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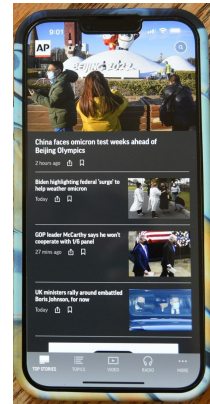
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Connecting

April 4, 2023

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AP reporter Bobby Caina Calvin fashioned a desk out of a garbage can and pizza box, while at right, Evan Simko-Bednarski of the New York Daily News is on the phone, Photo/Mike Sisak.

Colleagues,

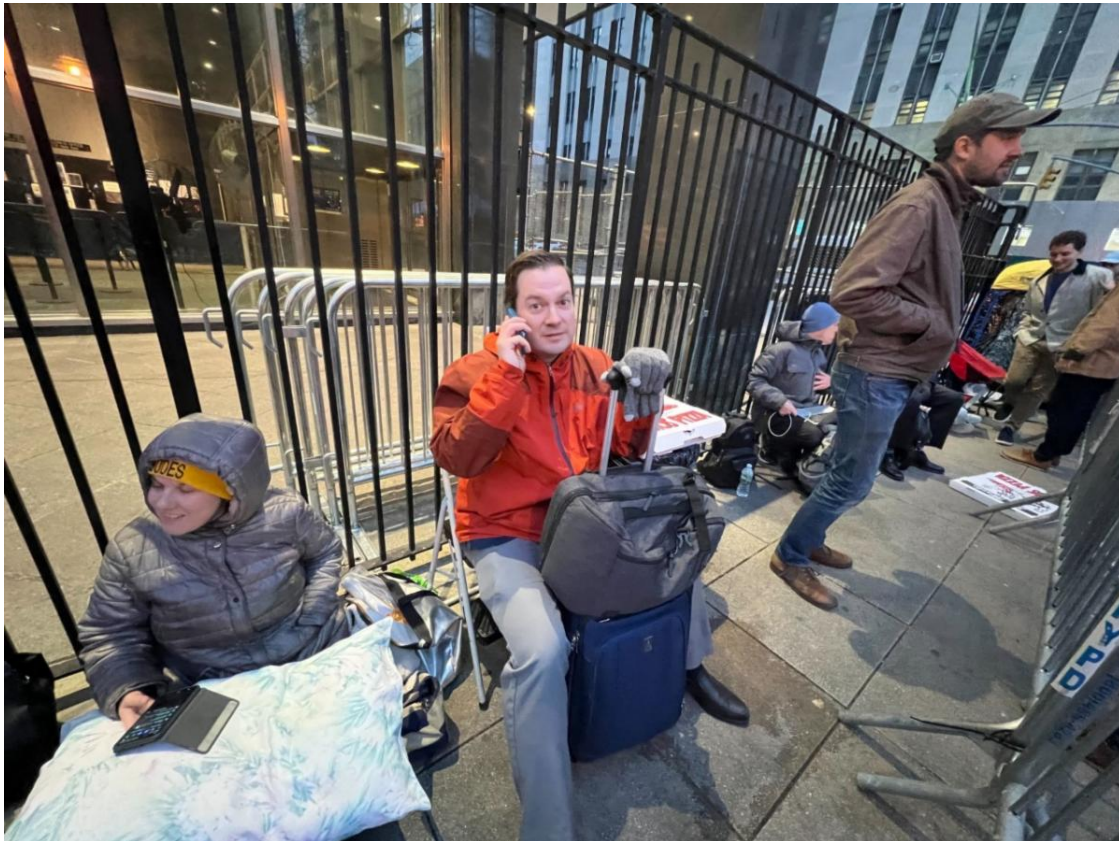
Good Tuesday morning on this April 4, 2023,

The glamorous lives of journalists. We're holding our places in a long line to witness the arraignment of former President Donald Trump.

This tweet by AP-New York reporter [Bobby Caina Calvin](#) was spotted Monday afternoon on Twitter and shared by colleague Dan Sewell.

Here's the story behind it, from Calvin's fellow AP reporter [Mike Sisak](#):

"AP's team, including Bobby and me taking turns switching off, sprung to action Monday afternoon when it became apparent that news outlets were already lining up for a seat to Trump's arraignment — more than 24 hours before it was scheduled to take place. The line quickly grew to 40+ reporters, but the AP snagged the 10th spot.



AP reporter Mike Sisak at the AP's makeshift garbage can/pizza box desk, making a call. Photo/Bobby Caina Calvin.



Bobby Caina Calvin filing a broadcast story. Photo/Mike Sisak.

“APers and other outlets will have to stay overnight to keep their place in line. Luckily, the forecast is clear and not expected to dip below 40, and the scenery isn’t bad: Manhattan skyline, a line of tents set up by broadcasters and the occasional Trump supporter in a red hat or waving an American flag. Bobby was even able to keep working on his radio stories while in line, fashioning a desk out of a garbage can and pizza box. But people familiar with the area warned that the makeshift desk could be an inviting treat for the critters that roam the park at night: NYC rats! Law enforcement editor Mike Balsamo, upon seeing photos of Bobby’s invention, posted in our Trump slack channel with appropriate emojis: “Beware of (Pizza)(Rat)”

A Politico story below said that fewer than 60 passes are expected to be handed out at 8 a.m. today — meaning the members of the media will have to camp out overnight to get a seat. Trump’s arraignment is scheduled for 2:15 p.m., but he’s due to surrender to the Manhattan DA at the lower Manhattan courthouse around 11:00 a.m.

According to Calvin, “Mike got in line midafternoon, and we took turns holding our place. Mike left at 730 pm, then I took over. I left at 9 pm and was relieved by another AP colleague, Larry Neumeister. A sports stringer takes over at midnight until 5 am. He will be followed by another AP staffer until Mike takes over so he can cover the arraignment.

“There’s real camaraderie among the press corps, especially the local ones. One bought several boxes of pizza. Someone loaned me a down vest because she saw I

was getting cold. (I was unprepared for the assignment!) Others not standing in line offered to get food, drinks etc.”

So Connecting asks of colleagues, you have your own story to share about trying to snare courtroom spots? Please send it along.

And to the first item, is media coverage of Trump's indictment over the top, what's your feeling? Ever involved in a similar story where that question might be posed?

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Is media coverage of Trump's indictment over the top or just right?

By: Tom Jones
Poynter.org

Today's the big day, eh?

Donald Trump becomes the first president, former or otherwise, to be arrested. He will be arraigned in Manhattan today on upward of 30 counts stemming from hush money payments made to an adult film star before the 2016 presidential election. After that, Trump is expected to head back to his place in Florida and make a speech.

So what about the media coverage?

Here's an interesting place to start. Trump's team asked the judge in the case to bar cameras from the courtroom because it “will create a circus-like atmosphere ... raises unique security concerns and is inconsistent with Trump's presumption of innocence.”

Wait, he's worried about creating a circus-like atmosphere? It's too late for that. Did you see Monday's cable news coverage? The networks followed Trump's every move from Mar-a-Lago to New York, including shots of his motorcade going to the airport. It started to look like the overhead shots of O.J. in the white Bronco. (Check out this tweet.) The Washington Post's Paul Farhi pointed out that “O.J. Simpson” briefly trended on Twitter on Monday.

It got so ridiculous that Trump's son, Eric, actually put out a funny tweet: “Watching the plane ... from the plane.” It was a photo of him inside the plane with the TV inside the plane showing the plane on the runway. Get all that?

Media journalist Brian Stelter tweeted, “This picture is a thousand-word media critique.”

Read more [here](#)

Media mass, but few Trump supporters, queue for Manhattan arraignment

By JOE ANUTO
Político

NEW YORK — Reporters started queuing outside Manhattan Criminal Court Monday for seats inside the courtroom where Donald Trump will be arraigned Tuesday — a full 24 hours ahead of the afternoon proceeding.

The mass of media was in stark contrast to the handful of Trump supporters protesting Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's probe of a hush money payment to a porn star.

By 5:00 p.m. Monday, nearly 50 representatives from outlets like CNN and the New York Law Journal were waiting for a coveted seat in the courtroom to witness the historic arraignment of the former president.

Under 60 passes are expected to be handed out at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday — meaning the members of the media will have to camp out overnight to get a seat. Trump's arraignment is scheduled for 2:15 p.m., but he's due to surrender to the Manhattan DA at the lower Manhattan courthouse around 11:00 a.m.

Read more [here](#).

Trump lawyers oppose cameras at arraignment, warn of 'circus-like atmosphere'

By DAN MANGAN
CNBC

Lawyers for former President Donald Trump urged a judge to deny a request by media outlets for cameras in a Manhattan courtroom where Trump is set to be arraigned on criminal charges Tuesday.

"We submit that the media request should be denied because it will create a circus-like atmosphere at the arraignment, raise unique security concerns, and is inconsistent with President Trump's presumption of innocence," Trump's lawyers said in their letter to Judge Juan Merchan.

The letter was made public as Trump was flying from his home in Florida to New York City in anticipation of his court appearance.

Trump was indicted Thursday by a grand jury on charges related to his then-lawyer's \$130,000 hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels shortly before the 2016 presidential election.

He is the first U.S. former president to face criminal charges, a fact that has been cited by the group of media outlets that asked Merchan for permission to cover Tuesday's arraignment with still and video cameras, in addition to radio recording devices.

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office, which is prosecuting Trump, in its own letter to Merchan on Monday did not take a position on whether the judge should allow cameras in the courtroom.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Remembering that day nine years ago



Anja Niedringhaus (left) with Kathy Gannon

[Kathy Gannon](#) - Anja's smile will never die. She forever lights up my life.

I can still feel the weight of her body pressing on my shoulder on that day 9 years ago today, but today it holds me up, reminds me how grateful I am for the many memories, for who she was, the lives she touched, each better for having known her.

Forever in my heart mein Schatz. Love you always!!

(AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus was killed at the age of 48 on April 4, 2014, in an attack in Afghanistan while covering the country's 2014 presidential election. Fellow AP journalist Kathy Gannon was with her in a car and seriously injured in the attack by an Afghan police unit commander.)

More stories of AP Flashes

[Ed McCullough](#) - Here's former CoB Chuck Green's account to Cleartime, the newsletter for company retirees, in 2014:

"At about 1:10 one of the doctors attending Oswald made the announcement. I ran from the room and down the hall with the United Press reporter, the competition, at my side... As we turned the corner, I ran him into the wall. He grabbed my coat pocket and ripped it off. I got the phone and told the bureau the news....

"As that cleared the wire, the competition — he had to fish out a dime, dial the phone and wait for someone to answer — was just getting connected... Most AP reporters retire without ever filing a flash... I was 26 and in my third wonderful year with AP."

Chuck passed away in 2019. He was my first CoB: Albany, N.Y. I ended up following his footsteps as Caracas (Venezuela) CoB and then manager of Latin America business based in Mexico City.

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[Shirley Christian](#) - I love Ann Blackman's Flash story (in Monday's Connecting). I never wrote anything more pressing than a Bulletin for the AP, and I never had a dog named Flash, but I do have a classy Siamese cat named Oscar who will turn 20 in October, the cat equivalent of 100, and he still has refined taste, as per his close perusal of my antique Limoges in this photo.

Meeting up with grandson - a soldier



Longtime AP foreign correspondent **Bob Reid** crossed paths with his grandson Max Reid, a US Army soldier, last Friday at the Army training base in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Bob retired from AP in 2014 and became Senior Managing Editor of Stars and Stripes and was visiting staff in Germany.

Stories of interest

Opinion This element is critical to human flourishing — yet missing from the news (Washington Post)

By AMANDA RIPLEY

At a cocktail party in a crowded Washington living room some years ago, I met a magazine editor who was working on a high-profile new book. It would transport the reader into the future, he told me, describing in vivid, terrifying prose all the catastrophes that might happen because of climate change: unbreathable air, dying oceans, hunger, drowning.

Would it offer people any hope? I asked.

“It’s not my job to give people hope,” he said, sounding vaguely disgusted. I got the sense that hope was for the weak. And that by asking my question, I was weak, too.

A year later, his book ended up being a bestseller. So, I figured, maybe he was right. Maybe hope is not our job. But then, I couldn’t help but wonder, whose job was it?

Last summer, I wrote a piece in this newspaper admitting that I have been selectively avoiding contact with the news, even though I'm a journalist myself. Traditional news coverage, I had slowly come to realize, was missing half the story, distorting my view of reality. It frequently overlooked and underplayed storylines and dimensions that humans need to thrive in the modern world — with the three most notable elements being hope, agency and dignity.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Doan.

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More than 30 media outlets, press freedom groups call for Russia to release WSJ reporter (The Hill)

BY BRAD DRESS

More than 30 media outlets and press freedom advocacy organizations called for the immediate release of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich in a letter to Russia's ambassador, saying his arrest this week was "unwarranted and unjust."

The letter, spearheaded by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), was sent to the Russian ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Antonov in Washington, D.C., on Thursday following news of Gershkovich's arrest in Russia on charges of espionage.

"Gershkovich is a journalist, not a spy, and should be released immediately and without conditions," the organizations wrote. "Gershkovich's unwarranted and unjust arrest is a significant escalation in your government's anti-press actions."

"Russia is sending the message that journalism within your borders is criminalized and that foreign correspondents seeking to report from Russia do not enjoy the benefits of the rule of law," the letter continued.

The letter was signed by the executive editors of several global media outlets, including The Washington Post, Bloomberg News, The New York Times, BBC, The New Yorker and The Guardian.

Advocacy organizations such as the International Press Institute and PEN America were also signatories.

Read more [here](#).

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Senators reintroduce bipartisan journalism antitrust bill (TribLive)

By JULIA FELTON

Two U.S. senators are reviving a bipartisan effort to allow local news outlets to negotiate for fair compensation from large digital platforms that use their content.

Senators Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota, and John Kennedy, a Republican from Louisiana, on Friday announced they have reintroduced the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act. The bill aims to help local journalism survive in an era when most Americans consume news through digital platforms, the senators said.

Trib Total Media CEO Jennifer Bertetto last year testified in support of the measure before a Senate subcommittee.

Bertetto on Friday praised the bill's reintroduction and called on lawmakers to act quickly.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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Jim Nantz bids a fond farewell to March Madness (AP)

By EDDIE PELLIS

HOUSTON (AP) — Certainly, Jim Nantz could fill an evening weaving tales of the great games and buzzer-beaters he's had the privilege to see, and call, over a storytelling career that made him the voice of March Madness for nearly four decades.

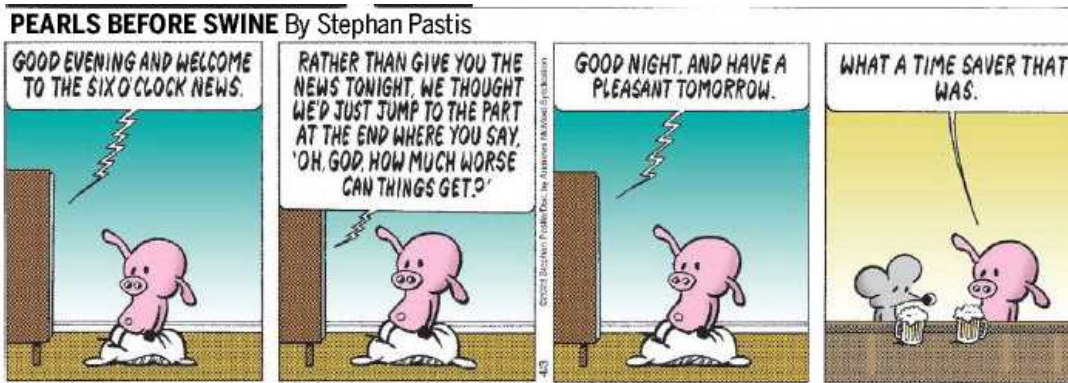
But when asked about his favorite moments as he prepared for the 354th and final game of that journey — Monday's title game — he brought up Delaware State.

The Hornets were a 16 seed when they made what is still their only NCAA appearance back in 2005. They were going against Duke in a first-round game hardly anyone remembers now. Nantz was certain he'd see those Duke players again.

"But those Delaware State kids, they're on CBS, and I envisioned that someday, they're going to have the VHS tape to be able to show their grandchildren and say 'I played in the NCAA Tournament,'" Nantz said during a courtside conversation with The Associated Press the day before the start of his last Final Four. "This tournament is their 'forever.' I always wanted to make sure that I do justice to their story."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

Today in History - April 4, 2023



Today is Tuesday, April 4, the 94th day of 2023. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; his slaying was followed by a wave of rioting (Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Chicago were among cities particularly hard hit). James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty to assassinating King, then spent the rest of his life claiming he'd been the victim of a setup.

On this date:

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by his son Tad, visited the vanquished Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, where he was greeted by a crowd that included former slaves.

In 1917, the U.S. Senate voted 82-6 in favor of declaring war against Germany (the House followed suit two days later by a vote of 373-50).

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces liberated the Nazi concentration camp Ohrdruf in Germany. Hungary was liberated as Soviet forces cleared out remaining German troops.

In 1949, 12 nations, including the United States, signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C.

In 1973, the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center were officially dedicated. (The towers were destroyed in the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.)

In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves tied Babe Ruth's home-run record by hitting his 714th round-tripper in Cincinnati.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crash-landed shortly after takeoff from Saigon. Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage. (It was destroyed in the disaster of January 1986.)

In 1991, Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and six other people, including two children, were killed when a helicopter collided with Heinz's plane over a schoolyard in Merion, Pennsylvania.

In 2011, yielding to political opposition, the Obama administration gave up on trying to avowed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four alleged co-conspirators in civilian federal courts and said it would prosecute them instead before military commissions.

In 2015, in North Charleston, South Carolina, Walter Scott, a 50-year-old Black motorist, was shot to death while running away from a traffic stop; Officer Michael Thomas Slager, seen in a cellphone video opening fire at Scott, was charged with murder. (The charge, which lingered after a first state trial ended in a mistrial, was dropped as part of a deal under which Slager pleaded guilty to a federal civil rights violation; he was sentenced to 20 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed into law sweeping new restrictions on weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines similar to the ones used by the young man who gunned down 20 children and six educators in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. At least 72 people were killed in the collapse of an eight-story residential building being constructed illegally near Mumbai, India's financial capital. Pulitzer Prize-winning film reviewer Roger Ebert, 70, died in Chicago.

Five years ago: Saying the situation had reached “a point of crisis,” President Donald Trump signed a proclamation directing the deployment of the National Guard to the U.S.-Mexico border to fight illegal immigration. Facebook revealed that tens of millions more people might have been exposed in a privacy scandal involving Cambridge Analytica, a Trump-affiliated data mining firm. After the United States said it would impose 25 percent duties on \$50 billion of imports from China, Beijing quickly retaliated by listing \$50 billion of products it could hit with its own 25 percent tariffs.

One year ago: President Joe Biden called for Russian President Vladimir Putin to be tried for war crimes after what he described as “outrageous” atrocities around Kyiv during the invasion of Ukraine. The Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked, 11-11, on whether to send Ketanji Brown Jackson’s Supreme Court nomination to the Senate floor (It would later pass out of committee and she would be confirmed by the Senate three days later.) Kansas claimed its fourth national championship after defeating North Carolina in the finals of the NCAA Tournament in New Orleans.

Today’s Birthdays: Recording executive Clive Davis is 91. Author Kitty Kelley is 81. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 79. Actor Walter Charles is 78. Actor Christine Lahti is 73. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 72. Actor Mary-Margaret Humes is 69. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 67. Actor Constance Shulman is 65. Actor Phil Morris is 64. Actor Lorraine Toussaint is 63. Actor Hugo Weaving is 63. Rock musician Craig Adams (The Cult) is 61. Talk show host/comic Graham Norton is 60. Actor David Cross is 59. Actor Robert Downey Jr. is 58. Actor Nancy McKeon is 57. Actor Barry Pepper is 53. Country singer Clay Davidson is 52. Rock singer Josh Todd (Buckcherry) is 52. Singer Jill Scott is 51. Rock musician Magnus Sveningsson (The Cardigans) is 51. Magician David Blaine is 50. Singer Kelly Price is 50. R&B singer Andre Delyrimple (Soul For Real) is 49. Country musician Josh McSwain (Parmalee) is 48. Actor James Roday is 47. Actor Natasha Lyonne is 44. Actor Eric Andre is 40. Actor Amanda Righetti is 40. Actor-singer Jamie Lynn Spears is 32. Actor Daniela Bobadilla is 30. Pop singer Austin Mahone (muh-HOHN’) is 27. Actor Aliyah Royale is 23.

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.

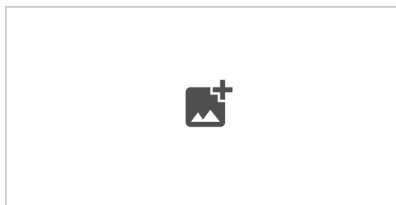


Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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