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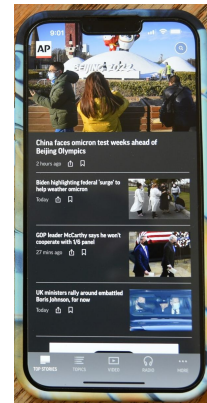
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Connecting

Nov. 10, 2023

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Old Glory flies in the blue Colorado sky on a windy early October morning in front of the Northern Colorado Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loveland, Colorado. At right flying in the wind is the flag honoring American Missing in Action and Prisoner of War service people of all conflicts. (Photo courtesy John Epperson.)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Nov. 10, 2023,

On the eve of Veterans Day 2023, Connecting thanks all of our veterans for their service to our country. We bring you more of their stories in today's issue.

We lead with an excellent piece by AP media writer **David Bauder** on controversy that erupted in a story by HonestReporting on whether Palestinian photojournalists who documented the Oct. 7 Hamas attack in Israel — and sent some of the first images of its aftermath to a watching world — had been tipped off in advance that it would happen.

And in the Final Word, our colleague **Dan Perry**, former AP Middle East editor who worked for AP from 1990 to 2018, is interviewed about the difficulties that news agencies face in covering the war.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

Media watchdog says it was just ‘raising questions’ with insinuations about photographers and Hamas



From HonestReporting tweet on X, formerly known as Twitter: "In the hours following our expose, new material is still coming to light concerning Gazan freelance journalist Hassan Eslaih whom both AP & CNN used on Oct. 7. Here he is pictured with Hamas leader and mastermind of the Oct. 7 massacre, Yahya Sinwar." Both CNN and AP said Thursday they would no longer work with Eslaih.

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

The executive director of an Israeli media watchdog organization says it was simply “raising questions” by publicly wondering whether Palestinian photojournalists who documented the Oct. 7 Hamas attack in Israel — and sent some of the first images of its aftermath to a watching world — had been tipped off in advance that it would happen.

The report by the group HonestReporting, however, had serious ramifications at a time of war.

It led two Israeli politicians to suggest the journalists be killed. Several of the world’s biggest news organizations — CNN, The New York Times, The Associated Press and

Reuters — issued statements Thursday denying they knew about the attack ahead of time.

HonestReporting, which describes itself as an organization devoting to fighting media disinformation about Israel and Zionism, did not specifically make those accusations against the companies. It did, however, suggest that freelance photographers whose work from that day was used by the outlets might have known.

“Is it conceivable to assume that ‘journalists’ just happened to appear early in the morning at the border without prior coordination with the terrorists?”

HonestReporting wrote on its website Wednesday. “Or were they part of the plan?”

Photos that moved that day showed Hamas escaping to Gaza with kidnapped Israeli citizens, Hamas attackers climbing on a disabled Israeli tank, images of Hamas invaders outside a kibbutz and buildings burning.

Gil Hoffman, executive director of HonestReporting and a former reporter for The Jerusalem Post, admitted Thursday the group had no evidence to back up that suggestion. He said he was satisfied with subsequent explanations from several of these journalists that they did not know.

They were legitimate questions to be asked,” Hoffman said. Despite the name “HonestReporting,” he said, “we don’t claim to be a news organization.”

The New York Times said that Yousef Masoud, whose photographs of an Israeli tank captured by Hamas were used by the newspaper and AP, did not know. His first photographs that day were filed 90 minutes after the attack began.

Reuters used pictures credited to Mohammed Fayq Abu Mostafa and Yasser Qudih, two freelancers it had no prior relationship with. Its first photo was published more than 45 minutes after Israel said gunmen had crossed the border, the news agency said.

It was clear that morning from the first launch of missiles from Gaza into Israel that something serious was happening, said Julie Pace, senior vice president and executive editor of the AP.

“It was a fast-moving development in a very small territory,” Pace said.

“We carried out a very typical news-gathering process when a big event, a big moment, is happening and we need to figure out what it is and inform the world about it,” she said. Part of that involves fielding calls from freelancers who have photos and video to offer.

Read more [here](#).

RELATED: [CNN Fires Palestinian Journalist After Claims He ‘Embedded With’ Hamas Terrorists During Oct. 7 Attack](#)

Connecting veterans share their stories

Mike Holmes - After “winning” the draft lottery in 1969, I joined the Navy. I thought it was rotten luck at the time. Looking back now, I think it set my course for life.

I’d grown up sailing and racing small boats, so I figured the Navy made sense. The 1,000-foot-long aircraft carrier I wound up serving in had only one similarity to my 16-foot sailboat - both floated.

Being part way to a degree in journalism, I was fortunately assigned as a Navy journalist. That included helping provide radio, TV and a daily newspaper for our ship, the flagship of the Tonkin Gulf commander and home to nearly 5,000 sailors.

Once a civilian again, my Navy experience helped convince the editor of the Omaha World-Herald to take a chance on me while I finished my last two years of school. It was the start of 43 years of typing for a living.

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Lindel Hutson - Active duty U.S. Army 1969-71. Worked in the public information office at Fort Dix, N.J., writing mainly sports for the post newspaper and doing whatever else Col. Arthur J. `Moose' Nealon, the base PIO, wanted, including giving tours of Fort Dix to incoming officers and others. Transferred to NATO/SHAPE headquarters, Belgium where I published a newspaper for American personnel in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

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Jerry Jackson - After graduating from college, down to AOCs school for Navy flight training, i.e. “An Officer and a Gentleman”, eventually ending up in Coronado, CA for seven years, deploying twice to SE Asia with one of the Navy’s floating runways. Got to see many exotic ports, and a lot of flying. Yes, I would happily do it again. Continued with the Naval Reserves, eventually retiring after 28 years of service.

Happy Veterans Day to all my fellow veterans out there.

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Bill Kaczor - I served in the Air Force from January 1969 through December 1972. This was during the Vietnam War, but other than basic and technical training in Texas and Illinois, I spent my entire hitch as a flight simulator specialist at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., with the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing. One of my favorite memories is about how I got into flight simulators. I joined the Air Force after graduating from college just a step ahead of the draft board in 1968. I thought the war was a bad idea and I wasn't interested in losing my life to prop up a corrupt regime in South Vietnam.

I saw the Air Force as giving me a better chance of avoiding death or injury than if I had been drafted into the Army. I tested well and was guaranteed training in one of my top three career field choices, which were public affairs, intelligence and weather. I got my second choice, intelligence, but upon arriving at basic training I learned I was

chosen for language training. Oh, oh, I thought, this would be one-way ticket to Vietnam, but I first had to pass a language aptitude test, which I made sure I failed. So, I was sent to see the chief master sergeant in charge of putting square pegs in round holes. He told me I could pick anything I wanted since my prior test scores were so good. I chose public affairs. He said that was the only exception to what he had just said because that field was being filled with women. I fell back on choice three, weather. He said he had something better than just weather _ weather equipment repair.

He was right. When I got to Chanute Air Force Base, Ill., for technical training I got bumped every time a new class started. It also was a favorite choice for retraining by former bomb loaders whose skills in that field were no longer needed when they returned from combat tours, and they got priority over new recruits. So, I served as messenger boy and floor polisher for several months until the Air Force finally realized I'd never get into weather equipment repair class and issued some new orders. In the meantime my wife had sought a job in the base public affairs office, but was turned away because of a civilian hiring freeze. She did, however, let the PA staffers know that her husband had college and professional journalism experience but was whiling away his time delivering messages and polishing floors. The base general signed off on my transfer to the PA office, but he was overruled by Air Force HQ, which said it would send Chanute a freshly minted second lieutenant to help out.

The Air Force then sent me to flight simulator training, which turned out to be a big boost to my journalistic career. I was on the 6 a.m. to 12 noon shift at Eglin's simulator shop, which was more akin to Sgt. Bilko's motor pool than it was to John Wayne's Green Berets. That left me the rest of the day and weekends to moonlight first at the Playground (now Northwest Florida) Daily News and then the Pensacola News Journal. It also earned me the nickname "Scoop" back at the simulator shop.

Ever since I was a kid growing up just four blocks from Chicago's Midway Airport, I had been an aviation buff. I sat on my front steps and watched airliners landing, built model planes and read books about combat fliers but dreams of being a military pilot were dashed by bad eyesight. As a simulator specialist, though, I became quite proficient at flying the F-4E Phantom II without ever leaving the ground. We would test fly the simulator every morning and many times I would fly in the front seat for backseaters who would come in for training alone without a pilot. Their main job was to operate the radar. We also did maintenance and repairs and operated the simulator from a console that looked like a small version of mission control, simulating enemy aircraft and dialing up malfunctions. A pilot transitioning from a single-engine fighter to the two-engine Phantom once shut down the wrong one and "crashed" when we gave him an engine fire. It was like playing video games before there were video games.

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Paul Stevens - The first two years of my four-year US Air Force career were served with an outfit that you'd never want to go to war. It'd likely be the last war. The Strategic Air Command flew B-58 bombers and operated Titan II missiles - both equipped with nuclear bombs and warheads - from Little Rock AFB, where I was assigned. My assignment was in public affairs. But with its mission, whether you were in an air crew, missile crew or like me, in support - SAC was a no-nonsense organization. Constant

practice alerts to simulate reaction to The Real Thing, unswerving commitment to detail. "Peace is Our Profession" was its motto. This then 21-year-old learned much in those years, as well as the last two with Tactical Air Command at its headquarters at Langley AFB, Va. - a command involved deeply in the Vietnam War. I have kept friendships alive from 50 years ago. I am proud to have served.

Next chapters: Eva Parziale



Sharing a laugh with my colleagues, Eve Peratopoulos (center) and Melanie Mann (right), while trying to solve a problem. (Photo by Emily Journey)

Eva Parziale - I spent the first eight months of my retirement from AP doing as little as possible (Netflix, reading, the gym and pickleball was about all I could manage). I occasionally searched for mission-oriented jobs, but also wanted a position that would give me time to do more than work. Nothing surfaced until one Thursday evening in July, when an intriguing job description in my local Facebook feed caught my attention.

It sounded perfect: 20 hours a week, with offices three blocks from my home, and an opportunity to do something new. That new thing was to work as a website manager for small businesses - something I had exactly zero experience doing.

However, I quickly learned that working at Emily Journey & Associates is similar to working for AP. You need curiosity (there's a lot of research involved), focus (some coding is required), and a desire to help others (our clients remind me of AP's members; I want to do whatever I can for them).

The owner, Emily Journey, started her career as a social worker. She taught herself how to build websites about a dozen years ago, and now her business employs a dozen people with clients across the country. A few of my colleagues come from technical backgrounds, but others (a former dental hygienist, a teacher, a pharmaceutical sales rep) are on second careers like me.

We're all united in our enthusiasm for a job where you learn something new every day, but with a strong emphasis on work-life balance. Our hours are flexible; I generally work from 9 a.m.-1p.m. Monday-Friday, and working from home is permitted. We operate out of a very cool co-working space. Most importantly, the ongoing training I receive is better than attending a coding bootcamp!

I feel fortunate to have landed at this woman-owned and managed business where I can use the skills I honed over my 38 years with AP to help small and non-profit businesses succeed at reaching their customers and getting their messages out. I highly recommend going out of your comfort zone and trying something new. I haven't regretted it for a minute!

New-member profile - Beth Pike

Beth Pike co-founded a multimedia company in 1992, Orr Street Productions, which produced a variety of news and entertainment programs, including the EMMY-award winning documentaries *Deadline in Disaster* and *Trustees for the Public – 200 Years of Missouri Newspapers* for Missouri Press Association. Pike has worked as a field producer for NBC News, ABC News, and CBS News covering breaking news and other stories in the Midwest. She has also served as an adjunct professor and faculty editor at her alma mater, the Missouri School of Journalism, leading students abroad in five countries to work on journalism assignments. In 2019, Pike joined the State Historical Society of Missouri where she leads the communications, marketing, and education programs. Pike was part of the Missouri 2021 core team that organized more than 300 events and projects statewide for the Missouri Bicentennial in 2021. An oral history project she helped to develop for the state's bicentennial with NPR-affiliate KBIA, received an Edward R. Murrow by Radio Television Digital News Association in 2023. She currently serves on the board for the Missouri Press Foundation.



A grandson's farewell

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our colleague Elijah Decious, a features writer for The Gazette in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, lost his grandmother Thursday and wrote this eulogy to Joan Williams, 92, who died in Hayes, Va., but lived most of her life in Western Pennsylvania. He said, "She was my grandmother but acted as a mother to me for several years."

Elijah Decious - She made sure a child barely old enough to read knew Tchaikovsky by heart. So I make sure my compositions flow like a concerto, even if the reader can't yet appreciate it.

She gave me my first camera and always took photos of others, but never wanted her portrait taken. So now, I capture the details in others, even when they can't see their own beauty.

She recorded my voice as her voicemail greeting on her first cell phone, and kept it her whole life. So I declined her last birthday call to me, just to save a recording of her singing for the rest of mine.

"I love you to the moon and back, honey boy," she said.

This morning, she decided to prove it.

AI thoughts

Mark Neikirk - AI is frightening in many ways, but let me tell you about one application where it has been good, I think.

Full disclosure: I'm a regular reader of Connecting but I'm a little outside the AP family. I'm the former managing editor of The Cincinnati Post and hence an old AP client. In my current job at Northern Kentucky University, I encourage use of AP in our classrooms as a teaching resource. And we host a community lecture series that includes an AP journalist each year. I'm also the nephew of the late Bill Neikirk, who was an AP journalist and my mentor. And I'm an acolyte of Ed Staats, who ran the Kentucky bureau when I was directing the Post's Kentucky newsroom. Lot of AP ties.

In my job at NKU, I connect classes to community projects. Think "internship for the whole class." Last spring, a class studying the intersection of AI and creativity ("Is AI art really art?") met with community partners about how the class could use AI to tell community stories. One group of students worked with a team that is converting an old, pre-desegregation school in Newport, Ky., into a museum telling the story of the school. It is an amazing story. Soon after the Civil War, and within sight of what had been the line between freedom and slavery, the Black residents of Newport opened a school for their children, using their own resources.

It remained open until immediately after Brown vs. Board of Education, when Newport schools voluntarily integrated rather than go to court to resist, as many school districts did.

The problem in telling the school's story is that there are few photographs that illustrate that story. There are oral histories and also people still with us who attended the school. The students in the NKU class familiarized themselves with those stories, then used AI to illustrate them. For example, the students heard about the kids at Southgate School playing ball in the schoolyard. There's an AI "painting" of that.

Their work became a book and now an public exhibit at the local library (a few blocks from the school). In a tribute to the authenticity of the images, one woman who attended the school looked at an image of teacher in the classroom at the library exhibit and said, "That's Mr. Harris. He was tough!" AI made it possible to tell this important story in a new, creative way.

You can see more about this project, including samples of the art and a link to the book at [this project site](#).

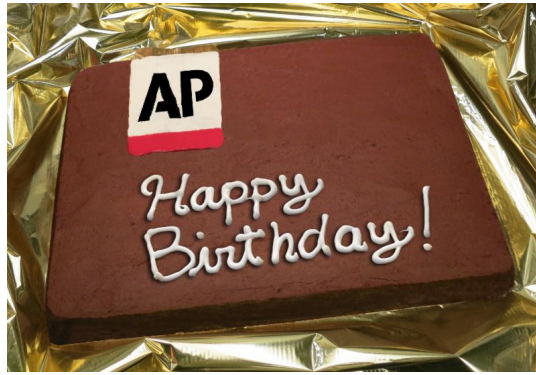
Mark Neikirk is the executive director of the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement at Northern Kentucky University.

Teaching journalism basics in English, Mandarin



Retired AP newsman [Patrick Casey](#) on Wednesday talked to about 300 journalism students at Fuyang Normal University in English and Mandarin about the basics of reporting, newswriting and photojournalism. The university is in Fuyang, China, a city of 11 million people 500 miles south of Beijing.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Eva Parziale](#)

On Saturday to...

[Dorothy Downton](#)

On Sunday to...

[Roy Bolch](#)

[Lynne Harris](#)

[Lee Mitgang](#)

Stories of interest

Hundreds of journalists sign letter protesting coverage of Israel (Washington Post)

By Laura Wagner and Will Sommer

More than 750 journalists from dozens of news organizations have signed an open letter published Thursday condemning Israel's killing of reporters in Gaza and criticizing Western media's coverage of the war.

The letter — which said newsrooms are “accountable for dehumanizing rhetoric that has served to justify ethnic cleansing of Palestinians” — is the latest in a string of impassioned collective statements staking out ground in the stateside reaction to the Israel-Gaza war.

But while other writers, artists, scholars and academics have criticized media coverage of the conflict, the latest letter — which includes signatories from Reuters, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe and The Washington Post — is notable for exposing divisions and frustrations within newsrooms.

For some of the journalists, signing the letter was a daring or even risky move. Reporters have been fired from some newsrooms for espousing public political stances that could open them to accusations of bias.

Read more [here](#).

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‘I’ve Had to Change My Way of Living’: Reporters Covering Israel-Hamas War Face Violent Threats, Harassment (MEDIAite)

Diana Falzone

The Israel-Hamas war has been a particularly perilous one for journalists. Not only has the conflict been the deadliest in decades for reporters on the ground, but there has also been a surge in death threats and harassment aimed at those covering the story across the globe.

On Monday, the National Press Club issued a statement denouncing violent threats against Muslim and Jewish reporters. “We strongly condemn the rise in hateful rhetoric, threats and calls for violence against journalists,” the statement read. It cited, among others, the case of Youmna ElSayed, an Al Jazeera correspondent who said she received a threatening phone call warning her and her family to leave their home.

“Journalism is not a crime,” the group said. “We urge relevant authorities to take these threats seriously, to investigate them fully, and to act when necessary to ensure the safety of all journalists.”

On the ground in the region, journalists have faced unimaginable violence. The Committee to Protect Journalists estimated that 37 journalists have been killed since the Hamas terror attack of Oct. 7 prompted Israel to launch a bombing campaign of the Gaza Strip. The toll on journalists’ families has been even greater. In one heart-wrenching scene that played out live on air, the Gaza bureau chief for Al Jazeera found out his wife and two children had been killed in an Israeli airstrike while reporting from an overrun hospital.

Read more [here](#).

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Philip Meyer, reporter who brought data crunching to newsrooms, dies at 93 (Washington Post)

By Michael S. Rosenwald

Philip Meyer, a journalist who introduced computers to newsrooms in the late 1960s as a powerful tool for mining reams of data, inspiring generations of reporters to fuse social science methods with classic reporting to produce revelatory journalism, died Nov. 4 at his home in Carrboro, N.C. He was 93.

The cause was complications from Parkinson's disease, said his daughter Kathy Lucente.

Many newspapers today have teams of reporters who specialize in using computer programs to investigate trends in police shootings, political donations, climate change and other complicated topics obscured by seemingly insurmountable amounts of data.

Mr. Meyer began pursuing this method, known now as computer-assisted reporting, in 1966 as a Washington correspondent for the Knight Newspapers chain. On a year-long Nieman Fellowship in journalism at Harvard University, he took computer science classes to better understand how politicians were using polling and voting data.

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

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Behind the Curtain: What AI architects fear most (in 2024) (Axios)

By Jim VandeHei

Brace yourself: You will soon need to wonder if what you see — not just what you read — is real across every social media platform.

Why it matters: Open AI and other creators of artificial intelligence technologies are close to releasing tools that make the easy — almost magical — creation of fake videos ubiquitous.

One leading AI architect told us that in private tests, they no longer can distinguish fake from real — which they never thought would be possible so soon.

This technology will be available to everyone, including bad international actors, as soon as early 2024.

Making matters worse, this will hit when the biggest social platforms have cut the number of staff policing fake content. Most have weakened their policies to curb misinformation.

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

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Kari Howard Fund for Narrative Journalism Announces Inaugural Grantees

News Release

Writers working in France and India are recipients of inaugural grants made by the Kari Howard Fund for Narrative Journalism, established by family and friends to honor a beloved editor who believed in the power of a well-told story, and administered by the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF).

During decades at The Los Angeles Times, Reuters and Nieman Storyboard, Howard inspired writers to observe acutely, listen to the melody of language and take chances with their writing. She died in January 2022.

In its initial year, the fund received 104 applications from across the globe. A selection committee of Howard's family and former colleagues chose proposals by Jessica McHugh, who is based in France, and Romita Saluja, who works in India. Their stories will focus on climate issues and domestic abuse, respectively, and will publish in early 2024.

McHugh's stories touching on culture, politics, history and identity, have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Nation, the Paris Review Daily, Time, The Guardian and Village Voice, among other publications. She said she was drawn to Howard's reputation as an editor who "took a chance on offbeat stories, who allowed for a winding path in the reporting process, and whose journalism exuded warmth and not clinical observation."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

The Gaza photographers uproar

Dan Perry - Israel was in an uproar this week after an "investigation" (based on photo bylines and such) showed Gazan freelancers working for AP and other foreign media were in Israel filming the atrocities of Oct. 7 that sparked a major Middle East war. AP received most of the attention because of Hassan Eslaiha, who had filmed himself rejoicing beside a burning Israeli tank and – in a sort of coup-de-grace – taken a selfie with a seemingly adoring Yehiya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in Gaza.

After much pleading from the Israeli public broadcaster Kan 11 – who was unable to get current AP staffers to go on the air – I agreed to go do so, in an effort to explain the difficulties of reporting from Gaza. Here's the transcript of the interview with Israeli anchor Guy Zohar:

GZ: You've worked for years in journalism around the world and you know well the Middle East. How do you feel about these images?

DP: I feel like everyone in this country that the past weeks have been a continuing nightmare. As for these images, of course it isn't pleasant. But, Guy, sometimes life is unpleasant. Journalism is complex undertaking. Israelis cannot work in Gaza. Westerners mostly are not safe there either. Journalism from there is based mostly on Palestinian journalists. If one of them supported these events there's not much that can be done. The media does its best to avoid hiring people who are clearly Hamas activists. When I was Middle East editor we certainly did that. Was it perfectly successful? Hard to say.

GZ: Do you call it journalism? Maybe the issue is the word. Because this is not journalism – to join in a massacre.

DP: AP put out a statement, as I imagine you know, denying any prior knowledge.

GZ: Yes, it must be said that all the organizations denied categorically knowing in advance and also said that in the name of the photographers. And still...

DP: Also they did not go in with the initial wave of terrorists but an hour or so after.

GZ: I understand the nuances, but the audience...

DP: I know right now there is not much patience for nuances but the nuances are important. Also none were staffers but freelancer.

GZ: What's the difference? If they're paid?

DP: There's a very big difference. You have a certain commitment in the case of staffers. People you might have bought a video from, the effort to check their background is less. These are the facts of life. At the end of the day there is a fundamental question here. Do we want, or do we not want journalistic coverage from parts of the world that are police states.

GZ: What's your answer?

DP: I say ultimately yes. Even though it will often bring criticism about ethical issues. And Gaza is not the only such place. There are others around the world.

GZ: But let's understand that that any image we get from Gaza and other such places is with the permission (of Hamas).

DP: It isn't true. There no formal approval by the Hamas. Moreover the Hamas, more than viewers might image, to avoid direct censorship and direct threats. It is implied. Therefore what one can claim, and this I cannot deny, is that it is possible that there may be a degree of self-censorship. And you must ask yourself whether you therefore want or don't want some coverage of North Korea. Or Cuba. Or certain countries of the region. I say yes. At the same time in order to not be naïve we should strive to

have more elements in the coverage than exclusively reporting from journalists on the ground in Gaza. Though I must tell you most of them are heroes.

GZ: Oh! To call them heroes!

DP: Listen. Gazan journalists that work for foreign media that are view by Hamas as collaborating with Israel, and trust me the Hamas views it that way, are heroic. But perhaps this Aslaiah was not exactly such a hero, and AP announced that he would not longer work with him. The selfie with Sinwar was perhaps too much.

GZ: Dan Perry, former chief editor of AP in Europe, Africa and the middle east, you have certainly show us the other side.

Today in History - Nov. 10, 2023



Today is Friday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2023. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 10, 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

On this date:

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis.

In 1928, Hirohito (hee-roh-hee-toh) was enthroned as Emperor of Japan.

In 1944, during World War II, the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood (AE-11) exploded while moored at the Manus Naval Base in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific, leaving 45 confirmed dead and 327 missing and presumed dead.

In 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne

without operator assistance.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991).

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication.

In 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a former finance minister of Liberia, claimed victory in the country's presidential election.

In 2009, John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of the 2002 sniper attacks that killed 10 in the Washington, D.C. region, was executed.

In 2017, facing allegations of sexual misconduct, comedian Louis C.K. said the harassment claims by five women that were detailed in a New York Times report were true, and he expressed remorse for using his influence "irresponsibly."

In 2021, Kyle Rittenhouse took the stand in his murder trial, testifying that he was under attack and acting in self-defense when he shot and killed two men and wounded a third during a turbulent night of street protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin. (He would be acquitted of all charges.)

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer Bobby Rush is 89. Actor Albert Hall is 86. Country singer Donna Fargo is 82. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 80. Lyricist Tim Rice is 79. Actor Jack Scalia is 73. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 68. Actor Matt Craven is 67. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 67. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 64. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 63. Actor Vanessa Angel is 60. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 60. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 60. Actor Michael Jai (jy) White is 59. Country singer Chris Cagle is 55. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 55. Actor Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) is 54. Actor-comedian Orny Adams is 53. Rapper U-God is 53. Rapper-producer Warren G is 53. Actor Walton Goggins is 52. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Matt Maher is 49. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 48. Rapper Eve is 45. Rock musician Chris Joannou (joh-AN'-yoo) (Silverchair) is 44. Actor Heather Matarazzo is 41. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 40. Actor Josh Peck is 37. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 33. Actor Genevieve Buechner is 32. Actor Zoey Deutch (DOYCH) is 29. Actor Kiernan Shipka is 24. Actor Mackenzie Foy is 23.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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 Central Region vice president based in Kansas City.

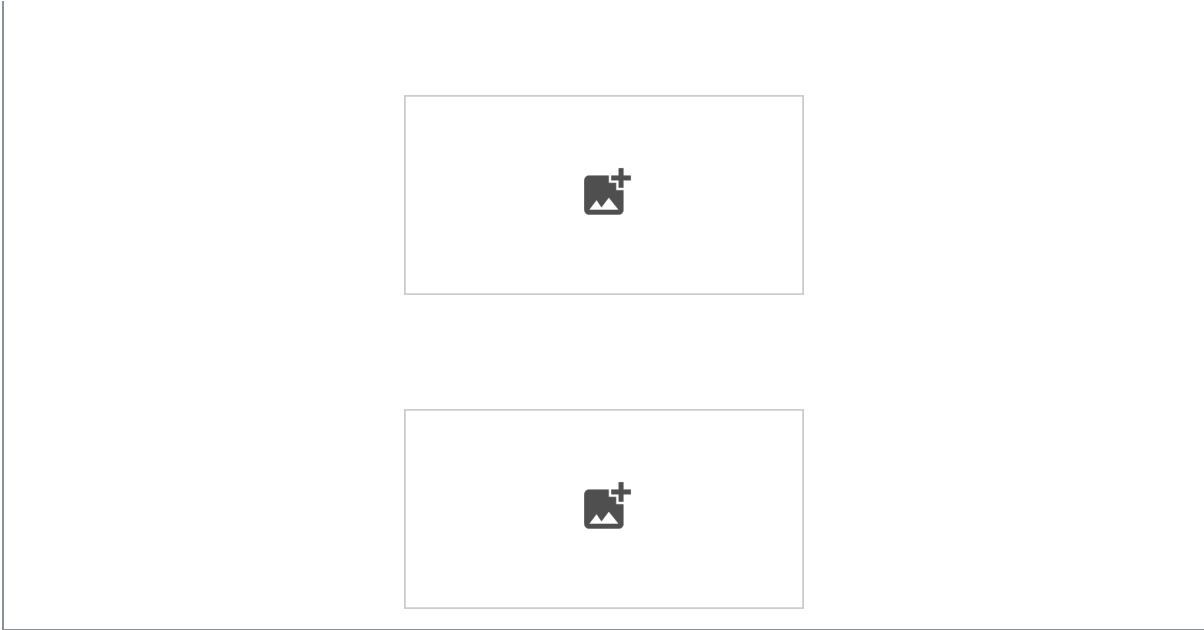


Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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