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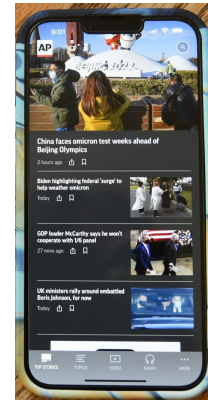
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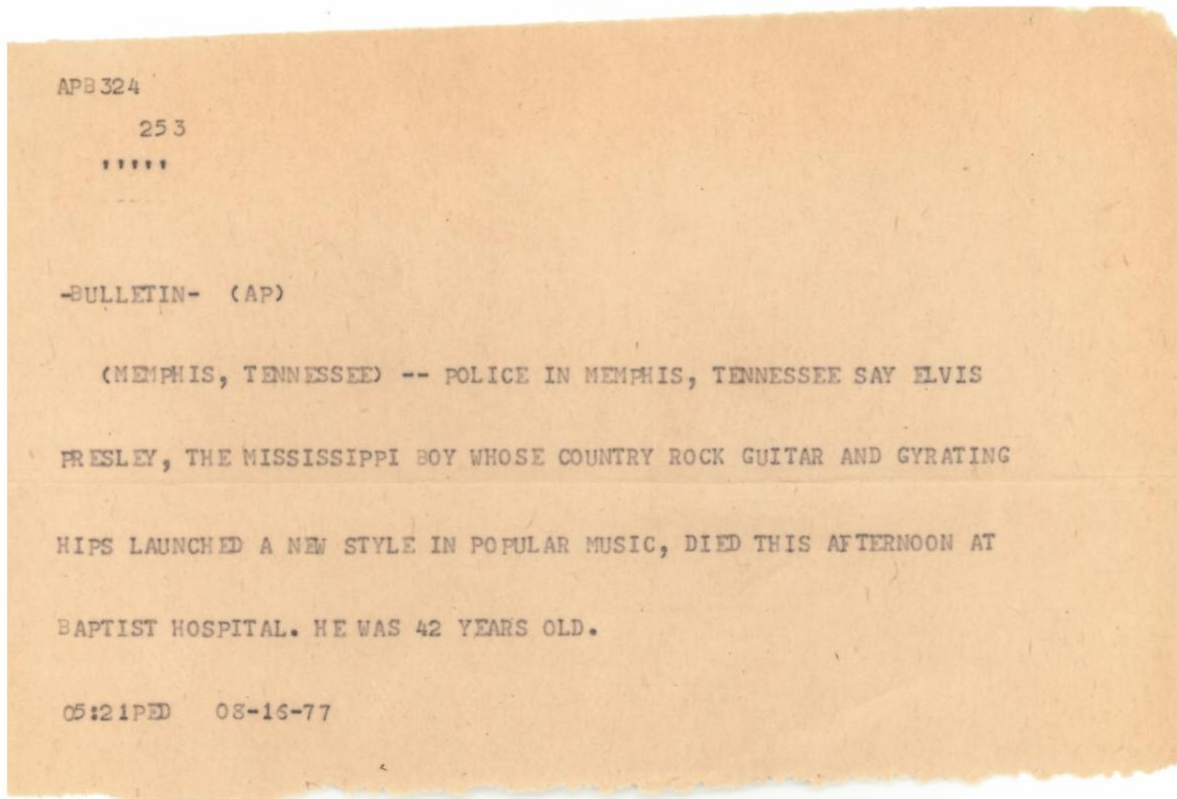
August 17, 2022

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FAREWELL TO THE KING: 45 years ago Tuesday, this bulletin moved on the AP wires. See AP Images blog in today's Connecting. (Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Aug. 17, 2022,

The “**Celebration of the Life of Marcus Eliason,**” our AP and Connecting colleague who passed away Aug. 5 in New York, will be held at 5 p.m. EDT this Sunday, Aug. 21, and will be available via Zoom.

Family and friends will gather at the Eliasons’ Manhattan apartment building (in the backyard or lobby) at 134 West 93rd Street, between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues.

If you are joining by Zoom, the invitation comes from family friend Eve Dryer:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://travere.zoom.us/j/85407681387>

Password: 202020

See today’s The Final Word for a listing of other Zoom access numbers. Thanks to colleague **Charlie Hanley** for sharing.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

How to make 'differential privacy' sexy (and other questions census reporters ask themselves)



Q&A with AP lead census reporter and Poynter alum Mike Schneider

By: Mel Grau
Poynter.org

Before there was a dedicated census reporter at the Associated Press, there was a Poynter workshop about the census.

Let's rewind to 2019. We knew the 2020 census would be challenging to cover. It was going to be the first count to take place primarily online. The Trump administration's effort to get a citizenship question added to the census was heading to the Supreme Court, and many census takers and experts were concerned about an accurate accounting of U.S. residents.

As much as the census is always about money and power, it was also becoming more entrenched in identity politics.

With initial funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Poynter held the first of many training sessions dedicated to covering the 2020 census. Longtime AP reporter Mike Schneider was one of 30 reporters to journey to Poynter — what he calls “journalism heaven” — and his career trajectory changed. Schneider became the lead census reporter at the AP, covering stories ranging from secret memos and scandals to millennial movements and the words we use to describe ourselves.

I caught up with Schneider on the phone to talk about what it's been like to work on the census beat, then and now. We get into some juicy topics, including democracy, distrust and data.

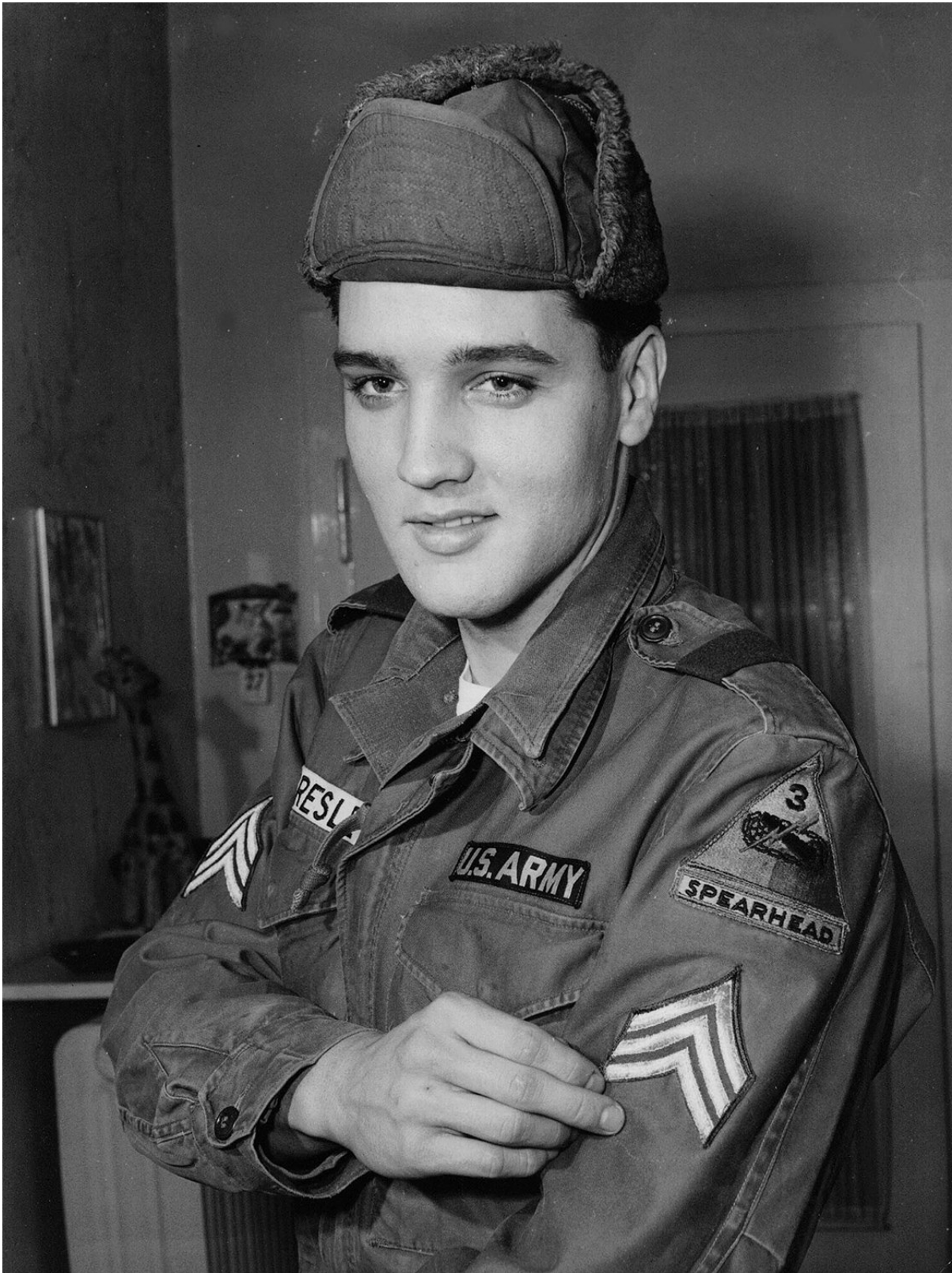
Below is a transcript of our conversation, edited for length and clarity:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dave Zelio.

45 years since the death of Elvis Presley



A string of white vehicles follows the hearse carrying the body of rock and roll musician Elvis Presley along Elvis Presley Boulevard on the way to Forest Hills Cemetery in Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 19, 1977. (AP Photo)



Elvis Presley in his apartment in Bad Nauheim, Germany on Jan. 21, 1960. Recently promoted to corporal, Presley is leading a Jeep company in the 32nd American tank division in Friedberg, Germany. (AP Photo).

AP Images Blog

Aug. 16, 2022, marked the 45th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley. The iconic singer's popularity has not faded through the years. Fans continue to flock to Graceland on the anniversary of Presley's death to pay tribute to the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

The following excerpt is from an AP story reported on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 1977.

Elvis Presley, the Mississippi boy whose country rock guitar and gyrating hips launched a new style in popular music, died today in Baptist Hospital, police said. He was 42.

Presley, who parlayed a \$4 trip to a recording studio into a multimillion-dollar business, was taken to the emergency room of Baptist Hospital in serious condition, suffering from what hospital officials said was respiratory distress.

He was taken from his Graceland mansion to the hospital in a fire department ambulance. He had been hospitalized several times in recent years for rest and for eye problems.

Presley's gyrating hips were only mildly suggestive compared with most of today's rock performers. But when he appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show in the late 1950s fears about his sexuality seemed so overt that he was shown only from the waist up.

HIS SHAKE, rattle and roll showmanship - with such million sellers as "You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog," "Heartbreak Hotel," "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Love me Tender," kept teen-age girls sighing.

Presley made several movies in Hawaii, including "Blue Hawaii."

Read and view more [here](#). Blog produced by Julia Weeks, Social Media Manager at AP Images, who noted on LinkedIn: "As a native Memphian, it was my duty to put together this The Associated Press blog post on the 45th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death."

Kia Breaux named recipient of Mizzou Faculty Alumni Award

AP Midwest Regional Director Kia [Breaux](#) has been named a 2022 recipient of a Mizzou Faculty Alumni Award.

The Mizzou Alumni Association honors select alumni and faculty members in recognition of their professional accomplishments and service to the University of Missouri.

Breaux, who graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1996, has worked in a variety of newsroom

and business development roles during her 25-year AP career. Her volunteer roles at Mizzou include chairing the Communications Committee of the university's alumni association board of directors.

She was a member of the School of Journalism's Strategic Planning Leadership Team, where she helped the university's leadership strengthen the school's commitment to diversity.

She also is a member of the Missourian Publishing Association board and the MU School of Journalism 1908 Society, a leadership giving program that supports the School of Journalism.



Breaux has been a dedicated and devoted mentor to aspiring journalists at Mizzou and beyond. You can read Mizzou's announcement and information about the other 2022 award recipients [here](#).

Connecting series:

Being drawn into a story on vacation

[Chris Carola](#) - It happened to me 12 years ago – in Chautauqua, New York. My partner had rented a house on the Chautauqua Lake's northeastern shore, across the lake from the Chautauqua Institution, where Salman Rushdie was speaking when attacked Aug. 12.

On the afternoon of Saturday, July 24, 2010, a severe storm system blew through the region, prompting tornado warnings. Tornadoes aren't that common in upstate New York, but they do happen. I had written about a few of them from the AP bureau in Albany and covered the twister that hit my nearby hometown in May 1998.

While outside the rental house that July day, I noticed the tops of the trees were rotating in the swirling high winds, an ominous sign. Soon after, we got word that a tornado had skipped across the lake and struck a condominium complex and neighboring golf course club house.

I went to the scene, got details and quotes and called in the story to the New York City bureau. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Scoop-Grenada Invasion

[Dan Sewell](#) - This is a little complicated, and might technically not even be a scoop, but it was a great result for The AP.

On Oct. 19, 1983, the Castro-allied, popular prime minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, was executed in a coup led by a deputy considered much more hard-line.

The tiny island was (and still is) home to an American offshore medical school, so the safety of the students was a concern.

I had been to Grenada a few months earlier, and a school official there was sending us information via teletype to the Caribbean bureau in San Juan.

The leaders of the Caribbean Community, all former British colonies as was Grenada, called an emergency summit meeting in Trinidad.

Boarding a plane to get there, I saw a prime minister I had interviewed a couple of times. He invited me to sit with him in first class and spoke frankly - but off the record.

Grenada — where Bishop had seized power in a nearly bloodless coup in 1979 — was a concern to its Caribbean neighbors and to the United States because of its close ties to Cuba, which was building an airport there it was feared could be used for military purposes. The hard-line new leaders announced a 24-hour curfew and seemed likely to bring more bloodshed.

After the Trinidad summit meeting, the prime minister invited me to meet him in his hotel suite. He was close to Reagan and I knew this would be important. I asked the two most experienced Caribbean reporters - the late Bernard Diederich of Time magazine and Don Bohning of The Miami Herald — to join me with the PM's permission. I trusted both and often got help from them.

The PM made it clear that he and the others were asking for U.S. intervention and that President Reagan was ready to provide it.

I called bureau chief Kernan Turner to brief him, then went to dinner in the hotel with other reporters.

I didn't get to eat much. The waiter kept coming to tell me I had another phone call (no mobiles then).

Kernan had called Foreign Editor Nate Polowetzky who then called Executive Editor Lou Boccardi.

They had a lot of questions.

They agreed with my assessment. Lou would know what they did next, but the result was they flooded the region with AP reporters and editors.

Kernan joined me in Barbados, near Grenada, and Hank Ackerman was sent from NY to San Juan to oversee the bureau operation.

Kernan and I were at the Barbados airport when a hangar door opened and U.S. military helicopters flew out. That was an AP exclusive story and the Pentagon wouldn't publicly explain what they were doing there.

In the predawn hours of Oct. 25 the next day, the U.S. military attacked. Fighting was fierce but for the most part ended quickly after Cuban militia members working on the airport were subdued. All U.S. students were safe.

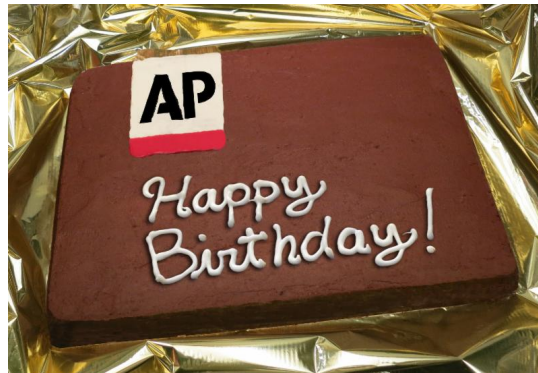
Ackerman relayed to me that global play was “an AP stomp” of all opposition and with our staffers in place all over the region — Miami COB Gary Clark went to Cuba, for example - AP domination of the story continued for many days.

BTW, I do not identify the PM who was my source because he never released me to — and he has since died.

I hope to go back next year for the 40th anniversary and write something for AP.

I’m told that Grenada has one of the best airports in the region. Thanks, Fidel!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Rich Menzl](#)

Stories of interest

Syria denies it is holding American journalist Austin Tice (AP)

By ALBERT AJI and BASSEM MROUE

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria denied on Wednesday it is holding U.S. journalist Austin Tice or other Americans after President Joe Biden accused the Syrian government of detaining him.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Damascus “denies it had kidnapped or is holding any American citizen on its territories.”

“The U.S. issued last week misleading and illogical statements by the American president and secretary of state that included baseless accusations against Syria that it had kidnapped or detained American citizens including former U.S. Marine Austin Tice,” the statement said.

Biden’s comments last week came in a statement released by the White House to mark the 10th anniversary of Tice’s abduction, which took place when he was in Syria covering its lengthy conflict. Biden’s remarks were the clearest indication so far that the U.S. is certain Tice is being held by the government of President Bashar Assad.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

-0-

Why the media declared Anne Heche dead twice

(Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Anne Heche died Friday, according to her hometown paper, the Los Angeles Times. Or she died Sunday, per the New York Times and others.

Between those dates, the 53-year-old actress was in a state of mortal ambiguity that challenged the media to parse a legal, even philosophical question: When is someone actually dead?

Heche’s family disclosed that she was brain dead late last week following an Aug. 5 car crash. That prompted some news organizations to report her death, based on a reading of a California law. “An individual who has sustained ... irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem, is dead,” reads the statute.

But Heche remained on life support for another two days so her organs could be harvested for donation. When Heche’s publicist confirmed that she had been taken off life support late Sunday night, news organizations published a new round of news stories reporting her death.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

-0-

How media companies like The New York Times, BuzzFeed and Gannett are managing costs in an economic downturn (Digiday)

By Sara Guaglione

Media companies are identifying areas of their businesses to cut amid the economic downturn, as advertising revenue slows.

The approaches — announced by The New York Times, BuzzFeed, Gannett and IAC during their respective quarterly earnings calls this month — vary, from cutting back on marketing budgets to slowing hiring or undergoing layoffs.

“The multiple headwinds of higher wage costs, inflation, supply chain challenges, increasing competition for share of consumer wallet and beyond create an environment where the CFOs need to take a practical approach to driving the priorities for their business,” CJ Bangah, principal at PwC, said in an email.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Sarah Palin Has Long Been Ridiculed. I Wanted to Tell a Different Story. (Washington Post Magazine)

Perspective by T.A. Frank

Sarah Palin, the most famous Alaskan of all time, irritates the hell out of journalists. Journalists like availability; Palin hides. Journalists like policy nerds; Palin sloganeers. Journalists like reliability; Palin flakes. Reporting on her current run for Congress is a trial in patience and persistence, not least because her rare public appearances are revealed only hours or, at most, a day or two before they occur.

On May 4, I discovered that Palin, 58, would be attending a four-person candidate forum less than 48 hours later in Bethel, a remote town of 6,500 in western Alaska, reachable only by water or air and closed off to regular cellular service. Getting there in time to see her would be expensive and difficult, but I would at least get a glimpse of her in person, maybe even get a chance to ask a few questions. I arrived in Bethel the next evening, made it to my lodgings and tried to get some sleep, despite the sunlight still streaming in through the window at 10 p.m.

this year Alaska rolled out ranked-choice voting, an elaborate system that allows voters to choose more than one candidate and order their preferences, making the state’s congressional election complex enough. Then, in March, the legendary congressman Don Young, a Republican who had held his seat — Alaska’s only one in the House — for nearly 50 years, died. Forty-eight candidates ran to finish Young’s term in a June 11 primary, which would pick four finalists to run in the special election on Aug. 16, when yet another primary will take place to determine candidates for a full term of the congressional seat, whose occupant will be chosen in the Nov. 8 general election. If that’s too confusing, skip it. The point is that Sarah Palin is trying to go to Washington, and, regardless of who wins, it’ll be a wonder if anyone understands how it happened.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Australia's news media bargaining code pries \$140 million from Google and Facebook (Poynter)

By: Anya Schiffrin

More than a year after Australian political parties across the spectrum united around a law that pushed Google and Facebook to pay for the news they distribute, a further 24 smaller media outlets will now receive money from Google. This means that Google has made deals with essentially all qualifying media companies.

These deals, and those struck with Facebook, have injected well over \$200 million AUD into Australian journalism each year according to Rod Sims, the former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission who initiated the Code.

In 2021, Australia broke new ground by using competition law to get Google and Facebook to pay for news they disseminate. Despite the differences between the then-ruling Liberal Party and the opposition Labor Party, political parties, many news outlets and some NGOs, united around a common goal: making Google and Facebook pay media outlets. Worried about the power imbalance between media outlets and the tech giants, Sims proposed the code in order to push "digital platform companies" to negotiate with media outlets.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

A look back, and ahead: One year of solutions journalism at the Star (Tucson.com)

Caitlin Schmidt

Our solutions journalism beat here at the Star is turning one year old on Aug. 15.

While reflecting on the occasion, I admitted to my editor that when I'd pitched the idea of a whole beat focusing on people and groups working to fix problems, I wasn't sure if I'd generate enough reader interest or would even find enough stories to keep it going. Sure, we've done projects involving solutions journalism at the Star for years, but we hadn't taken on regular, sustained coverage of solutions that are underway (or needed) in our community.

Turns out, my fears were all for naught.

I've had a backlog of story ideas from the start and the beat has grown in ways I couldn't have imagined.

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

The Final Word

Complete Zoom list for Marcus Eliason memorial

The “Celebration of the Life of Marcus Eliason,” our AP and Connecting colleague who passed away August 5 in New York, will be held at 5 p.m. EDT this Sunday, August 21, and will be available via Zoom.

Family and friends will gather at the Eliasons’ Manhattan apartment building (in the backyard or lobby) at 134 West 93rd Street, between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues.

If you are joining by Zoom, the invitation comes from family friend Eve Dryer:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://travere.zoom.us/j/85407681387>

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213.244.140.110 (Germany)

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209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong SAR)

149.137.40.110 (Singapore)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

149.137.68.253 (Mexico)

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65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)

207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)

149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)

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Today in History – Aug. 17, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2022. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 17, 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

On this date:

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

In 1863, federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1945, the George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide.

In 1988, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel (RAY'-fehl) were killed in a mysterious plane crash.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton gave grand jury testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House concerning his relationship with Monica Lewinsky; he then delivered a TV address in which he denied previously committing perjury, admitted his relationship with Lewinsky was “wrong,” and criticized Kenneth Starr’s investigation.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

In 2004, at the Athens games, Romania won its second straight Olympic gold medal in women’s gymnastics; the United States took silver while Russia won the bronze.

In 2011, Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Beijing to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

In 2020, Texas joined New York, New Jersey and California as states with at least 10,000 confirmed coronavirus deaths; about 80 percent of the Texas deaths were reported since June 1, after the state embarked on one of the fastest reopenings in the country.

Ten years ago: In Moscow, a judge sentenced three punk rock-style activists, members of the band Pussy Riot, to two years in prison for hooliganism for briefly taking over a cathedral in a raucous prayer for deliverance from Russian President Vladimir Putin; the court decision drew protests around the world. (One of the three defendants was later released on probation; the other two were released several months short of their two-year sentence in December 2013.)

Five years ago: A van plowed through pedestrians along a packed promenade in the Spanish city of Barcelona, killing 13 people and injuring 120. (A 14th victim died later from injuries.) Another man was stabbed to death in a carjacking that night as the van driver made his getaway, and a woman died early the next day in a vehicle-and-knife attack in a nearby coastal town. (Six suspects in the attack were shot dead by police, two more died when a bomb workshop exploded.)

One year ago: In an effort to reassure world powers and fearful Afghans, the Taliban insisted that they would respect women’s rights, forgive those who fought them and ensure that Afghanistan would not become a haven for terrorists. Heavy rain from Tropical Storm Grace forced a temporary halt to rescue and recovery efforts from a devastating weekend earthquake in Haiti. The Jacksonville Jaguars waived Tim Tebow, ending the NFL career of the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner who switched from quarterback to tight end in hopes of making a comeback; he had also spent five years playing baseball in the New York Mets’ organization while never making it to the big leagues.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN’) is 96. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 81. Actor Robert DeNiro is 79. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 76. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 75. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 73. Actor Robert Joy is 71. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 70. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy’s Midnight Runners) is 69. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 67. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 67. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 65. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 64. Author Jonathan Franzen is 63. Actor Sean Penn is 62. Jazz

musician Everette Harp is 61. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 60. Singer Maria McKee is 58. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 57. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 56. Actor David Conrad is 55. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 53. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 53. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 53. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 52. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 51. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 48. Actor Bryton James is 36. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 34. Actor Austin Butler is 31. Actor Taissa Farmiga is 28. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold 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

paulstevens46@gmail.com