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Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2014 12:37 PM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - May 24, 2014

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Connecting

May 24, 2014

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Colleagues,

A blessed Memorial Day Weekend to my Connecting friends.

Here's to the memories of the men and women who died in the service of our country, and to our loved ones no longer with us. At one time, I celebrated with my parents the lives of our ancestors. This Memorial Day is my first with both my parents deceased, and now I celebrate their lives and the many memories they left me and our family.

Life does move on, but we don't forget.



One of my most vivid memories was my dad, a World War II Army veteran and a longtime newspaper editor, and I taking an Honor Flight from his hometown of Fort Dodge, Iowa, to Washington on May 1, 2010.

Here is a picture from that day of dad saluting his fallen comrades at Arlington National Cemetery. Dad died July 17, 2013, at the age of 96.

Who ya gonna call? - Mark Mittelstadt!

I am away the next two weeks, and **Mark Mittelstadt** will take over Connecting editor duties. So please send any story submissions to him at this address:

markmitt71@yahoo.com - as well as any other business such as suggestions for new members. Most of our growth - we are now about 490 strong - has been through referrals from you all.

Our trusty Explorer is loaded with belongings of our older daughter that have been in storage in our basement for 10 years, and now that her family has their first house, in Connecticut, we will be among the millions on the road over Memorial Day weekend for a leisurely retiree drive to the Northeast to deliver them - and most importantly, see our precious grandsons. We also plan to couple the trip with a visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum and some sightseeing in Washington and Charlottesville before winding our way home. (Any chiefs of bureau who need me to make a visit at one of their members along the way - just say. Not that I would want to write off the trip or anything like that.)

The drive won't be so bad. As this photo from the playground of our local elementary school shows, with my granddaughter standing on New Canaan and her friend on Kansas City, it's only a 20-foot trip or so.

Be back in touch in June. Meantime, Connecting is in very good hands.

Paul

Connecting mailbox

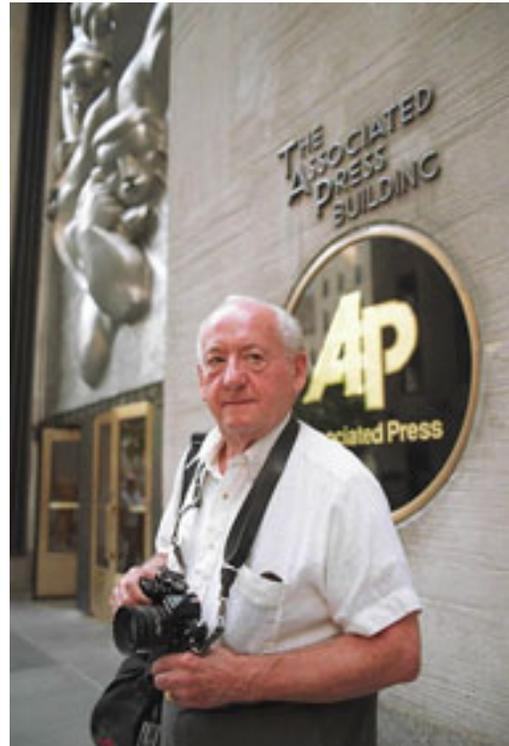


[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - I was interested to read Chuck Zoeller's note about AP photos being used extensively in the 9/11 Memorial Museum and the mention of Marty Lederhandler's widely-used photo showing people outside St. Patrick's Cathedral looking on in horror after the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center towers.

Of all the outstanding work done by AP journalists around the world that morning, Marty, at 83, in picture at right, demonstrated a savviness and ingenuity honed by time as a military photographer and more than six decades with The Associated Press. While most AP writers and photographers rushed downtown to the burning towers, Marty stayed close to AP headquarters in midtown, walking a block to St. Patrick's Cathedral. There he snapped the image of people holding their mouths and looking down Fifth Avenue in fear at the burning skyscraper.

Turning back towards AP, he went inside what was then the GE Building across the street and up to the 65th floor Rainbow Room where he shot a photo of the twin towers burning in the background and the Empire State Building in the foreground. It was an eerily prophetic image of a change coming moments later in the Manhattan skyline. When the towers on the southern end of Manhattan collapsed, the 103-story midtown skyscraper was again the tallest structure in New York City. It would remain so for 11 years until it was again eclipsed, this time by the new One World Trade Center.

As it became frighteningly evident that the deliberate flight of two jetliners into the twin World Trade Center towers was the work of terrorists and with word of other unaccounted aircraft in the sky, officials feared Rockefeller Center might also be a target and encouraged tenants to evacuate. Marty took the photo just before Rockefeller Center officials closed the 30 Rock elevators and ordered him to leave.





Marty's St. Patrick's and Rainbow Room images featured prominently on newspaper pages around the world for the next 24 hours; the skyline photo was used later on the cover of New York Magazine.

Marty retired in December 2001, ending a 66-year career in which he photographed virtually every world leader and news event in the city. But it was his time as a photographer in World War II that reminded him of Sept. 11. "The only other story that compares to this is D-Day," he was quoted in the Fall/Winter 2001 AP World.

(Martin "Marty" Lederhandler died on March 25, 2010, and was a photographer for the AP for 66 years, making him the longest-serving AP staff member. During his career, he photographed every President of the United States "from Herbert Hoover to Bill Clinton". Lederhandler began working with the Associated Press in 1936, and participated in D-Day as an official US Army photographer. He retired in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, saying they helped spur the decision. His photograph of the burning towers of the World Trade Center juxtaposed against the Empire State Building has been described as "iconic".)

Welcome to Connecting



[Penny Hodge](#)

[W. Gerry Gilmer](#)

Stories of interest

[This Week in Review: Politics, gender, and digital innovation at The New York Times](#)

This week's essential reads: If you're short on time, this week's key pieces are Recode's Kara Swisher and Politico Magazine's Susan Glasser on editing while female, Mark Potts on The New York Times' innovation report, and Jacob Harris on being skeptical of data while doing journalism with it.

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['Happy in Tehran' Video Spurs Harsher Censorship](#)

The judicial authorities in Iran appeared to harden their clampdown on expression Friday, moving to block Instagram, imprisoning the director who made the now-famous Iranian version of the Pharrell Williams "Happy" video and warning women to comply with a police campaign on the proper wearing of mandatory headscarves.

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[The Washington Post Finalizes Selection of New Headquarters](#)

Lease for One Franklin Square in Washington, D.C. - The Washington Post today announced it has chosen developer Hines' One Franklin Square at 1301 K Street NW for its new headquarters. The Post has signed a long-term lease and will occupy the majority of the West Tower of the property. The Post expects to move to One Franklin Square in

2016.

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[Newsrooms need HR specialists, not just technologists, in top leadership](#)

A significant portion of your newsroom is hiding from you. They're not openly resisting the push toward "digital first," or even disagreeing with it. They simply don't know how to proactively step out of their comfort zone. And they won't, unless and until newsroom leaders engage in a one-on-one process that includes an explanation of both the big picture and specific tactics, discussion of performance and counseling on how this affects their personal career path.

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[The women who take cameras into battle: 'Gaddafi's men blindfolded us' - audio slideshow](#) (Latrice Davis/Facebook)

They've been tied up in Benghazi, shot at by Somalian smugglers, and tracked down the sex slaves of the Taliban. But three of the world's top female documentary photographers - Alixandra Fazzina, Kitra Cahana and Lynsey Addario - have seen first-hand that women endure less violence on the frontline ... and can get closer to the action

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[Edward Snowden Talks to Brian Williams of NBC](#)

The NBC anchor Brian Williams has landed an extensive interview with Edward J. Snowden, the source of numerous revelations about the spying activities of the National Security Agency. The interview will be broadcast in an NBC News special on Wednesday at 10 p.m. NBC is calling the interview the first that Mr. Snowden has participated in on American television; he previously has been interviewed on German television.

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[Anatomy of a Veterans Affairs scandal](#)

CNN's nonstop coverage of the vanished Malaysian plane was widely mocked, but not by the network's investigative team. Those reporters hadn't quite nailed down an explosive story alleging serious misconduct at the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Hospital, so they used the obsession over the plane to continue working, and then waited for a lull in the 24/7 Flight 370 coverage so they could pounce.

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[When "Talk to My Lawyer" Is a Declaration of War](#)

In the stories about sexism and the firing of Jill Abramson, it's often mentioned that Abramson hired a lawyer to press her case with the New York Times that she was being paid less than Bill Keller, her predecessor as executive editor. The Times has made a persuasive case that Abramson was not paid less than Keller and the issue of her bringing a lawyer into the conversation also seems to be fading.

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He Makes Sports Make Sense for Kids-and Moms, Too

"I've been a big sports fan since I was a kid," says Fred Bowen. "My best childhood memories are from playing Little League in the park and basketball on the playground. I can still remember home runs, bad calls, and great comebacks," he says. So when he grew up, he became a lawyer. Bowen, 60, stuck with the law for 30 years. Along the way, he started writing books about sports. His 20th is about to be published. And the Washington Post asked him to write a sports column for KidsPost, its section aimed at youngsters. A posting about KidsPost ran on May 19 but I only had room for a little bit of Bowen.

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Beat of the Week

In 2007, when Brazil was chosen to host the 2014 World Cup, and in 2009, when it was awarded the 2016 Summer Olympics, the country's leaders promised great venues and fine games: "We are going to show the world we can be a great country," said President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Five years later, as the football championships approach, the AP's staff in Brazil has taken a central role in putting those promises to the test. Three times in one week, the AP broke stories revealing serious concerns about Brazil's preparation for its time on the world stage.

"We've identified what we see as some key themes - Cup infrastructure, the government's many broken promises to use the events to ease life for all citizens by investing wisely, and holding authorities accountable for the lofty goals they set in convincing officials that Brazil should win the right to host the Cup and games," said Brad Brooks, the Sao Paulo bureau chief.

"In continuously pounding away at our over-arching themes, our journalists set the news agenda and our sources recognize that. They trust us to tell the story straight and true."

Brooks worked for months on one of those AP scoops, investigating political campaign contributions from huge construction companies which eventually won the lion's share of \$11.5 billion in World Cup infrastructure projects.

It wasn't easy. Brooks learned that a single company can make contributions through several different taxpayer ID numbers, and unless one knows all of a company's IDs, it's impossible to say how much it donated. Brooks coaxed government sources to provide the IDs he needed.

His findings: The companies' contributions had risen dramatically -- in one case, by 500 fold. Those same companies are accused by government auditors of egregious price gouging on Cup projects. One audit found that a third of the cost of Brasilia's \$900 million stadium can be attributed to fraud. <http://goo.gl/ODYZva>

The New York Times, Reuters and al-Jazeera tweeted the story, and Brazil's biggest news portal, UOL, translated it -- a rarity. An influential Brazilian senator known for leading investigations into corruption had portions of the story translated and posted on his website.

The second AP beat focused on one of the projects built for the Cup -- the stadium in Sao Paulo. The contractor building the stadium told sports writer Tales Azzoni that its roof would not be completed in time for the tournament.

Then, the rains came. Three days after Azzoni's report, fans were drenched by a downpour during the stadium's test event. Then, it hailed at halftime. <http://goo.gl/soHufa>

When Brazil bid for the Olympics, officials promised Rio de Janeiro's waterways would be cleaned up, "setting a new standard of water quality preservation for the next generations." Last year, Rio Correspondent Jenny Barchfield used a decade of government data to show the extent of pollution in Guanabara bay; authorities responded that pollution would be reduced by 80 percent before Olympic sailing events took place there.

Barchfield kept in touch with a key source for that story, exchanging phone calls and email. Her spade work paid off when the source gave her a letter from Rio's state environment secretary to the minister of sports, acknowledging it would be impossible to clean up the bay before the Games. <http://goo.gl/GOknOe>

The New York Times cited Barchfield's story in its own takeout on Rio's water pollution, and Rio's O Globo newspaper, one of Brazil's biggest, picked up the AP scoop from its own backyard. Rio sports writer Steve Wade followed up with another beat, reporting that sailing's governing body was likely to conduct its own testing of Rio's waters before the games to ensure athlete's health.

It was a good week for AP Brazil. "It's all hands on deck every day," Brooks said. "We incessantly communicate on the ground across formats and up our chains of command, and rely on one another to stay atop the flurry of events and see our openings to deliver smart, distinguished work."

For smart, distinguished work on one of the biggest continuing stories in Brazil -- and in

the sports world -- Tales Azzoni, Jenny Barchfield and Bradley Brooks share this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_Michael Weissenstein, correspondent, Mexico City, and Tami Abdollah, newswoman, Los Angeles, for working with reporters around the world to document the horrifying tale of one of the world's most prolific pedophiles. Their assemblage of court records and interviews with traumatized former students revealed a series of missed opportunities by government agencies to stop the crimes.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/william-vahey-pedophile-teacher-abused-dozens-as-clues-missed-fbi-says-1.8004270>

_Michael Rubinkam, correspondent, Allentown, for his exclusive and engaging account of how American parents are finding the new Common Core math utterly exasperating. His Facebook feeds tipped him off to the story, which was No. 1 on AP Mobile more than 24 hours after it hit the wire.

<http://bit.ly/1kiTvTP>

_Kelli Kennedy, newswoman, Miami, for proving that some consumers who signed up for less-expensive health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act were losing access to their doctors. Kennedy was tipped off while doing daily checks with insurance agents she has cultivated as sources.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/consumers-losing-doctors-with-new-insurance-plans/2014/05/13/c1171bfe-daf2-11e3-a837-8835df6c12c4_story.html

_Dan Gelston and Jenna Fryer of Sports, for gaining exclusive, all-formats access to NASCAR driver Kurt Busch the week before he was to compete in two different races in the same day _ a feat only four other drivers have attempted.

<http://racing.ap.org/dailyherald/article/busch-looks-reinvent-himself-double>
<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/busch-gives-his-double-schedule-test-run>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We2_dd53HKk

_Michelle R. Smith, correspondent, Providence, for analyzing six years of campaign records to document that Rhode Island's former House speaker Gordon Fox has expense checks that are unaccounted for. Smith's scoop came as the FBI and IRS investigate Fox's campaign finance history without divulging any specifics.

<http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140516-ex-ri-speaker-fox-s-campaign-finance-records-show-missing-checks.ece>

_Mesfin Fekadu, music writer, NYC, for getting the only statement from Jay-Z and Beyonce on the leaked security footage that showed Beyonce's sister Solange attacking Jay-Z. <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/15/showbiz/celebrity-news-gossip/solange-jay-z-beyonce-statement/>

_Lisa Rathke, newsperson, Montpelier, Vt., for scoring an exclusive, all-formats interview with the widow of a veteran who suffered from PTSD and was shot to death by the couple's son when the veteran became violent and threatened the family. It was an

awful story that required a deft touch to get access. <https://news.yahoo.com/husbands-tragic-death-widow-takes-ptsd-061756728.html>

_Pauline Jelinek and Lolita C. Baldor, newswomen, Washington, for breaking the news that military prison officials had been ordered to try to transfer Pvt. Chelsea Manning to a civilian prison where she could be treated for her gender identity condition. The news caught Army officials _ and Manning's own lawyer _ by surprise. Jelinek and Baldor had worked their sources on this story for months.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/14/chelsea-manning-gender-treatment-transfer_n_5320772.html

_Ali Sadr, cameraman, and Karim Kadim, photographer, Baghdad, for their exclusive, widely used, up-close video and photos of the immediate aftermath of a powerful car bomb blast. The gripping images showed police trying to restore order and emergency workers arriving -- after AP -- as fires raged and thick black smoke billowed into the air.

<http://yhoo.it/1hNXy5X>

Paul Stevens
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