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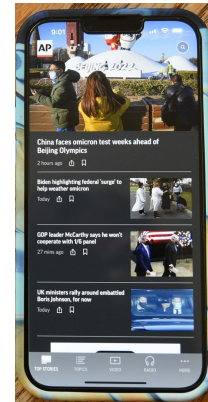
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# Connecting

April 21, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this April 21, 2023,

In the AP and among its members, the byline **Woody Baird** was synonymous with Memphis.

Baird, who served in the Memphis bureau as a newsman and correspondent for nearly three decades, died April 11 at the age of 77. He retired from the AP in 2009.

Our colleague **Adam Yeomans**, former Nashville bureau chief, said: "Woody Baird in many ways defined an AP correspondent: independent, smart, self-motivated, and a deft juggler of multiple assignments who could quickly dictate 500 wire-ready words from a breaking news scene. He had a big personality, and at times could be a bit brusque. But he never sought the limelight. Those traits served him and AP well as a journalist fearless in pursuit of the story."

We bring you an invitation from AP Corporate Archives to join a webinar on Monday (April 24) at 1 p.m. EDT celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department that records the 177-year history of The Associated Press. The focus: working in the archives. A second webinar will be held May 1.

Information on signing up can be found in today's issue.

Congratulations to AP photographer **Evgeniy Maloletka** on winning the World Press Photo of the Year award for his harrowing image of emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, in the chaotic aftermath of a Russian attack. See story below.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## The AP Corporate Archives at 20



Connecting colleagues are invited to take part in two Zoom webinars that will focus on working and writing in the AP Corporate Archives. Here is information on the first, which will be held Monday, April 24.

**Working in the Archives: Moderator, Giovanna Dell'Orto, Global Religion Team**

When - Mon Apr 24, 2023, 1 pm – 2pm (EDT)

Where - <https://ap.zoom.us/j/96255045325>

A conversation with AP's archivists past and present: Valerie Komor, Francesca Pitaro, Sarit Hand, Sam Markham and Joyce LeeAnn Joseph.

**Join Zoom meeting:**

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/96255045325>

The Corporate Archives was founded in July 2003 with a grand mission: to document the news, governance and administrative operations of the AP worldwide. Through programs in acquisitions, processing, oral history, exhibits, blogs, publications, and preservation, we are able to enhance and support the AP brand while uniting our far-flung staff around an illustrious legacy. No other U.S. news organization can boast of such an archive!

To celebrate our anniversary, read the [AP Images Spotlight](#) blog.

The second webinar will be held May 1, 2023, at 11am EDT:

**Writings from the Archives: Moderator, John Daniszewski, Standards Editor**

A conversation between John and scholars who have used the archives: Heidi Tworek (the history of international news agencies), Richard Fine (The Price of Truth: The Journalist Who Defied Military Censors to Report the Fall of Nazi Germany), Gene Allen (Mr. Associated Press: Kent Cooper and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century World of News).

Zoom information for May 1 webinar will be provided next week.

## Woody Baird, longtime AP Memphis newsman, dies at 77



**Memphis correspondent Woody Baird (left) listens intently to Mother Teresa speak during a media availability in Memphis. She was touring the area in June 1989 for sites where a house for unwed mothers could be built. Baird, who covered the Memphis area for 27 years from 1982 to 2009, passed away April 11. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)**

**By Adrian Sainz**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Woodrow "Woody" Baird, a dogged, straight-talking and skilled journalist who covered everything from Elvis Presley to panda bears for The Associated Press in the Memphis region for 27 years, has died. He was 77.

Baird had suffered a stroke a week before he died April 11 in Memphis, said Mary Baird, his wife.

Baird worked for the AP in Memphis from 1982 to 2009, when he retired. He was a prolific writer who covered every type of news, from the criminal trial of former state Rep. John Ford to the annual migration of fans to Graceland for Elvis' death anniversary.

Baird also covered Memphis-based shipping giant FedEx Corp., Mother Teresa's visit to Memphis, the arrival at the Memphis Zoo of two panda bears from China, a child custody battle that changed Tennessee law on the rights of parents, the Shannon Street shootout in which an officer and seven alleged cult members were killed, and former mayors Willie Herenton and A C Wharton Jr.

Wharton answered questions from Baird when Wharton worked as a lawyer in federal court. Wharton also lived near Baird and called him a friend. He called Baird the epitome of a "tough, hard-nosed" reporter.

“When it came to his reporting duties, he was just like Jack Webb on ‘Dragnet’— just the facts, just the facts, man,” Wharton told The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday. “He just wanted the truth. ... We might have a beer later, but give me the news right now.”

Colleagues considered Baird tough and unafraid, a reporter who did not hesitate to ask direct questions to get to the heart of the story. They recall his ability to produce perfect copy under the pressure of reporting important news.

“I can describe taking dictation on a breaking news story from Woody,” retired AP journalist Paul Randall Dickerson said. “He always dictated a lead (paragraph) that would arrest the reader’s attention and follow it with great detail that one would think came from an hour’s self-editing, but in reality, simply flowed from Woody into a publishable story.”



**Woody Baird is presented a photo collage from Nashville COB Adam Yeomans at Woody's retirement in 2009.**

At his retirement party in 2009, Baird’s AP colleagues presented him with an audio tribute with each staffer imitating his barking signature line with his loud voice when he called the AP bureau from the scene of breaking news: “This is Woody! Give me the desk!”

“When you would be chatting with him and tell him something funny or odd, his reply was almost always, ‘Well, there you go,’” Dickerson said.

Baird joined the AP in New Orleans in 1977 after working as a reporter and managing editor of The Daily Iberian in New Iberia, Louisiana. He left AP to become the paper’s editor in 1981 but returned the following year as a newsman in Memphis.

Baird is survived by his wife Mary, a daughter from a previous marriage and four grandchildren.

Former AP news editor Teresa Wasson recalls how Baird shaved his head long before it became commonplace. He usually wore the same thing to work — jeans, a black shirt, a vest, and a hat.

“Woody was a real stickler for accuracy, and he took to heart the AP admonition to be first, but first be right,” Wasson said. “I always felt confident when Woody was working a hot story on deadline that his reporting was factual and fair.”

Former AP reporter and author Lucas L. Johnson II called Baird “an old school, dogged reporter, a true AP newsman.” Johnson recalls meeting Baird not long after Johnson started at the AP, and he was a little intimidated because “Woody didn’t bite his tongue.”

“But I came to appreciate that about him because I knew when he gave me a compliment about a story I wrote, he meant it,” Johnson said. “I learned a lot from him, and I became a better journalist as a result.”

Baird was born in Summerville, South Carolina, and grew up nearby in Monck’s Corner, Mary Baird said. He served in the Air Force as a medic and later graduated from the University of South Carolina.

Mary Baird said her husband “worked hard and loved what he did.”

“He said just what he thought. He was a good man,” she said. “He could be really soft, but he would correct you if you were wrong.”

After the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, Baird took up gardening in his backyard. She said they spent the Saturday before he suffered the stroke visiting nurseries and spending the day out, a rarity for them after the pandemic struck.

“He absolutely loved it,” Mary Baird said of his gardening, adding that later in life he was “getting downright warm and fuzzy.”

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Former Associated Press journalists Paul Randall Dickerson, Lucas L. Johnson II and Teresa Wasson contributed to this story. AP staffer Adam Yeomans also contributed.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

## AP image of Mariupol hospital attack wins World Press Photo



**FILE-** Iryna Kalinina, 32, an injured pregnant woman, is carried from a maternity hospital that was damaged during a Russian airstrike in Mariupol, Ukraine, on 9 March 2022. Associated Press photographer Evgeniy Maloletka won the World Press Photo of the Year award on Thursday, April 20, 2023, for this harrowing image of emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol in the chaotic aftermath of a Russian attack. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka, File)

**By MIKE CORDER**

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Associated Press photographer Evgeniy Maloletka won the World Press Photo of the Year award on Thursday for his harrowing image of emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, in the chaotic aftermath of a Russian attack.

The Ukrainian photographer's March 9, 2022, image of the fatally wounded woman, her left hand on her bloodied lower left abdomen, drove home the horror of Russia's brutal onslaught in the eastern port city early in the war.

The 32-year-old woman, Iryna Kalinina, died of her injuries a half-hour after giving birth to the lifeless body of her baby, named Miron.

"For me, it is a moment that all the time I want to forget, but I cannot. The story will always stay with me," Maloletka said in an interview before the announcement.

"Evgeniy Maloletka captured one of the most defining images of the Russia-Ukraine war amid incredibly challenging circumstances. Without his unflinching courage, little

would be known of one of Russia's most brutal attacks. We are enormously proud of him," AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Julie Pace said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

## Failed Space-X Starship launch sparks memories

[Bill Sikes - Thursday's failed Space-X Starship launch](#) reminded me of a similar assignment I photographed while on staff at The Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville.

In March 1989, the Navy was conducting the first sea test launch of the Trident 2 missile from the USS Tennessee, about 50 miles off the coast of Cape Canaveral. The sub was stationed at the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia, one of several U.S. Navy bases in our circulation area. I was among a handful of journalists covering it from nearly a mile away aboard observation vessel USNS Range Sentinel.

Since Cape Canaveral was more than two hours away from Jacksonville, and the observation ship would take several hours to travel to and from the launch site, it was decided I should process film and make prints to transmit pictures via phone line from a motel when we landed back at the Cape. After all, this was long before the invention of cell phones, digital cameras and the internet. I set up a darkroom in the motel bathroom the night before the test and woke up early to hop aboard the observation ship for its sunrise departure.

Knowing there would be several hours of dead time while returning to port, I packed one of our Helbertronic temperature-control units (designed by AP's Richmond staff photographer Steve Helber), changing bag, tanks, reels and both color and black & white chemistry, so the film could be processed and ready to make prints when we docked near sundown.

One motor-driven camera with a 400mm lens was mounted on a tripod and loaded with black & white film to be triggered with a foot switch, while I steadied a monopod with a second motor-driven camera and a 600mm lens and loaded with color film. The tip of an antenna attached to the submerged vessel was barely visible on the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, and heat waves made focusing extremely difficult.

We waited.





Nearing midday, the countdown reached zero and the catapulted rocket broke the surface. The engine ignited and I triggered the shutters on both cameras. But within a second, about two missile lengths above the water, the rocket began to pinwheel out of control. I kept my finger and foot mashed down till the rocket completed two quick loops and the self-destruct system demolished it.

We looked at each other in stunned silence till the sound of the explosion reached the ship. Then the Navy's launch spokesman announced that the submarine was not damaged. Both cameras had consumed almost the entire 36-exposure rolls of film to capture the wild ride. With a full afternoon of sailing ahead, I grabbed lunch then began to process the film.

On land, I found a pay phone to call the office. Word had somehow already reached my editor that the rocket had failed, so he had arranged for a single-engine plane to fly the processed color film back to Jacksonville to scan for higher quality Page 1 display. I dashed to the local airport, handed off the film, then hurried to the motel to make a print from the black & white film. That transmission arrived in Jacksonville in time for first edition and the color image anchored the front page for the two main editions.

It was one of the most unusual locations and oddest outcomes of any assignment during my career.

## AP VoteCast data from midterms is now available

By Nicole Meir

The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago today (Thursday) made available the data from AP VoteCast's more than 120,000 interviews with voters in the runup to the 2022 U.S. midterm elections.

AP VoteCast provided estimates of the electorate nationally and in 48 states -- including all 45 states with Senate or gubernatorial races -- plus Mississippi, New Jersey, and Virginia.

At 5 p.m. ET on Election Day -- the critical moment for an election survey, when decisions about the evening's editorial coverage are made -- AP VoteCast correctly projected the winner in 97% of Senate and gubernatorial elections. The estimate of the national House vote at 5 p.m. ET had a 1.3 percentage point advantage for Republican candidates over Democratic candidates, and the final vote count had a 2.8 percentage point advantage for Republican candidates.

"When we developed AP VoteCast, we committed to making constant improvements in the survey's methodology to ensure we're fielding the most accurate survey possible," said AP Director of Public Opinion Research Emily Swanson. "The 2022 survey was our most accurate version yet, and we're looking forward to another great year in 2024."

AP VoteCast, a modern, innovative survey of the American electorate designed to tell the story of how Americans vote today, debuted in the 2018 midterm elections after years of testing and development.

You can read more about AP VoteCast's performance in the 2022 midterms in this report from NORC.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

## Old friends



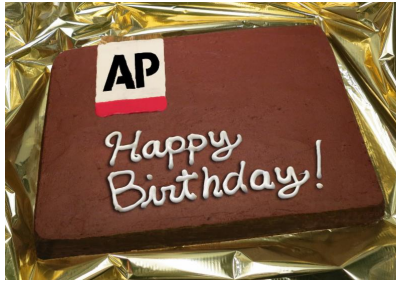
**[Barry Sweet](#)** - Mike Harris (left) and I got together to celebrate our 80th birthdays. We first met in junior high school in Madison Wisconsin. I became a AP photographer and Mike a sports writer. Between the two of us we spent about 80 years with the AP. It was a great reunion in Las Vegas. Mike did mostly motor sports and I was based in Seattle.

## That's not chicken feed...

**[Neal Ulevich](#)** - Fox must pay \$787 million to Dominion. That's not chicken feed. Or maybe...

By my reckoning \$787 million will buy approximately 524,666 tons of chicken feed (based on a 40-pound bag of feed for about \$30). Perhaps there is a quantity discount.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Marty Steinberg](#)

*On Saturday to...*

[Joei Bohr](#)

[Peter Mattiace](#)

[Robert Reid](#)

*On Sunday to...*

[Howard Gros](#)

## Stories of interest

***They Saw the Horrific Aftermath of a Mass Shooting. Should We?*** (New York Times)

By Jay Kirk

The crime-scene van was parked next to the black Honda Civic already identified as belonging to the shooter, the yellow tape marking its perimeter juddering in a helicopter gust. Earlier that morning, before the van was cleared to move closer to the school, Jeff Covello, the crime-scene-van supervisor, and his team were crowded around the dry-erase board. Art Walkley, the only one on the van who had so far been inside, sketched out what he said were the two main areas of impact. He arrived with

the other first-response officers and stormed the school as children were running out, his gun drawn, ready to kill on sight, in fact quite eager to pull the trigger once he glimpsed Classrooms 10 and 8.

Jeff had never seen Art look the way he did after he came out of the school. It was more of an apparition that climbed back onto the van. The two of them were SWAT for eight years together before Jeff transferred to Major Crimes and brought Art with him. They had taken fire together. They had seen each other become parents. Art had seen Jeff call his wife in the middle of the night to remind her where to find the life insurance. They could all read one another's minds. Karoline Keith, the senior detective on the van, had already been riding for more than five years when Jeff arrived as the new supervising sergeant. It was Karoline who suggested that Art try to tell them what he saw and sketch it on the board. She hoped it would make it easier once they got inside. Art said he didn't think there was anything he could say that was going to make it easier.

As detectives for the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad, they were all experts in human depravity, but Art was the death guy. The one who was lowered into septic tanks to retrieve badly decayed body parts. He had seen everything imaginable and a good deal of the unimaginable. And yet somehow he managed to stay one step ahead of the crowd of ghosts that were always following on their heels from one death scene investigation to the next. But by the look of him now, in the parking lot of Sandy Hook Elementary on Dec. 14, 2012, the ghosts had caught up all at once.

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

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## ***BuzzFeed News to be shuttered in corporate cost cutting move*** (AP)

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Pulitzer Prize winning digital media outlet BuzzFeed News is being shut down as part of a cost-cutting drive by its corporate parent that's shedding about 15% of its entire staff, adding to layoffs made earlier this year.

In a memo sent to staff, BuzzFeed Inc. co-founder and CEO Jonah Peretti said Thursday that in addition to the news division, layoffs would take place in its business, content, tech and administrative teams. BuzzFeed is also considering making job cuts in international markets.

BuzzFeed has about 1,200 total employees, according to a recent regulatory filing, meaning about 180 people will be losing their jobs in the latest cuts.

Peretti said in his memo that he "made the decision to overinvest" in the news division, but failed to recognize early enough that the financial support needed to sustain operations was not there.

Digital advertising has plummeted this year, cutting into the profitability of major tech companies from Google to Facebook. Waves of layoffs have rolled through the tech industry and more are expected.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion - Fox News behaved egregiously, but the settlement was good for the law*** (Washington Post)

**By George F. Will**  
Columnist

*"I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and wouldn't lose any voters." — Donald Trump*

Fox News could plop one of its prime time anchors at a desk in the middle of Sixth Avenue, in front of Fox's headquarters, and the anchor could report that John Wilkes Booth killed Marilyn Monroe on the grassy knoll in Dallas's Dealey Plaza. And Fox News would not lose its core viewers.

In recent months there has been an avalanche of evidence that Fox News thinks of its audience as akin to campus snowflakes easily triggered into trauma. And that Fox News should be their "safe space" where viewers will encounter nothing, such as news (e.g., there is no evidence for anything Trump said about 2020 voting irregularities), that might make them sad. Otherwise they might bolt to Newsmax or some other source of solace. Fox News's robust ratings indicate that its viewers' appetite for the preposterous exceeds their pride.

Tuesday's decision by Fox News and Dominion Voting Systems to settle Dominion's defamation suit was good for both parties. And for the law.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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## ***The Buffalo News was the crown jewel of Warren Buffett's news empire. Now it's just another Lee paper.*** (Poynter)

**By: Angela Fu**

As 2022 drew to a close, every other day seemed to bring news of more layoffs. Soaring inflation had media executives speculating about a possible recession, and companies raced to lay off employees amid the uncertainty. CNN, Gannett, BuzzFeed,

The Washington Post, Vice Media, Outside, Morning Brew, Protocol — the list kept growing.

The journalists at The Buffalo News, however, were feeling cautiously protected. They hadn't completely escaped cutbacks — they had recently downsized from the building they'd occupied since 1973, and they'd lost two positions on their photo desk. But the mass layoffs that plagued other media companies didn't seem imminent.

In fact, many felt a sense of optimism. They had heard that the News was doing fairly well and making money. The paper also had a new executive editor, Sheila Rayam, who arrived in August and was the first Black person to hold the job.

In late December, some journalists approached Buffalo Newspaper Guild president Jon Harris about the possibility of bonuses. The paper had just finished an exhausting year covering tragedy after tragedy. First, there was the mass shooting on May 14, in which a white supremacist killed 10 Black people at a supermarket. A few months later, in August, writer Salman Rushdie was stabbed in Chautauqua, just 80 miles away. November saw a record-setting snowstorm, and disaster struck again in December when a blizzard killed 47.

After a year like that, the journalists asked Harris, would it be possible that the paper's owner, Lee Enterprises, might reward employees with bonuses?

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

## Upcoming events

### ***Updated registration for May 19-21 AP Connecting reunion in the Dallas area***

Co-hosts are Mike Holmes of Omaha [imikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:imikeholmes@cox.net) and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

***May 1 deadline to register:*** Two group meals are planned, Friday night May 19 (\$25 per person) and Saturday night May 20 (\$40 per person). Attend either or both! Please pay your own way to all events (casual attire). Details on paying (check, cash or via Zelle) will be available after close of registration.

**Here's the program for the Saturday night, May 20, Tex-Mex dinner at the group hotel: Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine.**

- n Introductions
- n Quiz: How Much Do You Know about AP Staff, Stories & History? Win door prizes!
- n Remembrances of late/great AP journalists Mike Cochran & Denne Freeman
- n Recognition of AP staffers who've retired since the September 2021 Connecting reunion in Texas
- n Additional remarks & group photo

***Note: Some guests have only registered for the BBQ dinner on Friday night, May 19. Please consider also attending the Tex-Mex dinner on Saturday night, May 20, and be part of the remembrances & recognition program.***

**GROUP SCHEDULE:**

n Reunion check-in, with your co-hosts, on Friday afternoon, May 19, in the hotel lobby  
 n Friday night, May 19: BBQ dinner (\$25 per person) at Meat-U-Anywhere in Trophy Club, operated by former AP journalist David Sedeno & his family.  
 n Saturday night, May 20: Tex-Mex dinner (\$40 per person) at the group hotel: Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine. Remembrances & recognition program.  
 n Sunday afternoon, May 21: Texas Rangers vs. Colorado Rockies game at Globe Life Field in Arlington. No group tickets left.

**REUNION REGISTRATION (deadline May 1):**

n Email the name(s) of those attending & a contact phone number to Diana Heidgerd: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)  
 n How many for group dinner Friday night, May 19 (\$25 per person) at Meat-U-Anywhere in Trophy Club, 91 Trophy Club Drive, Trophy Club, TX 76262. Includes BBQ meal, soft drink or tea, plus dessert. Restaurant is BYOB, no alcohol sold on the premises. Convenience stores are nearby. Please coordinate with Mike Holmes if you wish to donate funds/beverages for a 5 p.m.-6 p.m. happy hour [imikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:imikeholmes@cox.net) Dinner 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Note: We have to confirm the number of paid meals, so if you commit to attending BBQ dinner please be prepared to pay for your spot. You can reserve a spot but cancel no later than May 1, at no cost to you.  
 n How many for group dinner Saturday night, May 20 (\$40 per person), from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the **Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine**. Includes Tex-Mex buffet, iced tea, plus dessert. Beer, wine & mixed drinks available for sale at hotel bar. Note: We have to confirm the number of paid meals, so if you commit to attending Tex-Mex dinner please be prepared to pay for your spot. You can reserve a spot but cancel no later than May 1, at no cost to you.

**GROUP HOTEL/RESERVE A ROOM by May 1:**

**Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine**  
 2020 State Highway 26  
 Grapevine, TX 76051

**972-539-8989 (call this hotel number to request the free airport shuttle)**

n Use this link to book (by May 1) at the AP Reunion rate: **[Book your group rate for AP Reunion](#)**

**Would you like an accessible/special needs room? Call the hotel directly & ask for the "AP Reunion" rate. 972-539-8989.**

n **Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine has free parking, free DFW airport shuttle (plus shuttle service within 5 miles of hotel) and free breakfast. This hotel also has a bar, restaurant and outdoor pool.**

Reminder: please register by May 1: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

People planning to attend: (will be updated)

.....

-- Amanda Barnett

- Barry & Patty Bedlan
- Betsy Blaney
- Sondra Cochran
- Schuyler Dixon
- Katie Fairbank & Andy Herrmann
- Judy Freeman
- Steve Graham
- Stephen & Andrea Hawkins
- Susana Hayward
- Ron & Sue Heflin
- Diana & Paul Heidgerd
- Mike Holmes
- Dave & Darlene Koenig
- Stefani Kopenec
- Mark Lambert
- Dale & Linda Leach
- Dawn Leonard
- Terry Leonard
- John & Eileen Lumpkin
- John McFarland
- Michelle Mittelstadt
- Betty (Mrs. Burl) Osborne
- Charles & Barbara Richards
- Linda & Ed Sargent
- David & Ellen Seden
- Ed & Barbara Staats
- Jamie Stengle
- Paul Stevens
- Terry Wallace
- Melissa Williams Finn
- Sylvia & Will Wingfield
- David Woo

## Today in History - April 21, 2023



Today is Friday, April 21, the 111th day of 2023. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:



On April 21, 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

**On this date:**

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, providing for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1926, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London; she was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and the Queen Mother.

In 1930, fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1976, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began in Washington, D.C.

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon; however, she was later exposed as a fraud. (Canadian Jacqueline Gareau was named the actual winner of the women's race.)

In 1998, astronomers announced in Washington that they had discovered possible signs of a new family of planets orbiting a star 220 light-years away, the clearest evidence to date of worlds forming beyond our solar system.

In 2015, an Egyptian criminal court sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012. (Morsi collapsed and died during trial on espionage charges in June 2019.)

In 2016, Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis; he was 57.

In 2020, researchers reported that a malaria drug that had been widely touted by President Donald Trump for treating the coronavirus showed no benefit in large study of its use in U.S. veterans hospitals.

Ten years ago: On the first Sunday since the deadly Boston Marathon bombing, churches paused to mourn the dead and console the survivors while in West, Texas, residents prayed for comfort four days after a fertilizer plant explosion killed 15 people. In Britain, the London Marathon sent out a powerful message of solidarity with Boston and its victims as runners crossed the line in front of Buckingham Palace with black ribbons on their chests (Tsegaye Kebede of Ethiopia won the men's race). Joe Scarborough, a 50-year-old self-employed electrical contractor, rolled the first 900 series in Professional Bowlers Association history — three straight perfect games.

Five years ago: North Korea announced that it would suspend nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches ahead of its summits with South Korea and the United States. Barbara Bush was remembered as the “first lady of the Greatest Generation” during a funeral in Houston attended by four former U.S. presidents and hundreds of others. Actor Verne Troyer, best known for his role as “Mini-Me” in the “Austin Powers” movies, died in Los Angeles at the age of 49; a coroner later ruled that the death was suicide by alcohol intoxication.

One year ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed victory in the battle for the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, even as he ordered his troops not to take the risk of storming the giant steel plant where the last Ukrainian defenders were holed up. CNN shut down its CNN+ streaming service less than a month after its launch, a spectacular flameout for a venture that had attracted stars like Chris Wallace and Alison Roman and was seen as a way to attract a new generation of news consumers. Actor Robert Morse, who won a Tony Award for playing a brash corporate climber in “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” and a second one a generation later as the brilliant, troubled Truman Capote in “Tru,” has died at age 90.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor-comedian-writer Elaine May is 91. Anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean is 84. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 76. Actor Patti LuPone is 74. Actor Tony Danza is 72. Actor James Morrison is 69. Actor Andie MacDowell is 65. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 64. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 64. Actor-director John Cameron Mitchell is 60. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 57. Actor Leslie Silva is 55. Actor Toby Stephens is 54. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 53. Actor Rob Riggle is 53. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 53. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 50. Olympic gold medal pairs figure skater Jamie Sale (sah-LAY’) is 46. Rock musician Dave Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 45. Actor James McAvoy is 44. Former NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 43. Actor Terrence J is 41. Actor Gugu Mbatha-Raw is 40. Actor Christoph Sanders is 35. Actor Frank Dillane is 32. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 26.

## Got a story or photos to share?

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

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a

while.

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

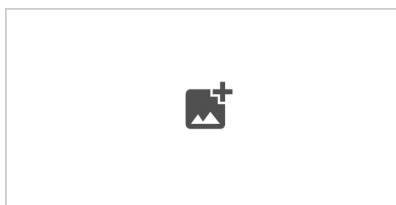
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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