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Connecting

Dec. 12, 2022

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Top AP News
Top AP Photos
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AP Books

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Dec. 12, 2022,

SAY A PRAYER for our colleague Joe Edwards, who is under hospice care at an assisted-living facility in Nashville. Joe covered the music industry in Nashville for most of his 42 years with the AP and is a member of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame. He retired in 2012. If you'd like to reach out to his wife Sandra, her email is - lillady44@gmail.com

Best of 2022: Personal Essays – Longreads: Malcolm Ritter shares that Longreads, which highlights long-form writing, cited an AP story out of Ukraine – 20 Days in Mariupol - as one of the five best personal essays of 2022. Mstyslav Chernov, a video journalist for AP, told of the siege of Mariupol, as documented with photographer Evgeniy Maloletka and told to correspondent Lori Hinnant. Click here to view.

Your favorite journalism movie is a popular Connecting theme that has extended into your worst such movie, and even television journalism shows. Read on...

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

The worst TV show, not just the worst journalism show

<u>Joyce Rosenberg</u> - Paul, OMG, I've been waiting nearly 50 years to do this rant. Thank you!

Mobile One. It was terrible. Awful. Not just the worst journalism TV show ever, but a candidate for the worst TV show ever. An embarrassment for Jackie Cooper, who had done wonderful work in preceding decades. But he was getting older, and I guess this was the best he could get at the time. That the show made it to 13 episodes was a miracle. And thank heavens no one held it against Jackie, and he went on to solidly play Perry White in the Superman movies.

Jackie played Peter Campbell, a TV reporter who drove around with his cameraman. He got to do things they don't teach you how to do in journalism school, like rescue children from disasters. Here are some synopses I found online that will tell you some of his other exploits:



Peter Campbell is assaulted by hoodlums after he refuses to stop his investigation of a cult

leader. And in the same episode: Peter Campbell involves himself with police attempts to snag a young hoodlum whose girlfriend is a wealthy runaway.

Meanwhile, Pete also helps an ex-boxer straighten out his life.

All in a day's work. Don't you wish you had a job like that instead of filing 14th Ld-Writethrus? Now, I know quite well that journalists have ended up taking part in a news event. The reporters who carried Lee Harvey Oswald's coffin come to mind, and Steve Komarow's negotiating with Norman Mayer at the Washington Monument. But every day of Peter Campbell's working life involved his saving the world from itself. And rescuing innocent children. What a great job!

I was in the first year or so of my journalism career when this debuted in 1976. I was at NBC Radio. I already knew my work would never be that exciting and this show was BS.

My favorite journalism movies

<u>Mike Doan</u> - A movie I would put high on this list was just released in the past month. "She Said" is a wonderful film about the New York Times and its success in nailing Harvey Weinstein. Journalists can identify with the decisions, setbacks and dilemmas

facing these reporters and editors. (When I saw it in rural Virginia, I was the only person in the theater.)

-0-

<u>Mark Mittelstadt</u> - Many great journalism movies have been mentioned by Connecting colleagues during the past couple of weeks. A number I've seen but some I have not. I've made a note to try to find a few online or on cable.

A movie I saw shortly after it came out nearly 40 years ago sticks with me, particularly after working at The Associated Press and learning of journalists who either lost lives while covering the news or came close to it. "The Year of Living Dangerously" is a 1982 Australian film starring Mel Gibson as journalist Guy Hamilton and Sigourney Weaver as British Embassy officer Jill Bryant. Linda Hunt, who played a Chinese-Australian man with dwarfism who served as Hamilton's local photographer contact, won the 1983 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. As a romantic drama, some scenes and the story line are typical movie fare. Scenes of unrest in the streets and the threats to Gibson's character are mild compared to the gritty violence in later movies and cable series like "Homeland." Still, it was difficult not to think of the movie when hearing the stories of AP's Ian Stewart or Kathy Gannon and the slaying of her German colleague, Anja Niedringhaus. AP's headquarters includes a Wall of Honor tribute to the 35 AP journalists who have died on assignment since the company's founding in 1846.

I fell into a college English class with a journalism component in the summer of 1971. Within a year, a political scandal known as Watergate began to rock the nation's capital. Investigative reporting by several media outlets, particularly The Washington Post, highlighted the importance of journalists in our democratic republic. Like thousands of other young journalists, I became hooked. The 1976 movie "All the President's Men" about the Post's coverage remains high on my list of favorites. The final scene in which a teletype pounds out news of many of President Nixon's close associates being found guilty, with the final dispatch Aug. 9, 1974, "NIXON RESIGNS GERALD FORD TO BECOME 38TH PRESIDENT AT NOON TODAY," remains one of the most powerful in movie-making.

"Spotlight," the 2015 movie which follows The Boston Globe's investigative team as it documents widespread and systemic child sex abuse in the Boston area by Roman Catholic priests, also is high on my list.

My favorite, though, is "The Paper." I can watch it over and over, and have. Director Ron Howard seems to have been inside every newsroom in which I worked since high school. The issues, personalities, tensions, inner-office conflicts, limited budgets, noise, chaos, begging for change for the soda machine, yet overriding desire to get the news -- all have existed in one form or another. Regrettably I too often identify with Michael Keaton's metro editor character for having cheated on the time and attention my family deserved as I obsessed over coverage of the news. As I see in the final scenes Henry Hackett's introduction to a healthy baby boy, a birth he missed pursuing a huge exclusive story, I hope he finds the commitment to devote to his fictional family.

More on Morse Code, the Telegraph, and Western Union

Telegrams also corrected mistakes. When TRS. Sandoval," Homer Macauley said, Writers, of course, say the cleverest things. Mark Twain heard that his obituary had been published, he cabled from London in 1897. "your son is dead. Maybe it's a mis-take. Maybe it wasn't your son. Maybe it was somebody else. The telegram says it was The humorist Robert Benchley, arriving in Venice for the first time, cabled Harold Ross, editor of THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED. The New Yorker Juan Domingo. But maybe the telegram is STREETS FULL OF WATER. PLEASE AD-Beginning in the mid-19th century, the telegram was the most immediate way of distributing news or sending a message. Whether it was Mark Twain, like most writers, found it easter to write long than short. He received this telegram from a publisher: Scientists found the telegraph an irresistible way to announce a momentous event. In 1884, a meeting of biologists erupted in cheers when a one of those dreaded "regret to inform you" no-tices from the War Department that William Sa-royan's Homer delivered in "The Human Com-edy," or "send money" pleas or birthday congrattelegram from W. H. Caldwell, a British biologist, told them that a great mystery had been solved: NEED 2-PAGE SHORT STORY TWO DAYS. Platypuses lay eggs. Not only that, the news was ulations, the arrival by hand of those yellow enve-NO CAN DO 2 PAGES TWO DAYS. CAN DO delivered in Latin lopes always seemed momentous. In that spirit, MONOTREMES OVIPAROUS, OVUM 30 PAGES 2 DAYS. NEED 30 DAYS TO DO 2 the evangelist Billy Graham was quoted as saying, "I am only a Western Union messenger boy MEROBLASTIC. delivering a telegram from God to the door of hu-Edward Teller wired colleagues at Los Alamos about the first hydrogen bomb detonation. In 1929, Western Union and its army of uni-One famous telegraph story is apparently mythical. In 1897, William Randolph Hearst dis-IT'S A BOY. formed messengers sent more than 200 million telegrams. By last year, that number had dwinpatched Frederic Remington to illustrate Spanish atrocities in Cuba, but Remington found none. dled to 21,000. Bowing to e-mail and other technologies, the company dispatched its last tele-Western Union charged by the word, turning the loquacious terse, and sometimes ambigu gram two weeks ago. TROUBLE HERE. THERE WILL BE NO WAR. A reporter asked the actor Cary Grant about his Following is a sampler of famous, infamous and apocryphal dispatches compiled from several sources, including "Telegram!," a book by Linda Rosenkrantz.

SAM ROBERTS To which Hearst supposedly replied: YOU FURNISH THE PICTURES, AND I'LL HOW OLD CARY GRANT? FURNISH THE WAR. The actor supposedly replied OLD CARY GRANT FINE. HOW YOU? It is believed that the telegraph's founding fa-A longish telegram was sent in 1950 to Presither, Samuel F. B. Morse, sent his first formal telegram from the Capitol in Washington to Balti-In 1939, the British naval command described a change in government in three words. dent Harry Truman from Senator Joseph McCaraent Harry Truman from Senator Joseph McCar-thy, repeating his assertions that "I have in my possession the names of 57 communists who are in the state department at present" and challeng-ing Truman to account to Congress. The presi-WINSTON IS BACK. WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT. nts drafted a telegraph response, but apparent-Both Mark Twain and Arthur Conan Doyle Early on April 15, 1912, the Titanic is believed ly did not send it. supposedly sent similar telegrams to a doze IT SHOWS CONCLUSIVELY THAT YOU ARE NOT EVEN FIT TO HAVE A HAND IN THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I AM VERY SURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN ARE EXTREMELY SORRY THAT THEY ARE REPRESENTED BY A PERSON WHO HAS AS LITTLE to have sent its last wireless message. prominent men, all of whom packed up and left SOS SOS CQD CQD TITANIC. WE ARE SINKING FAST. PASSENGERS ARE BEING PUT INTO BOATS. TITANIC. town immediately FLEE AT ONCE - ALL IS DISCOVERED. The telegram was soon embedded in American popular culture; it showed up at critical moments in plays and movies. In 1933, Western Union introduced the singing telegram and became the source of a famously macabre joke: A woman, finding a Western Union messenger at The shortest telegram is attributed to both Oscar Wilde and Victor Hugo. The author cabled his publisher, asking about sales of a new novel. SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AS YOU HAVE. John F. Kennedy used to joke during his 1960 presidential campaign that he had just received a The publisher exuberantly replied. the door, exclaims: "Great, I've always wanted a singing telegram." No, she's told, it's just a regu-lar telegram. The woman pleads. The messenger telegram from his father. DEAR JACK: DON'T BUY ONE MORE Ideas & Trends VOTE THAN NECESSARY. I'LL BE DAMNED Page 16 IF I PAY FOR A LANDSLIDE DUM DE DUM DUM DUM. YOUR SISTER

<u>Paul Albright</u> - Here is an article from the New York Times (February 12, 2006) taking note of the demise of Western Union's telegram service. The Times headline for this telegraph sampler was:

Word for Word – The Rest is Silence Dot-Dot-Dot, Dash-Dash-Dash, No More

Keeping accurate time was critical for both railroads and Western Union, of course. In that vein, author E. B. White published the following in the February 16, 1929, edition of the New Yorker magazine:

"As we grow older, we find ourselves groping toward things that give us a sense of security. Grimly we hang to anything firm, immutable. For that reason, we've always set great store by clocks in telegraph offices—other clocks could say what they pleased; to us a clock in a telegraph office was in tune with the planets, was Time itself..."

Reminisce and enjoy!

Steve Haynes' parting story brings back fond memories

<u>John Wylie</u> - Steve Haynes piece on exiting the newspaper business on a high note with hopefully future success for the new owners brought back many fond memories. (See Friday's Connecting)

Steve and I shared the cavernous Kansas City Star/Kansas City Times newsroom for about 5 years. He was Times, I was Star, but initially that wasn't a problem because he often came in before Times reporting time of 4 p.m. and it was a miracle if I got out before Star shifts ended at 4 p.m. At that time, despite the papers converting from a 24-hour news cycle to the concept of "creative innovation," "creative competition," or whatever was designated the catchword of the quarter to emphasize that Star and Times reporters would be judged on their ability to outperform each other and paid, promoted, etc. on those results. Tough to do when you often shared the same desks, same phone numbers and same file drawers.

But Steve cared more about covering the community and I was not surprised when he went out on his own. He recognized today long before most of us did. When Steve left to prove community journalism could make a huge difference, we did keep in touch and we remember numerous courtesies and advice they provided as we built the Oologah Lake Leader into a game changer just as they had done with their newspapers..

While I am sad to see them retire, I fully understand—Steve and his wife Cynthia are four years older than we are and took on and beautifully served a much wider area than we did. It sounds as if they still have some energy left in their retirement years, which proves they figured out the balance for truly fulfilling the mission of the independent media with a healthy balance of other activities.

Thank you Steve and Cynthia for providing a beacon of hope and goals for the new generations of honest journalists which Faith and I know are out there.

When the mighty Cedar Falls (Iowa) Record did an extra

<u>Mark Mittelstadt</u> - Our newspaper's "extra" was not a spontaneous decision to print extra pages from a major breaking news story but rather extended coverage of Pope John Paul II's visit to Iowa in 1979, a big story for even the smallest news organization.

The pope's first visit to the United States in October 1979 included stops in Boston, New York City, the United Nations, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington, D.C. News organizations throughout the Midwest were excited to learn the pontiff also planned to come to the heartland. He would conduct an intimate service at a small parish in Cumming, Iowa, then a large open-air Mass at Living History Farms in the western Des Moines suburb of Urbandale.

I was editor of a small morning newspaper two hours away in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and immediately we wondered if, and how, we should cover the visit in person. With a circulation generously listed at 5,000 daily, The Record was hardly a major pillar of journalism. But it held a special relationship with its community -- the smaller sister of the greater Waterloo metropolitan area -- and the state school that called Cedar Falls home, the University of Northern Iowa. It was an award-winning publication where numerous talented young journalists had fun and got their start.

We decided there was no need to try to duplicate the efforts of The New York Times, the Des Moines Register or even the Waterloo Courier. Our coverage needed to be uniquely Cedar Falls, only minimally supplemented by other sources.

We began contacting local Catholic churches to find out if they were sending delegations and if there were unique connections to the visit or to Living History Farms. Interviews were done, background was collected, stories were written, visit credentials secured, plans made. Two of The Record's three general assignment reporters plus its lone photographer drove to Urbandale to cover the service and the scene. The remaining staff -- a reporter, sports editor, lifestyles editor, editor and high school copy girl -- stayed behind to take dictation and cover other local news.

The pope made his Iowa sojourn on Thursday, Oct. 4, 1979. The next day's Record included a main visit story but also sidebars with strong local angles, pounded out on typewriters and dictated by phone. In an era before cell phones and immediate transmission of digital images, our photographer held his film until he could get back to Cedar Falls.

Saturday's Record came with a special, eight-page tabloid section that included additional stories from the visit: remembrances by local Catholics who had attended; the inside story of how Living History Farms prepared for and then recovered from the pope's visit as told by a Cedar Falls native working in one of the farm's displays; and a reflection on the momentous event a day later. It also had a double-truck spread of our photographer's images and the full text of the pope's homily.

We ran 1,000 extra copies to give as souvenirs and to Catholic churches later that day.

The coverage was warmly received by our readers. Several notes thanked us for going the extra mile to provide stories and images that would be treasured by Cedar Falls residents for years.

I call this my Dragon Head Photo



<u>Carl Robinson</u> - I've just put this picture up as my Cover Picture on my Facebook Page after our grand-niece in Saigon tweeked out the streetlamp from the original.

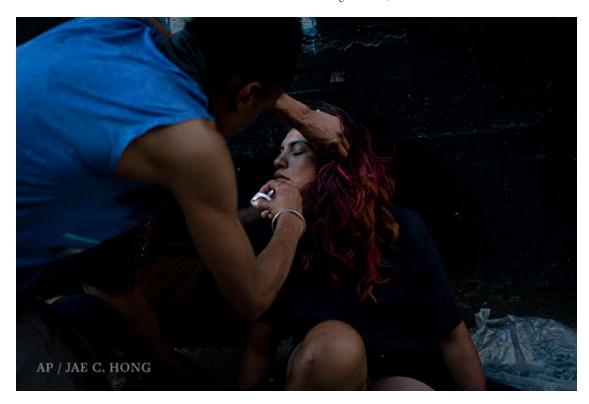
The original -- also included -- was shot during a freak 6 p.m. storm front two weeks ago that roared over our



neighbouring Illawarra Escarpment from the northwest followed by strong winds, thunder & lightning and heavy downpour as headed out into the Tasman Sea, our part of the Pacific Ocean.

After I posted, a couple people remarked how much this resembled an Asian Dragon -- quite an ominous sign, one might say -- and so I got our grand-niece Hong, who is designer including the cover of my memoir, to remove the distracting streetlight outside our home.

I'm calling this my Dragon Head Photo.



When photographer Jae Hong returned to Los Angeles after a year in Japan, he was struck by how the number of homeless people had vastly multiplied.

It was immediately before the pandemic -- and Hong, like so many reporters in the AP, spent much of the next year chronicling the impact of coronavirus.

Earlier this year, he was able to get back to the project he'd yearned to pursue and started chronicling homeless Angelenos between other assignments. One night, he encountered two police officers standing over a dead body -- and his project, spotlighting the lives, and sometimes the deaths, of fentanyl addicts, began to take shape.

From 2020 to 2021, 2,000 homeless people died in Los Angeles County, nearly one third died from an overdose. That was three times the number of deaths for homeless people in New York, which has the largest number of people living on the streets in the United States.

Read more **here**.

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER Stunning images, compelling stories mark AP's volcano coverage



AP PHOTO/GREGORY BULL

It was never a question if Mauna Loa would erupt, just a matter of when. That was answered late in the evening of Nov. 27 when the volcano began spewing lava after a 38-year hiatus. AP's Hawaii staff jumped on the story immediately, relying on a plan that had been put in place last October when there was a heightened state of seismic activity.

Cross-format collaboration was key to AP's coverage, with reporters Audrey McAvoy and Jennifer Kelleher anchoring stories in Honolulu while Caleb Jones, Haven Daley and Greg Bull provided photos, video and text feeds from the Big Island.

Jones, who is based in Honolulu, and Daley, who flew in from San Francisco, either sent transcriptions or posted their video interviews in Slack for use in the stories. San Diego-based Bull uploaded audio of his interviews, providing us access to real people on the scene and important voices for our stories.

Read more **here**.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Carole Feldman

Bill Foley

Peter Jackson

Dave Zelio

Stories of interest

67 journalists, media workers killed on the job this year(AP)

BRUSSELS (AP) — Russia's war in Ukraine, chaos in Haiti and rising violence by criminal groups in Mexico contributed to a sharp spike in the number of journalists killed doing their work in 2022, according to a new report released Friday.

The International Federation of Journalists says that 67 journalists and media staff have been killed around the world so far this year, up from 47 last year.

The Brussels-based group also tallied 375 journalists currently imprisoned for their work, with the highest figures in China including Hong Kong, in Myanmar and in Turkey. Last year's report listed 365 journalists behind bars.

With the number of media workers killed on the rise, the IFJ and other media rights groups have called on governments to take more concrete action to protect journalists and free journalism.

"The failure to act will only embolden those who seek to suppress the free flow of information and undermine the ability of people to hold their leaders to account, including in ensuring that those with power and influence do not stand in the way of open and inclusive societies," IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said in a statement.

Read more here. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Memorial to American writer Wahl placed at World Cup game (AP)



A tribute to prominent soccer journalist Grant Wahl is displayed on a screen before the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between England and France in Al Khor, Qatar, on Saturday.(Hassan Ammar / Associated Press)

AL KHOR, Qatar (AP) — American soccer writer Grant Wahl was honored with a tribute from FIFA on the desk where he was due to work Saturday at the World Cup quarterfinal match between France and England.

A posy of white lilies and a framed photograph of Wahl taken in Qatar was left at the media seat that had been assigned to the 49-year-old journalist who died at the World Cup in the early hours of Saturday.

"Tonight we pay tribute to Grant Wahl at his assigned seat in Al Bayt Stadium. He should have been here," FIFA said in a statement. "Our thoughts remain with his wife Céline, his family, and his friends at this most difficult time."

About 20 minutes before the match started, the photograph of Wahl was displayed on big screens in two corners of the stadium. An announcement about his death was made to fans who applauded him.

Wahl fell ill while working during extra time of the Argentina-Netherlands game on Friday at Lusail Stadium. He was treated by medical staff in the media tribune and later taken by ambulance to the hospital.

He was reporting at his eighth World Cup.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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US soccer journalist Grant Wahl dies at World Cup (AP)

By RONALD BLUM

LUSAIL, Qatar (AP) — Grant Wahl, an American journalist who helped grow the popularity of soccer in the U.S. and reported on some of the biggest stories in the sport, died Saturday while covering a World Cup match between Argentina and the Netherlands. He was 49.

Wahl fell back in his seat in a section of Lusail Stadium reserved for journalists during extra time of the game, and reporters adjacent to him called for assistance.

Emergency services workers responded very quickly, treated him for 20 or 30 minutes on site and then took him out on a stretcher, said Keir Radnedge, a veteran British sports journalist who was working nearby at the time.

The World Cup organizing committee said he was taken to Doha's Hamad General Hospital, but it did not state a cause of death. "We are in touch with the US Embassy and relevant local authorities to ensure the process of repatriating the body is in accordance with the family's wishes," it said in a statement.

Wahl, who wrote for Sports Illustrated for more than two decades and then started his own website, was a major voice informing an American public of soccer during time of increased interest after the U.S. hosted the 1994 World Cup. He also brought a critical eye to the organizational bodies of the international sport.

Read more here.

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Why CBS News held its Brittney Griner scoop for a full week (Washington Post)

By Jeremy Barr

CBS News broke the news Thursday morning of WNBA star Brittney Griner's release from a Russian prison in exchange for convicted Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout — but it came a full week after its journalists learned about it.

After receiving an initial tip Dec. 1 that Griner would be part of a prisoner swap, CBS reporters obtained confirmation from five sources by the following day. But the

network agreed to a White House request to hold the news — for fear of jeopardizing the delicate negotiations that led to the swap.

The White House "asked us not to make it public because officials expressed grave concern about the fragility of the emerging deal and feared it would impede the safety — perhaps even put those Americans at risk," CBS's chief foreign correspondent, Margaret Brennan, said on air Thursday.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Dennis Conrad, Sibby Christensen.

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Opinion The new AI writing tool might teach us the value of truth (Washington Post)

By Megan McArdle

The Biden administration's new executive order, signed on Monday, banning sugar in processed foods by the year 2035, is yet another example of the federal government overstepping its bounds when it comes to dictating what Americans can and cannot eat.

While it is true that excessive sugar consumption is linked to a number of health problems, this issue is best addressed through education and voluntary changes, not with a one-size-fits-all government mandate

All right, this has gone on quite long enough.

If you're surprised to be hearing about this far-reaching executive order for the first time ... if you just Googled and found nothing ... if you're wondering whether I have resorted to making up imaginary nanny-state initiatives to smear the Biden administration ... well, I do have an ulterior motive, but it isn't to fool you.

The fictitious text topping this column was generated by an artificial intelligence agent built by OpenAI, which has been releasing tools to the public that can generate astonishingly good images and text using natural language prompts. On Nov. 30, OpenAI released a new feature called ChatGPT, a rather uncannily convincing chatbot that can be prompted to write essays. Within a week, it crossed a million users. And we're going to spend the next few years grappling with what that means for a whole host of industries, including my own.

Read more **here**. Shared by Michael Rubin.

Today in History – Dec. 12, 2022



Today is Monday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2022. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 12, 2015, nearly 200 nations meeting in Paris adopted the first global pact to fight climate change, calling on the world to collectively cut and then eliminate greenhouse gas pollution but imposing no sanctions on countries that didn't do so.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first Black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the "Mona Lisa," stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

In 1915, singer-actor Frank Sinatra was born Francis Albert Sinatra in Hoboken, New Jersey.

In 1917, during World War I, a train carrying some 1,000 French troops from the Italian front derailed while descending a steep hill in Modane (moh-DAN'); at least half of the soldiers were killed in France's greatest rail disaster. Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1977, the dance movie "Saturday Night Fever," starring John Travolta, premiered in New York.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander. Newfoundland.

In 1995, by three votes, the Senate killed a constitutional amendment giving Congress authority to outlaw flag burning and other forms of desecration against Old Glory.

In 2000, George W. Bush became president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election. The Marine

Corps grounded all eight of its high-tech MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft following a fiery crash in North Carolina that killed four Marines. (The Osprey program was revived by the Pentagon in 2005.)

In 2010, the inflatable roof of the Minneapolis Metrodome collapsed following a snowstorm that had dumped 17 inches on the city. (The NFL was forced to shift an already rescheduled game between the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants to Detroit's Ford Field.)

In 2019, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson led his Conservative Party to a landslide victory in a general election that was dominated by Brexit.

In 2020, thousands of supporters of President Donald Trump gathered in Washington for rallies to back his desperate efforts to subvert the election that he lost to Joe Biden; sporadic fights broke out between pro-Trump and anti-Trump demonstrators after sundown, and four people were taken to the hospital with stab wounds. Charley Pride, the son of sharecroppers in Mississippi who became the first Black member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, died in Dallas at 86 from what a spokesman said were complications from COVID-19. John le Carre, the former spy whose novels defined the Cold War espionage thriller, died in England at the age of 89.

Ten years ago: North Koreans danced in the streets of their capital, Pyongyang, after the regime of Kim Jong Un succeeded in firing a long-range rocket in defiance of international warnings. Pope Benedict XVI sent his first tweet from his new account; it read, "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart."

Five years ago: Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election over Republican Roy Moore, who had denied accusations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls that allegedly took place when he was in his 30s; it was the first Democratic Senate victory in Alabama in a quarter-century, and came despite an endorsement of Moore by President Donald Trump. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, the city's first Asian-American mayor, died at the age of 65 after collapsing while grocery shopping.

One year ago: Despite critical acclaim and two years-worth of anticipation, Steven Spielberg's lavish "West Side Story" revival made little noise at the box office, with just \$10.5 million in ticket sales on its opening weekend. Veteran anchor Chris Wallace announced at the end of his "Fox News Sunday" program that he was leaving Fox News after 18 years; CNN then announced that he was joining its new streaming service.

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 99. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 90. Singer Connie Francis is 85. Singer Dionne Warwick is 82. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 79. Hall of Fame race car driver Emerson Fittipaldi is 76. Actor Wings Hauser is 75. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 73. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 72. Country singer LaCosta is 72. Gymnast-turned-actor Cathy Rigby is 70. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 65. Actor Sheree J. Wilson is 64. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 61. International Tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin is 60. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 59. Author Sophie Kinsella is 53. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 53. Actor Jennifer Connelly is 52. Actor Madchen Amick is 52.

Actor Regina Hall is 52. Country singer Hank Williams III is 50. Actor Mayim Bialik is 47. Model Bridget Hall is 45. Actor Lucas Hedges is 26. Actor Sky Katz is 18.

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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