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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
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# Connecting

August 25, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning!

Here are some stories of interest as we begin another August week.

Paul

## Pruitt: 'The most dangerous (time) we've ever seen'

The execution of journalist James Foley last week by Islamic State militants in Syria "is an issue that strikes close to home for AP," AP's president and CEO **Gary Pruitt** said in an appearance Sunday morning on CNN's "Reliable Sources."

"It has been a difficult year, and a more dangerous time for journalists," he told host **Brian Stelter**. "It's the most dangerous we've ever seen it, in part because journalists are being targeted now. It wasn't too many years ago that journalists would have emblazoned on their vests - Press - or they'd be riding in vehicles that would have Press written on the vehicle, to provide a degree of more safety because combatants typically wouldn't target the media."



Pruitt said the AP has lost 33 journalists over the course of its history, beginning with the Battle of the Little Big Horn (in 1876), and with the latest death about a week ago. AP video journalist Simone Camilli was killed Aug. 13 along with a freelance Palestinian translator working with him when ordnance left from Israeli-Hamas fighting exploded as they were reporting on the aftermath of the war in the Gaza Strip.

After Foley's death, Pruitt issued a statement last week expressing outrage over the killing of Foley and saying "we believe the assassination of a journalist in wartime should be considered an international crime of war. The murder of a journalist with impunity is a threat to a free press and democracy around the world."

Asked by Stelter about the statement and whether now is the time to address how to keep journalists safe and to declare these crimes of war, Pruitt said, "That's exactly right. If not now, when? Here we have journalists targeted, killed, held hostage, tortured. Arguably this is a war crime now. These are civilians, held hostage and killed. But I think the world's countries and international community need to recognize the role that journalists play in informing the world, in providing the news from the front lines that is indispensable.

"For them to be treated as combatants, to be held hostage and killed and targeted, is abhorrent and a war crime."

Pruitt was asked if AP would ever pay ransom for hostages. He said no ransom was paid for the release of AP journalist Terry Anderson, a captive from 1985 to 1991 when he was abducted in Beirut.

Pruitt said AP has no "stated policy" on hostage ransom and when asked if AP would pay a ransom, he replied, "I'm not going to speak to that one way or the other."

Appearing with Pruitt was GlobalPost CEO **Phil Balboni**. Foley (pictured below, left) was working for the web site GlobalPost when he was abducted in Syria on

Thanksgiving Day 2012.



Balboni said it is not safe for other journalists to attempt to travel to Syria now. "For many months" after Foley's abduction, "we didn't know where he was, whether he was alive or who had him. But we did not send another journalist inside Syria from that point on. It's suicide for a journalist to go into Syria now."

Click [here](#) to see the CNN interview.

## ***RELATED:***

### **Bishop: Slain US journalist Foley opened our eyes**

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) - Slain U.S. journalist James Foley was living his faith by bringing images to the world of people suffering from war and oppressive regimes, a Roman Catholic bishop said Sunday at a Mass in his honor.

Bishop Peter Libasci said even after Foley was captured for the first time in Libya in 2011, he "went back again that we might open our eyes."

The Mass was attended by Foley's parents, John and Diane Foley, and hundreds of others in their hometown of Rochester, New Hampshire. Afterward, Libasci read aloud a letter from the Vatican extending the condolences of Pope Francis.

"Thank you for loving Jim," Diane Foley told the crowd after the Mass.

Click [here](#) to read more.



- *Candles are lighted on the town common during a vigil for James Foley in his hometown of Rochester, N.H., Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014. Foley, a freelance journalist, was killed earlier in the week by Islamic State militants. He was abducted in November 2012 while covering fighting in Syria. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)*

## Memorial gifts for James Foley

Connecting colleague Bill Beecham shares [this link](#) to the Committee to Protect Journalists that states:

CPJ is deeply honored by the gifts we have received in memory of James Foley - a great journalist and friend to many at the organization. One hundred percent of these gifts will go to CPJ's Emergency Fund to provide direct aid to journalists at risk. If you would like to contribute, please consider making a secure online donation, or contact us at [development@cpj.org](mailto:development@cpj.org).

## American journalist held in Syria has been freed

WASHINGTON (AP) - An American journalist kidnapped and held hostage for nearly two years by an al-Qaida-linked group in Syria was released Sunday, less than a week after the horrific execution of American journalist James Foley by Islamic militants.

The freed American is 45-year-old Peter Theo Curtis of Massachusetts, who wrote under the byline Theo Padnos.

White House national security adviser



Susan Rice said Curtis is now safe outside of Syria. Secretary of State John Kerry said Curtis was held by Jabhat al-Nusra, also known as the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida-linked militant group fighting the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Curtis was not believed to be among the hostages held by the Islamic State group that executed Foley. Islamic State was formally disavowed by al-Qaida earlier this year after being deemed too brutal.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Memories of Toby Massey continue

Connecting colleague [Gene Blythe](#) shares that anyone wanting to send cards or notes to the Toby Massey family can do so at this address. They will be shared with all of the family members:

Christine McNeill  
1809 Woodvalley Ct.  
Columbia, SC 29212

Toby, a photographer and photo editor with AP for 38 years, died last Thursday at his daughter's home at the age of 80. Funeral arrangements were pending, but burial was planned in Manassas, Virginia.

### More Toby memories

[Madge Stager](#) - Toby was one of the experts who taught me the business.

I experienced a host of these larger than life characters; Toby, Hall Buell, Tommy DiLustro, Horst Faas, Bob Daugherty, Alan Thorpe, to name only the ones jumping to mind right now, and let me not forget the trailblazers Chikako Yatabe, Maggie Steber, Marina Spickermann, who taught me by treating me as an equal who just needed experience, never from on high.

Being a women was tough in the beginning, and often now but I was so lucky to be surrounded, by generous people around the globe, who believed that the job came first, that it had to be done right, so they would see to it that we 'youngsters' were guided as we grew into our own. As time went by, Toby and I could collaborate over coverage and editing, it's how I had confidence required for the job, knowing I had brainstorming privileges with the best of them.

My heart is saddened by the world's loss of Toby and recently Charlie Tasnadi, a gifted photographer who taught that kindness and good manners always have a place.

**Herb Hemming** - Toby and I worked on many stories together - he in Washington or on the road and me as supervisor in New York. Many wonderful words have been written about Toby and deservedly so. He was one of the good ones.

His death took me back to my early days at the AP - the late 60s - and got me thinking about all the great mentors running AP photos at that time. I couldn't possibly name them all but I will always remember Al Resch, who hired me; Bill Achatz in Philadelphia, Dick Strobel in Los Angeles, Fred Wright in Chicago and Spencer Jones in Atlanta and Los Angeles. Gosh, they all scared the heck out of me. But they were truly pros. The New York desk people - Bill Brown, Bud Wylie, Tony Bemben, Walter Durkin, Phil Ratnoff, Joe Brady, Jack Bodkin, Ify. And of course Jack Schwadel and Pat McDonald and Sandy Colton and Hal Buell in the bullpen. And there are so many more.

I was so lucky to work through the transition from the drum transmitter to the Leafax to the electronic darkroom. Not an easy transition at times.

I was so lucky to be surrounded by all these pioneers. Toby was one of those pioneers. Unselfish with his knowledge. Toby's death brought back how truly dedicated and professional these pioneers were. I miss them all. I am truly blessed.

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**Guy Palmiotto** - Worked with Toby on many occasions. As part of the NY Darkroom staff, as I was called upon to fill in open shifts at the WX darkroom. The list is too long to mention, but remember one specific assignment covering the Reagan-Gorbachev summits. His ability to edit on the fly and cull the significant images of the event left a lasting impression and kept us ahead in the play reports.



He will be missed.

## Addition to the Connecting family

**Christine Yi** of AP's Digital Services in New York and her husband Jason Ratliff are the new parents of a baby girl, Georgia, born Aug. 17.

"Life's been pretty grand this past week. I don't think anything could've prepared us for the love we feel for this child," she said.

On behalf of all of us who once worked with or still work with Christine (she was one of the most talented and fun people I worked with in my active-duty days), hearty congratulations to the first-time parents!

## Welcome to Connecting



**Herb Hemming** - I started on the photo desk in New York upon graduation from the University of Missouri in 1968. I transferred to the Los Angeles photo desk from 1969-1974. I returned to New York in 1974 and worked on the photo desk until 1980. I was supervisor on the photo desk most of those years. I left the AP in 1980 to return to California. I rejoined the AP photo desk in Los Angeles in 1985. I became administrative photo editor in Los Angeles and was there until 2000. In 2000 I left the AP to work for ImageDirect and then WireImage, both entertainment digital photo agencies in Los Angeles. I retired totally in 2006 to Ojai, CA.

**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

Reid Miller

**70 years ago, Allied forces liberated Paris after four years of German occupation**



The French 2nd Armored Division and the U.S. 4th Infantry Division after over 4 years of Nazi Occupation were able to liberate Paris August 25, 1944, Germany surrendered Paris. In late 1943 the French 2nd Armored Division was created in London with the main purpose of leading to the liberation of Paris during the Allied invasion of France. After the signed surrender agreement by Germany fighting still continued because Hitler wanted Paris destroyed but that did not happen, Paris was free from the Nazis.

Click [here](#) to explore AP's coverage, which includes:

### Soldiers of the press

A new style of war reporting emerged during World War II. Unlike the remote interviews with World War I generals, who talked about military strategies far from the front line, the foxhole journalists of the '40s accompanied soldiers into combat zones. The new approach focused on the individual servicemen on the battlefronts. These first-person accounts would often include soldier's names, hometowns and sometimes, home addresses. AP General Manager Kent Cooper was a strong advocate of this shift to celebrate the common soldier.

Don Whitehead, known by his colleagues as "Beachhead Don," was one of 20 AP war correspondents and photographers who covered the Allied movements in France. The combat reporter landed at Omaha beach at Normandy on D-Day along with the U.S. 1st Infantry Division. After more than three months of fighting German resistance while heading east, French and U.S. forces finally entered Paris. Whitehead was the first correspondent to file copy about the capital's liberation, and his story was the only eyewitness account in the newspapers that day.

(Shared by Paul Colford, Valerie Komor)

### Featured on AP.org Web site



Malaysia Army soldiers carry one of the bodies of the downed MH17 flight on the arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Friday, Aug. 22, 2014. The bodies of 20 victims' of the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines flight that was shot down over eastern Ukraine last month, returned home from Amsterdam on Friday. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

## Stories of interest

### CNN chief: News operation will do less with less

CNN chief Jeff Zucker recently shared not so encouraging words with some of the news operation's employees, many of whom have been bracing for potential jobs cuts.

"We are going to do less and have to do it with less," Zucker said during a call-in to a news meeting Tuesday morning. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution recently received a partial transcript of the call from a Turner employee who asked not to be identified.

Zucker's comments feed growing concerns among employees at CNN and other operations of Turner Broadcasting, which has nearly 13,000 full-time employees, about half of them in Atlanta.

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### No brotherly love for rival papers in Philadelphia (Bob Daugherty)

The Philadelphia Daily News reporting team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for a report on police corruption and sexual assault is being accused of paying the bills of one of its key sources and allegedly encouraging her to exaggerate facts of a criminal complaint about the incident. The story comes from the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Both papers are owned by H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest. Lenfest originally wanted to hold the story about why federal prosecutors did not bring charges against police officer Thomas Tolstoy, accused of sexual assault by three women in the "Tainted Justice" series, according the Columbia Journalism Review. But after an article was published about the story being held, the Philadelphia Inquirer published its story.

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### Was Ferguson a 'news desert' until two weeks ago?

Coming late to the Ferguson story, I have a modest thought to add to the

ongoing discussion of why the police shooting and the bumbling local response to protests happened there.

My hunch is that like many aging and changing suburban communities, Ferguson had received only the most episodic of news coverage until all hell broke loose. Political theory and high profile reports from the Knight Foundation and FCC suggest that when a town is a news desert, low civic engagement is almost certain to follow.

So if that's the theory, isn't Ferguson the practice? A community, as the phrase goes, that doesn't know how to talk to itself.

## The Last Word

Connecting correspondent [Claude Erbsen](#), reporting in from Minneapolis, shared:

Grandma Hedy needs to hold a paper. Granddaughter Sarah is tethered to her IPad. Amen! Grandpa Claude in Minneapolis



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