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# Connecting

May 30, 2022

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## Memorial Day 2022



**FILE: Children of former AP journalist Y.C. Jao, Rao Jian, left, and Rao Jiping, bow after unveiling their father's name on AP's Wall of Honor in New York, Dec. 11, 2019. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)**

Good Monday morning on this May 30, 2022 - Memorial Day,

Connecting devotes this issue to honoring the sacrifices of 37 Associated Press journalists who died on assignment since the news cooperative was formed in 1846 and whose names grace the AP Wall of Honor at AP headquarters.

Thankfully, no names have been added to the Wall since Dec. 11, 2019, when two were added - **Y.C. Jao**, who was executed in April 1951 when Chinese authorities accused him of spying and of counterrevolutionary activities, all owing to his work for AP, and **Mohamed Ben Khalifa**, freelance photographer and video journalist who was killed in Tripoli, Libya, in January 2019 while covering fighting for AP.

The Wall of Honor is located on the 5th Floor, the News floor, at AP headquarters at 200 Liberty Street in New York City. Designed by **Tommy Browne** of Creative Services, it features a raised alcove lit from behind and hung with rows of clear Lucite panels, each inscribed in black with a single name. A special interactive, available on an I-Pad, ingeniously links the journalists to the places they covered. (Special thanks to AP Corporate Archives for its work in helping build this page.)

Have a safe Memorial Day - be healthy, keep optimistic.

Paul



## AP Wall of Honor

**Mark Kellogg (1833-1876)**

Mark Kellogg, a journalist and telegrapher working for the Bismarck (N.D.) Tribune, was killed covering Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer on the first day of the battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. By special arrangement, Kellogg's reporting appeared in Western Associated Press member papers, in The New York Herald, and in other eastern papers. News of his death at age 43 was published in the Tribune on July 12, 1876 with the words from a note he left behind: "I go with Custer and will be at the death." Custer had ignored warnings not to take journalists with him from Fort Lincoln to the Little Bighorn and invited the Tribune's publisher, Clement Lounsberry, to accompany the troops. When Lounsberry fell ill at the last moment, Kellogg took his place.



New York Herald reporter  
Mark Kellogg, who died with Custer

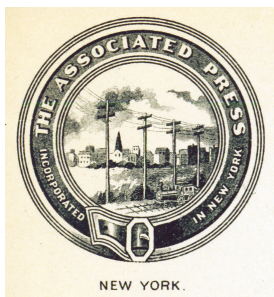
## Ambrose William Lyman (1848-1898)



Ambrose William Lyman had more than two decades of experience as a journalist when he went to Cuba to cover the Spanish-American war for AP. The Warren, Ohio, native had studied at the state's Miami University and reported for The Cleveland Leader before coming to New York in 1879. He worked briefly for the New York Tribune and, in 1885, The New York Sun sent him to Washington to cover President Grover Cleveland. Before Cleveland's term was over, Lyman headed west to manage The Helena (Mont.) Independent. He stayed there for eight years, returning in 1897 to New York, where he joined AP. While in Cuba for

AP, Lyman contracted yellow fever. Despite his illness, he remained on duty until the surrender of Santiago. He returned to Brooklyn, N.Y., where he died on Oct. 3, 1898, at the age of 50.

## Henry J. Middleton (c. 1876-1904)



Henry J. Middleton was just a teenager when he joined AP in London in 1892, but his talents were quickly recognized. As AP correspondent and bureau chief in France, his reporting of the Dreyfus Affair was described as "brilliant" by The New York Times, which noted that, "Though unassisted, he often forwarded four or five columns a day dealing with that great case." In 1902, Middleton went to New York as night cable editor, followed by a transfer to San Francisco to set up the

cable department there. In 1904, he sailed to Japan and then on to Seoul, Korea. He then traveled to Manchuria to cover the Russo-Japanese War. The 28-year-old contracted dysentery and died June 26, 1904, in Liaoyang, Manchuria. He was buried with Russian military honors at Chefoo.

## Edward J. Neil Jr. (1900-1938)



AP sports writer Edward J. Neil Jr. had already earned a Pulitzer Prize honorable mention for a story about the "world's most dangerous mile and a half" bobsled ride at Lake Placid, N.Y., when he requested an overseas assignment. Neil, the son of an AP telegraph operator in Boston, went on to cover Italy's conquest of Ethiopia, Arab uprisings in Palestine and the coronation of King George VI of England. On Jan. 2, 1938, the 37-year-old was reporting from the Teruel front during one of the Spanish Civil War's greatest battles when a shell exploded a few feet away from the parked car in which he was seated. He died of his injuries two days later in Zaragoza, Spain. "It was said of Edward Joseph Neil Jr. that he always wanted to be 'where the action was thickest,'" The New York Times reported. The newspaper also quoted Neil writing to a friend that, "One nice thing these wars do teach you - when your number comes up you grin, shrug and make the best of it. No one has time to listen to a bleat."

## Daniel Witt Hancock (1907-1942)



Newsman Witt Hancock was killed March 7, 1942, when Japanese bombers sank the Dutch refugee ship he was aboard in the Indian Ocean south of Java. He was 34 and the first AP reporter to die during World War II. War correspondents in the Dutch East Indies had a difficult time getting stories through to the outside world, but Hancock managed one last time on March 2 to get a telephone call - monitored by censors - through from Java to AP in New York. Hancock told Cable Editor James Long that the Army planned to evacuate foreign newsmen soon but he hadn't decided when he would leave. His last words on the call: "Good luck, and keep your fingers crossed." He was missing for months after that, and an account of his death was finally given by another correspondent who escaped the sinking ship. Hancock joined the AP in Raleigh, N.C., in 1929, and worked in Charlotte and New York, London, Moscow, Turkey, and India before arriving in Indonesia as the Japanese forces approached.

## Edward H. (Harry) Crockett (1911-1943)

Newsman Harry Crockett was killed on Feb. 5, 1943, aboard a British ship that was torpedoed by enemy warships in the Mediterranean Sea. He was 31. Crockett began covering World War II a year earlier, reporting from the battlefield in Egypt and German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's last offensive at Bir



Hacheim in the desert. "He rode tanks. ... He stood with gunners to watch artillery pound the enemy and he watched infantry from points of vantage where only a man with real courage would want to stand," wrote Ed Kennedy, an AP correspondent who had worked with Crockett in the Middle East. A native of Lowell, Mass., Crockett joined the AP in Boston in 1937. On Jan. 25, 1944, Crockett's widow, Sally, christened a 10,500-ton Liberty ship the "Edward H. Crockett." with a smashing of the traditional champagne bottle at a launching from a shipyard in South Portland, Maine.

### **George Bede Irvin (1910-1944)**

Photographer Bede Irvin was killed July 25, 1944, after photographing an aerial bombardment north of St. Lo, France, at the start of the Allied drive out of Normandy. He was 33. An Allied bomb which fell short of its mark caught Irvin as he dived for a roadside ditch from the jeep he had been sitting in. He had apparently hesitated for a second to grab his camera and was hit by a bomb fragment. Irvin, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, worked for the Des Moines Register and Tribune before joining the AP in Kansas City in 1936. He worked in Detroit before going to London in 1943 on the eve of the Normandy invasion, the first American photographer assigned by the AP to cover the war in Europe in preparation for D-Day. He was buried with military honors at a U.S. Military Cemetery near La Cambe, France, on July 27, 1944, his 34th birthday.



### **Asahel "Ace" Bush (1910-1944)**

Newsman Asahel Bush was killed on Oct. 25, 1944 when a Japanese bomb struck the American-occupied capital of Tacloban, on the Philippine island of Leyte. He was 31 and the first correspondent to die in the Philippines during World War II. Bush died a year to the day after he left San Francisco to report on action in the Pacific theater. He covered nearly every operation launched by Gen. Douglas MacArthur and had come close to death on many of his assignments. Bush, who joined the AP in 1939 in Salt Lake City, was born into a newspaper family in Salem, Ore. His great-grandfather established the state's first newspaper, The Oregon City Statesman.



### **Joseph Morton (1911-1945)**

In the fall of 1944, war correspondent Joseph Morton accompanied a group of American intelligence officers on a secret mission from Italy into Slovakia to assist an anti-Nazi uprising. The 34-year-old, who had made headlines with exclusive interviews of Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito and Romania's King Michael, told his bureau chief only that the assignment would be the "biggest story of my life." By late October, the Nazis had closed in. Morton and the U.S. officers hid in the mountains for two months, before taking refuge from the snow and bitter cold in a mountain hut, where they were captured hours after Christmas. They were tortured and, on Jan. 24, 1945, shot to death at the



Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Morton, the only foreign correspondent executed by the Nazis, was from St. Joseph, Mo., and had joined AP in 1937. His widow, Letty Miller Morton, wrote that Morton always "championed the underprivileged - the little man who was not getting his due in the world" and that she took comfort that he died "doing the work he loved." The mountain hut was later rebuilt and, in 1994, AP dedicated a plaque at the site in Morton's memory.

## William R. Moore (1910-1950)

Newsman Bill Moore was killed by mortar fire July 31, 1950, after dropping his pencil and notebook to help an Army lieutenant wounded in a North Korean attack near Chinju. He was 40. Moore had been missing for several months when the AP received word of his death in October 1950 from a corporal captured in the same action. He said he had met Moore earlier that day. "I thought he was an officer and said Sir, would you like a cup of coffee?," the corporal said. "He replied, 'You don't have to 'Sir' me, fellow. I'm a correspondent. I'm Bill Moore of the AP.' ... Nice fellow. Real friendly and a real story teller." Moore, a native of Nowata, Okla., joined the AP in Denver in 1937, and served in the Army in Korea during World War II before returning to the AP in New York in 1946. He went to Korea in 1948 as a correspondent and was there at the outbreak of war on June 29, 1950.



## Y.C. Jao (1898-1951)

**Y.C. Jao**, a reporter for the AP in Nanjing, China, was sentenced to death by Chinese Communist authorities during a series of mass political purges, charged with spying and counterrevolutionary activity. An erudite and thoughtful graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism

and a respected newspaper editor in China, Jao went to work for AP during the civil war between the Communist Party's Red Army and the forces of Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek. When American staff were ordered out of the country after the 1949 Communist victory, Jao chose to continue in Nanjing to represent AP interests for several months waiting for normal relations to be re-established. Sometime during 1950, the AP lost contact with him. His arrest was proclaimed by Communist newspapers in May 1951, during a series of mass purges of perceived enemies of the party. Years later, a court confirmed that his sentence was due to his journalism and work for The Associated Press. His family members suffered harsh political reprisals over the years, including denial of educational opportunities. They said the execution was carried out April 29, 1951.



### Daniel J. Coughlin Jr. (1927-1958)

Newsman Daniel Coughlin was one of six reporters killed when a U.S. Air Force plane attempting to break transatlantic speed records crashed on takeoff from Westover Air Force Base, Mass. He was 31. The jet, one of four attempting to break speed records between New York and London, snapped power lines and burst into flames, sliding across the newly-finished Massachusetts Turnpike before exploding in a cornfield on June 27, 1958. Coughlin, who served in the Army in Europe during World War II, joined the AP in Charlotte in 1952 and transferred to his native Boston in 1957.



### Bernard Kolenberg (1927-1965)



Bernard Kolenberg, a photographer for the *Times-Union* of Albany, N.Y., who volunteered for AP service in Vietnam, was killed Oct. 2, 1965, when the jet bomber he was in collided with another bomber over central Vietnam. He was 38 and the first journalist to be killed in combat in Vietnam. Kolenberg had covered the war in Vietnam for five weeks in 1964, producing a series of photographs for the *Times-Union*, where he had worked for 20 years. "He was Bernie to everyone," the *Times-Union* said in a tribute published the day Kolenberg was killed, "including the last three New York governors." Kolenberg was noted for his courage taking difficult photos and his tenderness photographing children.

### Huynh Thanh My (1937-1965)

An encounter in a muddy rice field with Horst Faas during the Vietnam War led Huynh Thanh My to join AP in 1963. My was working as a freelancer for CBS covering a battle in the Mekong Delta when Faas, AP Saigon's photo chief, offered him a job. My already was an established cameraman and actor in South Vietnam, and under Faas' training became one of AP's most capable photographers, renowned for his fearlessness. On Oct. 10, 1965, the 28-year-old was covering another Delta battle when he was wounded in the chest and arm. He was killed by the enemy while awaiting evacuation. After My's death, Faas hired his teenage brother, Huynh Cong "Nick" Ut, who went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his picture of young Kim Phuc, screaming as she fled a napalm attack. "Everything I have accomplished, I owe to him. My brother taught me the value of skills, honor and determination," Nick Ut said. "He taught me to control fear of gunfire and death which is so necessary for both soldiers and photographers. I miss him very much, and I hope I would have made him proud."



## Klaus Frings (1935-1968)



Photographer Klaus Frings died April 17, 1968, two days after being struck in the head by a rock while taking pictures of a clash between police and some 2,000 demonstrators outside the Munich printing plant of the Bild-Zeitung. He was 32. Frings kept shooting when the demonstration reached a heated stage, despite threats from the students, who said the pictures might be used against them. Holding his camera high overhead, Frings took what turned out to be his last picture. Within seconds, a fist-size rock fatally struck him in the head. Frings, a native of Muenster, Germany, had worked for the AP for four years, the last two as a staffer based in Munich.

## Oliver Noonan Jr. (1939-1969)

Oliver Noonan was aboard an Army helicopter shot down southwest of Danang, Vietnam, on Aug. 19, 1969, killing him, an infantry battalion commander and six other soldiers. He was 29. That day, he'd carried a large metal camera case, joking to a reporter-colleague, "If they shoot at the helicopter, I'll hide behind it." Noonan, the son of a Boston news photographer, had taken leave from the Boston Globe to cover the war. Joining AP in Saigon, he spent most of his time covering the troops. "Every step is earned here," he wrote home. "Nothing is free." Noonan's byline also appeared on AP stories, including one on the departure of an



Army combat unit that began America's withdrawal from Vietnam.

## Henri Huet (1927-1971)

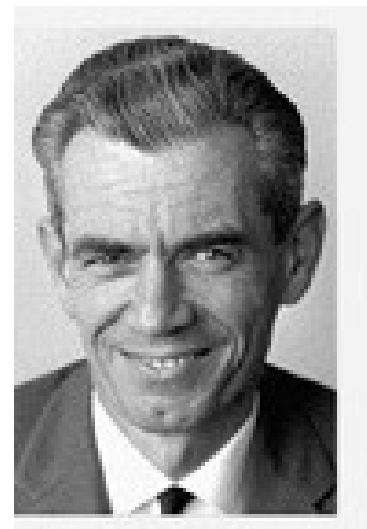


Photographer Henri Huet was one of four combat photographers killed when their helicopter was shot down over Laos on Feb. 10, 1971. He was 43. Huet had waited for a week in the cold and rain near the Laos border for a chance to cross into the newest front of the war in Vietnam. On Feb. 10, he boarded one of two helicopters headed for some Vietnamese firebases deep in Laos. In the early afternoon, two helicopters were shot down - one carried the photographers. Huet was one of the most widely known and most popular figures in combat photography during the war. American GI's and officers often shouted to other AP staffers "Hey where's Henri? Tell him to come and see us." A French citizen who was born in Da Lat, Vietnam, and educated in France, Huet returned to Vietnam as a photographer

with the French navy during the first Indochina conflict. He joined the AP in Saigon in 1965. Huet was wounded in the right leg by shrapnel in 1967 and was sent to the United States to recuperate before returning.

## Dennis Lee Royle (1922-1971)

In his nearly 30-year career with AP, photographer Dennis Lee Royle traveled the globe, covering the 1952 sinking of the American freighter Flying Enterprise, the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet in 1959 and the attempted assassination of South African Prime Minister Henrik Verwoerd in 1960. He also photographed the Congo war in 1960 and 1961, the East African mutinies of 1964 and the troubles of emerging independence in Kenya, Cyprus and other countries. His photos of starving children in Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War were credited with prompting relief efforts. On May 20, 1971, he was covering naval exercises conducted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization when the helicopter he



was in crashed over the English Channel. He was 49. "It is a tragic irony that Dennis, who had been in so many dangerous spots for The Associated Press, such as the Hungarian revolution, wars in the Middle East and in India, lost his life in such an accident - but still in the pursuit of the news, as were his colleagues who died with him," said Wes Gallagher, AP's president and general manager.

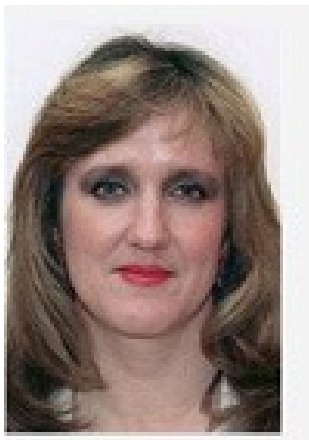
## Ali Ibrahim Mursal (1955-1993)



Ali Ibrahim Mursal, a driver and translator, died Jan. 5, 1993, after defending another AP staffer from a thief in Somalia. He was 37. Mursal had driven three AP staffers to Mogadishu's main market to buy fruit. As they walked through the stalls, a thief tried to grab a gold chain from the neck of one of the AP staffers. Mursal was shot in the back with an assault weapon as he struggled with the thief. He managed to direct his colleagues to the nearest hospital, where he died. The AP hired Mursal in August 1992 when the Somali native showed up looking for work with two late-model Jeeps. AP Special Correspondent Mort Rosenblum said he considered Mursal to be a stringer who had excellent contacts and who gathered

useful, accurate information for the AP. "He was a newsperson of the first order who risked his life again and again for journalistic purposes," he said.

## Sharon Herbaugh (1954-1993)



Sharon Herbaugh was killed April 16, 1993, in a helicopter crash in the central mountains of Afghanistan, 100 miles north of Kabul. She was 39 and the first AP newswoman and bureau chief to die on assignment. Herbaugh had spent three years covering the Afghan civil war and its aftermath. "One of Sharon's editors once said, She's always looking for the next hurricane," AP President and CEO Louis D. Boccardi said after her death. "That search ended in a field in Afghanistan but Sharon leaves a legacy of brave, insightful work that helped us all understand a distant, bitter conflict." Herbaugh, a native of Lamar, Colo., joined the AP in Denver in 1978, and worked in Dallas, Houston and New York

before transferring to New Delhi in 1988, where she was named news editor the following year. She became chief of bureau in Islamabad in 1990.

## Hansjoerg "Hansi" Krauss (1963-1993)

Photographer Hansi Krauss was one of four journalists stoned to death in Mogadishu on July 12, 1993, by a mob enraged by a



U.S. helicopter assault on Somali militia targets. He was 30. Krauss, a German native, joined the AP in Berlin in 1989 and covered the fall of the Berlin Wall that year. He later covered the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina before going to Somalia. Colleagues remembered Krauss as a man who never lost his sense of humor and accumulated friends. "He was a workhorse, loved his job and had a passion for sensation," said Berlin photo editor Elke Bruhn-Hoffman.

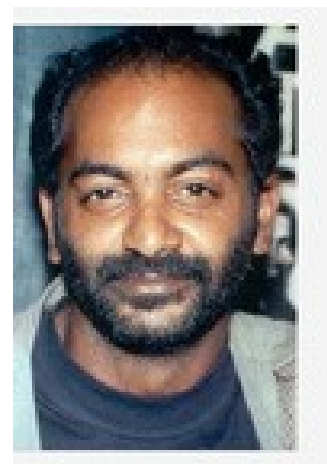
## Andrei Soloviev (1955-1993)

Andrei Soloviev, a Russian free-lance photographer on assignment for the AP, was fatally shot Sept. 27, 1993, during a battle between Abkhazian and Georgian forces for control of Sukhumi in the breakaway region of Abkhazia. He was 39. The experienced combat photographer was wearing a bullet-proof vest but he was shot in the shoulder and the bullet penetrated his chest. Soloviev had been wounded twice before while covering the ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union, once in March 1993, and the second time a week before his death. Soloviev, who worked for the ITAR-Tass news agency, won a 1991 World Press Photo "Golden Eye" award for coverage of ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus Mountains, Moldova and Tajikistan. He also covered the 1989 revolution in Romania and the 1991 Persian Gulf War. "I save people from death by my presence with the camera," ITAR-Tass quoted Soloviev as once saying. "I try to prevent violence with my work."



## Abdul Shariff (1962-1994)

Photographer Abdul Shariff was shot to death Jan. 9, 1994, while covering a delegation of African National Congress leaders visiting Katlehong, South Africa. He was 31. Shariff, a free-lance photographer on assignment for the AP, was in a crowd of journalists surrounding the dignitaries on the muddy dirt road when young men carrying AK-47 automatic rifles began shooting from the narrow paths between houses. Shariff attempted to run across a small clearing - maybe for a better view. Witnesses said he was killed by a single shot in the back. The bullet apparently went through his body and dented the Nikon F4 camera hanging around his neck. Shariff was born in Verulam in the South African state of Natal. He became a news photographer after studying at the University of Natal-Pietermaritzburg.



## Farkhad Kerimov (1948-1995)



Television cameraman Farkhad Kerimov, was killed May 22, 1995 while covering the war in Chechnya. He was 46. Kerimov, a free-lance cameraman, was on assignment for APTV when he was shot while working near villages outside the Chechen capital Grozny. He had been covering the breakaway republic's war with Russia over its independence since December 1994. He had covered the Caucasus region's ethnic and civil conflicts since 1990, traveled repeatedly to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and covered civil and ethnic wars in Georgia, Tadjikistan and Moldova. Kerimov was born in Moscow but spent most of his life in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku, where he graduated from the Institute of Physics and

Mathematics and worked in the scientific field before switching to journalism in 1988.

## Myles Tierney (1964-1999)



Myles Tierney, a producer for APTN, was killed Jan. 10, 1999, when gunmen opened fire on his vehicle at a checkpoint in Sierra Leone, torn by civil unrest between rebels and the government. He was 34. Ian Stewart, AP's West Africa chief of bureau, suffered a gunshot wound to the head in the attack and AP photographer David Guttenfelder was injured by flying glass. Though he was a cameraman, Tierney's byline appeared on a range of stories from Africa. He joined AP's TV arm in 1996, organizing coverage of a military coup in Burundi. He set up the agency's first TV bureau in New York before returning to Africa in 1997. Nigel Baker, head of news for APTN, said he was reluctant to send Tierney back but eventually relented. "Not only was he the best man for the job," Baker said, "colleagues in Africa called me to

say Myles was the only man for the job. They trusted him with their lives in difficult situations."

## Miguel Gil Moreno De Mora (1967-2000)

APTN producer and cameraman Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora, was killed May 24, 2000, when rebels ambushed his vehicle near Rogberi Junction in Sierra Leone. He was 32. A native of Barcelona, Spain, Gil Moreno de Mora abandoned a career as a corporate lawyer to work as a journalist. His family said Gil Moreno felt called to his mission of giving a voice to people who had none. He covered conflicts for APTN



in Bosnia, Chechnya, Kosovo, Congo, and Sierra Leone. He won the 1998 Rory Peck photographic prize and the 1999 Television Technician of the Year award from the Royal Television Society. His death brought an outpouring of grief and tribute from inside and outside the AP. "Miguel was intuitive, bold and one of the most intelligent cameraman of his generation," said Nigel Baker, head of APTN news, "He had immense respect from all who knew him not just for his work but because he was a deeply modest man who would help anybody he could."

## Kerem Lawton (1970-2001)

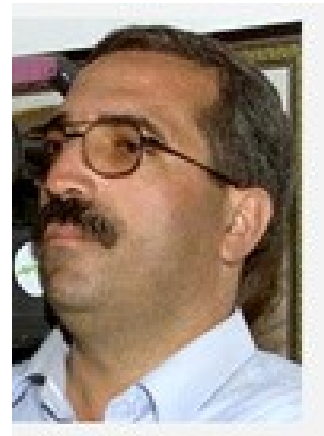
APTN producer Kerem Lawton was killed March 29, 2001, when his car was hit by mortar fire near the volatile Kosovo-Macedonian border. He was 30. Lawton was the husband of APTN producer Elida Ramadani. Born in Brussels, Belgium and raised in England, Lawton was the son of a Turkish mother and a British father. Bilingual in Turkish and English, he also spoke German, French and some Italian. Lawton joined the AP as a newsman in Rome and later joined APTN in Turkey. He immersed himself in assignments that took him into the grimmest of circumstances - the conflict in Kosovo, the Kurdish insurgency in southeast Turkey, Albania's 1997 plunge into near-anarchy, ethnic tensions in China's Xinjiang province. Yet through it all, there was a sense of generosity about him, an infectious sense of fun. "I do not exaggerate in saying that he was everyone's golden boy," said Rome Chief of Bureau Dennis Redmont, a family friend. "He had a lightness in a profession where many people are heavy hitters. Everyone wanted Kerem as his brother, his boyfriend and his son."



## Nazeh Darwazeh (1959-2003)

APTN cameraman Nazeh Darwazeh was killed April 19, 2003 while filming a confrontation between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians throwing stones and firebombs in the West Bank city of Nablus. He was 43 and was hailed by colleagues as a courageous cameraman who worked fearlessly to ensure that events in Nablus were reported internationally. Darwazeh began working for APTN in 2001 after the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. Born into a large family, Darwazeh studied at the University of Amman in Jordan. He returned to Nablus in 1990 to work in one of

his family's three photo studios, and later as a cameraman for Palestinian TV. Darwazeh was married to Naela and the couple had four sons and a daughter, ranging in age from four months to 11 years old.



## Saleh Ibrahim (1971-2005)

In the days of Saddam Hussein, Saleh Ibrahim shot wedding videos but dreamed of becoming a news cameraman. After the fall of Hussein in 2003, the Iraqi native realized his goal when he was hired first as a stringer and then made APTN cameraman for Mosul, a northern Iraqi city. The father of three was so dedicated to his work that he taught his wife to transmit video to London via satellite phone - enabling him to stay in the field shooting without losing ground to competitors. On April 23, 2005, Saleh and his brother-in-law, AP photographer Mohammed Ibrahim, drove to the scene of an explosion in Mosul. Shots were fired, killing Saleh, 33, and injuring Mohammed. AP still does not know who fired the shots. "It's a double tragedy for me," said Ahmed Sami, senior APTN producer in Baghdad. "I have lost a friend and a news champion in APTN's Iraq network."



## Aswan Ahmed Lutfallah (1971-2006)



Nicknamed 'The Eagle,' APTN cameraman Aswan Ahmed Lutfallah was known for his determination to get the story no matter how difficult the circumstances. On Dec. 12, 2006, the Iraqi native was having his car repaired in eastern Mosul in northern Iraq when police and insurgents began fighting. The 35-year-old rushed to cover the clash, only to be shot to death by insurgents who spotted him filming, according to Iraqi police. The insurgents also stripped him of his camera equipment, cell phone and press ID card. "He never, ever lost a story. He loved his job and was dedicated to it. He only filmed what he saw: The truth and nothing but the truth," recalled Ahmed Sami, senior APTN producer in Baghdad. Lutfallah had

begun working for AP as a cameraman in 2005. He was married to Alyaa Abdul-Karim Salim and the father of 6-year-old Yusof and an infant daughter Rafa.

## Ahmed Hadi Naji (1978-2007)



Ahmed Hadi Naji left his home in the Ashurta Al Khamsa district of Baghdad on December 30, 2006, headed to the AP bureau on his red-and-white motorbike. When he did not return home that night, his wife, Sahba'a Mudhar Khalil, reported him missing. Six days later, on January 5, he was found in a Baghdad morgue, shot in the back of the head. His killing remains unsolved. Naji, 28, joined AP 2 1/2 years earlier as a messenger, but his love of video cameras and his talent earned him a promotion to cameraman. "He was over the moon with his work," said Ahmed Sami, APTN senior producer in Baghdad. "He was a young guy who learned quickly and had a bright future."

Naji had just become a father, and left behind four-month-old twins, Zaid and Rand. His two brothers also worked as bike messengers for AP.

## Anthony Mitchell (1968-2007)

In 2006, AP reporter Anthony Mitchell was abruptly expelled from Ethiopia following a series of stories about government fraud and corruption. But that didn't deter Mitchell. The following year, as Nairobi correspondent, he uncovered the illegal detention and transfer of terror suspects from Kenya to Somalia and eventually into Ethiopian prisons. He was returning from a trip investigating the criminal trade in endangered species in the Central African Republic when the plane he was on crashed in Cameroon on May 5, 2007. There were no survivors. Mitchell, a British citizen who had also worked in Sierra Leone, Kosovo and London, had two children: Tom, 3, and Rose, 1. "Anthony was a fantastic father, husband and son," said his wife, Catherine Fitzgibbon. "He was the life and soul of every party with a wonderful dry wit and a great sense of humor. He lived life to the full and died doing the job he loved."



## Anja Niedringhaus (1965 - 2014)

Anja Niedringhaus faced down some of the world's greatest dangers and had one of the world's most infectious laughs. She photographed dying and death, and embraced humanity and life. She gave herself to the subjects of her lens, and gave her talents to the world. Her subjects included wars' unwitting victims in Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia and beyond. Shot to death by an Afghan policeman on April 4, 2014 - an

attack that seriously wounded colleague Kathy Gannon - Niedringhaus left behind a diverse body of work that won awards and broke hearts. She documented Wimbledon champions, children playing between armies on the front lines and soldiers confronting death. She was a member of the AP team that received the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography for war coverage in Iraq. "Anja Niedringhaus was one of the most talented, brave and accomplished photojournalists of her generation," said AP Vice President and Director of Photography Santiago Lyon. "She truly believed in the need to bear witness."



## Ali Shehda Abu Afash (1978 - 2014)



Gaza resident Ali Shehda Abu Afash was a computer engineer until he quit to work as a translator and advocate for journalists covering the Palestinian territories. He was affiliated with the Gaza Centre for Media Freedom and a sister agency in Doha. Abu Afash, 36, was working with AP video journalist Simone Camilli and photographer Hatem Moussa on Aug. 13, 2014, as they covered a bomb disposal crew in the northern Gaza Strip. Abu Afash, Camilli and four

bomb experts were killed when ordnance they were inspecting blew up. Moussa was seriously injured. Family, friends and colleagues cited Abu Afash's generosity. "He is not a journalist. He's not a terrorist, nor a politician. He's an innocent man who loves to help everyone," said his wife, Shireen, a doctor who spent much of the war treating the wounded. "For a month, he went out day and night, working with all the foreign journalists, under the bombs," she told The Washington Post. In addition to his wife, Abu Afash is survived by two daughters, ages 7 and 2.

## Simone Camilli (1979 - 2014)

Video journalist Simone Camilli was a consummate storyteller - a passionate, talented newsman who covered popes in the splendor of the Vatican and horrific conflict from the former Soviet republic of Georgia to the Middle East. But he could also capture the simple joy of a smiling child. The 35-year-old newsman was killed Aug. 13, 2014, in the Gaza Strip when leftover ordnance believed to have been dropped in an Israeli airstrike blew up. Also killed were freelance Palestinian translator Ali Shehda Abu Afash



and four Gaza police engineers. AP photographer Hatem Moussa was badly injured. "You might think he was a thrill-seeker. Simone wasn't one of those," said friend and AP colleague Chris Slaney. "His best work was filmed far from the front lines. He was proud of items which were simple, human stories well-told." Simone Camilli is survived by his long-time partner Ylva van den Berg, their 3-year-old daughter Nour, his parents and two sisters.



## Franklin Reyes Marrero (1975 - 2014)

Born in Havana, Franklin Reyes began his career as a warehouse employee at the Cuban state-run newspaper Juventud Rebelde. After studying photography with Cuba's official journalists' association he became a professional photojournalist. The paper would send him to Mexico and Venezuela before he came to work for AP in 2009. Reyes was returning from an assignment west of Havana in November



2014 when his car apparently hit a patch of gravel. Police said he lost control of the car, colliding with an oncoming vehicle. Two occupants of the other car also died. "He was an integral part of AP's team in Cuba. His passion and professionalism were exemplary and his energy, talent and good company will be deeply missed," said AP Director of Photography Santiago Lyon. Reyes is remembered as smart, funny and dedicated to his wife, Gricell Fernandez Mendez, and other family members. He often presented them with gifts of his images. "His pictures will speak for him forever," said Regional Photo Editor Eric Marti.

## Mohamed Ben Khalifa (1983-2019)

Mohamed Ben Khalifa, a free-lance photographer and video journalist who worked frequently for The Associated Press, was killed Jan. 19, 2019, in the Libyan capital of Tripoli while accompanying a militia on patrol. The group came under missile attack, and Ben Khalifa, 35, was killed by shrapnel. He left behind a wife, Lamy, and a 7-month-old daughter, Rayan.



Ben Khalifa's work for the AP from 2014 included more than 260 photos and scores of videos. His contributions reflected Libya's post-2011 chaos of rival militias fighting for control as well as the humanitarian tragedy of waves of people fleeing North Africa, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. The country splintered in the aftermath of

the Arab Spring uprising that led to the ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Ben Khalifa was a beloved member of the free-lance community in Tripoli and colleagues considered him to be among Libya's leading photojournalists. Libya's violence was a constant theme in his work. But with his sharp eye for detail, Ben Khalifa also captured attempts by ordinary Libyans to carve out normal lives, such as his photo of a young boy in an embroidered jacket staring into his camera, facing away from rows of men in prayer. AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee called Ben Khalifa's photographs "important and impactful" and paid tribute to his courage and dedication in telling his country's story with humanity.

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## **Memorial Day remembrance**





FILE: Our colleague **John Epperson** ([Email](#)) shared this photo of a soldier's stone in the Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

## Today in History - May 30, 2022



### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 30, the 150th day of 2022. There are 215 days left in the year. This is Memorial Day.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 30, 1989, student protesters in Beijing erected a "Goddess of Democracy" statue in Tiananmen Square (the statue was destroyed in the Chinese government's crackdown).

#### On this date:

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1935, Babe Ruth played in his last major league baseball game for the Boston Braves, leaving after the first inning of the first of a double-header against the Philadelphia Phillies, who won both games (Ruth announced his retirement three days later).

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1968, the Beatles began recording their "White Album" at EMI Recording Studios in London, starting with the original version of "Revolution 1."

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1972, three members of the Japanese Red Army opened fire at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing 26 people. Two attackers died; the third was captured.

In 1994, Mormon Church president Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City at age 94.

In 2002, a solemn, wordless ceremony marked the end of the agonizing cleanup at ground zero in New York, 8 1/2 months after 9/11.

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden's son, former Delaware attorney general Beau Biden, died at age 46 of brain cancer.

In 2020, tense protests over the death of George Floyd and other police killings of Black people grew across the country; racially diverse crowds held mostly peaceful demonstrations in dozens of cities, though many later descended into violence, with police cars set ablaze. Street protests in New York City over police killings spiraled into the city's worst day of unrest in decades, as fires burned, windows were smashed and confrontations between demonstrators and officers flared. A rocket ship built by Elon Musk's SpaceX took off from Florida's Cape Canaveral to carry two Americans to the International Space Station; it ushered in a new era of commercial space travel.

Ten years ago: A gunman in Seattle fatally shot four people inside a cafe and a fifth victim in a carjacking before killing himself. Kicking off her first trip abroad in nearly a quarter-century, Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) offered encouragement to impoverished migrants in neighboring Thailand.

Five years ago: The Pentagon scored an important success in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor. Kathy Griffin appeared in a brief video holding what looked like President Trump's bloody, severed head; the comic ended up apologizing, saying she had gone way too far.

One year ago: A restrictive voting bill in Texas that was on the verge of reaching Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's desk failed to pass after Democrats walked out of the House chamber before a midnight deadline. (After months of Democratic protests, the Republican-controlled legislature would enact sweeping changes in the state's election code in August.) Helio Castroneves joined the exclusive club of four-time Indianapolis 500 winners, holding off Alex Palou to win the 105th running of the race in front of 135,000 fans; it was the biggest crowd at any sports event in the world since the pandemic began 18 months earlier. Naomi Osaka was fined \$15,000 for skipping a news conference after her first-round victory at the French Open. (Osaka,

who said she experienced anxiety before speaking to the media, would withdraw from the tournament before her next match.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ruta Lee is 87. Actor Keir Dullea is 86. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 78. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 71. Actor Colm Meaney is 69. Actor Ted McGinley is 64. Actor Ralph Carter is 61. Actor Tonya Pinkins is 60. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 58. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 58. Actor Mark Sheppard is 58. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 57. Actor John Ross Bowie is 51. Rock musician Patrick Doherty (Live) is 51. Actor Idina Menzel is 51. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 47. Rapper Remy Ma is 42. Actor Blake Bashoff is 41. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 40. Actor Javicia Leslie is 35. Actor Jake Short is 25. Actor Sean Giambrone is 23. Actor Jared Gilmore is 22.

## 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:

- **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?

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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