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Connecting

November 12, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning!

Before we get to the stories of the day, a big thank you to all journalists and others receiving this newsletter who served in the military to protect our historical freedoms, particularly the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. Today's edition includes more contributions from Connecting's veterans.

A special personal thanks to my 90-year-old father, Ray, of Storm Lake, Iowa, who served stateside during World War II in a jigsaw puzzle of posts and assignments that could only make sense to the Army. He contributed to the effort and sacrificed much, including the ability to clearly hear words from future children and grandchildren.

Mark Mittelstadt

AP CEO demands answers from DOJ and FBI



Gary Pruitt

Protesting the FBI's impersonation of an Associated Press reporter, AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt [demanded answers](#) from Attorney General Eric Holder and FBI Director James Comey. In a letter addressed to both men, Pruitt likened the FBI's impersonation during a 2007 investigation to identity theft and said the move seriously threatens the organization's ability to gather news.

[WaPo: By impersonating reporters, the FBI undermines its credibility](#)

What was wrong about the Seattle operation was the potential damage to the credibility of the Associated Press by the creation of a false news account by the government and by the impersonation of a reporter. The technique threatens to undermine all reporters -- not just those from the AP -- who seek information from sources and represent themselves truthfully as independent journalists. The Post has joined other news media in a protest to FBI Director James Comey.

[DeBerry: FBI's trick offends journalists and should bother the public](#)

The potential of the FBI's tactic to endanger real journalists should not be dismissed. What if a reporter covering a rebel organization or a terrorist group is wrongly suspected of working for the United States government? Reporters are supposed to be neutral observers. It's dangerous if the government begins to masquerade as neutral observers to carry out a covert mission.

[Stop or I'll write! Why cops shouldn't pose as reporters](#)

Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James B. Comey waved his truncheon at the New York Times last week in a concise letter of protest addressed to the paper's editor. The FBI, denounced in a Nov. 1 Times editorial for impersonating an Associated Press reporter in a 2007 Seattle-area case, had nothing to apologize for, insisted Comey. While the impersonation was "unusual," he wrote, it was still proper, appropriate, and lawful.



James Comey

More Connecting veterans



National Press Club President Myron Belkind interviews fellow veteran Sen. John McCain on Veterans Day about his new book "Thirteen Soldiers." (Photo, Yael Belkind)

Myron Belkind ([Email](#))

Myron Belkind, while on military leave from the AP after being drafted, served in the U.S. Army from 1964-65 including assignments at the U.S. Army Hometown News Center in Kansas City and at the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) press office in Saigon. He completed his service as a Spec 4 and rejoined AP in New York before transferring to India in November 1966 at the start of his international career that included being bureau chief in New Delhi, London and Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur correspondent. He also spent 1963 working for AP in Kuala Lumpur while on a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Bill Beecham ([Email](#))

Immediately after leaving the St. Paul, Minn., Catholic Seminary in 1963, I volunteered for the Navy because the draft notice was being mailed. After boot camp in Illinois and "ditty school" - morse code - in Pensacola, Florida, I was sent to Kamiseya, Japan. That was - it has been shut down - a WWII underground Japanese naval base. There, we intercepted Soviet, N. Korean, N. Vietnamese, all shipping - naval and commercial communications. While there, I volunteered for Temporary Administrative Duty - TAD - on three aircraft carriers over a year - USS Bon Homme Richard (lovingly known by its sailors as The Bonnie Dick; USS Coral Sea; USS Ranger. All, I think, have been scrapped or melted. I recall flight deck crews rushing to the wooden deck of Bonnie with fire extinguishers after planes blasted off for bombing runs.

I did nothing heroic and, though I was in combat areas at all times during my time in the Gulf of Tonkin, I liked being at sea. I enjoyed the work, the friendships and the food. Sailors on carriers always ate quite well.

I'll say here that my friend John Shurr, who also was there with the Navy, had it much more difficult and I consider him a bona fide hero. He served on river boats and was in more than a few fire fights.

From the decks of the carriers I saw tiny flashes - little almost cartoonish bursts far away in North and South Vietnam. They were the work of B-52s out of Guam dropping 500-pounds. I couldn't conceive of the suffering when the bombs burst. It was like 10 p.m. on the Fourth of July.

I wasn't wounded or otherwise hurt, except for the time on the Coral Sea I opened a door onto the flight deck and ran outside when WHAM my forehead collided with the tail wing of an A-4 Skyhawk, the workhouse bomber, parked just outside the door. Twenty-one stitches later and a two-day stint in sickbay, I was back at work. While on the Coral Sea I witnessed the coming-on-board of Dieter Dengler, a Navy pilot who escaped torture and imprisonment by the North Vietnamese. There is a movie, some of which is true, about his being shot down, tortured and his imprisonment - "Rescue Dawn".



After my time in 'Nam, I was given a huge amount of basket leave - free vacation - and I took it to tour almost the entirety of Japan. I climbed Mount Fuji, took the bullet train from Tokyo to Osaka half a dozen times, learned to love - thank God -

Japanese food and Kirin beer. It was during that period I met and fell in love with Fumiko-san. After mustering out of the service in 1967, I got a job at The Missoulian in Missoula, Montana. \$85 a week and I thought I was in heaven. It took 18 months to save money to return to Japan to get married. Two months ago, we celebrated our 46th anniversary.

Hal Bock ([Email](#))

Enlisted in the US Army Reserve after graduating from college. Served 1961-1967. Active Duty March 1961-Sept. 1961, I was in a hospital unit and assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas after basic training. That was a cushy base and two days after I got there, I called home and asked my mother to send my swim trunks.

She was, needless to say, astounded.

Ken Fields ([Email](#))



I served in the Army from Dec 1970 to Apr 1972. I was assigned to the 23rd Infantry (Americal) in Chu Lai, Viet Nam and worked there as a radio operator.

When the Americal went back to the US in 1971 I was reassigned to the 58th Trans Battalion where I worked as a clerk until I was discharged in Apr 1972.

After I joined the Associated Press in St. Louis in 1978, I discovered that my fellow technician, Bruce Olmsted, also served in Chu Lai at the same time as I did. The base was pretty large and we didn't run into each other there, but I remember one of the Kansas-Missouri logs that the AP published had a small story about that coincidence.

Darrell Christian ([Email](#))

Navy, 1968-72. Last year and a half on recruiting duty in Indianapolis, where I worked for AP nights and weekends. Stayed on with AP after the Navy gave me my freedom.

Jack Limpert ([Email](#))

I was in the Air Force 1954-56, the last nine months at Forbes Air Force Base. I had grown up in Appleton, Wis., and knew what cold was but I thought Topeka was colder in the winter than Wisconsin -- that wind.

Dick Lipsey ([Email](#))

I served in the Army from 1968-89, enlisting after college. I can't say that my family had a military tradition, but my father was a career Marine Corps NCO who dropped out of college after Pearl Harbor and served in World War Two and the Korean War. My grandfather was an Army engineer corporal in France in World War One, and two grandfathers served in Union cavalry regiments in the Civil War.

I went through basic training at Fort Dix, engineer AIT at Fort Leonard Wood, and infantry OCS at Fort Benning. I got married three days after being commissioned, went back to Fort Benning a week later, and then was fortunate enough to go to an infantry battalion in the 3rd Armored Division in Germany before Vietnam.

In Germany I was stationed at the same post where Elvis Presley had been in a tank battalion 10 years earlier. At first I was the battalion intelligence officer with an additional duty of Redeye section leader.

(The Redeye was the forerunner to the Stinger and similar shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.)

Later I was leader of the battalion scout platoon with M114 armored vehicles.

An interesting sidelight of my time in Germany was attending the reunion of a WWII German infantry regiment that had been raised from the area where we were stationed. The German unit always invited the American infantry battalion commander to its reunions, and he took me along as his adjutant because my wife spoke fluent German (she had been an exchange student in Germany in high school). My wife was a big hit with the Germans and spent most of the night dancing, and I spent much of the evening with the German regimental commander's wife, who was born in America but whose parents had returned to Germany before the war. The regimental commander was much older and had been severely wounded.

From Germany I went to Vietnam, where I was a reconnaissance platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division and later commander of a military police company (I had been a grad student in police administration before enlisting).

After Vietnam I was stationed at Fort Ord, California, and decided to stay in the Army. I was also an ROTC instructor and a staff officer in the Military District of Washington, where my boss was my battalion commander from Vietnam.

I also served in Alaska, where I was XO to a infantry battalion commander who later became a major general and was court-martialed, and then to his successor, who was relieved of command.

After retiring from the Army I went to journalism school at the University of Kansas, was an intern with the old Kansas City Times, and was later hired by Paul Stevens when he was AP bureau chief in Kansas City.

An interesting sidelight came in 1993 when I interviewed the first Russian and Ukrainian Army officers to attend the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. The Russian officer had also been an infantry battalion recon platoon leader in a Soviet tank division along the same part of the border where our battalion had its emergency deployment area (though a few years later than I was there). He



Then Kansas City newspaperman Dick Lipsey (right) with Russian Lt. Col. Andrei Demurenko.

spoke excellent English, and I had a degree in Soviet Studies and, though not fluent, a solid background in Soviet military writings. He and his wife later invited me and my wife to his home, where we enjoyed a very convivial evening and shared many toasts. My wife drove home.

I enjoyed my time in the Army and in the infantry though in retrospect probably should have transferred to military intelligence, which would have suited my interests and aptitudes better.

Gerard Cagayat

I was an AP news artist in NYC from 1998-2007. Thought about joining the Army after 9/11 but I waited. In 2007, I realized the future of the news industry was bleak and decided to change careers to join the US Army. I went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and advanced training at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Afterwards, I served four years as an intelligence analyst in Fort Lewis, Wash. I was honorably discharged as a Sergeant (E-5) in 2012. Currently, I am working as a Realtor in NYC.

Brad Martin ([Email](#))

I was a member of the United States Naval Reserve, active duty '72-'74 and active reserve until '77. Wanted to continue my career in the Reserves but when I came back to AP I had to travel around the country and that pretty much ruined my ability to serve in the Reserves, at least comfortably. So I resumed my career at AP, going to electronics college during the day and working at AP at night. Finally got that teletype training, several years removed.

A couple of Communication Department idiots talked me into joining when I was a copy boy in Kansas City. My draft number was too high, meaning I wouldn't get drafted and as I wanted to be a teletype technician at AP the "idiots" told me I would get teletype training in the Navy, so I took a military leave of absence and enlisted. They were almost right. As a Radioman I "tended" teletype; no repair. Was wanting to be a Communications Specialist "Spook" but they told me I was more qualified for the spook part so they made me a Radioman instead!

I was aboard the USS San Bernardino, LST-1189 (Landing Ship, Tank). Did two Westpac (Western Pacific) tours in support of landing United States Marines in Vietnam and was there when the war ended.

I enjoyed the time, learned a lot, saw a lot and made lifelong friends in the Navy. Wouldn't trade that time serving my country for anything.

Well, almost anything.

Joe Frazier ([Email](#))

USMC' Vietnam 1968-69, artillery mostly



Meanwhile, Scott Charton revived a Memorial Day blog item from former AP Chief of Bureau Sandy Johnson, "[A walk through history, grave, by grave,](#)" that seems just as appropriate for Veterans Day.

Connecting mailbox

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) _ I've just returned from Northern California and quickly sent you the picture of our gathering. It was a memorable luncheon of fond memories, great stories and lots of laughter. Some famous stories were recalled including Dan Berger's legendary action cutting a phone cord to prevent a competitor from stealing "his" phone at a news conference. The story has been told many times and was even the subject of an episode



Mike Goodkind, Dan Berger, Lyle Price, Bill Saul, Steve Lawrence, Chuck McFadden, Marty Thompson, Linda Deutsch, Janet Thompson, Doug Willis, Barbara McFadden, Mike Rubin, Jim Lagier, Jeannine Yeomans

of the Lou Grant TV show. Kids today might not understand. No cell phones in those days. A number of us recounted our memories of the Patty Hearst case.

And, of course, there was another phone story. The AP made news by installing a phone on a tree outside the Hearst home. The AP tree phone became famous.

Marty Thompson, Jim Lagier and I were there during that amazing period and there were many inside AP stories about how it was covered. Jeannine Yeomans, who covered the Hearst story after moving to TV, remembered starting her career at the AP covering a disastrous riot at San Quentin Prison in which a Black Panther leader died and she was called upon to dictate a story in the midst of the mayhem. Lyle Price, who flew in from Washington State for the luncheon, regaled us with tales of the rough and tumble days of AP California in the '60s. Jim Lagier, who was supposed to be guest of honor, had the task of setting up the luncheon and succeeded admirably, arranging for us to have a catered lunch at an elegant seafood restaurant in his current home town of Walnut Creek.

Jim, who is a great raconteur, entertained us with tales of his storied AP career which included eight years as bureau chief in Tokyo as well as leadership stints in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and so many other cities. He said he moved 14 times in his AP career. BTW, Jim, who has been open about having cancer, said he is not feeling any effects of the illness at the present time and is looking forward to our next reunion. We hope he will be able to attend many more luncheons.

P.S. Please tell Eric Newhouse that Elvis died in 1977, not '79 (Monday Connecting.) But I loved his story about dictating from the mortuary with a corpse beside him. And I've heard the story from Pyle of their search for James Earl Ray. A classic.

Robert Daugherty ([Email](#)) — Thought this might be an appropriate time to drag out this 1972 image of President Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai toasting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The great Horst Faas and I were the AP



photographers on Nixon's historic visit, thanks to Hal Buell for the assignment. While presidential visits are rather routine now, not so in 1972. I vividly recall AP White House Correspondent Frank Cormier dictating a bulletin on landing in

Shanghai on a phone hookup from Air Force One. It was more than a little surprising to hear the Chinese army band play "Home on the Range" at the welcoming banquet.

News of AP

[\(Video\) Lou Ferrara: How a global news agency is developing in the changing media landscape](#)

[AP names Carlo Piovano as Europe business editor](#)

Carlo Piovano, who joined the AP's business desk in London as an editor at the height of the global financial crisis, has been promoted to AP's Europe Business Editor. Piovano, 36, will oversee breaking news and enterprise business coverage throughout Europe, coordinating between business staffers in London, Frankfurt and Moscow and general news reporters all over the continent. He has been AP's acting Europe Business Editor for the last year.

Daniszewski joins panel on 25 years of German re-unification

AP Vice President and Senior Managing Editor for International News John Daniszewski joined a panel at the New School on Friday to mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The theme of the last session of the day, "What's Left? Living Legacies," drew a variety of responses from the panelists, ranging from an analysis of what remains of Marxism to what personal memories remain from a childhood in East Germany.



For Daniszewski, who covered the events of 1989 in both Poland and Romania during a 20-year overseas career, "the adrenaline quality of those years has never yet been replicated in my life." Injecting a strong dose of reality into an otherwise theoretical debate, he recalled the cascade of conflicts that followed the collapse of the wall. He noted that although liberation movements had sprung up from Frankfurt am Main to Vladivostok in 1989, new conflicts rapidly ensued, including the Bosnian wars, the genocide in Rwanda, starvation in Somalia, and the rise of Al-Qaeda.

(photo JD at Exit Ghost Panel)

Good fortune for John Dowling?

John Dowling ([Email](#)) whose 35-year AP career ended abruptly Friday, took to Facebook to express thanks for the outpouring of support from friends: "My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has offered support and friendship over the past few days. The outpouring has been overwhelming and I am way behind on responding, but I will. Meanwhile, I cracked open a fortune cookie last night and found this. Here's hoping.



Happy Birthday!



William Ray Bolch ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

[Is there hope for local news?](#)

Tim Redmond is a local news guy. He stops his bicycle to interview taxi drivers protesting Uber on the streets. He attends accreditation trials about a local community college-by choice. He knows how to pull

building permits, interview city council members, and uncover shady dealings between the city and its most profitable businesses, such as Google. But there are fewer and fewer places for news guys like Redmond these days. He was forced out of the editor's chair at the San Francisco Bay Guardian last year because he refused to lay off more staff. He had worked at the left-wing weekly for 31 years.

[Watchdog: No-cookies rule might have helped embattled Missouri AG](#)

After two weeks defending against allegations that he got a little too cozy with corporate campaign donors, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster may be wishing he and his staff had adopted a no-cookies rule as well.

[Commentary: Voters polarize themselves by media habits](#)

USA Today's Rem Rieder covered a new study by the Pew Research Center concerning the way Americans get their news about government and politics ("Too many want 'facts' tinged red or blue," 10/26/14). Pew's findings aren't a shocker - that most people tend to watch news outlets tending toward their own politics. "When it comes to getting news about politics and government, liberals and conservatives inhabit different worlds. There is little overlap in the news sources they turn to and trust."

[Hello, my name is Stephen Glass, and I'm sorry](#)

He nearly destroyed The New Republic. Sixteen years later, his former best friend finally confronts him.

Last word

[Mild-mannered reporter suddenly transforms into incredible Unemployed Man \(*The Onion*\)](#)

Mere moments after stepping into his managing editor's office as his unassuming alter ego, Pete Bates, a mild-mannered 36-year-old reporter for the Kansas City Star, emerged into the publication's main newsroom as the amazing Unemployed Man, eyewitnesses confirmed Monday.



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