

Connecting - September 3, 2015

1 message

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Thu, Sep 3, 2015 at 9:11 AM

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Connecting

September 3, 2015

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Japanese officials stand in a group facing representatives of the Allied armed forces prior to signing the surrender agreement on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, on September 2, 1945, during the surrender ceremony marking the end of World War II. In front line wearing top hat is Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and to his right is Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu, Chief of the Army General Staff. Behind them are three representatives each of the Foreign Ministry, the Army, and the Navy. Among the officers in the foreground are Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur. (AP Photo/Max Desfor)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Today's issue of Connecting leads with a wonderfully thoughtful, thought-provoking essay by our Connecting colleague **Charlotte Porter**.

Charlotte was AP's New Orleans chief of bureau when Hurricane Katrina struck 10 years ago this week and is now an editor with Bloomberg News in New York City.

I think you will find it as remarkable as I did.

On the subject of anniversaries, Wednesday's Connecting led with stories by **Gene Herrick** and the AP on the Japanese' official surrender 70 years ago on board the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay. **Myron Belkind** wrote to remind that among those who photographed the event was colleague **Max Desfor**, now 101 years old and AP's oldest retiree. Max, like Gene Herrick, was an AP photographer covering the Korean War and won a Pulitzer Prize for his photo of refugees fleeing through girders over a wrecked bridge to escape the Communist Chinese advance in December 1950. **Richard Pyle** also weighed in with thoughts on Max and AP's coverage of the surrender



Max Desfor in front of photo taken of him during Korean War.

Valerie Komor, director of AP Corporate Archives, tracked down Max's U.S.S. Missouri photo and sent it to Connecting, and it is shown at the top. Further, Time.org did a story noting the Japanese surrender, running an excerpt from the AP's World War II book about AP photographers and reporters today, to note the anniversary. **Sarah Nordgren**, director of U.S. News and Content Development for AP, shared the Time story.

Which goes to prove - producing Connecting is a collective effort. We welcome your contributions.

Paul

Charlotte Porter's Katrina story

By **CHARLOTTE PORTER** ([Email](#))

I know the anniversary is over, but I wanted to share this. There are a lot of people out there who may think they should "get on with it" after a natural disaster. It's not so simple.

Here's my story:

I lied.

When anyone asked how I survived Katrina, I replied that nothing happened to me. My house didn't flood, no one I loved was hurt or killed. I wasn't even in town when the streets filled up with toxins and bodies. I got out soon afterward for a new job far away. I was lucky.

Now, 10 years later, I can say Hurricane Katrina is the worst thing that ever happened to me. Under the weight of depression and what I later came to realize was post-traumatic stress disorder, something in me broke. After struggling with guilt, shame and withdrawal, I've started to understand I'll never be quite the same.



It's taken centuries for people to come to grips with the fact that soldiers are often victims of "shell-shock," or PTSD, and it still carries the sting of stigma. PTSD can happen to people who have survived tornadoes, or childhood abuse, or being mugged. And the journalists who bear witness suffer as well.

By August 2005, I had lived in New Orleans for 11 years and was no stranger to tropical storms. As we had before, I and many of my co-workers at a major news agency moved our essential operations out of harm's way, leaving a small group behind to gather on-the-ground detail.

When Katrina's storm surge drowned much of New Orleans, I was watching it on TV miles away, my heart cracking, wondering if the city I loved was gone forever. It was days before I knew if my home had survived. It was weeks before I could go see for myself.

Friends and colleagues who evacuated, as I did, sometimes spent days trying to find places to stay, locate open stores and gas stations, get calls through to loved ones, make sure elderly relatives had shelter and power. Those who stayed in the city saw bodies floating in the streets, children screaming for lost families, houses stinking of things decomposing inside, people -- so many people -- without help, with no sign that help was even coming.

Some of these colleagues broke, hard. They found comfort in drugs and alcohol. One, in despair, tried to get police to shoot him. One had an elderly relative who killed himself when he returned to town and saw the ruins of his life.

I was lucky. Nothing happened to me.

It was years before I told even those dearest to me that Katrina had been a soul-shattering experience. And it was more years before I admitted my own soul was

still damaged.

What right did I have to feel sorrow? What right did I have to pull away, cocoon in my new apartment, keep contact with people to a minimum? I didn't suffer the way that my beautiful old city did, I didn't have to beg housing from indifferent bureaucrats or distant cousins far from home, I didn't have to rebuild, search for missing relatives, identify loved ones in the morgue. I hadn't patrolled the streets in a rowboat, looking for people stuck on rooftops and finding corpses. I hadn't sweltered for days in the sun on an interstate overpass, the only high ground for miles. I hadn't fought for space or food or a working toilet in the Superdome or the Convention Center. All I had done was worry, fight down fear, try not to cry and pretend I was holding together. I had a good job and friends and family who loved me. What was my problem?

I grieved for New Orleans, the place I adored and had hoped to spend the rest of my life in. I grieved at my weakness in coping. I grieved for the hardships my friends went through. I grieved because, a few months after the storm, I left them behind.

It's funny how grief works. There's no "deserve" or "not deserve." You grieve, or you don't. But if you feel you don't deserve to, shame piles on. And then, for some of us, comes withdrawal.

I finally stuck my head up after about five years and realized how small and cold my life had gotten. I began making amends to friends I had long neglected, began trying to re-engage with life, find something besides pain to fill my days. It's a work in progress. Some days are easier than others, and there are still some apologies to be made.

There's a Japanese aesthetic called wabi-sabi that celebrates the imperfect in design, finding beauty in flaws. Another involves mending beloved objects with gold or silver, making beautiful the damage that occurs over the years.

I'd rather not have been damaged. These past 10 years would have been so much happier. But as the great poet Leonard Cohen sings, "There's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in."

Time.com:

**Read an Eyewitness Account
of the Japanese Surrender in World War II**



U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur signs the Japanese surrender documents, Sep. 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, formally ending World War II. AP Photo/Frank Filan

Read an excerpt from the book 'World War II: Unforgettable Stories and Photographs by Correspondents of the Associated Press'

During World War II, hundreds of photographers and reporters were dispersed around the world on behalf of the Associated Press. In 1945, when the war ended, the agency published Reporting to Remember, an anthology of first-hand accounts of what they saw, alongside great photographs like the one shown here. For the 70th anniversary of V-E Day - May 8, 1945 - Rosetta Books republished those accounts as the e-book World War II: Unforgettable Stories and Photographs by Correspondents of the Associated Press.

The following essay, The 'Rising Sun' Sets on the Missouri, by Murlin Spencer, is an excerpt from that book:

Wamoru Shigemitsu's wooden leg caused him trouble as he climbed the steep gang plank leading to the broad deck of the USS Missouri. MacArthur's hand shook as he read from a single sheet of paper. I remember that, and the way the Allied representatives stood stern-faced before their enemies. I remember gray skies that brooded over the historic scene, but relented and cleared so that the sun shone brightly as MacArthur intoned, "these proceedings are closed."

History books won't relate it that way. They will say that on Sept. 2, 1945, west longitude time, military representatives of the Allied powers accepted the surrender of imperial Japan, ending the costliest, bloodiest war in world history.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Sarah Nordgren.

Max Desfor last survivor of AP team covering Japanese surrender

Richard Pyle - At age 101 going on 102 (on Nov. 8), the legendary AP photographer Max Desfor is the last survivor of the 15 AP news and photo staffers who covered the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on Sept 2, 1945, and very possibly the last among the total of 172 journalists who were accredited to witness and report that event.

I mention this with a sense of failure for having allowed the 70th anniversary of that landmark event to sneak up on me - inexcusable for someone who considers himself a student of history, especially war history, who did military service in postwar Japan.

So by way of playing catch-up, I wish to offer Connecting readers two examples of AP reporting on Japan's surrender that I culled from AP Archives for the AP history book, "Breaking News." What strikes me is how the staffers who wrote them were able to put huge news into coherent, manageable yet colorful language.

The first, author unknown, is about the bombing of Hiroshima, and I wrote that the author "grappled mightily for words to convey the enormity and implications" of the event. Considering that very few people who read the story - the author included - had ever heard of an atomic bomb, it was a pretty good summary in 49 words.

WASHINGTON Aug. 7 (AP) _ The most fearful weapon ever developed by mankind - an atomic bomb in which the basic power of the universe, the disintegration of the atom, is harnessed for devastation - stunned Japan today with its frightfulness, and stunned the rest of the world, too, with its potentialities for war and peace.

The second one was AP's main lede on the surrender, and in my opinion a small masterpiece that brilliantly covers all the essentials in an astonishing 23 words. The byline was Spencer Davis, another of the 15 AP staffers aboard the Missouri. I knew him years later when he covered the State Department. As news editor at AP World Services in Washington, I often took his dictation - his preference, but rarely as succinct and colorful as this.

USS MISSOURI, Sunday, Sept 2 (AP) _ Two nervous Japanese formally and unconditionally surrendered all remnants of their smashed empire to the Allies today, restoring peace to a war-battered world.

Postscript: USS Missouri (BB63) was retired and recommissioned several times after WW2. In 1988, while covering a US naval convoy protecting Kuwaiti oil tankers from Iranian attack in the Persian Gulf I looked up at the right moment to see its ghostly silhouette on the far horizon, an unforgettable sight.

AP News Test memories continue

Hal Bock - Regarding the News Writing test, I was hired by The AP three times and never was asked to take the test. First time was in 1960 to work on the Olympic Desk with Jack Hand, Jim Kensil and Don Weiss, who were all great writers and editors. Second time was a summer relief staffer for six months in 1962 and third time (this time for keeps) in November, 1963, three weeks before the JFK assassination.

Other news: I've completed the manuscript for my next book ``The Last Chicago Cubs Dynasty'' and it is in the hands of the publisher. Expected pub date is Opening Day 2017.

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Jim Hood - I was working at a struggling all-news station in Phoenix back in the 1970s and knew the Phoenix AP staff pretty well so when COB Tom Aden heard of an opening for a broadcast editor in Denver, he urged me to apply. I went into the bureau and Tom gave me a stack of stories to rewrite in radio style.

I was listening to the radio as I drove back to work and heard the stories I had just written, which I took as a sign that I had passed the writing test.

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Lee Mitgang - Bob Weller's comment about COBs occasionally giving a helping hand on the writing test for some candidates reminded me a little of my own experience, minus the "great hire" part.

Two weeks after my first AP boss, the late Steve Miller, hired me away from UPI's business desk in 1974 to work for the AP's, he walked a bit sheepishly to my new desk and assured me that while I was definitely hired for keeps, I hadn't yet taken the writing test and would now need to do so as a formality. Leaving nothing to chance, Steve, Chet Currier and Sam Boyle, my new friends in biznews, hovered and kibbitzed over my shoulder as I slogged through the test that I must have passed. I only wish these big-hearted, talented old colleagues were around today to chuckle with me over our little subterfuge.

Fooled 'em, didn't we?

Connecting mailbox

At age 4, youngest typesetter in the U.S.

Joe McGowan - My dad, Joe Sr., was publisher and editor of the tabloid Grand Island (Neb.) Morning Bulletin and I got to visit the plant regularly. I told my dad I wanted to set type and he said I had to learn the alphabet and how to spell before I could set type. I prevailed on my mother and we worked on me spelling some good-sized words. Finally, I told my dad I was ready. He checked me out and then brought home a case of type. His printers had cut off a type stick so it would fit my small hand. My mother sewed a small size printer's apron. Each day, my dad would give me an article to set in type. I would and he would run it through a tiny proof press we had at home. He would mark errors and I would correct them.



In the fall of 1935 a national editors convention was held in Grand Island. Possibly predecessor of ASNE. Newsmen those days were healthy drinkers. One night after downing a few, my dad bragged about his son who could set type at age 4. A few non-believers accompanied my dad to our house. I was awakened, got dressed, and set type for the visitors. They declared me the youngest typesetter in the U.S. and my pic, the one on my website, appeared on the cover of the old Liberty magazine.

I am also proud to say I started sports writing at a young age. During my freshman and sophomore years in high school, I was sports editor (one man staff) of the Rock Springs (WY) Daily Rocket-Miner, working nights after school. My junior and senior years in high school, I was sports editor of the Wyoming Eagle, morning tabloid in Cheyenne. During my time at U. of Wyoming I was sports editor of the Laramie Morning Bulletin.

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Hiring Chris Connell one of his best decisions

Bob Haring - Enjoyed the bits about writing test, but want to comment on Chris Connell's offering. I hired Chris in Newark, one of the best hires I ever made although I had many hires that became successes. Hugh Boyd, owner/publisher of the New Brunswick Home News, told me one day that he had just hired a summer worker that I would want some day. Hugh was a Princetonian but a great supporter of AP and a member of its board. Hugh told me the young man was named Chris Connell.

But things have a way of escalating and I needed somebody more quickly. I contacted Chris, who agreed to start working while still going to school. He wound up working a couple of years in Newark, commuting from Princeton.

Chris obviously was talented well beyond his years and soon became a bureau stalwart. Bob Dubill, whom I had moved from Trenton correspondent to Newark state editor, inherited Chris when I moved to NY Business. They were a great pair. I have stayed in touch with Chris (and Bob) over the years and am very proud of all he has done.

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Jorge Ramos and the late Walter Cronkite

Robert Weller - I think some have insulted the late Walter Cronkite by suggesting Jorge Ramos is not like him. I remember Cronkite telling Mayor Daley during the 1968 Democratic Convention something like "this convention is being run by a bunch of police thugs."

I vaguely recall, Daley saying something like the party needed to rise to higher and higher "platitudes." Perhaps that is only a dream. I was only 21 and not a reporter yet.

Remember, Cronkite had once landed in a glider behind German lines, only to find that because he had grabbed a helmet marking him as a captain that the others who survived the landing were following him. I think the Ramos action was in the best tradition of journalism, and though I never got to his level, I did push people very emphatically to answer my question. Because I was working for AP, the question I wanted answered was usually the one everybody else did also.

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Seeking confirmation of what we already believe

Joseph Benham - Shortly before he died, the late, great Tim Russert of Meet the Press expressed deep concern at the fact that increasingly, readers and viewers aren't looking for information, but seek only confirmation of what they already believe.

The recent attack in Connecting on Fox News - with no mention of equally biased content on MSNBC - confirms what Tim said.

I wonder how much longer CNN can hold out while offering boring old middle-of-the-road stories rather than biased stuff.

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The uncovered view to the east from AP HQ



Kristin Gazlay - Protective sheeting that covered the east-facing windows at AP headquarters in New York City - the entire building is getting a face lift - was removed this week, yielding this great view from the AP newsroom. The windows to the west are still blocked. Headquarters moves to a downtown location in early 2017.

Journalists to face subpoenas over scandal involving former CIA director, Marine Corps general

By TED BRIDIS and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - A couple suing over leaks in the federal investigation that led to CIA Director David Petraeus' resignation intend to subpoena at least two journalists in an attempt to compel testimony about their sources, The Associated Press has learned.

That legal strategy was driven by a judge's decision in July to quash efforts by lawyers for Scott and Jill Kelley to question Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who was the Defense Department's general counsel at the time of the investigation.

The judge had told the Kelleys' lawyers that because Johnson was a Cabinet secretary, they could not question him until after subpoenaing reporters about any conversations Johnson or his subordinates had with journalists about Jill Kelley's relationship with Petraeus or Marine Gen. John R. Allen.

"It may turn out that the information plaintiffs seek cannot be obtained through any other means, but that ... has yet to be established," U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson said in her ruling.

Click [here](#) to read more.



The story was horrific: A Louisiana state trooper responding to a car in a ditch is confronted by the driver who then shoots him. Dashcam video shows the gunman standing over the trooper asking if he was alive and then saying: "You're lucky - you're going to die soon."

In describing the attack, police thanked a passerby they called a hero. He drove to the scene when he heard about it, they said, and ended up tackling the suspect and disarming him before calling 911 to help to the officer, who later died. The heroics were an amazing thread to the story, especially resonating in a state that has had more shootings of police this year than any other except Texas.

Only a month earlier, AP statehouse reporter Melinda Deslatte (at right), based in Baton Rouge, had covered a shooting at a movie theater in Lafayette, Louisiana. Now she was dispatched to Lake Charles, about 70 miles west of Lafayette, to cover the shooting of the trooper.

In 16 years with AP, Deslatte already had extensive law enforcement sources and her coverage of Lafayette had helped solidify those source relationships, were valuable to her Best of the States-winning coverage.

She didn't wait to get to Lake Charles before calling a source, saying AP wanted to tell the story of the person who subdued the shooter. She described AP's reach, explaining we could share his story to a national audience. Deslatte asked her sources to reach out to the man, Robert LeDoux.

After attending an afternoon news conference _ which LeDoux attended, but declined to talk to reporters _ Deslatte made her case again. One source called LeDoux and followed up with a text to him suggesting he should tell his story _ and that he should tell it only to Deslatte. Within half an hour, her sources shared LeDoux's contact information, saying he would talk.

In the interview, LeDoux described being flagged by other passersby who told him not to head to the scene. He proceeded anyway, describing the "pure evil" in the driver's eyes, and how he found him rifling through the trooper's pockets as he tried to unclasp the officer's gun. "He told me, 'Everything's all right. Mind your own business. You need to go,'" LeDoux recalled.



The interview has yet to be matched by any other news outlet. National media, including The New York Times and the Washington Post, ran AP's story to accompany their own. In state, TV stations and the New Orleans Advocate use AP's exclusive on the front of their websites. Great play also included: AP Mobile rank: 7; AP Hosted: 9; Big Story: 8; Exchange: 3 _ A top AP tweet, with 4,903 clicks and 48 retweets _ Huffington Post main page.

For capitalizing on her deep law-enforcement sources to score an exclusive interview that played widely across the country and within her state, Melinda Deslatte wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Stories of interest

Want to major in sports journalism? Now you can (Columbia Journalism Review)



WITH THE EXPANSION OF BROADCAST NETWORKS, the rise of heavily trafficked niche outlets, and ever-popular local coverage, sports journalism is one of the few beats that can be called a media growth industry. That's why universities are recalibrating to train

students for the field. Not coincidentally, sports journalism programs are first emerging at colleges that have both a long-running school of journalism and a robust athletics department. It's too early to fully measure the impact of these programs, but as pioneers, they have the potential to change the game when it comes to the reporting skill, historic background, and diversity of who's making our sports media.

This fall, Arizona State University's Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication debuts its bachelor and master degree programs in sports journalism, its first standalone degree programs for a specific beat and perhaps the first of their kind nationwide. The University of Georgia's Grady College launched a certificate program in sports journalism last year, the first SEC school to do so, and it's seeing three times as many students apply than can be accepted. And Michigan State University has a sports journalist in residence, now entering her second year, who is helping to grow the school's sports media focus area, including a 2016 conference on concussions and a new study abroad trip to Paris and Rome next summer.

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

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Marked Up Photographs Show How Iconic Prints Were Edited in the Darkroom (Petapixel)



Want to see what kind of work goes into turning a masterful photograph into an iconic print? Pablo Inirio, the master darkroom printer who works at Magnum Photos' New York headquarters, has personally worked on some of the cooperative's best-known images. A number of his marked-up darkroom prints have appeared online, revealing the enormous

amount of attention Inirio gives photos in the darkroom.

Sarah Coleman of The Literate Lens writes that Inirio's tiny darkroom has many of these squiggle- and number-filled prints just casually lying around. Not just any ol' prints, mind you, but some of history's most well-known images.

The comparison images above show photographer Dennis Stock's iconic portrait of James Dean in Times Square. The test print on the left shows all the work Inirio put into making the final photo look the way it does. The lines and circles you see reveal Inirio's strategies for dodging and burning the image under the enlarger, with numbers scattered throughout the image to note different exposure times.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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'Brilliant jerks' no longer welcome as Kansas college daily heralds 'kick-ass' first week (Poynter)



Katie Kutsko, left, and managing editor Emma LeGault

Katie Kutsko doesn't suffer from low ambitions, undue modesty or lack of clarity as editor in chief of the University Daily Kansan at the University of Kansas.

Exhibiting the exuberance of youth and the tactics of a wizened field general, last spring she detailed a lengthy manifesto for change. She'd turn the paper from a four-days-a-week print product into a twice-a-week print paper that focused its efforts online. As College Media Matters chronicled the vision, she was declaring the need for:

"Morning newsroom meetings. Daytime reporting and editing shifts.

Editor-reporter collaboration throughout the story development process instead of simply at the draft-revision stage. An email newsletter. A brand manager position. A strengthened Kansan alumni community. A pushback against topdown decision-making and 'brilliant jerks' on staff who exude entitlement more than excitement. A recruiting effort to bring more multicultural voices and non-journ majors into the mix. And a requirement for staff to be 'analytics-literate.'"

Click [here](#) to read more.

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CNN Nabs Politico Media Reporter Dylan Byers (Huffington Post)

Politico media reporter Dylan Byers announced on Twitter Wednesday that he is joining CNN as senior reporter for media and politics. Byers, who is known for frequently breaking news, will start his new role at CNN on Sept. 14.

"Byers is a scoop machine," CNN Senior Media Correspondent Brian Stelter wrote in a post announcing the hire. "When I've been offline for more than a few hours, the way I see what I've missed is by checking his Twitter feed."

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Today in History - September 3, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, September 3, the 246th day of 2015. There are 119 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 3, 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

On this date:

In 1189, England's King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1658, Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, died in London; he was succeeded by his son, Richard.

In 1868, the Japanese city of Edo was renamed Tokyo.

In 1914, Cardinal Giacomo Della Chiesa became pope; he took the name Benedict XV.

In 1923, the United States and Mexico resumed diplomatic relations.

In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and **New Zealand** declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland,

In 1940, Artie Shaw and his Gramercy Five recorded "Summit Ridge Drive" and "Special Delivery Stomp" for RCA Victor.

In 1951, the television soap opera "Search for Tomorrow" made its debut on CBS.

In 1967, the original version of the television game show "What's My Line?," hosted by John Charles Daly, broadcast its final episode after more than 17 years on CBS.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the planet's surface.

In 1989, a Cubana de Aviacion jetliner crashed after takeoff in Havana, killing all 126 aboard and 45 people on the ground.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the name "AuctionWeb."

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the Gulf Coast as his administration intensified efforts to rescue Katrina survivors and send aid to the hurricane-ravaged region in the face of criticism it did not act quickly enough. U.S. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist died in Arlington, Virginia, at age 80, after more than three decades on the Supreme Court.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates toured U.S. bases and war zones in Afghanistan, saying he saw and heard evidence that the American counterinsurgency strategy was taking hold in critical Kandahar province. The Fox network announced that Kara DioGuardi was stepping down as one of the judges on "**American Idol**," following the departures of Simon Cowell and Ellen DeGeneres.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, during a visit to Estonia, harshly condemned Russian aggression in Ukraine as a threat to peace. President Obama also said the United States would not be intimidated by Islamic State militants after the beheading of American journalist Steven Satloff. A judge sentenced Theodore Wafer, a suburban Detroit man who'd killed an unarmed woman on his porch instead of calling police, to at least 17 years in prison after telling the family of 19-year-old Renisha McBride he would carry "guilt and sorrow forever."

Today's Birthdays: "Beetle Bailey" cartoonist Mort Walker is 92. Actress Anne Jackson is 90. Actress Pauline Collins is 75. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 73. Actress Valerie Perrine is 72. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 67. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The **Sex Pistols**) is 60. Actor Steve Schirripa is 58. Actor Holt McCallany is 51. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 50. Actor Charlie Sheen is 50. Singer Jennifer Paige is 42. Dance-rock musician Redfoo (LMFAO) is 40. Actress Ashley Jones is 39. Actress Nichole Hiltz is 37. Actor Joel Johnstone (TV: "The Astronaut Wives Club") is 37. Actor Nick Wechsler is 37. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 36. Actress Christine Woods is 32. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 31. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 29. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 23.

Thought for Today: "In the arts, the critic is the only independent source of information. The rest is advertising." - Pauline Kael, American movie critic (1919-2001).

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

Connecting newsletter

stevenspl@live.com

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