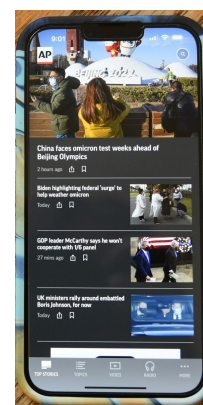


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Connecting

May 10, 2022

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Colleagues,

With sadness we bring you news of the death of our colleague **Gary Clark**, who died Monday morning at his home in Tallahassee after a battle with cancer. He had celebrated his 78th birthday on March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

Gary and "AP Chief of Bureau" were synonymous: the position seemed made for him, and he seemed made for the position.

He was an AP bureau chief for 33 of his 40 years with the cooperative – in Honolulu (1976-77), New Orleans (1977-1982), Miami (1982-1993) and Atlanta (1993-2009). He is one of very few who worked as a bureau chief in four bureaus.

"Gary Clark was fierce in his devotion to the AP and its staff," said **Lou Boccardi**,

president and CEO of the AP from 1985 to 2003, “but over the years many members told me how pleasant they found it to work with him. In that way, he was a model bureau chief.

“Gary worked hard, but he loved his golf and, I was told many times, he was pretty good at it. A superb golfer, the word was. Over the years, I heard staff members say they liked working for Gary because, as the commonly used phrase goes, he had their back. I knew that, wherever we sent Gary (and we sent him and Fay many places), he would have AP's back. And he did.”

Ah, yes, his golf – a passion held by both Gary and his wife **Fay**, whom he met on a New Hampshire golf course while they were in high school. Married 56 years, they instilled their love of the sport in their children and grandchildren.



We lead today’s Connecting with memories from one of Gary’s best and longest-held friends, **Brent Kallestad**, longtime Tallahassee correspondent, who with his wife **Kathy** visited Gary and Fay five days before Gary’s death.

Brent reports that a memorial service is scheduled Saturday at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Tallahassee and that a later service will also be held in the Clarks’ home state of New Hampshire.

When Gary’s health took a sharp turn for the worse, we invited his Connecting colleagues to drop him a note through Fay, who shared them with him. I am told many of you did so and that he enjoyed so much hearing from you.

If you would like to share your thoughts about Gary for Connecting, please send them along. You can reach out to Fay at clarkfay@hotmail.com

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Gary Clark had fierce pride in representing the AP



At Gary Clark's retirement in 2009 in Atlanta with AP colleagues, from left: Maryann Mrowca, Brent Kallestad, Michael Giarrusso, Dan Sewell and Adam Yeomans.

Brent Kallestad - Losing my longtime close friend of nearly a half century Monday left me recalling the scores of good times Gary Clark and I shared since our very first meeting as AP correspondents in North Dakota in the late summer of 1972.

Gary had so many strengths wrapped up with his New England formality and wry humor. And No. 1 may have been his fierce pride in representing The Associated Press. I learned that after years in the company after a state meeting in St. Petersburg, Fla.

It was in June (I'm guessing late '80s) and it's hot in Florida then. Anyway, the AP meeting convened annually on the final day of the statewide editors meeting. Gary, of course, arrives sporting a Navy blue blazer, long sleeve dress shirt, necktie, tan slacks and loafers and looking like a million bucks. I arrived dressed in slacks and a golf shirt (remember it's hot).

Well, about three four days later a note shows up in the bureau mail in Tallahassee with an admonishment from GWC reminding me of his expectations for folks representing AP. "It's not a Jimmy Buffett concert," he wrote.

I got the message and of course a chuckle. He made the point and did so like a pro (which he was). On the other hand, anyone wanting to pick on an employee wouldn't find much sympathy from Gary. I saw him defend more than one from different forms of criticism. Employees knew he always had your back.

Moving around different parts of AP in both the editorial and broadcast divisions gave me substantial insight into managerial skills, and Gary was as good there as he was on the golf course and the folks reading this who joined him on the fairways can appreciate his game in and out of the office.

The other part of the story is the Clark family. Gary and Fay (who met on a New Hampshire golf course now while in high school) raised three terrific children and were blessed with grandkids from each. Despite moving all over as the kids were growing up, it was and is a close-knit family and daughter Shannon has been such a pillar of strength since her mom and dad moved to Tallahassee from Atlanta just over two years ago.



Fay's daily attentiveness and cheerfulness throughout what has been a long ordeal has been nothing short of heroic. Gary was diagnosed with a form of dementia at the time close to his retirement and just a few weeks ago he got word that an aggressive cancer was terminal.

There were a lot of highlights during the 19 months or so we were in North Dakota together although my favorite story has to do with Gary's 30th birthday when Fay gave me the assignment of keeping him in the basement of their home while the birthday wishers arrived upstairs. And it worked. He was surprised.



The Clark family gathered in 2018.

Then we reunited again when I was the AP sportswriter in Minneapolis and he was the bureau news editor. They bought a home just three blocks from ours in Apple Valley and managed to move into that home just in time to learn he'd been named bureau chief in Honolulu. I think they had their VW hatchback shipped over then too if memory serves.

And while our careers in AP took us to faraway and sometimes disparate places, our friendship only grew.

Gary served for 33 years as an AP bureau chief and in New Orleans, Miami and Atlanta after a short time in Hawaii. He marveled at the work of many if not most of his staff and I'd love to call out those names but know most many who'd be deserving might be omitted. They know who they are. His loyalty to AP, family and friends was exemplary.

Remembering Gary Clark

Bill Kaczor - Gary Clark changed my life in 1984 by sending me to Pensacola much like Tom Brettingen had done four years earlier by hiring me away from Gannett News Service in Tallahassee. I was a politics junkie and reluctant to leave Tallahassee. However, I'd worked for the Playground (now Northwest Florida) Daily News in Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola News Journal before going to GNS Tallahassee in 1975 so I was familiar with the western Florida Panhandle that I would be covering for AP. Gary also made a promise, which he kept, that I'd be able to return to Tallahassee to help cover the two-month annual Florida legislative sessions.

So I became AP's first Pensacola correspondent (there was only one other). Gary created the position at least partly in response to UPI's recent dispatching of a correspondent to Pensacola. Thanks to Gary, I had a much broader journalistic career than I would have had by staying in Tallahassee although I ultimately returned there for my final few years with AP before retiring nine years ago. So, thanks to Gary I got fun rides in a Blue Angels F/A-18 Hornet and an Air Force F-15 Eagle and four tailhook landings on aircraft carriers. I also go to cover spring break, political corruption, a wide range of unusual Panhandle characters and a bunch of tragedies including losses suffered by the Panhandle's many military bases, hurricanes; the big oil spill and anti-abortion violence -- bombings and fatal shootings.

My interaction with Gary was somewhat limited by our physical distance. There was the occasional memo, usually terse. I still remember the missive scolding me for using the word "picketers," which Gary informed me was not a word at all. It's "pickets," he correctly noted. There was also praise. I still have the memo of congratulations he sent me and other Florida correspondents for coverage of Hurricane Elena that slammed the Panhandle on Labor Day weekend 1985.

Our face-to-face meetings usually came during his membership visits. Gary would play golf by day with the publisher and meet with me and some of the News Journal's editors and reporters by night at Trader Jon's. The famous Pensacola bar was a favorite of naval aviators, astronauts, politicians, journalists and other riffraff. Gary was both affable and acerbic. He'd strike up a conversation with a complete stranger at the bar and they'd chat like long-lost friends. Then, moments after the guy leaves, Gary would say something to the effect of what a dumbbell he was. The first time Gary met News Journal editor Kent Cockson was at Trader's. He'd asked me how he'd recognize Cockson. I must have told him Cockson, a proud University of Nebraska graduate, looked a lot like the Cornhusker mascot. Gary recognized him as soon as the burly Cockson walked in the door. Sadly, Cockson, an Army veteran of Vietnam, also passed away recently, on April 23, due to complications from heart disease at age 74.

I'll miss them both, but they left me with some great memories.

Speaking of news leaks

[Henry Bradsher](#) - On the subject of leaks, I had some, but nothing so earth-shaking as the Supreme Court one on abortion.

My most memorable leaker was a high-ranked civilian official in the Pentagon, whose name will not be mentioned here. Soon after beginning to cover in my post-AP days foreign and security affairs in Washington for the (late, lamented) Washington Star, I met him at one of the dinners given by defense contractors to publicize efforts to get military contracts.

Shortly after, he won a top Pentagon decoration for flying out to Vietnam on a hazardous effort to evacuate American-supplied military equipment as Saigon fell in April 1975. Perhaps his later inclination to leak to me was a result of my writing about that effort.

He began phoning me about various things going on in the Pentagon and in military relations with Congress. This was long before the days of secret or untraceable cell phones. Perhaps he worried about his official phone being bugged; sometimes we talked from homes.

Some of his calls resulted in my breaking stories. Although I seldom could get a second, confirming source, none of his leaks proved false. On one occasion, I hid my source by referring to "a letter circulating on Capitol Hill", after he'd told me about a highly classified message to Congress. Dishonest? Perhaps.

When I was traveling with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in 1978, we stopped in Khartoum between South Africa and Europe. My source had told me about a sticky but secret problem of America's possibly supplying warplanes to Sudan. During the stop I was able to question Sudanese officials to get an exclusive story.

As part of Jimmy Carter's working out the Israel-Egypt peace treaty in March 1979, the United States began sending Egypt \$1.3 billion annually in economic and military aid. This meant Pentagon supervision of weapons shipments. Soon after they began, my source told me his wife's aunt had left money with which he bought a nice estate outside Washington.

Soon there were reports of illegal kickbacks on contracts for the military aid to Egypt, especially on their shipping charges. Then my source told me he was retiring immediately because of narcolepsy – he kept falling asleep at his desk, he said. He left for the Middle East, becoming a defense contractor selling weapons. Two others were convicted of corruption on the Egyptian supplies, and his name cropped up in some reports, but he was never charged.

Then there was a cat-and-mouse game that a leak enabled me to play in 1974 with the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. I had begun in 1970 while reporting in Vietnam using a

local journalist as a translator; by 1974 he was working in the South Vietnamese economic ministry.

Nixon's 1973 Vietnamese "peace" agreement that enabled the U.S. to withdraw its troops from South Vietnam included a commitment for continued American economic aid to Saigon. My translator told me, however, that the embassy had sent a letter to his ministry saying it would no longer get the promised aid because Congress refused to authorize it.

I asked the embassy about this. They denied it. I asked a second time, giving more details provided by my translator. Another denial. Finally, I quoted directly from my leaked copy of the letter.

Embarrassed, an embassy official confirmed that such a letter had been sent. My article had repercussions in Washington, where the congressional refusal had not attracted attention.

Connecting mailbox

Secretariat

Robert Ingle - When Jimmy Carter was running for president, three of us from the Seattle bureau went on a tour of the South. Each got to choose a place to see. One wanted to see Secretariat in Kentucky. I didn't. A diary was kept of the trip, which I still read and treasure.

It says we were walking along, and our guide mumbled something. I asked my colleague, "What?" "He said "There's Secretariat."

On top of a hill standing under a lone tree was an awesome sight. A huge, beautiful creature. According to the diary, I picked some weeds, ran for the fence and yelled, "Hi guy!"

He looked at me, turned his head and looked sideways then galloped down the hill where he took my weeds as my colleagues stood silently in shock or embarrassment. We took pictures on that foggy early morning, one of me giving the Great Secretariat weeds.

Decades later, on air with Craig Carton he asked me my favorite athlete. I recalled that day. With the original awe. So funny, they made a station promo. Yep, I love that horse.

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On lending/loaning

Shirley Christian - My paternal grandmother, who taught in Missouri's one-room country schoolhouses long before any of us were born, would be dismayed at the thought of the word LOAN being anything other than a noun. Banks, she said, LEND loans. PERIOD. My own ancient copy of Webster backs this up. If anyone has a Merriam-Webster version that says otherwise it must have been infiltrated by some Baby Boomer.

To move on, I'd like to recommend Christopher Leonard's impressive new book, "The Lords of Easy Money," about the Fed's huge missteps over the past 20 years, even though he manages to misuse "loan" about 90 percent of the time.

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Catching up with the Koenigs



RICHARDSON, Texas - Paul and Diana Heidgerd, a Dallas AP retiree, pose for a selfie with AP aviation writer Dave Koenig and his wife, Darlene, following their first post-pandemic dinner together on Saturday, May 7, 2022, in Richardson, Texas.

Diane Heidgerd - Hubby Paul and I recently had a chance to reconnect post-pandemic with AP aviation writer Dave Koenig, based in Dallas, and



his wife Darlene, a freelance writer who's worked for several publications including USA Today.

To celebrate our in-person reunion, we presented Dave with a couple of gifts - a copy of the final edition of the American Airlines in-flight magazine American Way, published in mid-2021, and an inflatable Southwest Airlines jet, circa 1990s, with the ever-popular aquatic theme of Shamu the killer whale.

Dave has covered the aviation industry for a number of years, including a [recent eye-opening AP story](#) on Delta Air Lines and what/when cabin crews get paid.

Stories of interest

Pulitzer Prizes award Washington Post for Jan. 6 coverage (AP)



Tampa Bay Times reporters Corey G. Johnson, center, Rebecca Woolington, second left, and Eli Murray, left, are announced as the winners of the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting on Monday, May 9, 2022. The winning series, "Poisoned," exposed dangers at Florida's only lead smelter. This marked the 14th Pulitzer Prize awarded to the Times. (Ivy Ceballo/Tampa Bay Times via AP)

By DEEPTI HAJELA

NEW YORK (AP) — The Washington Post won the Pulitzer Prize in public service journalism Monday for its coverage of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, an

attack on democracy that was a shocking start to a tumultuous year that also saw the end of the United States' longest war, in Afghanistan.

The Post's extensive reporting, published in a sophisticated interactive series, found numerous problems and failures in political systems and security before, during and after the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in the newspaper's own backyard.

The "compellingly told and vividly presented account" gave the public "a thorough and unflinching understanding of one of the nation's darkest days," said Marjorie Miller, administrator of the prizes, in announcing the award.

Five Getty Images photographers were awarded one of the two prizes in breaking news photography for their coverage of the riot.

The other prize awarded in breaking news photography went to Los Angeles Times correspondent and photographer Marcus Yam, for work related to the fall of Kabul.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for full listing.

Click [here](#) for an analysis by Poynter's Tom Jones.

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Katherine Boo, Gail Collins and John Daniszewski Elected Co-Chairs of Pulitzer Prize Board

Pulitzer Prize news release

New York, N.Y. (July 22, 2021) — Katherine Boo, Washington, D.C.-based author and journalist, Gail Collins, Opinion Columnist for The New York Times, and John Daniszewski, Vice President & Editor-at-Large for Standards for The Associated Press, have been elected as co-chairs of the Pulitzer Prize Board.

The trio succeeds ProPublica Editor-in-Chief Stephen Engelberg and Simon & Schuster Vice President and Executive Editor Mindy Marqués González, who shared the post during 2020-2021.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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2 journalists killed in Mexico; 10th and 11th of the year (AP)

By FERNANDA PESCE and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Just as Mexican journalists prepared to protest the killing of a journalist last week, word came Monday that two more were shot to death in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, raising to 11 the number of such killings in the country this year.

The Veracruz State Prosecutor's Office said via Twitter that it was investigating the killings of Yessenia Mollinedo Falconi and Sheila Johana García Olivera, the director and a reporter, respectively, of the online news site El Veraz in Cosoleacaque.

Veracruz State Prosecutor Verónica Hernández Giadán said the investigation would be exhaustive, including considering their journalism work as a possible motive in their killing.

The State Commission for Attention To and Protection of Journalists said the two women were attacked outside a convenience store.

"We condemn this attack on Veracruz's journalism profession, give it prompt monitoring and have opened an investigation," the commission said.

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

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Millard Grimes, who gave the Opelika-Auburn News its name, dies at 92 in Georgia

DIMON KENDRICK-HOLMES

Millard Grimes, the legendary newspaper man who revamped and renamed the Opelika-Auburn News and was a fixture in the community in the early 1970s, died Tuesday in his home in Athens, Ga. He was 92.

Grimes put together the investment group that bought the Opelika Daily News in 1969, and then he moved his family to Opelika and took charge of the newspaper as editor and publisher. He made numerous changes, including adding a Sunday morning edition and rebranding the paper the Opelika-Auburn News.

"Gosh, I think he was just a heck of a newspaper guy," said Gary Fuller, mayor of Opelika. "He understood community involvement and how to be responsible for things."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

The Final Word



Shared by Len Iwanski

Today in History - May 10, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 10, the 130th day of 2022. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 10, 1940, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

On this date:

In 1775, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, along with Col. Benedict Arnold, captured the British-held fortress at Ticonderoga, New York.

In 1818, American patriot Paul Revere, 83, died in Boston.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union forces in Irwinville, Georgia.

In 1869, a golden spike was driven in Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was named acting director of the Bureau of Investigation (later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI).

In 1933, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted into Scotland on what he claimed was a peace mission. (Hess ended up serving a life sentence at Spandau Prison until 1987, when he apparently committed suicide at age 93.)

In 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first Black president. The state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

In 1995, 104 miners were killed in an elevator accident in Orkney, South Africa.

In 2002, a tense 39-day-old standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem ended with 13 suspected militants flown into European exile and 26 released into the Gaza Strip.

In 2013, the Internal Revenue Service apologized for what it acknowledged was "inappropriate" targeting of conservative political groups during the 2012 election to see if they were violating their tax-exempt status.

In 2014, Michael Sam was picked by the St. Louis Rams in the seventh round of the NFL draft, becoming the first openly gay player drafted by a pro football team. (Sam retired after an unsuccessful stint with the Rams and the Dallas Cowboys.)

Ten years ago: Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney apologized for "stupid" high school pranks that might have gone too far and moved quickly to stamp out any notion that he'd bullied schoolmates because they were gay. In Syria, twin suicide car bombs exploded outside a military intelligence building, killing 55 people. Legendary car designer Carroll Shelby, 89, died in Dallas.

Five years ago: All but ignoring the unfurling drama over Russia and the U.S. election, President Donald Trump sought to advance prospects for cooperation between the former Cold War foes in Syria and elsewhere in a rare Oval Office meeting with Vladimir Putin's top diplomat, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (sir-GAY' lahv-RAWF').

One year ago: Eleven days of fierce fighting between Israel and Hamas broke out when Hamas fired a barrage of long-range rockets toward Jerusalem in response to what it said were Israeli provocations; Israel quickly responded with a series of airstrikes. U.S. regulators expanded the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12. The White House said it was monitoring fuel supply shortages in parts of the Southeast resulting from a ransomware attack that shut down a major pipeline system.

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 89. R&B singer Henry Fambrough (The Spinners) is 84. Actor David Clennon is 79. Writer-producer-director Jim

Abrahams is 78. Singer Donovan is 76. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 76. Singer Dave Mason is 76. Actor Mike Hagerty is 68. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 67. Actor Bruce Penhall is 65. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 64. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., is 63. Actor Victoria Rowell is 63. Rock singer Bono (BAH'-noh) (U2) is 62. Former Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is 62. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 61. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 59. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks is 59. Model Linda Evangelista is 57. Rapper Young MC is 55. Actor Erik Palladino is 54. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 54. Actor Lenny Venito is 53. Actor Dallas Roberts is 52. Actor Leslie Stefanson is 51. Actor-singer Todd Lowe is 50. Actor Andrea Anders is 47. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 47. Rock musician Jesse Vest is 45. Actor Kenan Thompson is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jason Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 42. Actor Odette Annable is 37. Actor Lindsey Shaw is 33. Actor Lauren Potter is 32. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 27.

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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