

## ***BREAKING NEWS* Contributors**

Kelly Smith Tunney, who retired as vice president in 2005 after forty years as a reporter, editor, bureau chief, and news executive, moved this book from idea to reality over the course of several years. Pulitzer prize-winning political reporter Walter R. Mears, also retired, guided the writers through the early stages of their work and edited the first draft of the book. Darrell Christian, who wrote the chapter on AP's coverage of sports, shaped individual chapters into one coherent whole. Ellen Hale, vice president of Corporate Communications, guided the project through its later stages. Valerie Komor, director of the AP Corporate Archives (APCA), provided access to the archival collections that were essential to telling the stories.

### ***About the Authors***

Nancy Benac has been a White House reporter and AP national political editor during her more than twenty-five years with the wire service. She has covered issues ranging from finance to food safety, and has become a specialist in writing profiles of major figures on the Washington and political scenes.

The late Howard Benedict reported on space missions for AP beginning in 1959 and became known as the dean of space reporters. He covered more than two thousand missile and rocket launches at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and reported on sixty-five manned space flights, starting with the *Mercury* astronaut flights that began in 1961. He died in April 2005.

Hal Buell spent forty years in picture journalism, twenty-five as chief of AP photo operations. During the 1990s, Buell oversaw development of a satellite and digital picture delivery system that revolutionized picture distribution and handling within AP and across the news industry.

Darrell Christian has served as sports editor, managing editor, and business editor in his more than thirty years with AP. He was managing editor of the news service from 1992 until 1998 and is now an editor-at-large.

Thomas Curley was named president and CEO of AP in 2003. He is the twelfth person to lead AP since its founding in 1846, and under his leadership the organization is evolving from a wire service to an interactive global news network. Curley is one of the world's most aggressive advocates for the people's right to know.

Linda Deutsch, who assisted with the chapter on trials, has covered some of the most famous cases of the past twenty-five years for AP, including those of Sirhan Sirhan, Charles Manson, Patty Hearst, and Michael Jackson. She has also covered two presidents—Richard M. Nixon and Ronald Reagan—at their western White Houses.

Mike Feinsilber spent forty-two years in the wire service business, twenty of them with United Press International and twenty-two with AP. He joined AP's Washington bureau in 1978, serving as reporter, news editor, assistant chief of bureau, and writing coach.

David Halberstam covered the Vietnam War for the *New York Times* and won a Pulitzer prize for his reporting. His best-selling book about the war, *The Best and the Brightest*, was published in 1972.

Larry Heinzerling joined AP in 1968 in Lagos, Nigeria. In 1974, he became chief of bureau in South Africa, where he covered the Soweto student uprising, the independence of Mozambique, and the civil war in Angola. He later served as chief of bureau in Germany, then was transferred to New York, where he has served as director of AP World Services and is now deputy international editor.

Terry Hunt has covered U.S. presidents for AP for more than two decades, reporting their travels from all fifty states and from more than eighty nations abroad. He began his White House coverage in 1981, became assistant chief of bureau twenty years later, and resumed his reporting career as White House correspondent in 2003.

Sally Jacobsen served as a foreign correspondent for a decade in Mexico City and Brussels, covering the European Union, NATO, and OPEC while in Belgium. She became international editor in 1999 and deputy managing editor in 2004.

Tom Jory has been coordinating AP's state and national vote counting since 1981. Based in New York, he helped design and build the first AP computerized election system and oversaw its nationwide implementation, during the 1980s, and its development over the next twenty years.

Frances R. Mears was a reporter, editor, bureau chief, and broadcast executive during her more than eighteen years with AP. She served as managing editor for news for Gannett News Service in Washington from 2000 until 2005.

Walter R. Mears was a national and political reporter, Washington bureau chief, executive editor, vice president, and columnist during a forty-five year career with the news organization. He won the Pulitzer prize for national reporting in 1977 for his coverage of the 1976 presidential campaign. His memoir, *Deadlines Past*, was published in 2003.

Richard Pyle spent nearly twenty years abroad, reporting from thirty countries and on seven wars. He went to Vietnam in 1968, serving there as a combat correspondent and Saigon bureau chief. During the 1980s, he was AP's Asia news editor in Tokyo and, later, roving correspondent in the Middle East.

Jerry Schwartz has worked of thirty years as a reporter, editor, and national writer. In 2005, he became editor of AP's *Newsfeatures*. Schwartz was one of the first to use the term "ground zero" to describe the site of the collapsed World Trade Center towers.

Cal Woodward is enterprise editor in the Washington bureau of AP, where he has worked since 1994. His history of the Washington bureau, *Washington (AP): Witness to Power and Politics*, was published in 1998.

**To request author interviews or to request use of photos from the book, contact Jack Stokes at 212.621.1720.**