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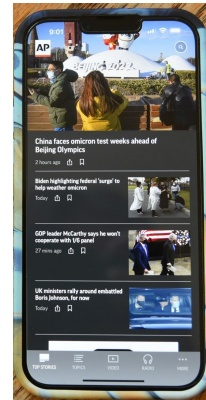
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Connecting

May 2, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this May 2, 2022,

We're sorry to bring you news of the deaths of three Associated Press retirees - photographer **Lenny Ignelzi**, technical specialist **Elton Leigh "Bi" Byington** and technical special projects manager **John Besch**.

We lead today's issue with information available on each.

The 47th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, marked this past Saturday, prompts a remembrance of those days by **Le Lieu Browne**, the wife of AP photographer and Pulitzer winner **Malcolm Browne**, and remembrance of the reporting work from those days of AP's **Peter Arnett**.

Speaking of Peter, he and two Connecting colleagues, **Nick Ut** and **David Kennerly**, gathered with friends over lunch this past weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of

Kennerly's Pulitzer Prize. The three are the last surviving Pulitzer winners of the Vietnam War.

Here's to a new month, and to a great week ahead. Be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Connecting bids fond farewells

Elton Leigh "Bi" Byington

Joe Galianese - taken from Bo Byington's Facebook page:

My big brother Elton Leigh "Bi" Byington passed away today (April 27) from esophageal cancer. He was 78 years old. His nickname "Bi" comes from our grandfather Justus Leigh Byington. Our grandfather was a telegraph operator that used the letters "Bi" as his "call sign" and how he ended each telegram that he transmitted. The family ALWAYS called my big brother by his nickname "Bi".



Among many things, Bi loved and collected all types of music. Classical, Opera, Jazz, R&B, Folk, Blues and Rock 'n' Roll, he loved them all. The music I selected for this tribute video comes from Bi's collection.

Rest in Peace, Big Brother.

Steve Graham adds:

Back in the late '80s, Bi was a mainstay on the overnight Glass House shift at 50 Rock. When I worked in London '85-'86, there were frequent problems with the communications link we provided the New York Times to connect with the Times' London bureau. I'd arrive in the office about 8:00 a.m. and be greeted with the news that the link was down. I'd call the Glass House and get Bi, since it was the middle of the night there. After a moment of "Bi frustration," he'd say, "I'll get right on it" and things would be fixed. He was a special person.

John Besch

John Besch, age 77, of Collings Lakes, NJ, passed away on April 24, 2022.

John was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. He and his family then moved to Niagara Falls, USA, where he grew up and received his education. After school, John joined the US Air Force and spent time overseas. After being discharged from the

military, he worked for Chevrolet plant, Bell Telephone and then for United Press International. It was during his time at Bell, that he met his wife, Kathleen. During the earlier years of their marriage, one of their favorite things to do was to head out West and go camping, exploring for ghost towns. Over the years they also took many trips to Florida together.

John enjoyed going out into nature to take walks around the lakes and see all of the different wildlife. John also enjoyed being a part of different bowling leagues.

He worked for the Associated Press for more than 30 years before retiring. He started out as a technician, then supervisor. He worked his way up to Special Project Manager, which took him to all areas of the United States as well as overseas. John enjoyed his community and offered a lot of his time helping to improve it.

Beloved husband of Kathleen M. Besch (nee Schwab) Dear brother of Murial Anderson and the late Barbara Hadaway (the late Larry) Loving uncle of Michele Lagasse (Normand) and William Davey (Michele). He is also survived by many great nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to his viewing, Wednesday, May 4th, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, at the Farnelli Funeral Home, 504 N. Main Street, Williamstown, where a service will take place at 7:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made in John's name to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090.

Lenny Ignelzi

Dan Berger shares this post from the 919 Gang (former Union-Tribune staffers in San Diego):



L to R: Howard Lipin – San Diego Union-Tribune; John Gibbins - U-T; Don Bartletti (standing) - Los Angeles Times; Lenny Ignelzi - AP San Diego and Hayne Palmour IV - U-T.

We lost retired AP photographer Lenny Ignelzi. He passed on Friday, April 29, 2022, at an acute-care facility in Las Vegas.

In the picture above from just six months ago, he held court in an Encinitas bakery near his home with a pack of retired San Diego area photojournalism friends. Lenny is seated, third from the left. He was recovering well from a previous stroke and entertained all of us with true stories from his decades-long career as photo bureau chief in San Diego. He spoke noticeably slower than the good old days, but he brought them back with remarkable color and detail that had faded somewhat from my memory. Then, last week his wife Bobbi messaged John Gibbins that another stroke had taken a severe toll rendering him unable to speak, eat or walk.

Lennie had a personality that was bigger than life: if he wasn't a photojournalist, he'd have been a shoo-in on the Sopranos, Good Fellas, or Taxi. Get the picture? A mild Lower East Side delivery, and a knack for surviving any deadline news or sports assignment.

He maneuvered through his award-winning career in high gear. I couldn't catch him. He was a world-class sports photographer who would shoot the play of the game, soup the film and transmit a wet print before I could get off the sidelines.

Early in my career at the U-T, I was assigned to a PGA golf match at Torrey Pines. I stopped in his office on the first floor for some advice and mentorship. I was not a

good sports photographer, but I figured a day walking around in a big, lush garden near the ocean with the Godfather of sports photographers couldn't be all bad.

"Donny, you only need two lenses to shoot golf: an 80-200 zoom and a 400mm 2.8. Travel light 'cause you'll walk your ass off. Oh yeah, jam a 24mm in your pocket, but leave room for this cigar!" My lucky day. Out there on the course, I stuck close to Lennie because he knew exactly whom to follow and where to stand at the tee, fairway or green. And he told a million jokes between strokes.

So there we were, cigars and lenses in hand, squinting through the big lenses and focusing on a golfer lining up a chip out of a bunker a long, long ways from the hole. As expected, the ball rolled past the flag by a mile. Lenny quipped, "Missed again!" We laughed like the good fellows we'd become.

Thanks Brother Lennie; I got you archived in my head on this sad day.

Following the Vietnam War through reports of Peter Arnett

Robert Ingle - Like other college students in the '60s I followed the Vietnam war through reports from Peter Arnett.

A member of what was then called Sigma Delta Chi, the journalism society, the U. Ga. chapter was invited to Cape Kennedy in an effort to promote NASA.

They took us in small vans to that tall building where rockets are kept. Arnett sat across from me and quipped about the humid weather: "It's like Vietnam except over there the rockets come in, here they go out"

Inside the big building we were trying to figure out where to go when a short, balding, unassuming guy came along, noticed our bewilderment and invited Arnett, some other guy and me on an impromptu tour.

He was a bean counter or some NASA backroom employee, I figured, but man was he well informed. "Even the guy from the Xerox room knows this stuff," I told Arnett. He could answer anything we asked.

It was an honor and delight touring with Arnett who I admired as a journalist and found to be a regular guy. About a year later I learned who our guide was — when Apollo Commander Pete Conrad became the third human to walk on the moon.

And when he did, Conrad joked about his height, "Whoopee, man. That might have been a small one for Neil, but that's a long one for me."

50 years – and counting

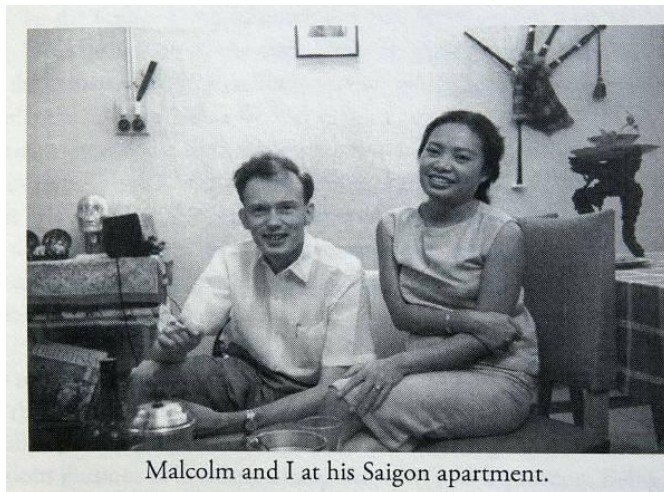


The three surviving Vietnam War Pulitzer Prize winners, AP's Nick Ut (left) AP's Peter Arnett (center) and UPI's David Kennerly, were in a celebratory mood this past weekend at a lunch in Westminster, CA, honoring the 50-year anniversary of Kennerly's prize winning photographs taken in 1972. The trio all live in southern California and have been in close touch since the war years. The gathering at the Chateau Brodard restaurant included family members and local fans. Amongst the well-wishers were the Vietnam-American independent film director Tony Bui and Naja Lockwood of RYSE Media Ventures. They are handling Nick's own upcoming early-June celebrations of the 50th anniversary of his prize-winning Napalm Girl photo and will accompany him in his upcoming trip to Rome where he will meet Pope Francis on May 11. The 50th anniversary of Arnett's prize-winning Vietnam war coverage was in 2016. He recently narrated the E-book versions of the two Vietnam era books he wrote for AP Publishing, SAIGON HAS FALLEN, and WE'RE TAKING FIRE, and both are now available. PHOTO BY ANDREW ARNETT

Memories of that day when Saigon fell



Lelieu Browne - It's been 47 years since the fall of South Vietnam. I wonder how many of us, Vietnamese as well as American veterans, have remembered that day, April 30th, 1975. I would have forgotten the day if Paul Stevens, our Connecting chief, hadn't reminded us of last Friday. On the other hand, how many of us in that generation are still living over the event?



Malcolm and I at his Saigon apartment.

For the past three years, we have lived in a very unsettled world, a world of nightmare, of fear and anger, of unreality and madness, of inhumanity and self-power-grabbing. The coronavirus, Afghanistan evacuation, and Ukraine war have brought havoc in our normal life, causing violence, anti-racism, and the love of killing. This kind of present existence has kept me on guard for self-preservation, not falling into depression or despair.

So, the fall of Vietnam on April 30, 1975, is now a blurred image of a group of Vietnamese, desperately hanging on the roof of the American Embassy in hope of getting an escape through helicopter evacuation. Meantime, the Viet Cong military marched in an almost empty streets of Saigon. I arrived via Air Vietnam in Hong Kong the afternoon before Saigon fell.

I believe that April of 1975 was a memorable month for every Vietnamese household in Saigon. Whole South Vietnamese towns and cities were already in the hands of the

Viet Cong. They were in Bien Hoa, the outskirts of Saigon. Millions of refugees poured into the city; thousands of them perished at sea.

I remember flying with Malcolm, my husband and NYT correspondent, to Vung Tao, a popular beach town about 100 kilometers from Saigon, to cover the arrival of a refugee boat coming from Danang. By the time we got to the boat, I found myself walking on deck with water coming to my ankles. Decomposed bodies were everywhere. I saw a mother wrapped in some kind of rags with her arm wrapped around a baby not older than one year. Her face and his were peacefully closed as if they were asleep. They were under water. That image has haunted me to this day.

On the other hand, Malcolm drove me to Bien Hoa, a week before the fall. As soon as we got to the highway, ammunition of all kinds, shells and bullets covered the whole length of our road. By the time we got to the military blockage, we heard bomb explosions around us, black smokes rose in the horizon. Malcolm "ordered" me to stay with the Vietnamese officers who were standing around a small wooden table in the middle of nowhere while he went in search of actions.

I watched him disappear among the bushes with anguish and terror. Then I heard laughter behind me. I turned around to watch in horror. Four Vietnamese officers, in impressive uniform with decorations, were drinking whiskey and joking among themselves. They were in their mid-thirties or early forties. One of them offered me a paper cup while another held the Whisky bottle ready to serve me. I politely turned down the offer. I looked around for soldiers, none was in sight.

"Aren't we under attacks?" I asked in panic. "Where is the battlefield?"

They looked at each other and mockingly laughed at me while pointing out "They are somewhere over there."

I turned my back at them, trying to conceal my anger and emotions. "So, these are Vietnamese commanders supposedly defending our territories? That's no wonder we have lost the country.' I was so sick that I turned around and about to ask why they were there while their soldiers were dying. I luckily remembered where I was and restrained myself from provoking them. Malcolm came back, red in face and disheveled. We silently climbed back to our jeep and drove back to Saigon.

We went to meet other correspondents at Givral, a popular café facing the Continental Hotel on Catinat street, to exchange information and rumors. By now, Saigon was completely surrounded, and it was only any time that the Viet Cong would walk into town. There were rumors that Big Minh, the modest and popular general who replaced Thieu who fled the country a month before, would try to negotiate with the Viet Cong.

There was talk that because Saigon population was blown up from one million to three million, Saigon was the last place for refugees to evacuate. An invitation to such a populated city might cause massacres, revolution and uncontrolled security. The Viet Cong might accept Minh's proposal of declaring Saigon as a neutral territory like Hong Kong. It sounded music to me. If it was true, I might be with my mother and take care of her for a while.

Three days before April 30th, Malcolm told me that the New York Times ran out of cash. He needed me to go to Hong Kong that last weekend. Naively, I believed him and said good-bye to my mother, promising to see her in three days. It was the last Air Vietnam flight. Once I got to Hong Kong, Joe Lleywell, NYT Asia bureau chief, met me at the airport and announced that the Viet Cong were in Saigon.

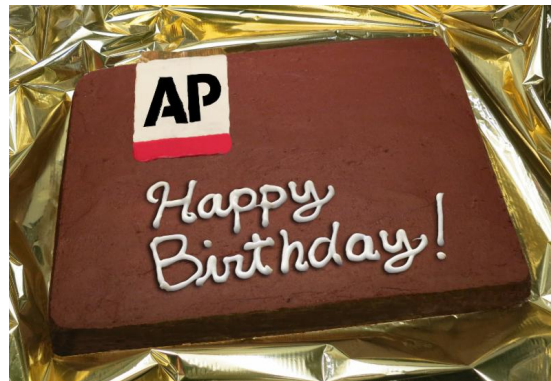
Those were a few unforgettable events that keep coming back to me of that far-away war.

Vietnam is now one country under an authoritarian government. And yet, it is prosperous with skyscrapers, fancy highway transforming rural areas to prosperous and touristic attractions. It becomes a country both wooed by the China and Russia as well as Europe and United States.

“Corruption remains unchanged, and all the new big names are educated at Harvard, Columbia and all these top universities in the United States. So, they are very savvy.” A friend informs me. “There are no coups like Thailand or Mumbai.”

How long Vietnam and Southeast Asia are at peace when the whole world is on the throes of a third world war?

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jean Capellos](#)

[Tom Gillem](#)

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

90s:

**Norm Abelson
Henry Bradsher
Hal Buell
Frank Daniels Jr.
Albert Habhab
George Hanna
Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Joe McGowan
Sam Montello
Charlie Monzella
Jack Pace
Bob Petsche
Arlon Southall
Sal Veder
Harold Waters
Doris Webster
Arnold Zeitlin**

80s:

**Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Malcolm Barr
Myron Belkind
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Brian Bland
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Ford Burkhart**

**Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Don Deibler
Mike Doan
Bob Dobkin
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Dodi Fromson
Bill Gillen
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Chick Harrity
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude
Gene LaHammer
Carl Leubsdorf
Bruce Lowitt
David Liu
Jim Luther
John Marlow
Dave Mazarella
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Harry Moskos
Ray Newton
Greg Nokes
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Mike Rouse**

Denis Searles
Richard Shafer
Mike Short
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Karol Stonger
Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jack Walker
Mike Waller
Bob Walsh
Dean Wariner
Jeff Williams
Johnny Yost
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

The Rise and Fall of the Star White House Reporter

(Politico Weekend)

By **MAX TANI**

Max Tani is a White House reporter for POLITICO.

Washington reporters have long considered the role of White House correspondent to be the crown jewel of American political journalism. It has launched high-profile television careers, scored countless reporters book deals and been bestowed on media veterans for years of ink-drenched work.

But during the age of Biden, a perch inside the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room has become something altogether different. It's become a bore.

Some of those covering the most powerful office on the planet say that the storylines, while important, and substantive, can lack flair or be hard to get viewer attention. There is industry-wide acknowledgment that viewership is down. Television outlets have been quick to turn their attention to other stories and bolster other units. There is a sense that the main saga of American politics is taking place outside the confines of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and that the journalists covering it — Donald Trump and the future of democracy — may reap the career rewards.

The Obama press room launched a whole cohort of journalists into media stardom. The Trump press room launched another. The Biden press room?

"I can't think of any [stars]," said a well-known television news executive. "I don't really watch the briefings."

The dulling down of the White House beat is not due to a lack of reportorial talent in the room. Nor has it meant that the work being done hasn't been important: major stories are being broken regularly on everything from the Covid fight, to the war in Ukraine, to inflation, immigration and legislative battles over the social safety net. Rather, what is happening is the fulfillment of a central Biden promise. Running for office against Donald Trump — the most theatrical, attention-seeking, Beltway-panic-inducing president in living memory — he pledged to make Washington news boring again.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Sikes, Doug Pizac, Richard Chady.

-0-

Biden roasts Trump, GOP, himself at correspondents' dinner (AP)

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and WILL WEISSERT

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House press corps' annual gala returned Saturday night along with the roasting of Washington, the journalists who cover it and the man at the helm: President Joe Biden.

The White House Correspondents' Association dinner, sidelined by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, featured Biden as the first president in six years to accept an invitation. Donald Trump shunned the event while in office.

"Just imagine if my predecessor came to this dinner this year," Biden told an audience of 2,600, among them journalists, government officials and celebrities. "Now that would really have been a real coup."

The president took the opportunity to test out his comedic chops, making light of the criticism he has faced in his 15 months in office while taking aim at his predecessor, the Republican Party and the members of the press.

"I'm really excited to be here tonight with the only group of Americans with a lower approval rating than I have," Biden said to the Hilton ballroom filled with members of the media.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

RELATED: [Rolling Stone: "How the White House Correspondents Dinner Broke the Democratic Party"](#) Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

The New York Times and Tucker Carlson

(Poynter)

Over the weekend, The New York Times and investigative reporter Nicholas Confessore put out a stunningly detailed and deeply-reported three-part series on Fox News' Tucker Carlson. The three parts were:

- ["How Tucker Carlson Stoked White Fear to Conquer Cable."](#)
- ["How Tucker Carlson Reshaped Fox News — and Became Trump's Heir."](#)
- ["Look Inside the Apocalyptic Worldview of 'Tucker Carlson Tonight.'"](#)
-

Confessore writes, "... Mr. Carlson has constructed what may be the most racist show in the history of cable news — and also, by some measures, the most successful."

Others agree with the assessment. Speaking on CNN's "Reliable Sources" on Sunday, media analyst David Zurawik, the former longtime media critic at The Baltimore Sun, said, "He's right up there. No one has ever had the kind of audience that he has and has preached the kind of racism he preaches. I would say that's absolutely certain."

Zurawik also added this: "You can't separate Tucker Carlson from (Fox News founder and boss) Rupert Murdoch. Rupert Murdoch allows this stuff to go out over his airways."

The Times analyzed 1,150 episodes of "Tucker Carlson Tonight" and [Confessore tweeted](#) that the story was "based on interviews with dozens of current and former Fox employees, Carlson's friends and former colleagues, and an array of public records."

Read more [here](#).

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New York Times' top editor may speak out more on journalism (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times has a tradition of letting its work speak for itself, rather than publicly defending its journalism from criticism.

Yet with democracy, truth, and the news business under attack, that's a luxury The Times' incoming executive editor, Joe Kahn, may not be able to afford. Kahn, a managing editor for the past five years, succeeds Dean Baquet on June 14, inheriting the most high-profile job in journalism.

The deliberate, soft-spoken Kahn said he's been thinking about whether The Times' reluctance to speak about its work is still the best approach at a time when people take sides about journalism brands like they do about politics. How Kahn will tackle things differently from his predecessors remains to be seen, but he is open to trying.

“I’m not sure there’s a perfect answer to it,” said Kahn, who believes efforts to communicate with readers could be improved. He added: “Being able to narrate that to some degree, and bring a broader audience into the investment we’re making in quality journalism, I do think (that) is an important part of the job.”

Read more [here](#).

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Three steps for Elon Musk if he’s serious about free speech at Twitter (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Columnist

As the would-be new owner of Twitter, Elon Musk has been touting his passion for free speech over the past week.

He’s also been showing his confusion, ignorance and utter lack of sophistication about how this prized concept really works.

“By ‘free speech,’ I mean that which matches the law. I am against censorship that goes far beyond the law,” he tweeted a few days ago. “If people want free speech, they will ask government to pass laws to that effect. Therefore, going beyond the law is contrary to the will of the people.”

Jameel Jaffer, director of the Knight First Amendment Center at Columbia University, told me last week that Musk’s intentions may be good, but the reality is more complicated than he seems to think.

“It’s not just about turning up the free-speech dial, because there are always trade-offs,” Jaffer said. For example, if there are no limits on harassment and abusive speech, people — particularly women and members of minority groups who tend to be the targets — will leave the platform altogether.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Journalism Unplugged 2022 is postponed.

Dear News Leaders Association members and friends,

The NLA is doing a pivot on our Murfreesboro-Nashville conference scheduled for May 18-20. We heard great feedback from journalists on the exceptional sessions, workshop and keynote speakers scheduled, but we also heard from too many that the timing wasn’t right due to the lingering pandemic, as well as having conflicting events to attend in May, such as graduations. We are postponing the conference and will announce our new plan for regional events soon.

For our Awards winners, we will have a virtual celebration soon to honor your outstanding work. Details to come.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lou Boccardi.

Today in History - May 2, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 2, the 122nd day of 2022. There are 243 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 2, 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

On this date:

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Virginia; he died eight days later.

In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Buck v. Bell*, upheld 8-1 a Virginia law allowing the forced sterilization of people to promote the "health of the patient and the welfare of society."

In 1932, Jack Benny's first radio show, sponsored by Canada Dry, made its debut on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1941, General Mills began shipping its new cereal, "Cheerioats," to six test markets. (The cereal was later renamed "Cheerios.")

In 1970, jockey Diane Crump became the first woman to ride in the Kentucky Derby; she finished in 15th place aboard Fathom. (The winning horse was Dust Commander.)

In 1972, a fire at the Sunshine silver mine in Kellogg, Idaho, claimed the lives of 91 workers who succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

In 1997, Tony Blair, whose new Labour Party crushed John Major's long-reigning Conservatives in a national election, became at age 43 Britain's youngest prime minister in 185 years.

In 2005, Pfc. Lynndie England, the young woman pictured in some of the most notorious Abu Ghraib photos, pleaded guilty at Fort Hood, Texas, to mistreating prisoners. (A judge later threw out the plea agreement; England was then convicted in a court-martial and received a three-year sentence, of which she served half.)

In 2010, record rains and flash floods in Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee caused more than 30 deaths and submerged the Grand Ole Opry House stage.

In 2011, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who'd been killed hours earlier in a raid by elite American forces at his Pakistan compound, was buried at sea.

In 2018, the Boy Scouts of America announced that the group's flagship program would undergo a name change; after being known simply as the Boy Scouts for 108 years, the program would now be called Scouts BSA. (The change came as girls were about to enter the ranks.)

Ten years ago: Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich formally exited the Republican presidential contest. Taliban insurgents attacked a compound housing foreigners in the Afghan capital, killing seven people, hours after President Barack Obama made a surprise visit. Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) was sworn in to Myanmar's military-backed parliament. Former NFL star Junior Seau (SAY'-ow) was found shot to death at his home in Oceanside, California, a suicide.

Five years ago: Michael Slager, a white former police officer whose killing of Walter Scott, an unarmed Black man running from a traffic stop, was captured on cellphone video, pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges in Charleston, South Carolina. (Slager was sentenced to 20 years in prison.)

One year ago: SpaceX safely returned four astronauts from the International Space Station, making the first U.S. crew splashdown in darkness since the Apollo 8 moonshot. Jacques d'Amboise, who became one of the top male dancers at New York City Ballet and then spent more than four decades providing free dance education to countless youngsters, died at his New York home from complications of a stroke; he was 86. Three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Unser died at his New Mexico home at 87.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 86. Actor-activist Bianca Jagger is 77. Country singer R.C. Bannon is 77. Actor David Suchet (SOO'-shay) is 76. Singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin is 74. Rock singer Lou Gramm (Foreigner) is 72. Actor Christine Baranski is 70. Singer Angela Bofill is 68. Fashion designer Donatella Versace is 67.

Actor Brian Tochi is 63. Movie director Stephen Daldry is 62. Actor Elizabeth Berridge is 60. Country singer Ty Herndon is 60. Actor Mitzi Kapture is 60. Commentator Mika Brzezinski is 55. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is 54. Rock musician Todd Sucherman (Styx) is 53. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson (AKA The Rock) is 50. Former soccer player David Beckham is 47. Rock singer Jeff Gutt (goot) (Stone Temple Pilots) is 46. Actor Jenna Von Oy is 45. Actor Kumail Nanjiani is 44. Actor Ellie Kemper is 42. Actor Robert Buckley is 41. Actor Gaius (GY'-ehs) Charles is 39. Pop singer Lily Rose Cooper is 37. Olympic gold medal figure skater Sarah Hughes is 37. Actor Thomas McDonell is 36. Actor Kay Panabaker is 32. NBA All-Star Paul George is 32. Princess Charlotte of Cambridge is seven.

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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