

## Connecting - August 17, 2015

1 message

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Mon, Aug 17, 2015 at 9:10 AM

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# Connecting

August 17, 2015

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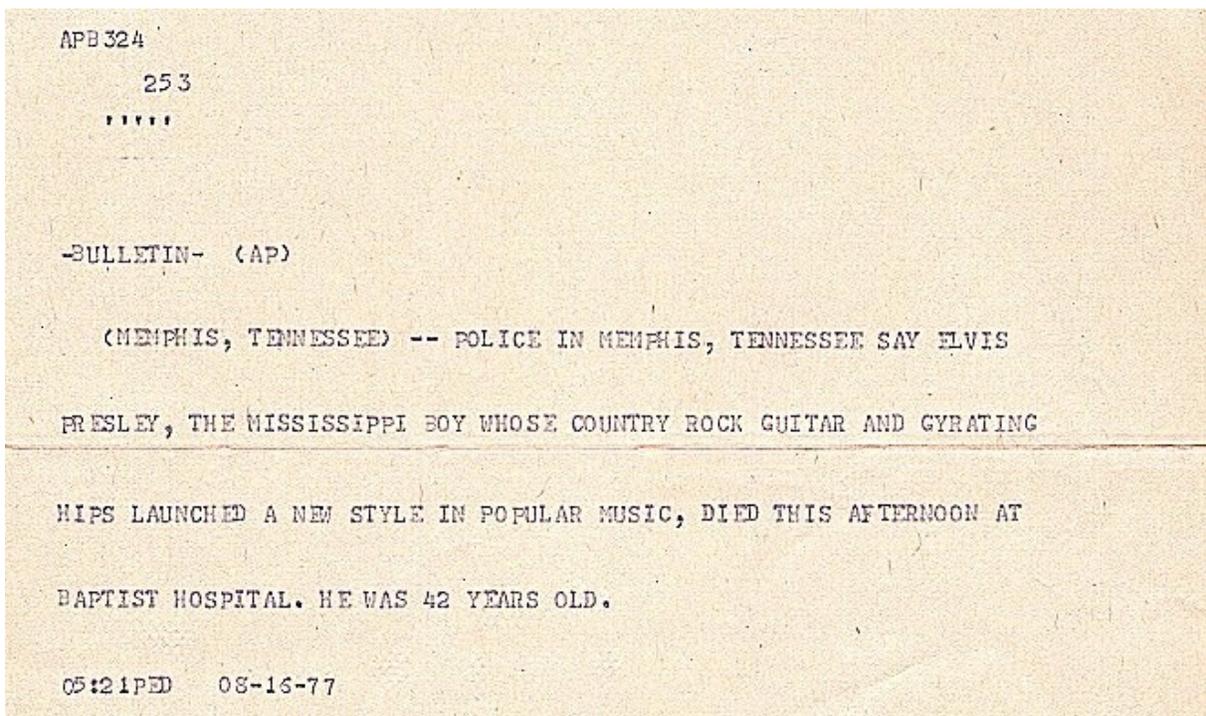


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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Connecting colleague **Lee Perryman** ([Email](#)) combines his love of history with that of the AP to save bulletins of major news events - and he shares the bulletin above on the anniversary Sunday of the death of Elvis Presley.

You'll see more of Lee's collection in future Connectings.

The important role that spouses play in their wives' or husbands' careers with the AP has been a Connecting theme over the past week. And Ye Olde Connecting Editor thought I would start the week by sharing the contribution made by my wife **Linda** - resulting in the best-played feature I ever produced in my wire-writing days.

Hope you enjoy:

## **John Denver of Grandma Mary: 'She makes a chocolate pie that knocks your socks off'**

**Paul Stevens** - As AP's Wichita correspondent for three years in the late 1970s, I marveled over the amount of news that seemed to regularly break from Kansas' largest city. But a tip and assist from my wife Linda resulted in my best-played story - involving the unlikely combination of Linda's grandmother Mary Saul and singer John Denver.

It was 1978, and Denver - an avid flier, like his father who was an Air Force pilot -

purchased a multi-million-dollar Learjet and came to Wichita to learn to fly it. Wichita was headquarters for Gates Learjet (now Bombardier).

Flight training would take a week and Denver wanted to stay as incognito as possible, so Learjet officials found a home in west Wichita that he could rent. But he need to eat, and he wanted to avoid restaurants where he could be surrounded by fans, so Learjet officials got a tip that Mary Saul, who once owned a Mexican restaurant and cooked at a local hotel, might be available. When approached, the 78-year-old grandmother was sworn to secrecy. But she did spill the secret to her granddaughter, Linda, who shared it with me, and I immediately saw the AAA-wire potential of such a story and lobbied to get an exclusive interview with grandmother and Denver. Grandmother Mary got him to agree, as long as the story did not move until the day he left Wichita to return to his home in Colorado.

JUN 17 1978

## Good cook keeps singer's secret

By PAUL STEVENS  
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — Mary Saul, meet John Denver — famous singer and television star who aspires to be a jet pilot. John Denver, meet Mary Saul — a great-grandmother and seasoned cook who can keep a secret.

So began a week-long association between the boyish-looking personality known to millions and the 78-year-old Wichita woman he hired to keep house and fix him home-cooked evening meals.

"She spoiled me rotten," Denver said. "She makes a chocolate pie that would knock your socks off."

The admiration was mutual. Said Mrs. Saul: "I think he's just a lovely, down-to-earth person. I love to cook and I love for people to enjoy the things I cook."

The 34-year-old Denver, who recently completed a concert tour of 51 cities that drew nearly a million fans, was in Wichita to learn to fly the business jet he owns to hopscotch across the country.

He was among about 15 students in a ground school class for jet aircraft that ended Friday after eight days of concentrated book work and flight simulator training.

Because of the workload and study involved, he wanted as few persons as possible to know he was staying in the city.

"People are very interested in me. I'm very recognizable, so it's difficult to maintain privacy," Denver said in an exclusive interview at the private residence where he stayed.

"As opposed to going to a motel where I thought things really would get crazy, working it this way let me keep a low profile. This is a real blessing — in a home and getting home-cooked food."

Gates-Learjet Corp. officials, who sold Denver a jet three years ago, located the home where he and his father, Dutch Deutchendorf, stayed. And when they went searching for a cook, the name of Mary Saul popped up.

Mrs. Saul, a widow who works part-time cooking at a local motel, was asked by her boss, Maver Stroman, wife of a Learjet employee, whether she would like the job.

"She was surprised," Mrs. Stroman said. "I think she was absolutely scared to death. But they love her. She told Dutch when she met him, 'I'll be your grandmother.'"

In 15 years of operating Mexican food restaurants in the city, Mrs. Saul said she never encountered "somebody like that." But she kept mum as to her employer's identity, except to tell several relatives whom Denver invited to the house one evening.

Was she apprehensive? "I thought I might be but after their first meal (breaded veal cutlet), I changed my mind," she replied. "They like to eat and they appreciate good food. They insisted I sit down and join them for meals."

Her dinners, the only meals she cooked for Denver, were strictly "down home" — tacos with her own special hot sauce, baked chicken, fried fish and pork chops.

Denver employs private pilots to help fly the Learjet with his father, the chief pilot, who is a retired Air Force officer who holds a world speed record for a flight in a B-58 bomber 17 years ago.

"I would like to learn how to fly the airplane and I would like to have my dad teach me," Denver said.

His father, who taught him to fly a single-engine plane three years ago, helped interpret the engineering and electrical information he must digest to fly the jet, Denver said, moaning, "In high school, the thing I was least interested in was electricity."

"I just love to fly," he said. "When I was a kid, I wanted to do just what my dad did. I wanted to go to the Air Force Academy and be a pilot, but my vision wasn't good enough for the Air Force."

He earned a private pilot's license with a single-engine rating about a year ago. After successful completion of jet ground school training, Denver must complete flight training and pass an inspector's flight exam before he can take control of his 560 mph jet.

Denver's singing career — one of his first hits was "Leaving on a Jet Plane" — has resulted in a number of gold records and numerous television appearances. He stars with comedian George Burns in the movie, "Oh, God."

Flying is a way to keep his life from becoming too narrow, he believes.

"All my life I wanted to be a singer," he said. "People who achieve success in one area sometimes tend to get narrow in their lives. Flying is one thing that has totally expanded my life."

Despite nightly handball sessions while staying in Wichita, Denver says he will return to his family in Aspen, Colo., carrying five extra pounds.

"She's spoiled us here," said Denver, who returned the courtesy Thursday night by taking Mrs. Saul out to a local restaurant for a champagne and steak dinner. "We wine and dined her."



Singer John Denver wanted two things when he stayed in Wichita eight days to learn to fly his jet: privacy and good home-cooked meals. Mary Saul, a 78-year-old great-grandmother, handled the cooking and kept quiet about it, too. Said Denver, "She spoiled me rotten. She makes a chocolate pie that would knock your socks off." (AP Laserphoto)

I got the interview and shot a picture of grandmother and Denver in the backyard of the home. I then arranged with editors in the Kansas City bureau to move the story for the PMs cycle on the day Denver was to depart. The story and photo moved on

the AAA and we later got clippings (through the Learjet clipping service) from all over the world. Much to the chagrin of my editor friends at the Wichita Eagle and Beacon, they were unable to match my story on the PMs cycle for the afternoon Beacon so I got a Page-One byline in my hometown paper.

On later concert visits to Wichita, Denver reached out to Grandmother Mary to give her front-row tickets and noted her presence during the concerts.

Mary Saul died in 1995 at the age of 95 and two years later, John Denver died when the experimental aircraft he was piloting crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Meet the Press hits a new low*



**David Briscoe** - Meet the Press hit a new low Sunday morning, with anchor Chuck Todd "interviewing" Donald Trump aboard the supposed billionaire's private jet. The old Spivak-to-Russert format of having top reporters grill newsmakers around a table has given way to show business news. Everything seemed aimed at making the Donald comfortable in his own gilded world.

Todd, waving his pen and constantly referring to his notes, was squashed by Trump's bullying style. He threw back, talked over or deflected any questions that might cause trouble. Even admitting the only military advice he gets is from the TV won't faze this self-styled anti-politician. At least Megyn Kelly caught him off-guard on national television with seriously tough questions, accusatory as they were.

Meet the Press presented a heavily edited version of the "interview" that still couldn't make Todd look like anything but a straight man for the would-be Master of the Universe. Basically he stroked the beardless lion's mane in his own den. Trump

couldn't have done better for his growing base if he'd paid for the time.

Here is an AP story on the interview:

### **Trump: Deport children of immigrants living illegally in US**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump wants more than a wall to keep out immigrants living in the country illegally. He also wants to end "birthright citizenship" for their children, he said Sunday. And he would rescind Obama administration executive orders on immigration and toughen deportation, allowing in only "the good ones."

Trump described his expanded vision of how to secure American borders during a wide-ranging interview Sunday on NBC's "Meet The Press," saying that he would push to end the constitutionally protected citizenship rights of children of any family living illegally inside the U.S.

"They have to go," Trump said, adding: "What they're doing, they're having a baby. And then all of a sudden, nobody knows...the baby's here."

Native-born children of immigrants - even those living illegally in the U.S. - have been automatically considered American citizens since the adoption of the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution in 1868.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### ***A frantic search to make Brian Bland's bail***

**Ed Tobias** - A small side-bar to Brian Bland's bicycle arrest story in Saturday's Connecting:

Brad Kalbfeld and I were part of the "group of AP execs (who) were ricocheting from one ATM to another, gathering cash for an anticipated sizeable bail." Our ATM was in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel on Figueroa, just down the block from the bureau. Because the ATM had a \$300 limit on each withdrawal, Brad and I alternated making withdrawals, back and forth, until we reached \$1,500.

We needed to put the money into the hands of COB Sue Cross, who met us in the driveway of the Marriott to receive the hand-off. The Marriott was the headquarters hotel for the convention, which meant lot of security...lots of LAPD officers positioned at the hotel's entrance and along that driveway. Brad and I must have looked a bit shady as we counted out \$1,500, all in \$20 bills, and handed them to Sue through her car window at around midnight. Fortunately, no driveway arrests were made.

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## ***Susan Newhouse sparkled with energy, good will***

**Dave Tomlin** - on the death of Susan Newhouse, wife of newspaperman and former AP board chairman Donald Newhouse:

The Tomlins were never more than minor figures at AP director gatherings, so Pam was startled and touched when Susan Newhouse greeted her at an AP board dinner in Boston by name and asked some smart questions about what she'd been up to lately.

The chairman's wife always seemed to sparkle with energy and good will. We hardly knew her, but we'll always remember her with affection.

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## ***Story mixes truth, fiction in Japanese surrender***

**Bob Sherwood** - I actually thought of this story when you mentioned Harry S Truman in Connecting. All the Japanese did not agree to the unconditional surrender, which inspired my story.

The story mixes truth with fiction and challenges the reader to tell the difference. An Unforgivable Act is the fourth in a series by Robert J. Sherwood -- Available in print or ebook at Amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com/An-Unforgivable-Act-Robert-Sherwood/dp/1500263451>

Hiroshima, 1945-a city incinerated by nuclear attack, and the forge that creates a beautiful psychopath named Mito Mitsui, bent on ultimate revenge against America. What is born in these ashes will change the world forever...

Baltimore, Maryland, present day-a simple supply problem for fighter planes escalates into a much more deadly threat-fueled by an obsession spanning more than five decades. A Japanese keiretsu, formed in vengeance, is driven toward lethal conflict with the United States by Mito Mitsui-Japan's most beloved performer for over fifty years. What she demands is equal destruction, and she holds a blackmail card that can't be trumped...

David Dawson is back in this thriller, caught in the dangerous dance of revenge-holding the fate of America and the world in the balance. What starts as a seemingly innocuous supply problem with a small but vital electronic component for a fighter plane soon reveals a much larger, and more dangerous, vulnerability. America relies on foreign companies for the production of sensitive technology-and one of those companies belongs to a Japanese keiretsu, a business conglomerate brought into being by the white hot hate of a woman damaged beyond redemption by the fatal attack on Hiroshima.

## **Welcome to Connecting - Clarke Canfield**



**Clarke Canfield** ([Email](#)) - I worked for the Associated Press in Portland, Maine, from 2001-2013. I am now the communications director at Southern Maine Community College.

My journalism career started in 1980 as a reporter/photographer for the Courier News in Blytheville, Ark. I then worked for the Nashville Banner (now defunct), before arriving at the Portland Press Herald in 1987. I had two stints there: from 1987-1994 and 1997-2000. In between, I was the executive editor for three magazines. Between my

second stint at the Press Herald and the AP, I was hired to be director of content for a dot-com called Gofish.com. But like many dot-coms in that era, it didn't survive.

I'm attaching a photo, which happened to be taken a few weeks ago at the home of David Sharp, the correspondent in the Maine bureau with whom I worked all those years.

## Stories of interest

### Writing from the Top Down: Pros and Cons of the Inverted Pyramid (Poynter)

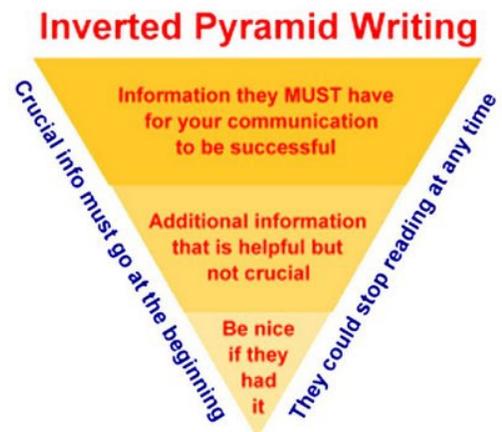
Developed more than a century ago to take advantage of a new communications technology, the inverted pyramid remains a controversial yet widely used method of reporting news and will have a future in the 21st century, journalists in all media agree.

The inverted pyramid puts the most newsworthy information at the top, and then the remaining information follows in order of importance, with the least important at the bottom.

Historians argue over when the form was created.

But they agree that the invention of the telegraph sparked its development so that it had entered into common use by newspapers and the newly-formed wire service organizations by the beginning of the 20th century.

Journalism historian David T. Z. Mindich argues that one of the first inverted pyramid leads was written by an Associated Press reporter after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865:



*To The Associated Press  
Washington, Friday, April 14, 1865*

*The President was shot in a theater to-night and perhaps mortally wounded.*

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## **Times Reaches Online Milestone, but Many Challenges Await** (New York Times)

LAST spring, Mark Thompson, chief executive of The New York Times Company, said The Times would soon boast of one million digital-only subscribers. Early this month, his prediction came to pass.

It is a major milestone, something no other news organization can claim, and is legitimately a big deal. However, it in no way assures the future of The Times, which continues to deal with the erosion of its traditional revenue mainstay: print advertising.

Given my role representing Times readers, I sat down with Mr. Thompson last week and asked him to look forward again at The Times's business prospects, which have such power to affect readers and citizens. After all, while many readers may complain about The Times's foibles, they also feel passionate about its long-term survival.

"I truly want The Times to thrive," one reader, Ed Bramson of New York City, wrote me last week. He said some new initiatives dismay him. But despite sometimes "feeling we are adversaries," he said, "I love the Times." Even amid reader grievances about click-bait stories and disruptive ads, disagreement with news decisions, or even charges of bias, that is a sentiment I hear often: Stay healthy, New York Times. We need you.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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## **The Justice Department says it approved subpoenas or search warrants for three journalists last year** (Washington Post)

The Justice Department said Friday that former Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. authorized three subpoenas or search warrants last year for journalists or people viewed as members of the media, though two of the three were not ultimately used.

This information was included in a four-page report released Friday afternoon that the Justice Department said encompassed requests law enforcement officials made to media members for information.

One of these requests came in the form of Holder authorizing a subpoena calling for limited testimony from New York Times reporter James Risen in a leak case involving a former CIA officer. Risen's 2006 book, "State of War," detailed a CIA plan to sabotage Iran's nuclear program, and prosecutors charged that Jeffrey A. Sterling, a former CIA operative, provided information used in that chapter.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Carol Riha.

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## **The Murder of Mexico's Free Press** (New York Times)

### **New York Times Editorial Board**

A month before the Mexican photojournalist Rubén Espinosa was murdered in Mexico City in late July, the governor of Veracruz, the province Mr. Espinosa had fled fearing for his life, gave other journalists a warning.

"Behave," Javier Duarte, the governor of Veracruz, urged reporters. "We're going to shake the tree and a lot of rotten apples will fall."

Mr. Duarte said that his warning was meant to deter journalists who are sympathetic to drug traffickers and other criminals. But many Mexican journalists understandably saw it as a threat to journalists who produce critical coverage of local officials.

Since 2010, at least 41 journalists have been killed in Mexico. Roughly 20 have disappeared. Mexican journalists are targeted by powerful criminal organizations and in some instances by government officials who don't want their misdeeds exposed. The majority of cases remain unsolved, leaving journalists in many parts of the country with a terrible choice: they censor themselves or get silenced by a bullet.

The government of President Enrique Peña Nieto has not done enough to protect journalists or fight this culture of impunity.

"An attempt on the life of a journalist is an attack on society's very right to be informed," a group of prominent journalists and press advocates wrote in a letter to Mr. Peña Nieto, expressing outrage over the latest killing.

They demanded that his administration carry out a credible investigation into the slaying of Mr. Espinosa, a 31-year-old photojournalist, and examine the involvement of local officials who may have been complicit in the killing of journalists.

Crimes against journalists are not the only ones that routinely go unpunished in Mexico. The country's criminal justice system is notoriously weak, susceptible to political meddling and corruption. This is most acute in parts of the country wracked by violence fueled by the drug trade. The authorities were deeply embarrassed last month when the country's highest profile prisoner, the drug kingpin Joaquín Guzmán Loera, escaped from prison for the second time.

Mr. Espinosa left Veracruz, a southeast coastal state, shortly after he photographed student activists who were beaten by masked men. When he arrived in Mexico City, he told friends he felt unsafe because strangers had asked him if he was the photographer who had fled Veracruz. Mr. Espinosa was shot in a friend's apartment on July 31, along with four women. Prosecutors detained a suspect and have sought to portray the crime as a robbery, but many Mexicans find that account dubious.

Since Mr. Duarte assumed office in 2010, intimidation and crimes against journalists in Veracruz have soared, according to press freedom advocates. Fourteen have been killed and at least three have disappeared. In most cases, local officials have tried to play down the idea that the journalists were murdered to silence them.

Ending these assaults on the press requires forceful action by Mr. Peña Nieto. He should repudiate Mr. Duarte's warning - the two men belong to the same party. And beyond investigating and prosecuting past crimes, he and local officials must take concrete steps to protect journalists who risk their lives doing their jobs.

Click [here](#) for a link to this editorial.

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## **6 reasons to join your campus newspaper** (USA Today)

Freshmen are often bombarded with the opportunities that college holds for them - whether these are discovered through an a cappella team serenading them in the quad or an environmental awareness club ironically passing out flyers on every corner.

Some of these opportunities leave you with a free t-shirt and something small to tack onto your resume. Others help you develop lifelong skills that will shape your postgrad life. Writing for your campus newspaper definitely falls into the latter category.

While student newspapers may attract more journalism students, it's a worthwhile experience for students of all majors.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Len Iwanski, Lew Wheaton.

# **Today in History - August 17, 2015**

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, August 17, the 229th day of 2015. There are 136 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 17, 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

**On this date:**

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

In 1863, Federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

In 1945, Indonesian nationalists declared their independence from the Netherlands. The George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1962, East German border guards shot and killed 18-year-old Peter Fechter, who had attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into the western sector.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton gave grand jury testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House concerning his relationship with Monica Lewinsky; he then delivered a TV address in which he denied previously committing perjury, admitted his relationship with Lewinsky was "wrong," and criticized Kenneth Starr's investigation.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: Israeli security forces poured into four Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, beginning the forcible removal of protesters who'd refused orders to leave the area ahead

of a deadline. Three car bombs exploded in Baghdad, killing up to 43 people. Hundreds of anti-war vigils were held nationwide, part of an effort spurred by Cindy Sheehan's protest near President George W. Bush's Texas ranch in memory of her son Casey, who was killed in Iraq.

Five years ago: A mistrial was declared on 23 corruption charges against ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich), who was accused of trying to sell President Barack Obama's old Senate seat; the jury convicted him on one charge, that of lying to the FBI. (Blagojevich was convicted of 17 counts of corruption in a retrial and sentenced to 14 years in prison, but a federal appeals court dismissed five of the counts in July 2015.) A suicide bomber in Iraq detonated nail-packed explosives strapped to his body, killing 61 people, many of them army recruits.

One year ago: U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder ordered a federal medical examiner to perform another autopsy on the remains of Michael Brown, a black Missouri teenager whose fatal shooting by a white police officer spurred a week of rancorous and sometimes violent protests in suburban St. Louis. Inbee Park of **South Korea** successfully defended her title in the LPGA Championship, beating Brittany Lincicome with a par on the first hole of a playoff to end the United States' major streak at three.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Maureen O'Hara is 95. Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 89. Author V.S. Naipaul is 83. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 74. Actor Robert DeNiro is 72. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 69. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 68. Rock musician Sib Hashian is 66. Actor Robert Joy is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 63. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 62. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 60. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 60. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 58. Singer **Belinda Carlisle** is 57. Author Jonathan Franzen is 56. Actor **Sean Penn** is 55. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 54. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 53. Singer Maria McKee is 51. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 50. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 49. Actor David Conrad is 48. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 46. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 46. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 46. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 45. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 44. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 41. Actor Mark Salling is 33. Actor Bryton James is 29. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 27. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 20.

***Thought for Today: "It is not love that is blind, but jealousy." - Lawrence Durrell, British-born author (1912-1990).***

## Got a story to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**  
**Editor**  
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