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Connecting

Nov. 14, 2022

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AP Nashville photographer Mark Humphrey honored by the Tennessee Titans Sunday covering his last Titans' NFL game. Photo/Andrew Nelles, The Tennessean.

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Nov. 14, 2022,

Connecting brings the sad news of the death of our colleague **Bob Macy**, who in a nearly 30-year Associated Press career covered news from Las Vegas and Kansas City.

Bob was highly respected in both assignments – and a year after his retirement from the AP in 2000, he was named to the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame.

If you have a favorite memory of working with Bob, please send it along.

ALL THE LOVE HELPS A LOT: It's been two years since our colleague Tim Curran died in Milwaukee – and I dropped a note to his wife <u>Kathy</u> on Tim's birthday to let her know I was thinking of her, and him. "Thanks for thinking of Tim on his birthday. I didn't think it would be as hard this year as I already went through the first but it sneaks up and wallops you. It was just always a special day together and hits hard. I knew I'd be okay yesterday though when I got a message from my 12-year-old NY granddaughter Gracie telling me she had a field trip choice and picked the World Trade Center because it's the third tallest building in the world and she'd be closer to Grandpa. All the love helps a lot."

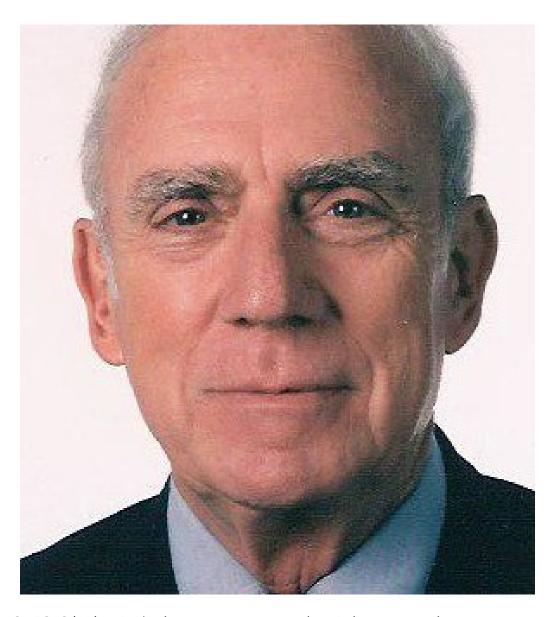
SPECIAL RETIREMENT OPTION: Some of our colleagues are among those who have accepted the AP's Special Retirement Option. One of them is Mark Humphrey, AP Nashville photographer, shown in the photo above covering his last Titans gake on Sunday.

Connecting hopes to profile the careers of those doing so, if they are willing, with both the publication of any announcement made by AP and/or through you letting me know directly with a story. If you are leaving via the SRO, we want to tell the story of your career. So drop me a note...

Have a great week – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Retired Las Vegas AP correspondent Robert Macy dies at 85



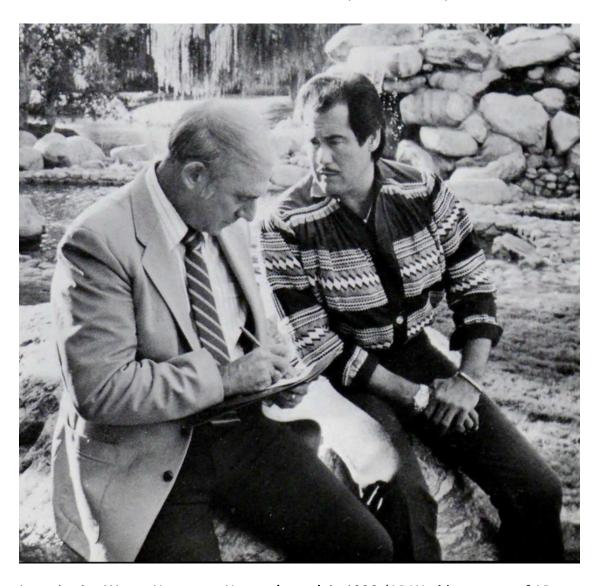
LAS VEGAS (AP) — Retired Las Vegas correspondent Robert Macy, who wrote thousands of stories about entertainment, crime and sports in Sin City over the course of two decades for The Associated Press, has died. He was 85.

Macy died early Friday in hospice in Las Vegas following a brief illness, his family said.

After graduating from the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism in 1959, Macy spent the next decade working in television, in public relations and for newspapers.

He began his almost 30-year career with the AP in 1971 when he was hired by the news cooperative as a writer in Kansas City, Missouri. Macy gained attention there early on for his coverage of a hotel pedestrian walkway collapse that killed more than 100 people.

A decade later Macy was in Las Vegas, where throughout the '80s and '90s he wrote about a virtual who's who of entertainers, then staples of The Strip.



Interviewing Wayne Newton at Newton's ranch in 1986. (AP World, courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

In 1988 he reported on the fatal police shooting of a man who took a 74-year-old employee hostage while trying to steal \$1 million in jewelry from the Liberace Museum. Macy was there when singer Wayne Newton, known as "Mr. Las Vegas," performed his 25,000th show in 1996.

He interviewed more than 200 celebrities, including comedians George Burns and Red Skelton and singers from Phyllis McGuire to Paul Anka to the Osmond Brothers. He also developed friendships with more than a few.

Macy knew entertainers Siegfried & Roy so well that when trainer and performer Roy Horn was attacked in 2003 by one of their white tigers, the AP story carried his byline even though he was already retired.

Macy retired from the AP in 2000 and the following year was inducted into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife, Melinda, of Las Vegas: son Brent and daughter-in-law Martha, of Las Vegas; and son Scott, granddaughters Kara and Savannah and great-granddaughter Azlynn, all of Leesburg, Florida.

Funeral services are pending. Shared by Anita Snow, Doug Pizac.

Click <u>here</u> for link to Bob Macy's page in Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame. Shared by Brendan Riley.

Remembering Bob Macy



Macy's Day

Retiring Las Vegas Correspondent Bob Macy and his wife Melinda, right, listen while newswoman Angie Wagner, left, reads a proclamation from Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman declaring July 13 Bob Macy Day. Guests attending Macy's party at the Venetian Hotel were greeted by the hotel's marquis congratulating Macy for his 29 years of service to AP. Macy joined the Kansas City bureau in 1971. He was the only reporter inside the Kansas City Hyatt during rescue efforts after a hotel walkway collapsed and killed 100 people. Macy went to Las Vegas in 1981 and has covered every entertainer from Liberace to Jerry Lewis. He and his wife plan to write a book about entertainers he has interviewed.

(Photo: Eric Jamison)

(AP World, 2000; courtesy AP Corporate Archives and Doug Pizac)

<u>Doug Pizac</u> - I first met Bob and his wife on my inaugural trip to Vegas to cover a boxing match. I found both of them very nice, cordial and helpful from then and for the many years to follow when I came to their city for stories. Bob was most helpful to me in giving me tips and tricks on dealing with celebrities and their PR people. Bob was a top-notch newsman through and through.

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Andy Lippman – Bob was one of those correspondents who could open doors all over town - and that was really handy in Las Vegas. He and his wife Melinda knew lots of the longtime stars - Siegfried and Roy; Phyllis McGuire; the mayor; the former governor who now helped run the Las Vegas Sun. In fact, there was one time I was called to appear before the former governor Mike O'Callaghan and Bob had to vouch for me and the AP that we would never commit the mistake for which we were charged. "It's a good thing you're here," O'Callaghan said, in a voice that seemed to say "case dismissed."

Bob opened doors for stories-especially features - but he loved the AP almost as much as the woman he loved to open doors for - his wife Melinda. They were true partners in life. I know that he loved to have AP people come to town - the late Sue Manning was a favorite; and he loved to be there to welcome AP conventions.

I remember we had a group called APACAHN - which was publishers from California, Nevada and Hawaii - and Bob got Steve Wynn, the owner of the then newly opened Mirage Hotel, to come in and personally give the group a tour of the Millionaire Rooms. We didn't stay in them, but we did get to look.

Bob was a true gentle man who loved being with the AP - both in Kansas City and in Vegas. As his obit noted, he is in the Nevada Journalism Hall of Fame for thousands of stories produced, but he is remembered by many for his many kindnesses and for being so proud of working for so many years.

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<u>Doug Tucker</u> - The Kansas City Star won a Pulitzer for its extended coverage in 1981 of the catastrophe of the Hyatt Skywalks. I've always thought Bob deserved that and more because, in my opinion, nobody came close to matching his brilliant work on that tragic night.

Always resourceful, Bob somehow got past the police who had roped off the hotel entrance and ordered all media to get out. Standing vigil as the drama unfolded throughout the night, Bob produced a gripping eyewitness account of the frantic efforts to rescue dozens of victims trapped beneath hundreds of tons of unforgiving concrete and steel. He wrote forcefully of "the ratta-tat-tat of jackhammers in a race with death."

He told with great empathy of the man who agreed to have his leg cut off so he could be freed from the steel only to then die in the ambulance.

It was great journalism in its purest form. And it helped catapult Bob to his dream job in Las Vegas, the assignment he was born for.

There will never be another Bob Macy.

The Associated Press reported...

<u>Larry Blasko</u> - Although I did it for almost 33 years, it's been more than 18 years since I've been admitted to an AP newsroom. From what I've read, they have changed.

And like most retirees, I have changed.

But -- and I think it applies to most retirees, alums and friends -- what hasn't changed is the thrill when you read in a critical election story in a tumultuous time that "... won a campaign for... The Associated Press reported" makes it official in the collective mind.

Mother AP has managed to hang on to integrity even during a time of political half-truth thunderstorms and flat-out lie hurricanes and --most importantly -- be recognized as the standard.

To have once been a small part is an honor, to praise and respect those who now carry our purpose forward is a joy and to do what we can to encourage the grandchildren and other young talents in our lives is a hope.

You and Connecting especially have focused those instances of honor, praise and hope for and about Mother AP and I thank you, which I'm certain is but one more "thanks" in a regular tide.

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<u>Ed Tobias</u> - Thanks to Ed McCullough for his service as a Florida voter assistance inspector and for detailing his experience in a Connecting piece.

My wife and I are first-time Florida voters. We cast early votes in Charlotte County, about 30 minutes up the road from Lee County, the Friday before Election Day. We agree that the process was extremely well organized. In fact, we have never had an easier time voting.

More from Veterans Day 2022



American flags next to graves at Western Carolina State State Veterans Cemetery in Swanannoa, NC, on Veterans Day (Remembrance Day in Commonwealth countries) 104 years after the signing of WW 1 armistice at Le Francport, France, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Photo/Hank Ackerman.

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Connecting adds these colleague-veterans who wrote to share information on their service following our earlier-published lists of those who served:

<u>Paul Bowker</u> - Army, 1973-76, Fort Riley, Kansas; two trips to Germany in 1975 and 1976 for NATO Operation Reforger (international training exercise).

Connecting, Nov. 14, 2022

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Denis D. Gray - Army, 1969-1971, Japan and Vietnam.

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Hank Lowenkron - Air Force, 1955-59, Sampson AFB, Scott AFB, Lincoln AFB.

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John McFarland - Navy, 1986-90.

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Mike McPhee - Army, 1966-68, Panama, Vietnam.

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<u>Bruce Nathan</u> – Navy, 1962-66, Philadelphia, Moji-ko, Japan and Subic Bay, Philippines.

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Michael Putzel - Army Reserve, 1964-69, Fort Knox, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

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<u>Kernan Turner</u> - Marine Corps Reserves, 1961-65, San Diego, Camp Pendleton.

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<u>Jeff Rowe</u> - Many thanks for compiling the veterans list. I'm sure it was a lot of work but it is greatly appreciated.

In the early/mid 70s no one cared much about military people or veterans -- active duty military traveling in uniform would be ignored. In those days. i could not have imagined what in recent years I've witnessed several times in airports -- strangers offering to pay for meals for in-uniform sailors, soldiers, marines and airmen.

In the early days of my journalism career, I know I lost out on consideration for at least two jobs when the interviewing editors could not hide their disgust that I had been in the armed forces.

We're all better off that those days are gone.



Paul Stevens - Made a Veterans Day appearance at daughter Molly's second-grade classroom. You can tell who was The Star of the Show. My sidekick Ollie's a good mingler. Note my 1972 USAF headshot displayed on the wall from my last day with USAF. Where'd the brown go???

A surprise guest – an AP 'living legend'



From left, Bob Reid, Steve Herman and Tom Young.

VOA's chief national correspondent <u>Steve Herman</u> had just wrapped up a presentation to American Legion Post 20 at the National Press Club on Thursday (Nov. 10) about the international broadcaster's current wartime programming into Ukraine and Russia when a surprise guest greeted him. It was Robert Reid. Steve exclaimed to the group the 35-year AP veteran was a living legend the post should invite to speak at a future meeting, describing him as a "legendary foreign correspondent" and recalled taking in Bob's radio reports from Manila in the late 1980's when he was working in the Broadcast News Center. Bob is now the senior managing editor of Stars and Stripes. Steve, who also was AP's state broadcast editor in West Virginia in the mid-80's, was invited to speak to the post by its president, Thomas Young, a former AP BNC staffer and now a commercial airline pilot and author of numerous historical novels (see: https://tomyoungbooks.com/books/). Also joining the meeting by Zoom was the post's finance officer, Myron Belkind, an AP veteran and a former NPC president, who Steve first met when he was a freelance reporter in Tokyo. Both Myron and Steve are former presidents of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

Memorial service for Bart Calendar, son of former editor Jody Calendar

<u>Mark Mittelstadt</u> - A memorial service is set for Saturday in Red Bank, N.J., for Bart Calendar, a writer and former reporter for newspapers in New Jersey. Calendar died Oct. 4 in his apartment in Montpellier, France, following a series of strokes. He was 53.

He was the son of Jody Calendar, a former editor at the Asbury Park Press and The Record of Hackensack, N.J., and her husband Carl. Jody Calendar served on the Associated Press Managing Editors board of directors in the 1980s and played a key role in several APME conferences.

Bart Calendar was a reporter at the Asbury Park Press and then The Home News and Tribune in New Brunswick in the 1990s. He moved to Montpellier in September 2000 with his then-wife where they began a freelance business.

A memorial fund has been established at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J. Contributions may be made in Bart Calendar's name to the Brookdale Community College Foundation at Donate Now - Brookdale Community College (brookdalecc.edu) or by mailing donations to Brookdale CC Foundation at 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft, NJ. 07738.

"Brookdale has been an enormously important institution in our lives and a scholarship in our son's name would mean the world to us," Jody Calendar said. "Bart attended the Brookdale programs in both Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Montpellier, France, which became his home later in life."

A memorial service will be held from 1 - 4 p.m. Saturday at The John E. Day Funeral Home in Red Bank, N.J.

Read Bart Calendar's obituary here.

(Jody Calendar can be reached at her email consultjody@aol.com or on her Facebook page as Jody Shaughnessy.)

Judges sought for Headliners Foundation of Texas contest

<u>Kelley Shannon</u> - If you're a retired journalist and interested in a new way to stay connected to today's working journalists, this may be for you.

The Headliners Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in journalism, is seeking out-of-state judges for its annual Charles E. Green Awards contest. These awards are presented to Texas journalists who produced outstanding work in 2022, and judging will take place in spring 2023. The contest includes five print and broadcast categories, and one joint category in which print and broadcast journalists are judged side-by-side. There will be four entries to judge in each print category, and two entries to judge in each broadcast category. Entries have already won first place in their division in the Texas Managing Editors and Texas Association of Broadcasters contests. For more information, please contact the Foundation's executive director, Alison Unger at aunger@headlinersfoundation.org

Gathering of current/former AP tech staff



Here is a photo taken last Thursday in downtown Kansas City of current/former AP technical staff on the occasion of Dan Juric's 40th service recognition AND his and Tom Young's retirement via the AP's recent buyout program. Scott Green totaled the years of service up just for fun and it came to just under 3 centuries! From left: Scott Green, Tom Young, Mark Steers, Dan Juric, former staffers Tom Anders and Brad Martin, Ben Bonnett, Reggie Wallace and Monte Wachter.

'Method to the violence': Dogged investigation and groundbreaking visuals document Bucha 'cleansing'



AP Photo/Vadim Gihrda

AP Brussels-based investigative reporter Erika Kinetz spent months investigating Russian war crimes in Ukraine, and worked to unearth details of the atrocities in Bucha. Her breakthrough came when a source agreed to give her a hard drive loaded with terabytes of surveillance video from the streets of the Kyiv suburb. Shortly after that, she also obtained thousands of audio files of Russian soldiers calling friends and relatives back home, in which they admitted to "zachistka" — cleansing — killing civilians under orders from their leaders.

Video journalist Adam Pemble, who was on assignment in Ukraine, hand carried the hard drive to Prague, rented a temporary office with a strong internet connection and uploaded 80,000 video files. AP digital partner SITU Research, a New York-based visual investigations firm, indexed the files, then Pemble, multiformat journalist Allen Breed and other AP colleagues began the painstaking process of reviewing all the footage, which often showed nothing but driving rain or stray dogs — but also included evidence of Russian war crimes.

Read more **here**.

AP reveals Saudi Arabia 'repression machine' harassing, arresting its citizens for actions in US



Prince Abdullah bin Faisal al Saud wears cap and gown for his undergraduate graduation from Northeastern University in Boston, in 2018. Saudi Arabia sentenced Prince Abdullah to 30 years in prison for calls he made to relatives as a graduate student in Boston. Tough prison sentences that the kingdom has handed Prince Abdullah and a Saudi-American citizen suggest Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is maintaining or escalating a crackdown on Saudi dissidents in the West, Saudi exiles and rights groups say. AP PHOTO

An investigation by Washington-based national security reporter Ellen Knickmeyer revealed the extent of Saudi Arabia's much-expanded surveillance, harassment and punishment of its own citizens on U.S. soil. She provided compelling details, including the previously unreported story of a Saudi sentenced to 30 years imprisonment because of calls he had made to his family from Boston, and of FBI agents warning exiles not to return home or enter the embassy in Washington.

The story was the result of more than two years of reporting. Knickmeyer, a foreign correspondent in Saudi Arabia from 2011-2014, worked carefully to maintain and cultivate Saudi sources in the U.S. That wasn't easy — many were reluctant to speak, given the very Saudi government surveillance that became the focus of Knickmeyer's investigation.

But a Saudi exile Knickmeyer knew from her years in the kingdom passed along a warning they had gotten from an FBI agent after the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi embassy in Istanbul. Almost over a shoulder, the FBI advised the person: Don't go into the Saudi Embassy in Washington.

Read more here.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Dennis Brack

Stories of interest

Here's why — and how — the Associated Press 'calls' elections (Washington Post)

Analysis by Glenn Kessler The Fact Checker

"The AP is not a news organization. It is a propaganda factory. American Pravda should not be allowed to 'call' elections. That should be up to the Department of State in each state, in a timely and transparent manner."

Christina Pushaw, rapid response director, Ron DeSantis campaign, in a tweet, Oct.
 27

The Fox affiliate in Phoenix last month accidentally aired during a live broadcast a test election result from the Associated Press showing the Democratic candidate for governor winning that state's hard-fought election. The incident drew outrage from Republicans on social media, including the tweet above, although the station quickly acknowledged the mistake: "This graphic was never meant to go on air — the numbers were only part of a test. The station has taken steps to make sure this cannot happen again."

Pushaw's tweet misrepresents what happens. In fact, the AP reports election results that are provided by state and local officials, using its vast network of employees and affiliates. At a certain point, based on how many votes remain to be counted, AP may conclude that a candidate is the winner because no other candidate can catch up. That's newsworthy. But the AP does not engage in speculation or projections. And no election is official until all of the votes are counted and the election results are certified.

The AP's singular place in conveying U.S. election results dates back to the mid-19th century. Here's an explanation about how, and why, its role emerged.

Read more **here**. Shared by John Rogers.

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Journalism tops list (sadly) The top 10 most-regretted college majors — and the degrees graduates wish they had pursued instead

Jessica Dickler

Even with college application season in full swing, many families are questioning whether a four-year degree is still worth it.

Some experts say the value of a bachelor's degree is fading and more emphasis should be directed toward career training. A growing number of companies, including many in tech, are also dropping degree requirements for many middle-skill and even higher-skill roles.

However, earning a degree is almost always worthwhile, according to "The College Payoff," a report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Bachelor's degree holders generally earn 84% more than those with just a high school diploma, the report said — and the higher the level of educational attainment, the larger the payoff.

Read more here. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Texas weekly devotes its editorial page to pollworker tribute (Rural Blog)

Al Cross

The opinion page of the Canadian Record this week features a photo of an 85-year-old election worker Donna Jenkins and a list of her colleagues.

At a time when America's election systems are being falsely attacked and election officials are getting threats of violence and worse, at least one American editor decided to devote her election-week editorial page to a tribute to the local poll workers who make sure elections run smoothly and fairly.

Laurie Ezzell Brown of The Canadian Record in the Texas Panhandle begins her column, "As I have in years past, I watch Donna Jenkins as she enters the second-floor offices of the Hemphill County Clerk's office to deliver the Precinct 202 ballot box. Donna is 85 years old, and has served the election process in some capacity for the last 40 years. . . . She is one of several citizens of Hemphill County who can count their service not in years, but in decades, though when I ask her to tell me how long it has

been, she doesn't really seem to think that matters so much. 'I'm going to do it as long as I can,' she said, almost daring anyone to tell her otherwise, though no one with a lick of sense would.

Read more here.

Today in History – Nov. 14, 2022



Today is Monday, Nov. 14, the 318th day of 2022. There are 47 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 14, 1970, a chartered Southern Airways DC-9 crashed while trying to land in West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board, including the Marshall University football team and its coaching staff.

On this date:

In 1851, Herman Melville's novel "Moby-Dick; Or, The Whale" was published in the United States, almost a month after being released in Britain.

In 1910, Eugene B. Ely became the first aviator to take off from a ship as his Curtiss pusher rolled off a sloping platform on the deck of the scout cruiser USS Birmingham off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1915, African-American educator Booker T. Washington, 59, died in Tuskegee, Alabama.

In 1940, during World War II, German planes destroyed most of the English town of Coventry.

In 1965, the U.S. Army's first major military operation of the Vietnam War began with the start of the five-day Battle of Ia Drang. (The fighting between American troops and North Vietnamese forces ended on Nov. 18 with both sides claiming victory.)

In 1969, Apollo 12 blasted off for the moon.

In 1972, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above the 1,000 level for the first time, ending the day at 1,003.16.

In 1973, Britain's Princess Anne married Captain Mark Phillips in Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1992, and Anne remarried.)

In 1996, singer Michael Jackson married his plastic surgeon's nurse, Debbie Rowe, in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. (Rowe filed for divorce in 1999.)

In 1997, a jury in Fairfax, Virginia, decided that Pakistani national Aimal Khan Kasi (eye-MAHL' kahn KAH'-see) should get the death penalty for gunning down two CIA employees outside agency headquarters. (Five years later on this date, Aimal Khan Kasi was executed.)

In 2013, former Boston crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger was led off to prison to begin serving a life sentence at 84 for his murderous reign in the 1970s and '80s. (Bulger was killed Oct. 30, 2018, hours after arriving at a federal prison in West Virginia.)

In 2020, Donald Trump supporters unwilling to accept Democrat Joe Biden's election victory gathered in cities across the country including Washington, D.C., where thousands rallied; after night fell in the nation's capital, demonstrators favoring Trump clashed in the streets with counterprotesters, resulting in injuries to demonstrators and police officers and charges against nearly two dozen people.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, in his first news conference since winning a second term, challenged congressional Republicans to let taxes rise on the wealthiest Americans, saying that would ease the threat of another recession as the nation faced a "fiscal cliff." Israel said it had killed the leader of Hamas' military wing in a wave of airstrikes launched in response to days of rocket fire out of Hamas-ruled Gaza. Baseball's Cy Young Awards went to Tampa Bay's David Price in the American League and R.A. Dickey of the New York Mets in the National League.

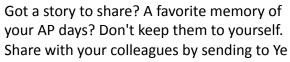
Five years ago: Three UCLA basketball players who'd been detained in China on suspicion of shoplifting returned home; they were then indefinitely suspended from the team. Papa John's Pizza apologized for comments made by CEO John Schnatter (SHNAH'-tur), who had blamed sluggish pizza sales on NFL players kneeling during the national anthem. House Speaker Paul Ryan said the House would require anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training for all members and their staffs; the announcement came hours after two female lawmakers spoke about sexual misconduct involving sitting members of Congress.

One year ago: A 9-year-old Dallas boy became the youngest person to die from injuries sustained during a crowd surge at the Astroworld music festival in Houston nine days earlier; a family attorney said Ezra Blount died at a Houston hospital, where he'd been placed in a medically induced coma after he suffered serious injuries in the crush of fans during a performance by rapper Travis Scott. (The crowd surge left 10 people dead.) Libya's election agency said Seif al-Islam, the son and one-time heir apparent of late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi, had announced his candidacy for the country's December presidential election.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kathleen Hughes is 94. Former NASA astronaut Fred Haise is 89. Composer Wendy Carlos is 83. Britain's King Charles III is 74. Rock singer-musician James Young (Styx) is 73. Singer Stephen Bishop is 71. Blues musician Anson Funderburgh is 68. Pianist Yanni is 68. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is 68. Former presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett is 66. Actor Laura San Giacomo (JEE'-ah-koh-moh) is 61. Actor D.B. Sweeney is 61. Rapper Reverend Run (Run-DMC) is 58. Actor Patrick Warburton is 58. Rock musician Nic Dalton is 58. Country singer Rockie Lynne is 58. Pop singer Jeanette Jurado (Expose) is 57. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling is 56. Rock musician Brian Yale is 54. Rock singer Butch Walker is 53. Actor Josh Duhamel (du-MEHL') is 50. Rock musician Travis Barker is 47. Contemporary Christian musician Robby Shaffer is 47. Actor Brian Dietzen is 45. Rapper Shyheim is 45. Rock musician Tobin Esperance (Papa Roach) is 43. Actor Olga Kurylenko is 43. Actor-comedian Vanessa Bayer is 41. Actor Russell Tovey is 41. New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor is 29. Actor Cory Michael Smith is 36. Actor Graham Patrick Martin is 31. NHL forward Taylor Hall is 31.

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.



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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