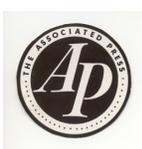

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:21 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - November 19, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

November 19, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Our colleague **Howard Graves** recently (Nov. 11) celebrated his 88th birthday and I invite those of you who know him to drop him a note of congratulations. (He does not use email.)

Howard was an AP bureau chief in Albuquerque, Portland (Oregon) and Honolulu, and was nationally prominent when he was national president of Sigma Delta Chi in 1980-81. He retired from the AP in 1993 after a 42-year career. His health has been failing in recent years, especially since the death two years ago of his wife Audrey, and your letters to him would do much to bring cheer to his life.

His address:

Howard Graves
Highgate Senior Living #227
1600 Petroglyph Pointe Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

And for the many lovers of history among us:

In Today's Highlight in History for this date, in Today in History below, that highlight is:

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln paid tribute to the fallen from the Battle of Gettysburg as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania.

A story in Poynter.org - click [here](#) to view - noted that "various newspapers, magazines, and even the AP wire service reported on President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

Some further background on the AP role:

President Lincoln "consulted the published AP text when making his final copies of the Gettysburg Address in Washington," an Associated Press video says. Twenty-one-year-old Joseph Ignatius Gilbert, who covered the speech for AP, had covered Lincoln before and "was familiar with his high-pitched voice," something that was "surely an advantage" during Lincoln's two-minute oration, a definitive copy of which remains "elusive," according to a separate AP report.

Perhaps more interesting, Gilbert recalled that, moved by the speech, he "unconsciously stopped taking notes and looked at him." Lincoln let the reporter copy his second draft of the speech. There are differences between the two documents: Lincoln's use of the word "poor" in "our poor power to add or detract" doesn't appear in either Gilbert's account or that of another correspondent on the scene, Charles Hale. But it was in several drafts, including the second.

The phrase "under God," in the formulation "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom," doesn't appear in the first drafts of the speech, but Gilbert and Hale recorded it. "Lincoln probably inserted 'under God' while speaking," Valerie Komor, the director of AP Corporate Archives, says in the video's narration. The 16th president "benefited by consulting the AP version in making his final copies as he could improve or retain wording guided by a version he trusted."

Click [here](#) to view the video. Thanks to Valerie Komor and Bob Daugherty for sharing.

With that, here are stories of interest.

Paul

Jim Van Anglen promoted to AP's Deep South editor

ATLANTA (AP) - **Jim Van Anglen**, news editor for The Associated Press in Georgia and Alabama, has been promoted to the newly created position of Deep South Editor.



Van Anglen will oversee coverage in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, with an emphasis on enterprise, accountability and investigative journalism.

The appointment was announced Monday by South Region Editor Lisa Marie Pane.

Van Anglen, 50, joined the AP in 2011 and has overseen coverage of a number of significant news stories, including the aftermath of a massive tornado outbreak in Alabama, the debate over Alabama's new immigration law, the arrival of Ebola patients in Atlanta, and hotly contested

U.S. Senate and gubernatorial elections in Georgia.

A New Orleans-based administrative correspondent also will be appointed soon with a mission to report and write high-end enterprise and provide day-to-day management over the territory.

"Jim is a news leader with a vision for finding ways to go after the big story, whether it's the fascinating politics in the region or accountability journalism or the latest natural disaster," Pane said. "He and his team have consistently shown a hunger for telling the most compelling stories."

Before joining the AP, Van Anglen spent more than a decade working as an editor at the Press-Register in Mobile, and was involved in a variety of coverage, including local, state and national politics.

A graduate of Boston College and a native of Bedford, New Hampshire, Van Anglen also has worked for the New Hampshire Union Leader and New Hampshire Sunday News; the Eagle-Tribune in North Andover, Massachusetts; the Athens (Georgia) Banner-Herald; and Neighborhood Publications of Bedford.

Connecting mailbox

The story behind the doubleknit checked pants



Walter Mears ([Email](#)) - There's a story that goes with the photo (in Tuesday's Connecting, and repeated at left) - it was taken in the Washington bureau on K Street the day I won the 1977 Pulitzer Prize. As I recall, John Durika took it, along with other rather candid pix of me that day. One that got printed had me with a celebratory cigar in my mouth. The one you used shows the awful double-knit checked pants I was wearing that day.

My friend Jules Witcover called to congratulate me and said I suppose you are wearing those ugly pants. He had that right. Anyhow, the Newseum got that photo and used it in their bio of me. I guess it is still in their system. I said at the time, and later, that if I had known what was coming, I would have worn a suit.

-0-

My son AP

Kelly Kissel ([Email](#)) - Your note about AP failing to copyright the "AP" and letting Adrian Peterson be a pretender to the throne reminds me of the saga of naming my son, who turned 19 last week.



My wife Susan and I had honored different wings of the family when our daughter was born - picking Colleen for the Irish side of my family and Amanda, which had popped up in the family tree several times over the previous 100 years, though not in any pattern.

When our son was born, Susan, whose South Louisiana family has wings that

reach back both to France and the Acadians in Nova Scotia, went with Andre' for a French connection and I picked Peter, which was my dad's dad's name.

I think it was Bill Simmons who first remarked that we had a son named A.P. Kissel. It sure saves on the monogramming bill. I can just give him an AP hat or shirt.

Andre', now in the marching band at the University of Arkansas, had a couple of photo bylines in his senior year of high school. He shot Jerry Jones as he announced some huge gift to Catholic High School in Little Rock, where Jones' boys attended, and shot a Hobby Lobby store after a big court decision.

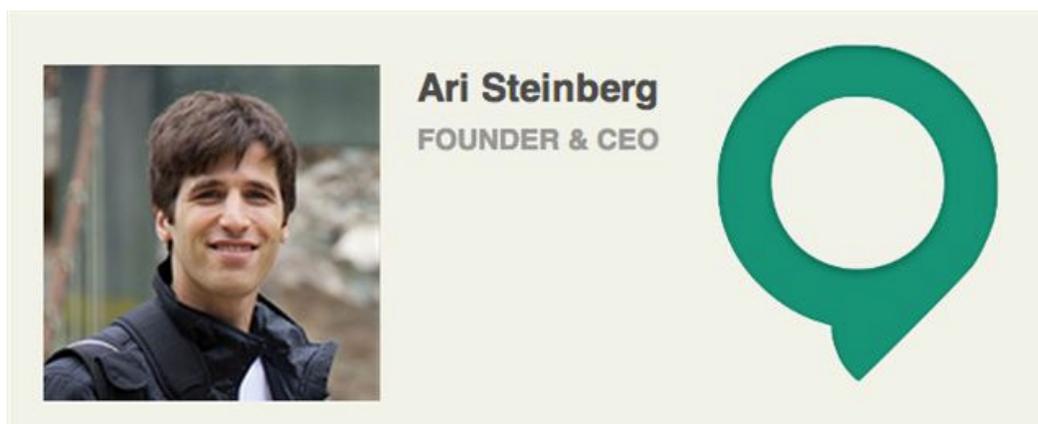
This is a photo of the original A.P. Kissel (by Little Rock photographer Danny Johnston) and here's a link to the Jones photo:

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/owners-cowboys-49ers-aid-arkansas-school>

-0-

Ari Steinbert launches travel website

Marty Steinberg ([Email](#)) - I don't know if Connecting has a place for this, but I can't help being proud of my son for launching his revolutionary travel website today (Tuesday). Aside from his father, Ari's direct connection to AP was his participation in the first Take Your Child to Work Day in 1994, which came a year after the first Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Ari was 11 years old then.



Marty shares this story from The New York Times:

Vamo Start-Up Simplifies Booking of Complex Trips

SEATTLE - If you want to fly to Paris or London for a few days, online travel booking sites like Expedia, Orbitz and others have that down pat. The process gets a little more ungainly when a traveler is planning a more complicated trip

and wants to know how adding and subtracting destinations will affect price.

Consider a trip to Scandinavia. If a few days in Copenhagen is tops on your list, but you'd like to also spend a few days each in Stockholm and Helsinki at a mid-range hotel, what would that cost? What about a multicountry trip to Africa?

Normally, people would pick up the phone to call a traditional travel agent to answer questions like that.

A new start-up, Vamo, founded by a former Facebook executive, is intended to give people all the online tools they need to book those trickier trips. Vamo - as in vámonos, Spanish for "let's go" - was introduced on Tuesday and provides people with curated trip suggestions after they provide a few basic bits of information. Tell Vamo you're planning a nice-day trip and mention "Paris," and it will suggest a "best of France" trip that includes Paris, the French Riviera and Provence and an "art capitals of western Europe" trip that spans Paris, Barcelona and Amsterdam.

It displays estimates of per person transportation and lodging prices for the trips, adjustable based on hotel quality and travel dates. You can easily customize the trip by adding London, Brussels and Versailles as destinations, giving travelers more flexibility than they usually get from travel packages organized by tour companies.

Vamo was founded by Ari Steinberg, an early Facebook employee who eventually ended up opening the social network's Seattle office. While he was still at Facebook, Mr. Steinberg became frustrated when planning international vacations in Africa, Europe and India. He said traditional travel booking sites required him to do a lot of research on his own.

Click [here](#) to read more

-0-

Hard to manage, but a helluva wordsmith and reporter

Bill McCloskey ([Email](#)) - When the late John Holliman and I worked at WASH-FM in D.C., before both of us went to work at AP Radio, he had a habit of taking apart the equipment, especially the telephones. He just liked to see how things worked. I was the news director, he was the morning anchor. This was back when the phone company owned the phones and customers rented them. When they broke, and they seldom did because they were so sturdy, the phone company fixed them.

John broke many of our phones. At WASH, we got to know the phone tech quite well. One of them told me he would have to report us if John didn't quit trying to rejigger the innards of the handsets. John liked to take out the little metal things that kept you from pushing down two buttons of a Call Director at once. John liked to make "conference calls." The phone company preferred to make

you pay for a conference call. Threatened, John agreed to stop.

Then one Thanksgiving morning when John was working and I was off, I dropped by the station to pick something up. Sure enough, John had the phone sitting in pieces on the desk. Words ensued.

Years later, when Holliman and Bernard Shaw were hunkered down in room in Baghdad reporting on the start of the Iraq War, it was John's telephone dismantling and rewiring skill that got them on the air back to CNN in Atlanta. I believe they had the only live broadcast.

John was hard to manage, but a hell of a wordsmith and reporter.

-0-

Yeoman 3rd class Joe McGowan

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Probably far too late to use, but it might amuse you to see me as a young sailor, home on leave in 1954. I was a yeoman 3rd class and because of my reserve time in college, had a hash mark on the lower sleeve, indicating 4 years service. My younger sister in Wyoming had a couple pics of me and mailed them to me.



Thanks again, ever so much, to you for establishing and continuing Connecting. And the new issue giving some of the background (Jack Stokes, etc.) number of members, etc. was wonderful. Keep it up.

Connecting notebook



Daughter of former Illinois AP statehouse chief Bill Strong to entertain at White House Correspondents' spring dinner

Politico's Mike Allen notes in today's Politico Playbook that Christi Parsons, president of the White House Correspondents' Association and Chicago Tribune/L.A. Times White House correspondent, emails the press corps: "**Cecily Strong** [of 'Saturday Night Live,' famous for

'The Girl You Wish You Hadn't Started a Conversation with at a Party'] will serve as entertainer for our 2015 spring dinner. ... Her political humor ... comes with a Chicago accent. ... Her dad, **Bill Strong**, is a legendary former Associated Press bureau chief at the Illinois Statehouse. In the 82-year history of our dinner, she'll be the fourth woman to serve in this role. ... [A]t our head table, ... I plan to seat her next to some other well-known Chicagoans. ... The dinner will be held on April 25." Her Wikipedia page notes that her father is now a managing partner at a Chicago public relations firm. Cecily's bio can be found by clicking [here](#).

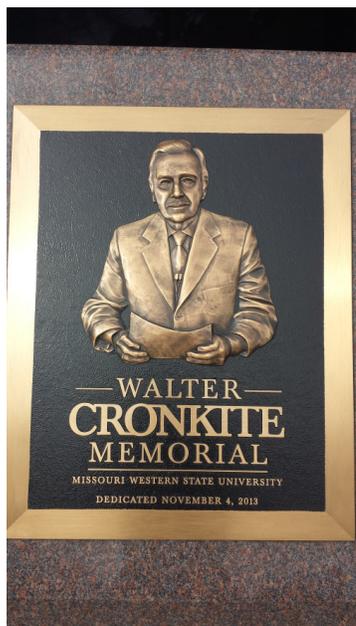
-0-

For the NFL fans amongst us...

SPORTS BLINK -- AP Pro32 weekly Power Rankings: "1. New England Patriots ... 2. Arizona Cardinals ... 3. Green Bay Packers ... 4. Kansas City Chiefs ... 5. Denver Broncos ... 6. Detroit Lions ... 7. Dallas Cowboys ... 8. Philadelphia Eagles ... 9. Indianapolis Colts ... 10. San Francisco 49ers ... 11. Seattle Seahawks ... 12. Pittsburgh Steelers ... 13. Cincinnati Bengals ... 14. Baltimore Ravens ... 15. Miami Dolphins ... 16. San Diego Chargers ... 17. Cleveland Browns ... 18. Houston Texans ... 19. St. Louis Rams ... 20. Buffalo Bills ... 21. New Orleans Saints ... 22. Atlanta Falcons ... 23. Chicago Bears ... 24. Minnesota Vikings ... 25. Carolina Panthers ... 26. New York Giants ... 27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers ... 28. New York Jets ... 29. Tennessee Titans ... 30. Washington Redskins ... 31. Jacksonville Jaguars ... 32. Oakland Raiders.

My visits to two Walter Cronkite tributes

Connecting colleague **Steve Buttry** ([Email](#)) wrote of Walter Cronkite in his blog, The Buttry Diary:



A large banner at the Walter Cronkite Memorial in St. Joseph, Mo., honors his famous sign-off line.

By coincidence, my travel schedule this month took me on consecutive weekends to two universities with exhibits honoring Walter Cronkite.

My family did not have a television when Cronkite made his debut as CBS anchor in 1962. One of the biggest stories of his career - the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy - finally made Mom and Dad cave and buy our first "idiot box" (Mom called it that before we got one and through the years as she became a loyal watcher). So of course, we missed Cronkite's announcement of Kennedy's

death.

The Cronkite exhibits at Missouri Western State University and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University both take note of the importance of the Kennedy coverage in the anchor's career.

Click [here](#) to read more.

AP ENPS brings new efficiencies to mobile newsgathering

A new version of AP ENPS Mobile includes powerful features to make mobile newsgathering more efficient, The Associated Press announced today.

The new application carries the "AP ENPS Anywhere" concept forward. Users can now upload photos and video from mobile devices directly into AP ENPS stories. The new version also includes real-time dynamic updates of content wherever a journalist is working, user-configurable and mobile-specific rundown views and native apps for both iOS and Android devices.

"The new AP ENPS Mobile brings the look and feel of the latest desktop client to journalists' mobile devices, reducing training times and giving journalists greater ability to create content from wherever news happens," said Director of AP ENPS Product Design Jason Smith. "This includes quickly feeding media from the scene back to the newsroom, directly into the newscast rundown."

Talent using AP ENPS Mobile in the Tablet Story Viewer (TSV) mode will appreciate seeing the rundown timing bar advance automatically along with their newscasts. They will also be able to edit stories from within the TSV.

AP ENPS is the world's most popular multiplatform news production system in use by more than 60,000 journalists. Every day more than half of the news seen across the globe is produced on AP ENPS.

Welcome to Connecting

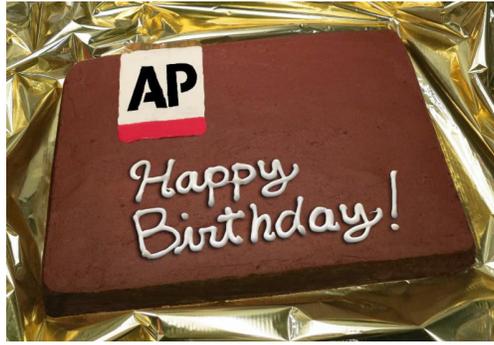


Ken Giglio ([Email](#)) - I began working for AP in July 1990 - one week before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. For the first 4 years I was at the BNC, I was a general news writer, producer and anchor. One of my early highlights was getting to interview **Terry Anderson** by phone the day after he was freed. Eventually, I began working as a business correspondent, anchoring Business Updates for radio network affiliates. I left the AP in January 2004 and have been working with my wife since then in the home-based PR consulting business she founded. I also do voiceover work as a side gig. My wife and I have two college-age sons.



I have attached a picture of myself, at left, along with former BNCers **Doug Whiteman (center)** and **Mark Hamrick**, taken at a recent reunion dinner in Washington, DC.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Belatedly (Nov. 8), to

Paul Webster ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

[Gen. Honoré Jabs the Media: 'People Like You' Driving Chaos in Ferguson](#) (Bob Daugherty)

On Monday's AC360 on CNN, retired Lt. General Russel Honoré rebuked the media's coverage of the ongoing controversy surrounding the police shooting of Michael Brown. Anderson Cooper raised how a liberal legal analyst contended that Missouri Governor Jay Nixon's activation



of the National Guard, in anticipation of a grand jury decision on the case, was an "escalation of this military-style approach that didn't work in the first place." He then asked, "Do you agree with that - that it could, in some ways, do more harm than - than good?"

General Honoré, who is best known for leading the military's relief operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, replied by indicating that large part of the problem was the media's spin of the issue.

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[Warren Buffett: What Newspapers Need to Do to Survive](#)

If there's one thing Warren Buffett knows, it's how to earn the most money in

the smartest way. Buffett, the "Oracle of Omaha," understands that the newspaper industry isn't dead. It would be wise for publishers to listen to what he's got to say.

Inland Press reports that in Buffett's annual letter to Berkshire Hathaway shareholders, he successfully explains why he believes in the newspaper industry and how publishers everywhere can turn their profits and readership around.

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[California Paper Asks Its Employees to Produce, Then Deliver, the News](#)

As financial troubles continue to plague the newspaper industry, some companies are coming up with new ways to trim their year-end costs. At The Orange County Register, it involves some old-fashioned shoe leather.

In recent weeks, The Register has asked its employees, including reporters, to help deliver newspapers and return phone calls from readers who did not receive their papers.



Richard Mirman, The Register's interim publisher, sent a series of emails to employees describing the problems it has had with distribution because it recently changed newspaper carriers.

The problems were so extensive that on Nov. 7, Mr. Mirman started a program called "We Care" to encourage employees to return 9,000 unanswered phone calls from customers. The Register set up a "We Care Center" on the paper's second-floor offices, where reporters and other employees can make calls, and even established a "We Care Lobster Bake Challenge." Employees who agree to make at least 20 phone calls on Nov. 20 and Nov. 21 become "eligible to win four live Maine lobsters, fresh steamers and New England clam chowder," one company email read.

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[Journalist Jim Ragsdale dies at 64](#) (Bill Beecham)

Jim Ragsdale, who delivered politics to

Twin Cities newspaper readers for more than three decades with unfailing probity, a graceful pen and a knowing wink, died Tuesday after a yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 64.

Ragsdale, a former St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter and editorialist who had worked for the Star Tribune since 2011, was named Minnesota Journalist of the Year last spring by the Society of Professional Journalists - a recognition of lifetime achievement that ranged from award-winning reporting on former Gov. Jesse Ventura to whimsical monologues on TPT's "Almanac" news show.

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[ONA and Poynter announce leadership academy for women](#)

The Poynter Institute and the Online News Association have announced a partnership to create the ONA-Poynter Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media.

The academy, which will be held at Poynter in April of next year, is tuition-free, according to a press release, and "ONA and Poynter are seeking seed funding from media and technology companies, foundations and academic institutions to keep this transformative learning experience tuition-free."

Twenty five women will be chosen for the four and a half day program. Applications will be accepted starting in January.

-0-

[Uber CEO Apologizes For Exec's 'Terrible' Suggestion That The Company Investigate Journalists](#)

Uber CEO Travis Kalanick apologized Tuesday on Twitter for explosive comments a senior executive at his firm made over the weekend.

As BuzzFeed first reported Monday, Uber Vice President Emil Michael said at a dinner in New York on Friday that he wanted to spend \$1 million to hire a team to research and fight back against journalists who have written negative stories about Uber. They could do this, he said, by investigating journalists' personal lives and families, BuzzFeed reported.

Michael specifically criticized one journalist -- Sarah Lacy, the editor-in-chief of tech site Pando Daily, according to BuzzFeed. Lacy recently wrote a column calling out Uber for sexism and said she had deleted the app from her phone. At the dinner, according to an article by BuzzFeed Editor-in-Chief Ben Smith, Michael "said that he thought Lacy should be held 'personally responsible' for any woman who followed her lead in deleting Uber and was then sexually assaulted."

-0-

[Meet The Women Challenging The Media And Tech Establishments](#)

Not many journalists would leave a high-profile job at one of America's most storied newspapers to create their own startup.

But that's exactly what former Wall Street Journal reporter Jessica Lessin did last year when she founded the tech news site The Information.

Lessin says that there's so much that's substitutable in today's media environment, so she sought to create valuable, informative content that wasn't just click bait.

"The impetus for starting The Information was this major opportunity I saw to build a new type of news organization," she says. "There's this huge thirst for information among professionals and other types of readers who want more in-depth news that may not appeal to mass audiences."

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[Huge change: No more set vacation or sick days at LA Times](#)

Starting January 1, staffers will no longer be able to bank vacation - because they won't automatically earn or be entitled to any vacation, sick days or floating holidays. To get any time off, a reporter or editor will have to go to a supervisor and make a case "subject to their professional judgment and to the performance expectations of their supervisor that apply to their job." In one stroke, vacation time and sick days become a management tool to monitor and reward or punish performance - or to favor the yes men that plague the Times' organization - and crucially, a way to get that expensive banked vacation off the books. That's because if a staffer succeeds in getting permission to take time off, he or she first has to use any banked time to pay for it. So the company's financial burden gradually lessens.

-0-

[Cronkite School Taps Digital Media Leader for New Digital Production Bureau](#)

The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication has selected a digital media innovator to direct a new professional program in which Arizona State University students will produce dynamic multimedia content.

Mike Reilley, a 25-year journalism veteran with stops at the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune, will serve as director of the new Cronkite News - Digital Production Bureau opening in January. Students will create multimedia content that integrates text, video, images, statistical information and other content into

usable, shareable products such as interactives, infographics and data visualizations. The work will be part of the Cronkite News website that showcases news and information produced by students across a range of professional programs.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 19, the 323rd day of 2014. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln paid tribute to the fallen from the Battle of Gettysburg as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1600, King Charles I of England was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland.

In 1794, the United States and Britain signed Jay's Treaty, which resolved some issues left over from the Revolutionary War.

In 1831, the 20th president of the United States, James Garfield, was born in Orange Township, Ohio.

In 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles (veh-SY') by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1984, some 500 people died in a firestorm set off by a series of explosions at a

petroleum storage plant on the edge of Mexico City.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1990, the pop duo Milli Vanilli were stripped of their Grammy Award because other singers had lent their voices to the "Girl You Know It's True" album.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey (mih-KOY') gave birth to septuplets, four boys and three girls. The space shuttle Columbia zoomed into orbit on a two-week science mission.

Ten years ago: A notorious NBA brawl that came to be known as the "Malice at the Palace" erupted as Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson of the Indiana Pacers charged into the stands and fought with Detroit Pistons fans, forcing officials to end the Pacers' 97-82 win with 45.9 seconds left. (Artest was suspended for the rest of the season, Jackson for 30 games. Fellow Pacer Jermaine O'Neal, who also was involved, was suspended for 15 games and six other players on both teams received suspensions of at least one game.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama wrapped up his weeklong Asia trip in South Korea, where he said the United States had begun talking with allies about fresh punishment against Iran for defying efforts to halt its nuclear weapons pursuits. President Hamid Karzai pledged to get tough on corruption and strengthen security in Afghanistan as he started a second five-year term. Artist Jeanne-Claude, who helped create various "wrapping" projects with her husband Christo, died in New York at age 74.

One year ago: Suicide bombers struck the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, killing 23 people, including a diplomat, and injuring more than 140 others. Virginia state Sen. Creigh (kree) Deeds was attacked and stabbed multiple times by his mentally ill adult son, Gus Deeds, who then took his own life. Diane Disney Miller, 79, daughter of Walt Disney and one of his inspirations for building the Disneyland theme park, died in Napa, California. The Disney animated feature "Frozen" had its Hollywood premiere.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Young is 95. Talk show host Larry King is 81. Former General Electric chief executive Jack Welch is 79. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 78. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 76. Singer Pete Moore (Smokey Robinson and the Miracles) is 75. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 75. Actor Dan Haggerty is 73. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 73. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 72. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 65. Actor Robert Beltran is 61. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 60. Actress Glynnis

O'Connor is 59. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 58. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 58. Actress Allison Janney is 55. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 54. Actress Meg Ryan is 53. Actress-director Jodie Foster is 52. Actress Terry Farrell is 51. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 48. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 48. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 48. Actress Erika Alexander is 45. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 45. Singer Tony Rich is 43. Actress Sandrine Holt is 42. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 41. Country singer Billy Currington is 41. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 41. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo is 37. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 37. Actor Reid Scott is 37. Actress Katherine Kelly (TV: "Mr. Selfridge") is 35. Actor Adam Driver is 31. Actress Samantha Futerman is 27. Rapper Tyga is 25.

Thought for Today: "The misfortunes hardest to bear are these which never came." - Christopher Morley, American author and journalist (1890-1957).

The Final Word

The Atlantic:

The 100 Most Influential Figures in American History

Who are the most influential figures in American history? We asked 10 eminent historians. The result, collected here, is The Atlantic's 100 picks. (More on America's most influential filmmakers, musicians, critics, architects, and poets- and how we put these lists together-below.)

Was Walt Disney really more influential than Elizabeth Cady Stanton? John D. Rockefeller than Bill Gates? Babe Ruth than Frank Lloyd Wright? Let us know what you think. Ross Douthat explains how our panel came up with these selections here. Readers respond and offer their own nominations here. Explore more from The Atlantic on the most influential figures in American history right here.

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