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37 EAST 7TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10003

tel 212.995.9620
fax 212.995.9454

www.papress.com



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

KATHARINE SMALLEY MYERS
Director of Publicity
212.995.9620 ext. 216
katharine@papress.com

BREAKING NEWS HOW THE ASSOCIATED PRESS HAS COVERED WAR, PEACE, AND EVERYTHING ELSE

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By Reporters of the Associated Press
Foreword by David Halberstam

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"There are only two forces that can carry light to all corners of the globe, only two, the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here."

- Mark Twain

"Nobody who ever read a newspaper or listened to a broadcast should miss these gripping stories of how the intrepid and ingenious reporters of the Associated Press have gotten the scoop and recorded our history, from Indian wars to baseball's World Series."

- Walter Cronkite

Often called the "marine corps of journalism," because it's always the first in and the last out, the Associated Press (AP) is one of the most familiar global brands in the news business. For more than 160 years, the dedicated correspondents who comprise the AP have reported local, regional, national and world history in urgent installments, always on deadline, always on watch in an unending cycle of news.

Just how those journalists got their stories is the engrossing subject of the new book, **BREAKING NEWS**, the first to be published about the news agency since 1940. It features tales by reporters, photographers and editors explaining how they got the story first, fast, and right. The book's stories of journalistic rigor and courage are illustrated with dramatic news photographs that have become iconic images of history.

BREAKING NEWS is packed with anecdotes of interest to anyone curious about the world of journalism, from news junkies and armchair historians to cub reporters and students and scholars. The reader is swept along as major stories unfold about war and terrorism; elections, assassinations and impeachments; tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes; heavy-weight championships and down-to-the-wire horse races.

BREAKING NEWS is also studded with historical tidbits about the evolution of AP as a news cooperative and previously untold reporters' adventures, based on documents uncovered since AP's Corporate Archives were established in 2003. The book's tales of news competition begin with AP's birth in 1846 when the telegraph combined with boats, pony express, and carrier pigeons to speed the delivery of news from the front of the Mexican War to newspaper readers in New York and Boston. As the first private sector organization in the US to operate on a national scale, AP has grown from origins as a telegraph-based news syndicate for

over. . . .

American newspapers into a multimedia, global, digital network serving the needs of news distributors around the world for current, accurate and relevant content.

A few items of interest from the book:

- An accurate account of President Lincoln's Gettysburg address might have been lost if AP correspondent Joseph I Gilbert had not copied Lincoln's handwritten text before the president delivered the speech in 1863.
- In 1876 Mark Kellogg became the first AP correspondent to die in the line of duty. His final dispatch from Little Bighorn: "I go with Custer and will be at the death."
- For decades, the AP journalist abided by a tradition of anonymity. But in 1921, when Kirke L. Simpson wrote a seven-part series with no byline about the Unknown Soldier of World War I, he won AP's first Pulitzer Prize. In 1925, AP began to allow reporter bylines.
- On the road from Ledo, China to Burma in 1944, Correspondent Frank Martin saw skeletons of 30,000 refugees and encountered a tribe of Naga headhunters singing "Old MacDonald had a farm." He learned from his Naga guide that the tribe had cut off the head of the missionary who had taught them the song.
- Among AP's many firsts: telling the world of the death of Pope John Paul II, the fall of the Shah of Iran, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.
- As the last Americans fled Vietnam, AP bureau chief George Esper stayed behind and served Coca Cola and stale pound cake to two North Vietnamese soldiers before calmly writing the bulletin announcing the fall of Saigon.
- In the 2000 U.S. Presidential election, AP stood alone among major news organizations in not calling Florida, and thus the national race, for George W. Bush. The Supreme Court ultimately decided that election.

Each of the **BREAKING NEWS** contributing authors has been an ace reporter for the Associated Press: Nancy Benac, the late Howard Benedict, Hal Buell, Darrell Christian, Linda Deutsch, Mike Feinsilber, Larry Heinzerling, Terence Hunt, Tom Jory, Frances R. Mears, Walter R. Mears, Richard Pyle, Jerry Schwartz, and Cal Woodward.

About The Associated Press:

The Associated Press is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, more than half the world's population sees news from AP.

About Princeton Architectural Press Press:

For the past 25 years Princeton Architectural Press has been publishing fine books on architecture, design, photography, landscape, and visual culture. PAP's books are acclaimed for their unique editorial vision, unrivaled design sense, and high production values at affordable prices.

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KATHARINE MYERS, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR, PRINCETON ARCHITECTURAL PRESS, (212) 995-9620 ext. 216 OR katharine@papress.com