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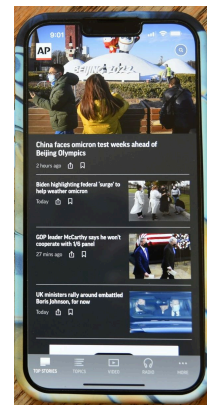
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Connecting

April 15, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this April 15, 2024,

There's a "Knock, knock, knock" at Heaven's door and then a voice:

"Hello, Jesus, this is Gene Herrick of the Jerusalem Inquirer and The Associated Press, and I just arrived here Friday night, and I wonder if you might have time for an interview. I've got my old Speed Graphic with me, so time for a photo, too?"

That's how I imagine our colleague **Gene Herrick**, an accomplished AP photographer who covered the Korean War and Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, made his entrance into Heaven last Friday night when he died at the age of 97, surrounded by loved ones in a nursing home in Virginia.

Gene was a man for all seasons, a man who had a way with words who fewer than two years before his death published his final book, "[The Man Who Calls Himself](#)

Jesus,” a fantasy story by a retired journalist who always wanted to cover Jesus and delve into his life.

We lead today’s issue with a story on his life by our colleague **Dorothy Abernathy**, former Richmond bureau chief who was instrumental in Gene’s induction into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. Many of you came to know and love Gene through his frequent posts for Connecting – and one of you, **Cliff Schiappa**, paid a visit to Gene at his home, and shares the memory.

In a **national AP story** on Gene’s death that moved Sunday, AP Executive Editor **Julie Pace** said that Herrick “captured history for the AP. We, and so many people around the world, benefited from his sharp eye and the power of his visual storytelling.”

The story also included excerpts from Gene’s AP oral history. Our colleague **Valerie Komor**, director of AP Corporate Archives, said, “I remember meeting Gene during one of the last 25-Year-Club reunions at AP headquarters on West 33rd Street. Those get-togethers were essential in so many ways, but Gene’s geniality and charm brought everyone to life. His inveterate optimism inspired our work in the Archives, as he was always deeply encouraging. We will miss him.”

Today’s issue features “The Last Hurrah” of the APME Regents – about 40 of whom gathered Saturday night at a steakhouse in New York for an evening of nostalgia and friendship among members who did so much, who really cared for The Associated Press and its mission.

Our colleagues **Lou Boccardi**, former AP president and CEO, and **Mark Mittelstadt**, former executive director of the APME association and its foundation for 10 years, both attended and bring you the story.

In his account, Boccardi said, “The people who gathered Saturday night-- editors, spouses, widows of departed leaders-- contributed much to AP and thus to the news industry. That so many formed friendships that have lasted a lifetime made it a very special night for the attendees and for the AP.”

Here’s to the new week – and the hope for tax refunds for you all on this Tax Day. Be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

Gene Herrick, AP photographer who covered Korean War and civil rights movement, dies at 97



Gene Herrick in his office at home in Rocky Mount, Va. Gene shared this photo with Connecting on 9/5/2019 intending it to be his "farewell picture," with the note, "I hope you don't have to use this picture for years to come, but, just in case, you have it in your files."

By [DOROTHY ABERNATHY](#)

Gene Herrick, a retired Associated Press photographer who covered the Korean War and is known for his iconic images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, died Friday at a nursing home in Rich Creek, Va. He was 97.

"Gene died with a smile on his face and surrounded by loved ones," said his longtime companion, Kitty Hylton, who was with him with his daughter Lola Reece and her husband Jason of Peterstown, W.Va., and Kitty's first cousin, Pat White of Columbus, Ohio.

"He was so proud to be a journalist, that was his life," Hylton said. "He loved the Associated Press, he loved the people of the AP, he was so grateful to have had all the adventures that he had."

Herrick leaves a legacy of memorable photos that appear in publications, on websites and in history books more than 70 years after he created them.





In 1956, Herrick photographed Rosa Parks being handcuffed for refusing to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. That same year, Herrick captured the now-famous image of a smiling Martin Luther King Jr. being kissed by his wife on the courthouse steps in Montgomery, Alabama. He covered other of King's events and took photographs at King's funeral. And he covered the trial of two white men in the killing of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Black youth who was abducted, tortured and lynched in Mississippi after being accused of flirting with a white woman. Two men were found not guilty in 1955 by an all-white jury and admitted to the murder a year later in an interview with *Look Magazine*.

Herrick's work went far beyond the Civil Rights Movement and Korea to include, among other things, coverage of Major League Baseball and other professional sports, Elvis Presley, Satchel Paige, and five U.S. presidents.

"God and the AP have given me opportunities I could never have had," Herrick said for an AP story in 2018. "I mean, I'm the luckiest kid in the world to have done what I've done."

Herrick joined the AP at age 16 in Columbus, Ohio, as an office assistant. He was eager to learn about all parts of the organization. Two years later he transferred to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived with an AP photographer and often assisted him. Herrick got his big break when his roommate was unable to cover a Cleveland Indians game. He was stunned to be asked to take his roommate's place.

"They've got to be stupid," Herrick said he thought at the time. "Me cover a ball game for the AP? Unheard of."

Herrick was equally stunned when, not long after, he was promoted to AP photographer despite his lack of experience.

Although he is perhaps best known for his images from the Civil Rights Movement, Herrick said the highlight of his career was covering the Korean War. He volunteered for the assignment. "Good journalists want to go where the action is, wherever it is," he said in the 2018 AP article.

Herrick quickly learned that he always had to be aware of his surroundings. He traveled the countryside with a backpack, sleeping bag, some film, his camera and a small typewriter. Every day he'd talk to military intelligence, find out where the action was and try to hitch a ride with the military to the battle scene. He took photos, wrote stories and dodged bullets.



After returning to the United States and continuing his work as a photographer, Herrick became a photo editor based in Chicago. He retired from the AP in 1970 to start a second career working with the developmentally disabled in Columbus, and later in Rocky Mount, Va. He served on many non-profit agency boards and as executive director of an agency for the blind.

At age 91, Herrick was inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame at Virginia Commonwealth University – an event Herrick viewed as one of the highlights of his life.

By this time, Herrick had become a frequent contributor to Connecting, a daily newsletter for journalists and journalism retirees, many of them from AP. Herrick wrote pieces for Connecting that reflected on the past, opined about the present and expressed his Christian faith.

"Gene's frequent contributions brought life and perspective to the many big stories he covered over the years," said Paul Stevens, an AP retiree who produces the daily newsletter. "He was a treasure to us all."

Books Herrick wrote in recent years include "Behind the Scenes of a Veteran Journalist," "Christ in Heaven: And So Is Joshua," and "Joshua Becomes a Guardian Angel." His latest book was written in 2021 - "The Man Who Calls Himself Jesus", told through the eyes of an investigative reporter of Jesus' time.

He also enjoyed spending time with his companion of 23 years, Hylton.

Herrick was born July 26, 1926, in Columbus. His father died when he was 7. In a column written for Connecting in 2020, Herrick said he experienced the greatest

revelation of his life at age 8, when he realized and accepted God “as my mentor, leader, guide and the greatest source of love in the world.”

He began working at age 9 delivering newspapers. It was at that time that he had his second revelation when picking up bundles of newspapers outside the Ohio State Penitentiary. He had the opportunity to meet prisoners at the big prison garage and said he learned a lot about psychology, crime and the suffering and pain of spending years behind bars. “... I will never forget the sound of the huge bars, and the clashing of the gates. I made a personal decision then that I never wanted to be in jail.”

Herrick later became a Boy Scout and said he was always vigilant about following the Scout motto to “Be Prepared.” Herrick lived his life with boundless energy and enthusiasm. As one reads about his many accomplishments starting with his boyhood, there’s a consistent thread. No matter where he went or what he did, Herrick made an enduring contribution.

Herrick, who was previously married, is survived by two sons, Chris and Mark Herrick of the Indianapolis area, daughter Lola Reece of Peterstown, W. Va., five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Services are pending.

A memorable visit with Gene



ABOVE: Gene Herrick seen in his home office in Rocky Mount, VA., on August 9, 2021. On the wall are his famous photos of the Rev. Martin Luther King being kissed by his wife Corretta, and Rosa Parks being fingerprinted. During that period, he would work

each day on two books, one about his photography career, the other a novel in which he was a reporter covering Jesus Christ.

RIGHT: Gene Herrick is seen with former AP staffer Cliff Schiappa during a visit to Herrick's home in Rocky Mount, Va.



Cliff Schiappa - Gene Herrick possessed the gifts of optimism, kindness, and loyalty, all generously shared with anyone he met. I had the honor of meeting and lunching with Gene and his life partner Kitty Hylton at their home in Rocky Mount, VA., in 2021, and upon walking out the front door, counted my blessings for having made the stop.

During our visit Gene was clear in his memories, told wonderful stories, and expressed his love and respect for Kitty, the AP, his family and his church. He knew he was living an incredibly full life and gratefully made the most of each day.

So it's with sadness I learned of his death on Friday. May his historic images of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, the Korean War, and many others continue to open eyes and aid in the future understanding of life in America.

A night of camaraderie, memories for APME Regents' last hurrah



Members of the APME Regents gathered to thank Bob Haiman for serving as chairman for life. Haiman is suffering health issues and could not attend the final dinner. (Photo credit: Andrew Oppmann.)

Lou Boccardi - The APME Regents came together for a last hurrah Saturday night at a steakhouse in New York.

Most of the staff, and maybe many member editors within APME, never heard that much about the Regents, but their ranks were filled with APME's leadership over the years--past officers, studies leaders, major studies committee chiefs, a sprinkling of AP's leadership and so on. The restaurant, Sparks, is famous for its beef but nostalgia was really the principal offering.

As most know, APME and ASNE merged a few years ago into the News Leaders Association but that group is dissolving. The thinning of newspaper ranks has seen further erosion.

So APME's Regents decided to have a last hurrah reunion.

APME was an important, supportive and helpful part of AP through my many years as managing editor, then as executive editor and even after I left the newsroom for 19 years as president and CEO.

It was a unique connection (though duplicated in many states) in which member editors gave their own time (and, yes, sometimes their staffs' time) to focus on what we did in words and pictures, to tell us in an organized way through committees and reports, how we were doing. On rare occasions, we disagreed, always we appreciated.

It was a unique part of our unique enterprise and it will always be a bright part of my memory.

The people who gathered Saturday night-- editors, spouses, widows of departed leaders-- contributed much to AP and thus to the news industry. That so many formed friendships that have lasted a lifetime made it a very special night for the attendees and for the AP.

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Lou Boccardi and Mark Mittelstadt

Mark Mittelstadt - The Associated Press Managing Editors was laid to rest Saturday night by more than two dozen of its former leaders.

The association founded in 1933 by a group of newspaper editors concerned with The Associated Press news reports actually went away four years ago during a merger with the American Society of News Editors. But a vestige of the group so long associated with AP remained: the APME Regents. Since 1972 the Regents, a group of journalism

leaders, former presidents, journalism studies chairs and others, held a fun dinner during the annual APME conference. When the group created out of the merger of APME and ASNE -- News Leaders Association -- decided against an annual convention, the annual Regents dinner came to a stop.

Many Regents wanted one last chance to get together, and so came the idea of a "last hurrah" Saturday night in New York City.

Thirty-nine members, spouses and guests gathered at well-known Manhattan steak house Sparks to share old memories and create new ones.

Chris Peck, retired editor of the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash., and APME president in 2001, served as master of ceremonies. Stu Wilk, former managing editor of The Dallas Morning News and APME president in 2004, provided entertainment. He sang a funny but also touching rendition of "Thanks For The Memories" to close the evening.

AP was recognized for its support of APME from its founding in 1933 to the end. Attending Saturday were retired AP CEO and President Lou Boccardi, retired Executive Editor and Senior Vice President Kathleen Carroll, former Managing Editor Mike Oreskes, retired APME liaison Bruce Nathan and retired news executive Mark Mittelstadt, who served as executive director of the APME association and its foundation for 10 years.

Absent was Regents "chairman for life" Bob Haiman, who had put together the lively and informative dinners for decades and was planning to attend the final dinner. Health issues including a foot amputation prevented him from coming to New York, to the dismay of his many friends and colleagues. Attendees gathered for a group video that will be sent to Haiman. "THANKS FOR BEING OUR FEARLESS LEADER!" they shouted in unison.

It was an evening of laughter but bittersweet as well, remembering not only colleagues who have been lost over the years — including Hal Buell and Sally Jacobsen from the AP — but also the passing of APME and the Regents.

Said Hank Klibanoff, a former APME board member and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author on civil rights: "Wish it could have lasted forever." Karen Magnuson, retired editor of the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester, N.Y., and APME president in 2007, commented "The dinner was a last hurrah but the APME spirit lives on!"

Said Peck: "A memorable evening. No one got shot!" an apparent reference to a gangland shooting outside Sparks in 1985. "The kinship developed over the years among APME Regents will be fondly remembered by us all."

Andrew Oppmann, a former board member who published the quarterly APME News magazine and helped organize and execute the annual conferences, videoed much of the evening and assembled a 34-minute clip [here](#).

Pat Archbold, wife of Regent Rich Archbold, created a digital scrapbook of APME and the Regents [here](#).

More memories of O.J. Simpson

Brian Bland - Over the years 17 years that I've been retired, new acquaintances have occasionally asked whether, as an AP Radio correspondent, I covered "the OJ trial." My response: "Yes, both of them."

My near-daily involvement began soon after the butchered bodies of the victims were found, several days before the infamous Bronco chase.

Both Simpson trials had viewing rooms designated for broadcast outlets. Our view of the courtrooms via closed-circuit TV precluded us from seeing any juror reaction to witness statements. That possible disadvantage was largely offset by our being able to see many other elements in relative detail – the defendant, the judge, witnesses, the lawyers, a pair of leather gloves.

At that time, AP Radio offered newscasts not only at the top and bottom of the hour, but also brief news updates several other times each hour. This meant a real juggling act on my part – making notes about the testimony while recording the courtroom audio and noting the time of key "sound bites," while earmarking on a second recorder the audio cuts that I would use in my frequent live reports.

The radio reporters were divided into two groups of about five, each of us sitting back-to-back with someone, and separated from one another on each side by padded panels.

Everyone, it seems, has a clear memory of O.J. trying on the gloves. I remember one radio reporter leaping with glee when the gloves were introduced into evidence and prosecutors had Simpson try them on.

"They've got him! They've got him!" the reporter shouted. Someone else immediately hooted him down. "Are you nuts? There's no way those gloves will fit... the guy's an actor." Not exactly a moment of professionalism, and I rejoiced that I had not been doing a live shot when it took place.

One personal high point was being selected to be in the small media pool in the first trial for the jury's visit to the crime scene...a story for another time.

As for OJ's guilt or innocence, several things come to mind. Among them, the apparent savagery of the murders, especially in light of OJ's record of spousal abuse. One brutal attack on Nicole Brown Simpson was in 1989, about five months after the birth of their second child. This was referenced recently by L.A. Times columnist Robin Abcarian. It was one of multiple times Nicole called police to report injuries inflicted by her husband.

Nor can we forget the Bruno Magli shoes. In the criminal trial, prosecutors couldn't link OJ to the bloody footprints made by such shoes and OJ always denied owning such footwear. In the civil trial, the plaintiffs showed at least one photo of Simpson wearing Bruno Magli shoes.

I can't quarrel with the fact that the prosecutors in the criminal trial did a less-than-stellar job, especially in combat with OJ Simpson's "dream team" defense. In the civil trial, where OJ was found "liable" for the murders, the burden of proof was lower. In addition, the second trial was in Santa Monica, where some observers felt the jury was more receptive to the prosecution than in the first trial, which was in downtown Los Angeles.

Still, even if every element of what we know of the murders is considered, including the possibility that some stranger committed the butchery, I have to demur from the idea that "we" will never really know if Simpson did it. What we do know is that Simpson always denied it, even claiming in his letter written at the time of the Bronco chase that his big problem was loving Nicole "so much." Pathetic, scary and esoteric, all at the same time.

Add to this his part in the Las Vegas armed robbery case, for which he went to prison.

The fact that OJ Simpson denied to the end of his life that he committed two horrific murders is the last, and least, reason to think he was innocent.

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Alan Flippen - One quick comment on OJ. The night of the "slow-speed chase" was my last as night supervisor on the General Desk before moving to days. It was particularly memorable because it was one of the few times I've covered a story having absolutely no idea what would happen next. Most stories have a limited range of possible outcomes -- either candidate A or candidate B will win the election; the defendant will be found either guilty or not guilty; the negotiators will either agree to end the war or the strike, or the negotiations will fail and the war/strike will continue. This could have gone any way, and the actual ending, when it arrived, seemed among the least likely: that he would just quietly go home.

AP survey reveals AI's impact on newsrooms

By Nicole Meir

This (past) week, AP released a new report revealing that generative AI has already reshaped newsroom workflows and structure.

It provides a look into how the news industry grappled with the initial promises and challenges of generative AI at the end of 2023.

Nearly 300 journalists and newsroom leaders were surveyed. Seventy percent of respondents indicated their organization had used generative AI in some capacity.

The findings also present a need for additional strategies to navigate generative AI in the newsroom responsibly and ethically.

Key takeaways include:

Applications in news production: Respondents are focusing on using generative AI to improve existing workflows and make them more efficient. Respondents were less interested in using the technology to explore and innovate.

Changing work structure and organization: Almost half of respondents indicated that tasks or workflows have already changed because of generative AI, yet there is a need for training initiatives and for more detailed evaluations to measure actual shifts in productivity.

Ethical concerns and responsibility: Respondents thought editors, managers and executives, rather than technologists, should be more responsible for ensuring effective and ethical uses of generative AI.

Strategies for responsible use: There is a call for clearer, more concrete guidelines, training and enforcement to navigate the ethical landscape effectively. The full report is available for download at <https://ai.ap.org/>

Best of the Week – First Winner

AP team springs into action after Ecuador raids Mexican embassy to arrest former VP



A rapid and comprehensive team effort brought immediate and full reporting to a surprise late-night storming of the Mexican embassy in the Ecuadorian capital.

When the Ecuadorian government, under the orders of President Daniel Noboa, took the unprecedented action of storming the Mexican Embassy in Quito late on Friday, April 5, AP's visual team based in the Andean city responded swiftly. They were on the ground during crucial moments of the significant event, which garnered global attention over the weekend and subsequent days.

Freelance video journalist Cesar Olmos and photojournalist Dolores Ochoa captured images and sound of the incensed embassy staff and rapidly filed images of military forces scaling the walls of the building as they entered and seized Jorge Glas, Ecuador's former vice president, who had previously faced multiple corruption charges and sought refuge in the Mexican embassy several months prior to the raid.

In addition to securing the initial visuals, the AP team was quick to deliver across other formats to publish the details of this unprecedented event. Within the first 12 hours, the team provided extensive analysis discussing the regional and international implications of the raid. The Mexican government announced it was cutting diplomatic ties with the Andean country. The raid violated sovereign territory and international conventions and the extraordinary event quickly drew international consternation. Our team provided insights on the former vice president, offered a TikTok timeline and delved into the motivations behind President Daniel Noboa's decision to take such drastic action. We also had live coverage of media briefings by officials in Quito and also at the return of the Mexican embassy's diplomatic staff to their home country.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the Week – Second Winner

Teamwork and planning are key to success in coverage of 30th anniversary of Rwanda's genocide



The breadth of the body of work created by AP's team in just five days on the ground in Rwanda covering the 30th anniversary of the genocide shows off the skills of storyteller Rodney Muhumuza, supported by our stringer Ignatius Ssuuna and the artistry of new hires Brian Inganga and Jackson Njehia, carrying on a legacy of authoritative AP reporting and explaining of the horrors of 1994 and their consequences.

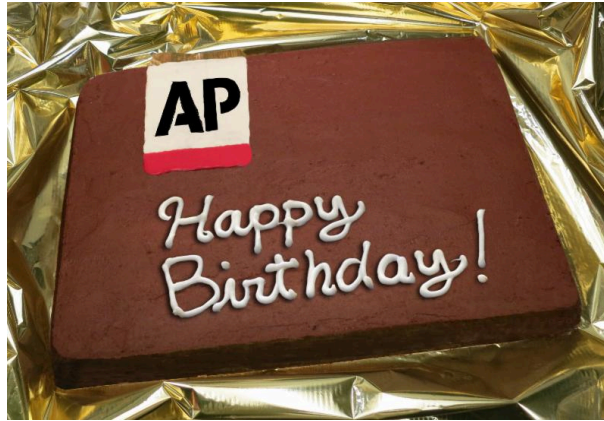
Arriving in Kigali after weeks of effort to secure visa and press accreditations, the team's first focus was reporting on the mass graves that continue to be found. Muhumuza took prereporting from our longtime Kigali stringer Ignatius Ssuuna on recent discoveries, followed up with the team by visiting the communities and secured an interview with the head of a leading survivors association.

While the new mass graves underscore the scale of the killings, AP's reporting uniquely showed how they also illustrate the cracks in the reconciliation process. Rwanda may be progressing economically, but people are careful with their words in this authoritarian state, so when the head of the survivors' group mentioned dog carcasses being dumped at mass grave sites, Rodney knew he had come across a rarely heard element of the ongoing story 30 years on.

Muhumuza had a clear sense of how his stories would follow each other, beginning with the preview, so that there was an artful, gradual injection of detail rather than packing too much into the story from the beginning, building up to Monday's coverage of the news conference with President Kagame, delivered for text within 20 minutes of its conclusion.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Carol Strongin](#)

[David Wilkison](#)

Stories of interest

News organizations urge Biden and Trump to commit to presidential debates during the 2024 campaign (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Twelve news organizations on Sunday urged presumptive presidential nominees Joe Biden and Donald Trump to agree to debates, saying they were a “rich tradition” that have been part of every general election campaign since 1976.

While Trump, who did not participate in debates for the Republican nomination, has indicated a willingness to take on his 2020 rival, the Democratic president has not committed to debating him again.

Although invitations have not been formally issued, the news organizations said it was not too early for each campaign to say publicly that it will participate in the three presidential and one vice presidential forums set by the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates.

“If there is one thing Americans can agree on during this polarized time, it is that the stakes of this election are exceptionally high,” the organizations said in a joint statement. “Amidst that backdrop, there is simply no substitute for the candidates debating with each other, and before the American people, their visions for the future of our nation.”

ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox, PBS, NBC, NPR and The Associated Press all signed on to the letter.

Read more [here](#).

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Robert MacNeil, creator and first anchor of PBS 'NewsHour' nightly newscast, dies at 93 (AP)

BY DAVE BRYAN

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert MacNeil, who created the even-handed, no-frills PBS newscast “The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour” in the 1970s and co-anchored the show with his late partner, Jim Lehrer, for two decades, died on Friday. He was 93.

MacNeil died of natural causes at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, according to his daughter, Alison MacNeil.

MacNeil first gained prominence for his coverage of the Senate Watergate hearings for the public broadcasting service and began his half-hour “Robert MacNeil Report” on PBS in 1975 with his friend Lehrer as Washington correspondent.

The broadcast became the “MacNeil-Lehrer Report” and then, in 1983, was expanded to an hour and renamed the “MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour.” The nation’s first one-hour evening news broadcast, and recipient of several Emmy and Peabody awards, it remains on the air today with Geoff Bennett and Amna Nawaz as anchors.

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

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Alfonso Chardy, journalist who helped expose Iran-contra affair, dies at 72 (Washington Post)

By Brian Murphy

Alfonso Chardy, a Miami Herald journalist who anchored Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting that helped expose the Iran-contra affair, a covert and illegal Reagan administration network to aid rebels in Nicaragua that later led to riveting hearings in Congress, died April 9 at a hospital in Miami. He was 72.

The cause was a heart attack, said his wife, Siobhan Morrissey.

During a more than four-decade career, Mr. Chardy covered the Middle East as the Herald’s Jerusalem-based bureau chief from 1989 to 1990 and was part of three other Pulitzer-winning teams at the paper, including coverage of a Cuban boy, Elián

González, who was returned to the island in 2000 after a raid by immigration agents in Miami and a months-long court battle that became a test of U.S. asylum rules.

Assigned to follow Latin American affairs in Washington in 1982, Mr. Chardy built a reputation as a dogged chronicler of U.S. policymaking in a region locked in Cold War proxy battles. In Nicaragua, where leftist Sandinista guerrillas seized power in 1979, Washington's money and support had flowed to anti-Sandinista rebels known as contras.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell, Kevin Noblet.

Included in the story: He joined the Associated Press in Mexico City in 1974 and later was an AP correspondent in Buenos Aires and Bogotá. He later freelanced in Central America, including for United Press International, and was in Nicaragua amid celebrations after Sandinista forces overthrew the president, Anastasio Somoza.

Today in History - April 15, 2024



Today is Monday, April 15, the 106th day of 2024. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2 1/2 hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

On this date:

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In 1892, General Electric Co., formed by the merger of the Edison Electric Light Co. and other firms, was incorporated in Schenectady, New York.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died on April 12, was buried at the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first Black major league player of the modern era, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day at Ebbets Field. (The Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves, 5-3.)

In 1955, Ray Kroc opened the first franchised McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois.

In 1974, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army held up a branch of the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco; a member of the group was SLA kidnap victim Patricia Hearst, who by this time was going by the name "Tania" (Hearst later said she'd been forced to participate).

In 1989, 96 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England. Students in Beijing launched a series of pro-democracy protests; the demonstrations culminated in a government crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

In 1998, Pol Pot, the notorious leader of the Khmer Rouge, died at age 72, evading prosecution for the deaths of 2 million Cambodians.

In 2009, whipped up by conservative commentators and bloggers, tens of thousands of protesters staged "tea parties" around the country three months into the presidency of Barack Obama to tap into the collective angst stirred up by a bad economy, government spending and bailouts.

In 2012, passengers and crew of the cruise ship MS Balmoral said prayers at the spot in the North Atlantic where the Titanic sank 100 years earlier.

In 2013, two bombs made from pressure cookers exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260.

In 2019, fire swept across the top of the Notre Dame Cathedral as the soaring Paris landmark underwent renovations; the blaze collapsed the cathedral's spire and spread to one of its landmark rectangular towers, but fire officials said the church's structure had been saved.

In 2020, the government reported that the nation's industrial output in March registered its biggest decline since the U.S. demobilized at the end of World War II as factories shut down amid the coronavirus epidemic.

In 2022, it was revealed that more than 900 civilian bodies had been discovered in the region surrounding the Ukrainian capital following the withdrawal of Russian forces. Police said many were "simply executed."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Claudia Cardinale is 86. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 84. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 81. Actor Michael Tucci is 78. Actor Lois Chiles is 77. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 77. Actor Amy Wright is 74. Actor Sam McMurray is 72. Actor-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 65. Bluegrass

musician Jeff Parker is 63. Singer Samantha Fox is 58. Olympic gold, silver and bronze medal swimmer Dara Torres is 57. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 56. Actor Flex Alexander is 54. Actor Danny Pino is 50. Actor Douglas Spain is 50. Country singer-songwriter Chris Stapleton is 46. Actor Luke Evans is 45. Rock musician Patrick Carney (The Black Keys) is 44. Rock musician Zach Carothers (Portugal. The Man) is 43. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 42. Actor Alice Braga is 41. Americana singer-songwriter Margo Price is 41. Rock musician De'Mar Hamilton (Plain White T's) is 40. Actor Samira Wiley is 37. Actor Leonie Elliott is 36. Actor Emma Watson is 34. Actor Maisie Williams is 27.

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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