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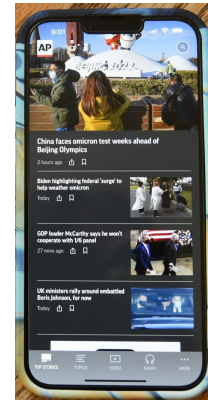
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Connecting

July 11, 2022

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Good morning on this Monday, July 11, 2022.

No mistaking we're in the third quarter or the year, with out of office email replies from vacationers like Ye Olde Connecting editor, gardens blooming with flowers and produce and crying for water, and super store shelves stocked with back to school supplies.

Today's Connecting leads with AP senior vice president and executive editor Julie Pace's review of the news organization's first two quarters of 2022, from bureau re-openings to progress on various initiatives.

Meanwhile, New York Times opinion columnist Charles Blow wrote this past week it's time for media to visually show the carnage of mass shootings. "The public's need to know has overtaken its need to be shielded from horror ... not for shock value but for truth value." He notes a former Homeland Security secretary has argued showing images of the children killed in the Uvalde shooting might generate another "Emmett Till moment," where images of Till's lynching helped spark the civil rights movement.

It was an AP exclusive on the Emmett Till case that was named AP's Best of the Week last week. AP's Jay Reeves and Emily Wagster Pettus discovered the nearly 70-year-old unserved warrant for the arrest of Carolyn Bryant Donham. Donham was at the center of the lynching of Till, the 14-year-old Black teenager whom the white woman accused of making improper advances in 1955. That unproven accusation led to Till's abduction and grisly death.

Have a great week. Be well.

[Peg](#)



Paul and Linda exploring the beauty of Yellowstone over the weekend.

AP SVP & Executive Editor Julie Pace gives second quarter update

It's been a busy second quarter of the year at AP – and also a time of transition as we launched our new hybrid work model and returned to many of our offices for the first time since the pandemic began. So as we hit the midway point of the year, I want to give you some updates on the work we're doing and progress we've made on key initiatives. As always, please come forward with questions and feedback.

News Coverage & Priorities

Our journalists in the U.S. responded spectacularly to another spate of horrific mass shootings, bringing both reporting prowess and humanity to the coverage. We were the first to report on the slow response of law enforcement officials to the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and also captured through powerful writing and imagery the victims of gun violence in the U.S. that often don't make headlines.

Our teams in Ukraine continue to break news about the war, including this groundbreaking package on the Mariupol theater, which revealed that the death toll there was higher than originally reported. We've also signaled our long-term commitment to covering Ukraine by posting a new position for a chief correspondent in Kyiv.

We had a strong month for The AP Interview series, including a newsy, on camera interview with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and a rare sit down with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Grants & Partnerships

We secured our first round of grant funding for our new democracy reporting team. News editor **Tom Verdin** was hired to run the team and we'll soon be posting for reporting positions, including a grant-funded journalist to cover the intersection of race and democracy in the U.S. The development team continues to seek expanded funding in this area.

Columbia University is supporting AP's investigative reporting on deaths in U.S. police custody with a \$20,000 grant. This means every major investigative project underway is funded by a grant or partnership, a first for AP.

Recruitment & Development

We have officially launched the LEAD development program, a company-wide effort to grow our next generation of leaders. The 25 participants, who you can meet here, will spend the coming months working on projects tied to AP's efforts to grow audiences for our customers and our own digital platforms.

So far this year, we've hired for more than 70 news jobs, with the majority of those positions filled by external candidates. These opportunities to hire externally are helping us increase the diversity of the News department and bring more perspectives to our report. We're also actively recruiting for several other positions around the world.

We also welcomed a new class of Report for America fellows in the U.S., who will bolster our reporting footprint across the country, and a new class of interns in bureaus around the world.

Modernizing Products & Workflow

We've taken important steps to implement a more modern, digital-friendly report from the U.S., including naming **Katie Oyan** as our Deputy News Director for Local News Success, overseeing our popular new localization guides. We also retired state

broadcast fixtures and some state digests, freeing up more time for U.S. staff to produce original and impactful journalism.

In response to feedback from our teams, we initiated efforts to add video credits for staffers on both our NR and CR edits, ensuring that videojournalists get the same recognition for their work as colleagues in other formats.

We announced the launch of a new media asset management system (MAM), which will allow us to increase our speed and flexibility in video production. AP is the first news organization to launch a cloud-based MAM at this scale, underscoring our commitment to pursuing the best technology solutions for our journalists.

Digital Transformation

We launched a live video pilot on AP News for the first time, generating more than 3 million video plays from the first hearings of the Jan. 6 committee in Congress. This is a key step in our efforts to generate more revenue from AP News.

Total page views to AP News were up 13% in Q2 compared to last year, including an uptick in user engagement, one of our key digital priorities.

Safety, Security and Standards

We are distributing new PPE kits to News teams around the world following a major purchase of gear ranging from flak jackets to helmets and gas masks. We've also initiated new hostile environment training for staff, including an upcoming session in Poland, and will be working with regional and team leaders to provide more opportunities around the world.

The social media committee unveiled its new recommendations for AP staff, a set of guidelines aimed at ensuring our journalists can engage on social media in ways that both give them a voice as individuals and uphold our standards.

Finally, we had two great moments of celebration this quarter. After a pandemic delay, our Pulitzer Prize winners from 2020 and 2021 gathered in New York to receive their awards in person. And last week, our team in Gaza officially opened their new bureau, one year after AP's office was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike. The resiliency of the Gaza staff has been remarkable and we can all be proud to call them colleagues.

This is just a glimpse of what is underway as we work to modernize the News department, dominate on breaking news coverage and deliver impactful journalism from every corner of the world. Thanks as always for your hard work and I'm looking forward to much more to come in the second half of the year.

More iPhoneography



David Sedeno - This photo of the San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, Centro, was taken with my iPhone X, from the balcony bar of the Rosewood Hotel across town. The Catholic Church at the forefront right is Iglesia de San Francisco (St. Francis) and the French Gothic in the background is the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel (St. Michael the Archangel.) The photo was taken on July 21, 2019, on a trip to celebrate Ellen's and my 30th wedding anniversary and the one-year wedding anniversary of my daughter and son-in-law Mary and Andrew Brain of Kansas City, Mo. I stood on the balcony of the Rosewood with my son-in-law drinking Pacífico beers and randomly snapping photos of the distant thunderstorm for about 15 minutes and was able to get the shot.



Peg Coughlin - Still one of my favorite iPhone photos ever, taken 10 years ago at our neighborhood Independence Day parade, of A3 (then 10-year-old Claire, dubbed one of my three "Assistants" by Connecting colleague/AP electioneer Will Wingfield, along with A2 Lily and A1 Mara).

More thoughts on Boris Johnson

Wendy Davis Beard - I have to add as an American-Australian based in Britain, I also appreciated the snide swipe from the Russian official who said Boris had been struck by the boomerang he had thrown himself (which one could say backfired). But then,

boomerangs are by definition and design meant to come back to the hand that propelled them, but usually not to hit them in the head! But then Boris is almost always original. ...For better or worse!

Best of the Week

AP Exclusive: Unserved 1955 arrest warrant discovered for woman at center of Emmett Till case



Emmett Louis Till, a Black 14-year-old who was abducted and lynched near the Delta community of Money, Miss., in 1955, is shown in an undated portrait. AP broke the news that a team searching for evidence in the basement of a Mississippi courthouse in June 2022 found the long-lost unserved warrant for the white woman whose unproven accusations led to Till's kidnapping and death. His relatives want authorities to finally arrest Carolyn Bryant Donham nearly 70 years later. AP PHOTO

Deep source building and teamwork enabled AP to break news on the unearthing of the long-lost warrant for the white woman whose accusations led to the Black teen's lynching.

"And I do not say this lightly: Holy shit." That, from producer and Black List founder Franklin Leonard, sums up the collective reaction to the scoop by AP's Jay Reeves and Emily Wagster Pettus: A search team had discovered the nearly 70-year-old unserved warrant for the arrest of Carolyn Bryant Donham.

Donham was at the center of the lynching of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Black teenager whom the white woman accused of making improper advances in 1955. That unproven accusation led to Till's abduction and grisly death, a horror that galvanized the civil rights movement.

Reeves, AP's Birmingham, Alabama, correspondent and a member of AP's race and ethnicity team, had reported earlier this year that relatives and activists were still seeking the long-lost warrant in hope of moving forward with a case against Donham, who was accused of kidnapping Till along with then-husband Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam but never taken into custody.

Chances of finding the original warrant seemed remote until the well-sourced Reeves got a tip — the document had been discovered in boxes of old records in the basement of a courthouse in Leflore County, Mississippi, where the abduction occurred. He confirmed it the next day with the court clerk and contacted Wagster Pettus, the statehouse reporter in Jackson, Mississippi.

Wagster Pettus promptly broke the news of the warrant's discovery to the local sheriff himself, who said he would consult prosecutors about next steps. She also reached out to a county prosecutor who declined comment but cited the Justice Department's decision last year to close its investigation of the Till case without additional charges. Combining their reporting, Reeves and Wagster Pettus talked with a University of Mississippi law professor who said a warrant from 1955 almost certainly wouldn't be acceptable before a court now, but with new evidence, the old warrant could be an important steppingstone toward new charges.

Donham, now in her 80s and most recently living in North Carolina, has not commented publicly on calls for her prosecution. But while the fate of the case against her is far from certain, it's undeniable that this story from two veteran AP Deep South reporters made waves.

The story was used by more than 700 AP customers and a number of major outlets, including The Washington Post, Politico and NBC News, either used AP's version or quoted AP in their own pieces. The story also played well on AP News, with most of the traffic coming from Facebook and Twitter, where it was among AP's most-engaged tweets in June.

For breaking news on one of the country's most notorious civil rights cases, underscoring how the legacy of grotesque racial injustice is not a relic of some distant past, Reeves and Wagster Pettus share this week's Best of the Week — First Winner honors.

Across borders and formats, AP delivers sweeping, sensitive coverage of migrant smuggling tragedy



Police and other first responders in San Antonio work the scene where dozens of migrants were found dead in an abandoned semitrailer in sweltering Texas heat, June 27, 2022. At least 53 people died in the deadliest incident of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico. AP PHOTO / ERIC GAY

From Texas to remote Central American villages, AP delivered comprehensive coverage of breaking developments and the stories behind the victims of a sweltering trailer.

Reporting from four different countries after the discovery of a tractor-trailer in San Antonio in which 53 migrants died, AP journalists working in all formats used AP's unmatched reach to stay atop developments in the investigation and to share the journeys of those who perished by locating and talking to relatives and a survivor. Their teamwork earns Best of the Week — Second Winner.

In Texas, photographer Eric Gay, video journalist Mike Householder and text reporters Juan Lozano and Paul Weber sped to the scene. Lozano and Weber reported on victims and the law enforcement response while members of the immigration beat team, including Elliott Spagat, worked on determining how it had happened. Spagat confirmed the initial death toll and key developments in the investigation, his expertise in covering the border and other smuggling incidents helping drive AP's coverage with fresh ideas and perspective. AP colleague John Seewer jumped in from Ohio as an anchor writer and Chicago's Tammy Webber provided an explainer on heat deaths.

When U.S. authorities were slow to provide information about the victims, reporters relied on government and non-governmental-organization sources and scoured both local media reports and social media platforms for clues. Mexico City reporter Fabiola Sánchez and San Diego-based Julie Watson were able to move the first account from a

victim's family, one day after the trailer's discovery, when Sanchez interviewed the victim's family in Oaxaca.

In the days that followed, AP journalists fanned out in capital cities and remote mountain villages, approaching families with sensitivity and telling the stories of lives lost in a sweltering trailer — what had driven the migrants to leave, and family members' agony as they awaited word. Freelancers, especially for visuals, were critical to reaching families quickly across the region, among them photographer Delmer Martinez and video journalist Claudio Escalon; they visited two Honduran families whose loved ones were among the dead.

The stories provided a nuanced look at those who ultimately risked their lives to reach the United States — 13-year-old Guatemalan cousins who barely spoke Spanish, but who wanted to build homes for their families; three teenage Mexican cousins who had given themselves four years to make enough money in the U.S. to open a clothing store in their Mexican village; the story of a young college-educated Honduran couple desperate for opportunity, reported by Christopher Sherman, Mexico-based news director.

Many other journalists contributed, among them the freelance team of reporter Alba Alemán and photographers Félix Marquez and Yerania Rolon who found the extended Olivares family in Veracruz, Mexico, awaiting word on their three teenage cousins.

Once the migrants' motivations and journeys were established, the remaining gap was what happened inside the trailer. The only known survivors were still hospitalized in San Antonio. Guatemala reporter Sonia Pérez D. tried a phone number obtained by Guatemala photojournalist Moises Castillo and reached the father of one hospitalized survivor.

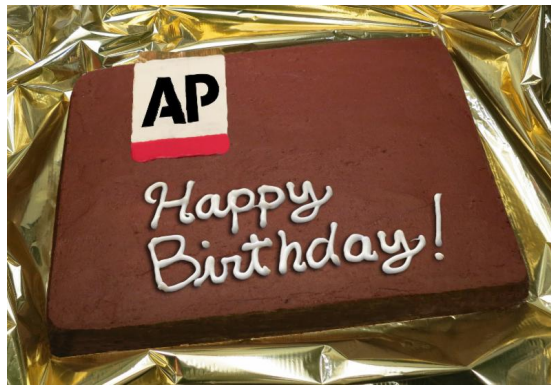
The father told Pérez what little he knew and agreed to meet. Pérez asked if they could call his daughter, Yenifer. They called from inside a car to limit noise and to hear Yenifer recount in a soft voice the suffocating temperatures, the smugglers' attempt to disguise their scent with powdered bouillon and the migrants' unheeded pleas for help until she lost consciousness. That exclusive interview ran in *El Universal*, one of Mexico's most prominent papers.

AP's stories, photos and video were widely across the U.S. and Latin America.

The Texas Tribune, which covered the tragedy closely, sought permission to run one of the victim's stories despite not being an AP member. Editor-in-chief Sewell Chan described it in a tweet as a "powerful" story and credited AP and its journalists.

For sweeping breaking news coverage across borders that reveals details both harrowing and poignant, the team of Lozano, Weber, Householder, Gay, Spagat, Sánchez, Watson, Escalon, Martínez, Pérez D., Castillo, Aléman, Marquez, Rolon, Sherman, Seewer and Webber, and colleagues across the Americas, earns AP's Best of the Week — Second Winner.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Kelly Kissel kkissel@theadvocate.com

Stories of interest

Show the Carnage (The New York Times)

By CHARLES M. BLOW
Opinion Columnist

In an interview with CNN on Tuesday, Dr. David Baum, an obstetrician in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park, described the “horrific scene” when a gunman rained rifle shots down on a Fourth of July parade through the community on Monday.

Actually, to me, the more precise word he used to describe some of the injuries was “unspeakable.”

The people killed were “blown up by that gunfire,” he said, “blown up. The horrific scene of some of the bodies is unspeakable for the average person.”

This shooting — and Baum’s description — has extended a roiling debate about whether media should show what rounds from high-powered rifles can do to the human body.

Most of America has very likely never seen a fatal gunshot wound of any sort. Our mental image of a fatal gunshot wound has been created by our cultural imagery: Hollywood ... and video games. They are either clean kills (sometimes even bloodless ones, leaving clothes undisturbed apart from an entry hole burned into the fabric) or gory, cartoonish killings that produce more humor than horror.

What we don’t see is the reality of these rifles’ decapitating children in Uvalde, Texas; shredding organs until they look like “an overripe melon smashed by a sledgehammer” at a high school in Parkland, Fla.; and leaving at least one person, according to Baum, with an “unspeakable head injury” in Highland Park.

But should America be forced to confront the truth of the carnage it so often ignores? Would these images shock the country out of its morbid malaise and into action to address an unconscionable — and fully preventable — public health crisis that guns have created?

The Journalist's Resource at Harvard's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy recently explored this very issue, interviewing 12 experts on the journalistic ethics at play, and the issue was more complicated than one might think.

Read more [here](#).

Should reporter safety trump open contact details for newsrooms? (Poynter)

By PAUL GLADER

HONOLULU – Journalist Maria Ressa wrote a book called “How to Stand up to a Dictator” last year and won a Nobel Peace Prize for her courageous work at Rappler reporting on authoritarian regimes in the Philippines.

Speaking at the East-West Center's international media conference in July, Ressa talked about another challenging task: standing up for herself and her newsroom when online trolls attack them on platforms such as Twitter, where Ressa has more than 500,000 followers and where the Rappler has 3.6 million.

Trolls attack her personally, zooming in on photos of her face, manipulating the images to exaggerate her eczema condition and calling her “scrotum face.” A study by the International Center for Journalists for UNESCO in 2021 noted that 60% of the troll attacks aimed to damage Ressa's credibility as a journalist while 40% attacked her personally with sexist, misogynist and explicit themes.

These trolls “meant to kill my spirit,” Ressa said “It didn't work.”

The same UNESCO study found that 73% of female journalists surveyed had experienced online harassment and one-third experienced physical attacks they believe were related to online harassment.

During the early aughts, many newsrooms began to follow the mantra of “everything should be free” with their content. They also embraced an openness philosophy that often involved putting reporters' photos, phone numbers, email addresses and Twitter handles on the website or bottom of stories.

That helped reporters gain Twitter followers and receive story tips. It also opened them (especially female reporters such as Ressa) up to online harassment.

In recent months, as we have been demonstrating the VettNews.com Cx system to manage reader feedback and corrections requests, some newsrooms have told us that the system fits into their goals for “reporter safety,” a growing concern for them. Some newsrooms want to see less abusive behavior between readers and from readers toward their reporters. They want to promote civility and media literacy and limit (or eliminate) incivility.

Is it time to reconsider how open we should be with our staff bios and contact information? Should we grant more power to reporters to consider what kind of contact information to share publicly and how engaged or transparent to be on

various social media platforms? Should we empower editors and technology to better manage reader feedback and foster respect?

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

(Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

SOME FONTS WALKED INTO A BAR, BUT THE BARTENDER KICKED THEM OUT.



made with mematic

HE SAID "WE DON'T WANT YOUR TYPE IN HERE!"

Today in History – July 11, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2022. There are 173 days left in the year.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

ON THIS DATE

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

In 1864, Confederate forces led by General Jubal Early began an abortive invasion of Washington, D.C., turning back the next day.

In 1914, Babe Ruth made his Major League baseball debut, pitching the Boston Red Sox to a 4-3 victory over Cleveland.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1972, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1989, actor and director Laurence Olivier died in Steyning, West Sussex, England, at age 82.

In 1991, a Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

In 2006, eight bombs hit a commuter rail network during evening rush hour in Mumbai, India, killing more than 200 people.

In 2020, President Donald Trump wore a mask during a visit to a military hospital; it was the first time he had been seen in public with one.

Ten years ago: Unflinching before a skeptical NAACP crowd in Houston, Republican Mitt Romney declared he'd do more for African-Americans than Barack Obama, the nation's first black president. Hillary Rodham Clinton became the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Laos in more than five decades.

Five years ago: Emails released by Donald Trump Jr. revealed that he'd been told before meeting with a Russian attorney during the presidential campaign that the Russian government had information that could "incriminate" Hillary Clinton. MSNBC "Morning Joe" host and former Republican congressman Joe Scarborough announced that he was leaving the Republican party, partly because of its loyalty to President Donald Trump. Seattle's Robinson Cano homered off Cubs closer Wade Davis leading off the 10th inning and the American League beat the National League 2-1 in the All-Star game.

One year ago: Billionaire Richard Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship over the New Mexico desert, beating out his rival Jeff Bezos and bringing astro-tourism a step closer to reality. Novak Djokovic tied Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal by claiming his 20th Grand Slam title, coming back to beat Matteo Berrettini 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the Wimbledon final. Actor Charlie Robinson, best known for his long-running role as the court clerk Mac Robinson on the sitcom "Night Court," died in Los Angeles at 75.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Susan Seaforth Hayes is 79. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 75. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 73. Actor Bruce McGill is 72. Actor Stephen Lang is 70. Actor Mindy Sterling is 69. Actor Sela Ward is 66. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 65. Singer Peter Murphy is 65. Actor Mark Lester is 64. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 64. Singer Suzanne Vega is 63. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 63. Actor Lisa Rinna is 59. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 57. Actor DeBBie (correct) Dunning is 56. Actor Greg Grunberg is 56. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 55. Actor Justin Chambers is 52. Actor Leisha Hailey is 51. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 50. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 49. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 49. Rapper Lil' Kim is 48. U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona is 47. Actor Jon Wellner is 47. Rapper Lil' Zane is 41. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 39. Actor Serinda Swan is 38. Actor Robert Adamson is 37. Actor David Henrie is 33. Actor Connor Paolo is 32. Former tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 32. R&B/pop singer Alessia Cara is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking [Connecting Archive](#) in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of

bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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