peg at – [pcoughlin@ap.org](mailto:pcoughlin@ap.org)

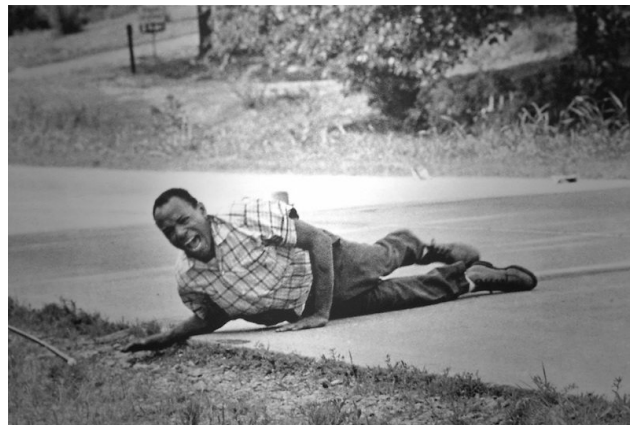
Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, see you next week!

Paul

## An evening with civil rights hero James Meredith, AP photographer Richard Drew



**Molly Gordy** - Thanks to former AP staffer Suzi Altman for hosting an epic 4-hour conversation Tuesday night between my husband Richard Drew (AP New York photographer) and civil rights hero James Meredith, 88, over dinner at her home in Brandon, Mississippi. The topic, at Mr. Meredith's request, was "fighting fear."



James wanted to talk about Richard's 9/11 coverage, Hiroshima and Ukraine. Richard was not leaving until we heard about the flaming 1962 riots when James desegregated Ole Miss escorted by the National Guard, and about AP staffer Jack Thornell's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1966 photo of James when he was shot multiple times by a white supremacist as he tried to walk from Memphis to Jackson to encourage African-American suffrage. After James was hospitalized, 14,000 people turned out to finish the march for him, including 4,000 black Mississippians who then registered to vote.

Photo by **Suzi Altman** (who earlier worked on the AP Photo desk in New York), who adds:

It was an honor to host these two heroes at my home. I recorded most of it and I am working on a project/book about James Meredith, whom I am honored to call my

friend and have known for over 20 years. He also put me on the front page of the New York Times for my first photo assignment - the 40th anniversary of desegregation of Ole Miss in 2002. I had just moved from NYC to Mississippi - first big job - changed my world and life - and still is.

## *Vanity Fair Excerpt:* “IT’S MY PROFESSION”: THE MODERNIZING OF THE FIRST LADY ROLE AND HOW JILL BIDEN MADE IT HER OWN

In *Jill: A Biography of the First Lady*, authors Darlene Superville and Julie Pace chart the story of Jill meeting Joe (and making him propose five times!), becoming a mother to Beau, Hunter, and Ashley, going through three presidential elections, and breaking barriers with her decision to work outside the White House.

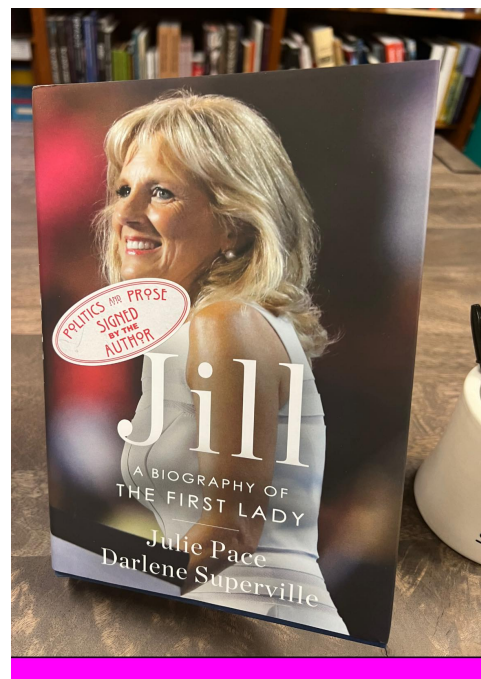
BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE AND JULIE PACE

On June 9, 1987, Joe Biden formally announced his bid to become the Democratic nominee for president of the United States. As Joe planned his first try for the Oval Office, it meant a great deal more would be demanded of Jill. Over the preceding decades, the atmosphere for political spouses had changed rapidly, with subdued political roles by former first ladies giving way to a new era of savvy, influential spouses.

The modern understanding of the role of first lady arguably originates with Eleanor Roosevelt. She held press conferences, traveled on speaking tours, wrote a daily newspaper column from the White House, and gave a keynote speech at the presidential convention nominating President Franklin Roosevelt for his third term.

The next great evolution of the role of first lady came with Jacqueline Kennedy, who in 1962 gave Americans a televised tour of the White House following the restoration and renovation she had overseen. By harnessing the relatively new medium of television, the first lady was able to extend the hospitality of the White House to Americans who would never visit it in person, room by majestic room. The tour was widely watched and had broad bipartisan appeal.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dan Sewell.



# Mason's Gift - May 4 (or any day)

[Jaime Aron](#) - As you may know, our friend and Connecting colleague [John McFarland](#) lost his oldest son Mason last year at age 21. In hopes of something good coming out of their tragedy, the McFarlands started "Mason's Gift" to support those who are homeless. The first event was held last year on May 4, Mason's birthday. Soon, on what would've been Mason's 23rd birthday, they're holding another event.

Mason was the kind of guy who always wanted to help others. Several of Mason's friends share that enthusiasm. Their joy at collecting items to distribute won over everyone at last year's event. So the main focus this year is gathering more items to help them help those who are homeless. Details are on the attached flyer. Please note that it also includes other ways to remember Mason, including giving to a scholarship just started in his name.

John knows I'm sending this, and he wanted me to be sure to include this message: Regardless of whether you donate, please keep Mason's spirit going on May 4 (or any day) by helping anyone who needs it, however you can.



**Join us May 4** – what would have been Mason McFarland's 23rd birthday – for a day of celebrating Mason's generous spirit by helping people who are homeless.

Mason was a sweet, caring young man who worked at Frisco RoughRiders stadium since he was 15, but he lost his life at the age of 21. Help us honor his memory by donating food and much-needed resources at the Ballpark from 10 am. to 4 p.m.

Mason supported his friends who deliver essentials to people who are homeless, and we're supporting them by gathering:

- Water bottles
- Granola bars
- Peanut butter and crackers
- Trail mix
- Oatmeal
- Hot chocolate
- Band-Aids
- Socks
- Individual packages of disinfecting wipes
- Lightly used clothing, shoes and backpacks

If you can't make it May 4, please consider donating to the charity of your choice in Mason's honor, or:

**Mason's Friends** — supporting people who are homeless (Visit [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for 214EA)

**Vogel Alcove** — helping families who are homeless ([vogelalcove.org](https://vogelalcove.org))

**The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center** — offering shelter and resources for homeless people ([bridgehrc.org](https://bridgehrc.org))

**The Mason McFarland Memorial Scholarship** — awarded to a Frisco student with autism or learning disabilities (You can donate at the Frisco Educational Foundation website, [friscoisd.org](https://friscoisd.org))

**Autism Speaks** — supporting people with autism and their families ([autismspeaks.org](https://autismspeaks.org))

Or just go helps somebody who needs help, however you want to.

**Thank you for making a difference in Mason's memory.**

For more information, email [mcfarland7802@gmail.com](mailto:mcfarland7802@gmail.com).

Read more about Mason's life at [ForeverMissed.com](https://ForeverMissed.com) and visit the Mason's Gift page on Facebook.

# Connecting gifts

[Norm Abelson](#) - Connecting provides me with a number of gifts. Among the most meaningful are the biographies, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries, and other stories from and about colleagues. What always grabs me are the variety of the lives lived, and the high quality of the writing in this awful age of Twitter.

A perfect example was Chris Carola's intriguing April 19 piece about AP's connection in getting a Holocaust survivor to speak in a small Alaska town. These always interesting, often remarkable, pieces make me feel proud to have been birthed from the same mother – journalism.

Over my long life, from time to time I have wandered away from those roots. Not that those other callings did not have value, but always, in one way or another, I have returned to reporting and commentary.

I hope that having been a journalist will highlight my obit lead. (But not too soon.)

## The Newspaper with A Satin Robe



**Jeremy Markovich** - This weekend, a reporter for the Charlotte Observer came across one hell of a find at the Camp North End Vintage Market in Charlotte:

That robe is a little more Classy Freddie Blassie than Ric Flair, but's it's fantastic nonetheless. The reporter passed along one more clue: There was an AAU patch on the front. Past that, the seller didn't really have any more information.



This all went down on Saturday, and I immediately had a lot of people tagging me, asking to figure it out. But honestly, I only found one piece of the puzzle. The internet, lovingly, sprang into action and filled in the rest of the gaps.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

## Worldle - geography test for retirees

[Bruce Handler](#) - Here's yet another challenging timewaster for senior brains -- but especially so for retired alleged journalists who are supposed to know where the countries of the world are.

Check it out!

Click [here](#).

(My scores since a friend tipped me off to this a few days ago: First try, sixth try, second try, no misses yet)

## AP sighting



Click [here](#). (The AP - Alex Pareene - Newsletter). Spotted and shared by Dave Zelio.

### *Best of the Week*

**Perseverance lands AP interview with Ukrainian president; team in Bucha**

# documents evidence of war crimes



Evgeniy Maloletka photographs Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during an interview with AP in Kyiv, April 9, 2022. AP / MYSTYSLAV CHERNOV

With a dedication to continuing coverage of the war in Ukraine, the AP teams in and around Kyiv landed an interview with the Ukrainian president and offered a definitive all-formats chronicle of the mass killings in Bucha.

In the capital, citing the groundbreaking exclusive coverage of the city of Mariupol as the best example of AP's commitment to documenting war crimes, AP journalists relentlessly pursued an interview with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Asia-Pacific news director Adam Schreck, video journalist Mstyslav Chernov and photographer Evgeniy Maloletka sat down with the president a day after at least 52 people were killed in an airstrike on a train station filled with civilians desperately trying to evacuate, and as new horrors emerged from the town of Bucha.

Zelenskyy said he remained committed to pressing for peace with Russia. "No one wants to negotiate with a person or people who tortured this nation. It's all understandable. And as a man, as a father, I understand this very well," he said. But "we don't want to lose opportunities, if we have them, for a diplomatic solution."

Read more [here](#).

## ***SECOND WINNER***

# AP chronicles a graying homeless population as more Americans retire to the streets



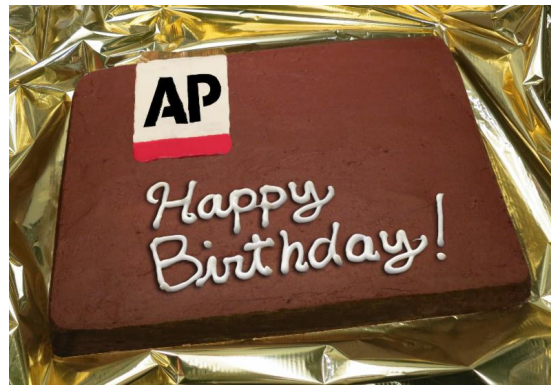
AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

Phoenix reporter Anita Snow told the story a woman living on the street in Arizona because she could not afford the rising rents; that reporting led to coverage of a disturbing nationwide trend: a surge in elderly homeless.

Snow reported on Karla Finocchio, whose slide into homelessness began when she split with her partner of 18 years and temporarily moved in with a cousin. The 55-year-old planned to use her \$800-a-month disability check to get an apartment after back surgery. But she soon was sleeping in her old pickup protected by her German Shepherd mix Scrappy, unable to afford housing in Phoenix, where median monthly rents soared 33% during the coronavirus pandemic — to more than \$1,220 for a one-bedroom.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Joei Bohr

Peter Mattiace

Bob Reid

*On Saturday to...*

Howard Gros

*On Sunday to...*

Evelyn Colucci-Calvert

Reed Saxon

## Welcome to Connecting

Nedra Pickler

Steve Sloan

## Stories of interest

*Earth Day, and the media's point of view* (Columbia Journalism Review)

By Mark Hertsgaard and Kyle Pope

ON THE FIRST EARTH DAY, in 1970, America's TV networks were not shy about taking a position on the news of the day. CBS News produced a special titled "Earth Day, A Question of Survival," which opened its flagship evening broadcast showing biologist Barry Commoner telling a crowd, "This planet is threatened with destruction.... We are in a crisis of survival." Anchorman Walter Cronkite then reiterated the theme, declaring this a "unique day in American history, dedicated to mankind seeking its own survival." ABC News titled its own special report, "Earth Day: An SOS for Survival." Anchorman Frank Reynolds' first sentence congratulated activists for speaking out, crediting "millions of Americans" with taking "the first step to survival."

CBS and ABC devoted virtually their entire broadcasts to the Earth Day story, with correspondents emphasizing the scourges of air and water pollution in reports from New York, Boston, Washington, Chicago, Denver, Albuquerque, and St. Louis. NBC's coverage was less extensive but featured one item that, viewed from today, sounds eerily prescient. Anchorman Frank Blair reported that "a government scientist" had told colleagues at the American Geophysical Union that "over-pollution, unless checked, could so warm the earth in 200 years as to create a greenhouse effect, melting the Arctic ice cap and flooding vast areas of the world."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Anita Snow.

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## ***Getting to know Gen Z*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher**

The point of naming and quantifying generations — Boomers, Gen X, Millennials and now Gen Z — is to better understand them, to wrap context around their collective experiences in the world. For news publishers, understanding generational nuances is essential to effective marketing and growing audience. An evergreen challenge they face is how best to appeal to younger readers, listeners and viewers. The ideal, of course, is to endear young audiences, to keep them engaged and informed, proving the news publisher's value proposition, day in and day out. The goal is to earn trust so that the relationship between news source and subscriber is galvanized and lifelong.

The Pew Research Center defines Generation Z as people who were born in 1997 and after, citing 1996 as "a meaningful cutoff between Millennials and Gen Z for a number of reasons, including key political, economic and social factors that define the Millennial generation's formative years." This is a generation that is "always on," according to Pew, referring to Gen Z's relationship with technology and social media.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The Last of the Afternoon Newspapers*** (Wall Street Journal)

**By Peter Funt**

Tucked in the southwest corner of Montana, the city of Livingston claims modest fame as the part-time home of veteran journalist Tom Brokaw and as a setting for the TV Western “Yellowstone.” It also has an unintended distinction in the newspaper business.

The Livingston Enterprise and its sister paper, the Miles City Star, appear to be the last remaining U.S. dailies printed after lunch and delivered before dinner. Afternoon production, once dominant in newspaper publishing, is near extinction.

As recently as 40 years ago afternoon papers outnumbered morning publications by almost 4 to 1 in the U.S.

By 2000 the number of morning papers had surpassed the afternoon total, though there were still more than 600 of the latter. These have since disappeared so quickly it’s almost as if a comet struck the industry—sometime in the afternoon.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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## ***CNN’s streaming service shutting down a month after launch*** (AP)

By TALI ARBEL and DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN is shutting down its CNN+ streaming service less than a month after its launch, a spectacular flameout for a venture that had attracted stars like Chris Wallace and Alison Roman and was seen as a way to attract a new generation of news consumers.

It had started March 29, shortly before CNN was taken over by new corporate parents. The new leaders of Warner Bros. Discovery quickly let it be known they considered CNN+ an ill-conceived idea.

The subscription-based service will be shut down at the end of April. Executives said some CNN+ programming and employees will be absorbed into the television network and website but there will be layoffs. The head of CNN+, Andrew Morse, is leaving the company.

In a memo to employees on Thursday, incoming CNN Chief Executive Chris Licht said consumers wanted “simplicity and an all-in service” rather than stand-alone offerings. Discovery had previously suggested that it wanted to merge the new company’s separate streaming services, which include Discovery+ and HBO Max, into a single app.

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - April 22, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 22, the 112th day of 2022. There are 253 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 22, 2000, in a dramatic pre-dawn raid, armed immigration agents seized Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy at the center of a custody dispute, from his relatives' home in Miami; Elian was reunited with his father at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington.

### On this date:

In 1889, the Oklahoma Land Rush began at noon as thousands of homesteaders staked claims.

In 1915, the first full-scale use of deadly chemicals in warfare took place as German forces unleashed chlorine gas against Allied troops at the start of the Second Battle of Ypres (EE'-preh) in Belgium during World War I; thousands of soldiers are believed to have died.

In 1937, thousands of college students in New York City staged a "peace strike" opposing American entry into another possible world conflict.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces began invading Japanese-held New Guinea with amphibious landings at Hollandia and Aitape.

In 1954, the publicly televised sessions of the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings began.

In 1970, millions of Americans concerned about the environment observed the first "Earth Day."

In 1993, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was dedicated in Washington, D.C., to honor victims of Nazi extermination.

In 1994, Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, died at a New York hospital four days after suffering a stroke; he was 81.

In 2004, Army Ranger Pat Tillman, who'd traded in a multi-million-dollar NFL contract to serve in Afghanistan, was killed by friendly fire; he was 27.

In 2005, Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) pleaded guilty in a federal courtroom outside Washington, D.C., to conspiring with the Sept. 11 hijackers to kill Americans. (Moussaoui is serving a life prison sentence.)

In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, operated by BP, sank into the Gulf of Mexico two days after a massive explosion that killed 11 workers.

In 2016, leaders from 175 countries signed the Paris Agreement on climate change at the United Nations as the landmark deal took a key step toward entering into force years ahead of schedule.

Ten years ago: The U.S. and Afghanistan reached a deal on a strategic partnership agreement ensuring that Americans would provide military and financial support to the Afghan people for at least a decade beyond 2014, the deadline for most foreign forces to withdraw.

Five years ago: From the Washington Monument to Germany's Brandenburg Gate and even to Greenland, scientists, students and research advocates rallied on Earth Day, conveying a global message about scientific freedom without political interference. Erin Moran, the former child star who played Joanie Cunningham in the sitcoms "Happy Days" and "Joanie Loves Chachi," died in New Salisbury, Indiana; she was 56.

One year ago: In an announcement tied to a U.S.-hosted virtual summit of 40 world leaders on climate change, President Joe Biden committed the U.S. cut its fossil fuel emissions by as much as 52% by 2030; some developed U.S. allies also made specific pledges to reduce damaging fossil fuel pollution. The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 ruling, made it easier to sentence minors convicted of murder to life in prison without the possibility of parole. A judge in New York sentenced a Bangladeshi immigrant to life in prison for an attempted suicide bombing attack in a subway station beneath Times Square in 2017; the attack largely failed when the bomb barely exploded.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jack Nicholson is 85. Singer Mel Carter is 83. Author Janet Evanovich is 79. Country singer Cleve Francis is 77. Movie director John Waters is 76. Singer Peter Frampton is 72. Rock singer-musician Paul Carrack (Mike and the Mechanics; Squeeze) is 71. Actor Joseph Bottoms is 68. Actor Ryan Stiles is 63. Baseball manager Terry Francona is 63. Comedian and entertainment executive Byron Allen is 61. Actor Chris Makepeace is 58. Rock musician Fletcher Dragge (DRAH'-guh) is 56. Actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan is 56. Actor Sheryl Lee is 55. Actor-talk show host Sherri Shepherd is 55. Country singer-musician Heath Wright (Ricochet) is 55. Country singer Kellie Coffey is 51. Actor Eric Mabius is 51. Actor Ingo Rademacher (RAH'-deh-mah-ker) is 51. Rock musician Shavo Odadjian (System of a Down) is 48. Rock singer-musician Daniel Johns (Silverchair) is 43. Actor Malcolm Barrett is 42. Actor Cassidy Freeman is 40. Actor Michelle Ryan is 38. Actor Zack Gottsagen is 37. Actor Amber



Heard is 36. Singer-songwriter BC Jean (Alexander Jean) is 35. Drummer Tripp Howell (LANCO) is 33. Rapper/singer Machine Gun Kelly is 32.

## 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.

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