

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2014 9:33 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 10, 2014

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Connecting

October 10, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning.

The photo montage above of Associated Press U.S. bureau chiefs in 2001 includes

many of us who have retired and now are on Connecting, and five Connecting colleagues who continue on active duty with the AP:

Regional Directors **Dale Leach** of Dallas, **Eva Parziale** of Columbus and **Kevin Walsh** of Portland, and Chiefs of Bureau **Dorothy Abernathy** of Richmond and **Sally Hale** of Philadelphia.

Sadly, two of the chiefs in the photo have passed away - **Sam Boyle** in 2008 and **Linda Stowell** in 2011.

For those of us in the retired ranks, a few more grey hairs...well, at least some of us!

Paul

Denis D. Gray reunites with former Albany colleagues after 42 Years

As a young man, [Denis D. Gray's](#) first assignment with the Associated Press was a desk job in the Albany, N.Y., bureau in 1972. He was there for 13 months before heading straight to Southeast Asia to cover the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia for the AP.

On Oct. 5, more than 42 years after his Albany days, Denis reunited with a handful of colleagues who worked alongside him in Albany. They included editors Joe Galu and Christine McKnight and longtime Albany photographer Jim McKnight, now all retired. Also joining them were June McGarry, widow of another Albany colleague, the late Greg McGarry, and Sarah McLean, Denis's wife. Denis and Greg were close friends, and shared many exploits as Albany AP reporters, including a white water rafting adventure down the Hudson River in the Adirondacks.



This photo shows, front row, from left: Christine McKnight, June McGarry, Joe Galu. Back row, from left: Denis Gray, Sarah McLean, Jim McKnight

The group reminisced over brunch at a Saratoga Springs restaurant, and also caught up on Denis's career with the AP in Southeast Asia. Denis was transferred in 1975 to Bangkok, where he served as bureau chief for 25 years before retiring in 2012. From his Bangkok base over the years, he reported out of more than 40 countries and covered more than 15 wars and conflicts.

The Albany reunion, Denis said, "brought back a lot of great memories, as well as the sadness I felt at Greg's passing." Denis was hired by Pierce Lembeck, but worked under Ed Staats during most of his time in Albany.

Denis and Sarah have retired to a beautiful home in northern Thailand, but return periodically to the States to visit family and friends. In the summer of 2012, the McKnights organized a reunion of more than 40 former and current AP Albany staffers, but Denis was overseas and unable to attend that gathering. Although retired, Denis continues to write for the AP.

(Editor's note: Ye Olde Connecting Editor will always remember Denis, even though they have never met, as I was the numerical replacement (remember those words?) for Denis, hired into my first AP job by Albany Chief of Bureau Ed Staats in 1973.)

Connecting mailbox

Recalling the symbol "95" on the wire

[George Bria](#) - Expanding on my esteemed colleague and good friend Richard Pyle's recollection of the symbol "95" on the wire (in Thursday's Connecting), it was not limited to messages, but was used on stories themselves to denote material a degree less urgent than bulletins. In the bygone hierarchy of the wire, you had flash, bulletin, bulletin matter and 95. I don't recall exactly when "urgent" usurped "95" and even "bulletin" and would love to hear the recollections of other aged wire filers before it all fades away.

[Brad Kalbfeld](#) - According to Wirespeak (a 1997 book by Richard Harnett), -95- was part of Western Union's uniform code, first adopted in 1859. Harnett includes a list of codes he derived (at least in part) from The Telegraph Instructor, which he says was published by G.M. Doge in 1908. Here are a few of the codes (note the last):

- 1 - Wait a minute
- 2 - Very important
- 3 - What time is it?
- 4 - Where was I? Should I go ahead?
- 9 - Priority business. Drop everything and do what I tell you.
- 14 - What is the weather?
- 17 - Following is for all points.
- 22 - Wire test (the forerunner of foxing the wire?)
- 27 - Priority, very important.
- 29 - Private - deliver in sealed envelope
- 30 - No more, the end.
- 73 - Best regards. (There used to be an amateur radio magazine called 73)
- 88 - Love and kisses.
- 93 - Vice president and general manager's signal.
- 95 - Very urgent message
- 97 - (Associated Press). Urgent message regarding stock market news.

Wirespeak also contains an excerpt of what it calls AP's Code A - something new to me. This secret code included terms such as prune, which meant we beat the opposition and punge, which means we will not bear any of the expense (would be interesting to tally up which was used more often ...).

He lists the AP code words for UP as Levit, Liban and Liber. The UP code words for AP were listed as Castor, henagar and wingate. Has anyone ever encountered these codes?

[Ed Tobias](#) - Regarding teletype code...."73" is still used today by ham radio operators using voice, Morse code, teletype and even the newer digital transmission modes. The meaning, "best wishes," remains the same. BTW, I'm a Morse code guy, usually at 27 or 28 words per minute, and am on the air almost daily. I know there are other AP hams out there. Who are you?

Ed Tobias
Ham call: KR3E

Today's Connecting sky shot: Sarasota Bay



[George Arfield](#) took this picture of Sarasota Bay, Florida, with his favorite camera, the iPhone, noting: "The point is, the world's best camera is... the one you have with you. In pre-iPhone (or Galaxy) days, how often were great pix missed because the top-of-the-line SLR Nikon or Canon weighed so much one didn't wish to lug all that weight around when out on the town or sightseeing?"

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Watching out for any Royals bias

[Doug Kienitz](#) - Paul, now please show no bias with the forthcoming Orioles/Royal battles.

You were an AP guy.

And I am an O fan; even more so with the demise of the Rangers.

It goes back to high school days in Montana when the O's moved to Baltimore from St. Louis. I bought 11 shares of stox. When they went private years later, I obviously was sent a check. But I still possess that stox certificate!

The Ranger curse must have developed when they unloaded Nolan Ryan. He has a house

about 5 miles down the road at a Jack Nicklaus Signature course in Georgetown.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

(a day late) To

[Sue Price Johnson](#)

Stories of interest

[Ferguson: How the St. Louis Post-Dispatch photo staff responded to an explosive story](#) (Scott Charton)

From NPPA's News Photographer September edition.

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[A tip for media companies: Facebook isn't your enemy, but it's not your friend either](#)

There's been a lot of discussion in the media-sphere lately about the risks and rewards of Facebook for media companies and publishers of all kinds - a debate that was reignited at the recent Online News Association conference, where former New York Times social-media editor Liz Heron was put on the hot seat about Facebook's impenetrable algorithm and its effect on the news business. It was simultaneously an admission of the network's immense power and a revolt against the fundamental inscrutability of that power.

Frustration with that reality has been building for some time now, as media organizations have come to realize that social is the new search - and so they are now just as beholden to Twitter and Facebook as they once were to Google, and the new bosses are just as opaque as the old one.

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[Missouri Police Plan for Riots if Darren Wilson Isn't Charged](#) (Doug Crews)

Missouri authorities are drawing up contingency plans and seeking intelligence from U.S. police departments on out-of-state agitators, fearing that fresh riots could erupt if a grand jury does not indict a white officer for killing a black teen.

The plans are being thrashed out in meetings being held two to three times a week, according to people who have attended them. The FBI said it was also involved in the discussions.

Details of the meetings and intelligence sharing by Missouri police agencies and their counterparts around the country have not been reported before.

The grand jury is expected to decide next month whether to bring criminal charges against police officer Darren Wilson, who shot dead Michael Brown, 18, on Aug. 9 in Ferguson, Missouri.

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[Florida Today staff stunned by editor's sudden departure after "morale-boosting" meeting](#)

Bob Stover, longtime executive editor of Florida Today, thought his staff needed their spirits lifted so he arranged what became dubbed "Pie Day" in the newsroom. The plan was to have the Gannett paper's journalists bake pies and other treats to share on Thursday.



I'm told that Stover was in a meeting on Wednesday afternoon, discussing today's morale-boosting event, when he was summoned to the publisher's office. One staffer tells me the newsroom heard raised voices and "the next thing you know he walks out saying he just resigned."

Stover, 66, tweeted: "Just resigned after 22 great years as an editor at Florida Today. Leaving great colleagues to carry on their fine work."

Sports reporter Erika Esola tweeted: "I don't think I've ever heard an entire newsroom gasp before."

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[David Brooks' Son Is a Gigantic Bro](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

New York Times public editor Margaret Sullivan caused a medium-sized stir on Wednesday after she scolded conservative op-ed columnist and believer in friendship

David Brooks for not disclosing that his college-aged son had enlisted as a "lone soldier" in the Israeli army. On Brooks' side, John Podhoretz, the son of former Commentary editor Norman Podhoretz, tweeted: "Everybody who thinks David Brooks has to 'reveal' his son, who's 23, has joined the Israeli army can go fuck himself."

The kerfuffle-accusations of "naked anti-semitism" notwithstanding-left us wondering: What kind of son did David Brooks raise? The answer: A balls-to-the-wall bro.

AP Best of the States

West Palm Beach correspondent **Matt Sedensky** has covered aging since 2008 -- the same year federal officials said all nursing homes must install sprinkler systems, considered essential safety tools in facilities where vulnerable residents often can't be quickly evacuated in case of a fire. Many fires over the years killed dozens of nursing home residents and proved that not making those upgrades could be deadly for some of the nation's most vulnerable people. Furthermore, no nursing home fully equipped with sprinklers had ever experienced a fire that killed multiple people.

Armed with this knowledge, Sedensky marked his calendar to check the progress made in 2013, the deadline set by the feds for compliance.

When that deadline came, hundreds of homes were still without sprinklers. But the story wasn't there yet: Officials cautioned that some homes simply hadn't yet gone through their annual inspections. Rather than leaving the story, Sedensky again marked his calendar to come back at the issue the following year, once those annual inspections would have been finished.

A year later, the data he obtained through a records request was startling: 385 homes in 39 states, licensed to house more than 52,000 vulnerable people, still hadn't installed enough sprinklers to meet the federal mandate. Forty-four of them had no sprinklers at all. The upgrades can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and can be complicated when retrofitting older buildings. But experts told Sedensky that was no excuse -- their value in protecting patients was undisputed. Yet many families focusing on day-to-day care for their loved ones seldom consider it when choosing facilities.

Matt's story

(<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/405ab8350f994cd99461f3fda5d479ec/despite-rules-nursing-homes-still-lack-sprinklers>) was widely used online and netted at least 10 front pages, from Bismarck, North Dakota, to Jackson, Tennessee, and an above-the fold refer in the Houston Chronicle. An editor at the Missoulian in Montana tweeted, "This is a very important story," while AARP called it out to members as a "good read." The Daily Progress in Charlottesville, Virginia, ran an editorial saying "52,000 lives are at stake" and "requirements must be enforced to prevent the possibility of another such tragedy."

For mining his beat for a national scoop that also advanced AP's mission across all 50 states, and for holding the industry and government accountable for complying with

key safety measures, Sedensky wins this week's \$300 Best of the States jack

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Today in History - Friday, Oct. 10

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2014. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 10, 1964, the Summer Olympics were opened in Tokyo by Japanese Emperor Hirohito; it was the first time the games were held in Asia.

On this date:

In 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1913, the Panama Canal was effectively completed as President Woodrow Wilson sent a signal from the White House by telegraph, setting off explosives that destroyed a section of the Gamboa dike.

In 1914, "The Missouri Waltz" by John Valentine Eppel was first published.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-black cast, opened on Broadway; it ran for 124 performances.

In 1938, Nazi Germany completed its annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland (soo-DAYT'-uhn-land).

In 1943, Chiang Kai-shek took the oath of office as president of China.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower apologized to the finance minister of Ghana, Komla Agbeli Gbedemah, after the official was refused seating in a Howard Johnson's restaurant near Dover, Delaware.

In 1964, entertainer Eddie Cantor, 72, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1967, the Outer Space Treaty, prohibiting the placing of weapons of mass destruction on the moon or elsewhere in space, entered into force.

In 1970, Quebec Labor Minister Pierre Laporte was kidnapped by the Quebec Liberation Front, a militant separatist group. (Laporte's body was found a week later.)

Fiji became independent after nearly a century of British rule.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion and resigned his office.

In 1985, U.S. fighter jets forced an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) to land in Italy, where the gunmen were taken into custody. Actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70; actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

Ten years ago: Christopher Reeve, the "Superman" of celluloid who became a quadriplegic after a May 1995 horse riding accident, died in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 52. Ken Caminiti, the National League's 1996 most valuable player who later admitted using steroids during his Major League baseball career, died in New York at age 41.

Five years ago: Turkey and Armenia signed a landmark agreement to establish diplomatic relations and open their sealed border after a century of enmity. President Barack Obama, addressing the Human Rights Campaign, restated his campaign pledge to allow homosexual men and women to serve openly in the military. Stephen Gately, 33, a singer with the Irish boy band Boyzone, died while vacationing on the Spanish island of Mallorca (mah-YOHR'-kah).

One year ago: Gunmen from one of Libya's many militias stormed a hotel where Prime Minister Ali Zidan had a residence and held him for several hours. Kwame Kilpatrick, a former Democratic mayor of Detroit, was sent to federal prison to serve a 28-year sentence for widespread corruption that occurred under his watch. Scott Carpenter, 88, the second American to orbit the Earth and one of the last surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, died in Denver.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Sen. Adlai Stevenson III is 84. Actor Peter Coyote is 73. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 68. Singer John Prine is 68. Actor Charles Dance is 68. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 66. Actress Jessica Harper is 65. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 64. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 61. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 60. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 56. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 56. Actress Julia Sweeney is 55. Actor Bradley Whitford is 55. Musician Martin Kemp is 53. Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 51. Actress Rebecca Pidgeon is 49. Rock musician Mike Malinin (mah-LIHN'-ihn) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 47. NFL quarterback Brett Favre is 45. Actor Manu Bennett is 45. Actress Joelle Carter is 45. Actress Wendi McLendon-Covey is 45. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 41. Race driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 40. Actress Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 36. Singer Mya is 35. Actor Dan Stevens is 32. Singer Cherie is 30. Actress Aimee Teegarden is 25.

Thought for Today: "The opposite of a fact is falsehood, but the opposite of one profound truth may very well be another profound truth." - Niels Bohr, Danish physicist (1885-1962).

APME UPDATE - Oct. 9, 2014

SAVE THE DATE

* Oct. 10-11, NewsTrain Workshop, Las Vegas

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FROM AP

Every success tinged with sadness reporting from Ebola zone in Liberia

Krista Larson, an Associated Press correspondent based in Dakar, Senegal, arrived in Monrovia on Sept. 25 to join AP staff covering the Ebola epidemic. Here she describes some of her experiences.

By KRISTA LARSON

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - The nurse excitedly grabbed the sheet of paper with 11-year-old Chancey's lab results. "It's negative, it's negative," she shouted above the sound of her boots pounding the gravel as she ran toward the outdoor Ebola ward.

Soon the boy in a neon green T-shirt came running to the hole in the orange plastic

fencing to greet her. The barrier separates health workers from those sick with one of the world's deadliest diseases.

"We're so glad he's going to make it. His little brothers will really need him now - their mother just died last night," a nurse told me.

Instantly that moment of rare joy amid Liberia's Ebola epidemic turned to sorrow, and I could no longer make eye contact with the beaming boy. Knowing that he did not yet know his mother was dead - and I did - was just too much.

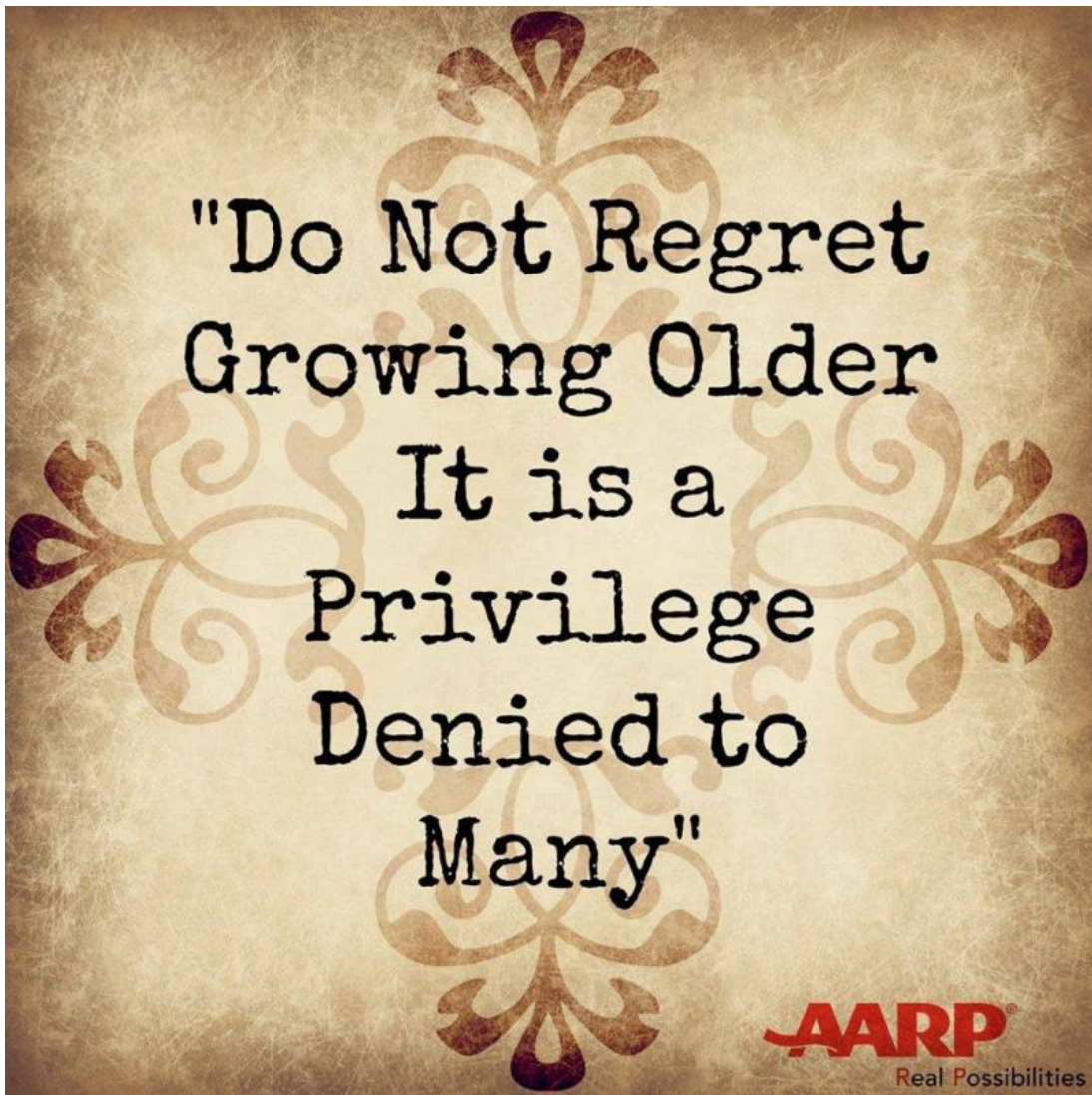
Here in Liberia, more than 2,000 people have lost their lives to a disease that shows no mercy, and even the stories of survivors are tainted with unspeakable loss. Radio talk shows describe infants trying to breastfeed off dead mothers, orphans whose relatives are so afraid of contagion that they refuse to take in brokenhearted children.

For months I had pored over situation reports from the World Health Organization and listened to experts describe the possibility of a disaster beyond measure as the Ebola epidemic gathered speed. Nothing prepares you, though, for the heartbreak and the fear now ravaging Liberia.

Read more:

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/ap/ebola-a-constant-threat-in-reporting-from-liberia/article_6aadcfed-fcb2-5df1-8724-41e71d07e825.html?mode=jqm

The Last Word



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