



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - December 24, 2015

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Thu, Dec 24, 2015 at 9:25 AM

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



Connecting

December 24, 2015

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



[Top AP news](#)
[Top AP photos](#)
[AP World](#)

[AP books](#)
[Connecting Archive](#)

She fought for her brother



In this Sept. 20, 1985 file photo, Peggy Say, sister of hostage Terry Anderson, the AP chief Middle East correspondent, meets with reporters outside the White House in Washington after a meeting among hostage family members, Vice President George Bush, and National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane. (AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

During the seven years **Terry Anderson** was held captive in Beirut, his sister Peggy Say was a ferocious advocate for the release of her brother, who was the AP's chief Middle East correspondent at the time he was abducted.

Peggy Say died Wednesday at the age of 74 and Connecting leads with the AP story on her death.

Our condolences to Terry, a Connecting colleague who recently completed a teaching assignment at the University of Florida and is off to a new life's adventure in Virginia.

Terry was one of the 61 AP foreign correspondents interviewed for a new book by Giovanna Dell'Orto - featured in Wednesday's Connecting. Its title: *AP Foreign Correspondents in Action*: <http://www.cambridge.org/9781107519305>

[Click here](#) for a listing of the 61 men and women Giovanna interviewed for the book. Thanks to Paul Shane for converting into this file.

Connecting wishes you a Merry Christmas - and will next publish on Saturday morning.

Paul

**Peggy Say, who advocated for release
of her brother Terry Anderson, dies**



In this Dec. 6, 1991 file photo, former U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, left, and his sister Peggy Say put their heads together during a news conference in Wiesbaden, Germany, just two days after Anderson, the AP chief Middle East correspondent, was released by his abductors after nearly seven years in captivity in Beirut. (AP Photo/Doug Mills, File)

By ERIK SCHELZIG

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Peggy Say, who spent nearly seven years on a tireless quest for the release of her brother, journalist Terry Anderson, and fellow hostages from kidnappers in Lebanon, died Wednesday. She was 74.

Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press when he was abducted from the streets of Beirut in 1985 in the midst of the country's civil war, said his

sister died Wednesday after a long illness. She had been living in Cookeville, about 70 miles east of Nashville.

A self-described housewife, Say quickly became her brother's most prominent public champion, keeping his fate and that of the other hostages in Lebanon in the public eye as the years went by.

"We were allowed a radio from time to time, and we did hear about her efforts and the efforts of other hostages' families on the radio, and of course it was always a great comfort," said Anderson, who was held by the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militant faction Islamic Jihad for 2,454 days.

Anderson was released on Dec. 4, 1991. He was the longest held of 92 foreigners abducted during civil war. Most were ultimately freed. Eleven died or were killed in captivity.

Former AP President Lou Boccardi remembered Say as a "remarkable woman" and a relentless advocate.

"In a very short time, she made herself into a national figure as the family face of long and frustrating efforts to win freedom for her brother," Boccardi said in an email. "She never took 'no' for an answer."

Say was living in upstate New York when her brother was taken hostage. She moved to the western Kentucky town of Cadiz to find more privacy for herself and husband, David, in 1988. He died in 2012.

Say's activism wasn't without critics. Some Washington officials at the time contended her vocal approach prolonged the hostages' captivity by compromising behind-the-scenes efforts to free them.

She was dismissive of those arguments.

"I did what I had to do as his sister," she said on the eve of her brother's release in 1991. "I don't think the United Nations would ever have intervened if we had not kept the plight of Terry and other people alive."

She believed it was the U.N.'s intervention that eventually won freedom for the final American hostages.

Anderson said Wednesday that one of the first things his sister asked him about upon his release was whether her activism had caused him to be held longer. He said he didn't believe that to be the case.

"I told her that I was pleased with what she had done for a number of reasons," he said. "One, was to give us hope when we heard about it. And two, that it gave the families a sense that they were actively engaged in trying to do something."

Say met periodically with then-U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Her travels put her face to face with Pope John Paul II, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the president of Greece, Syria's foreign minister and an associate of notorious terrorist Abu Nidal.

Her efforts, which were supported by the AP, were marked with disappointments along the way.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan ruled out negotiating with terrorists. But then she saw the United States cut a deal with hijackers of a TWA jet in Beirut to free their prisoners.

One chance for freeing Anderson was a secret attempt by the Reagan administration to reach out to Iran. But those efforts fell apart when details came to light of a larger scheme to secretly sell arms to Iran and use the proceeds to pay for illegal U.S. support for the Nicaraguan rebels, an episode that became known as the Iran-Contra scandal.

"The worst time for all of us was after the Iran-Contra scandal," Say said in 1991. "People were blaming us, the hostage families, for pushing the administration into it."

Anderson, who recently retired from teaching journalism at the University of Florida, said he credits his sister's prominent role in helping keep the hostages alive.

"Remember these were very bad guys," he said. "They could easily have killed us, but they didn't. They let us go."

Anderson said his sister later moved to Cookeville and had retired after working on behalf of victims of domestic violence.

In addition to Anderson and two other siblings, Anderson said that Say is survived by daughter Melody Smith, son Edward Langendorfer and several grandchildren.

(Shared by Sibby Christensen)

-0-

In addition to his comments in the story above, former AP president **Lou Boccardi** shared this with his Connecting colleagues:

"We covered the financial costs of her global efforts but Peggy's passing brings to mind again how difficult it was to know what might truly help speed the end of Terry's ordeal."

Objectivity and an AP sister

David Briscoe ([Email](#)) - It was one of the worst and best stories I ever covered for The Associated Press - the worst because it tested my journalistic objectivity like no other and involved a terrible injustice and the years-long suffering of an admired colleague, and the best because it had a happy ending and because it had three true heroes.

The first was Terry Anderson himself, who endured nearly seven years of captivity in Lebanon for practicing his noble profession. The second was AP President Louis D. Boccardi, who used AP resources and his own time and total dedication to securing Terry's release. The third was a fine lady named Peggy Say, who as Terry's sister never lost faith and never gave up in reminding the AP, the U.S. government and the world of the injustice suffered by her brother and many other journalists.

The Associated Press reports that Peggy passed away two days before Christmas after a long illness. She was 74.

I remember Peggy during the years of Terry's captivity, after I had been transferred from my job in Manila to Washington DC. Terry was the AP's chief Middle East correspondent when he was abducted from the streets of Beirut in 1985.

Peggy quickly transformed herself from an ordinary housewife into a forceful, articulate and persistent advocate for her brother and all captive journalists. I often wondered if Terry would ever really appreciate her amazing effort and also thinking every journalist should have an advocate like her. She and Boccardi became partners in a long and ultimately successful quest, including speeches around the country and, as I recall, at least one trip to the Middle East.

Both lobbied governments and raised support for Terry and other journalists.

As a journalist myself and a former foreign correspondent like Terry, I faced a real challenge to remain objective in covering his story. In fact, I failed miserably. I even contributed money to the cause I was covering -- a violation of journalistic ethics in any other story that somehow seemed entirely appropriate in this one. Journalists have never been very objective in covering themselves and especially their bosses.

And, in Peggy's case, it was even more difficult. It was like interviewing my own sister. She was calm and articulate and expressed no rancor towards Terry's captors -- such a contrast with the way terrorists are approached today. I actually found it remarkable that Terry was kept alive for so long when he could have been so quickly killed like so many others. But it was still difficult to understand, much less sympathize with the targeting of a journalist who tried so hard to tell all sides of the complex Middle East story.

Donald Trump admires people who don't get captured. Well, I admire anyone who goes through what Terry Anderson or John McCain went through and comes out of it so strong and goes on to lead a productive, purposeful life.

But even more, I admire the sister who stood by Terry when others forgot or gave up in frustration. She kept the pressure on both the Associated Press and the government as the story faded but Terry still suffered.

I'm proud to say Peggy Say, as much as her brother and Lou Boccardi, became a vital part of the AP family. Journalism should have more friends and sisters like her.

Connecting mailbox

A memorable local staffer in New Delhi

Joe McGowan - One of my most memorable local staffers while overseas was Rangaswamy Satakopan, who spent his career with AP in New Delhi. It was believed at the time that he was the only person in AP who could go by R. Satakopan, since his full name in a byline would not fit one column. He and his wife lived in an apartment in back of the AP bureau, so he was in effect on call 24/7. We called him "Swami".

Also, on a previous discussion of initials, I was told that the first one in with two initials got to use it. I was always JM. Later a fellow came along-I think he was based in Madrid-and he had to be JTM. In Wyoming, the correspondency was CY, but for UPI it was TM, standing for Tracy McCracken, owner of dailies in Cheyenne, Laramie, Rawlins, Rock Springs and Worland. All were UPI subscribers, but I changed that later, taking every daily in Wyoming over to AP.

-0-

All about (the Bud Weydert) family...



Bud Weydert - Photo was taken on December 19th by my wife, Beth. Between us, we have 9 children and 20 grandchildren. We always celebrate Christmas on the 3rd Saturday in December. This year 8 of our children and their families were able to get together. With our grandkids ranging in age from 2 to 15, it makes for a very special and Merry Christmas.

-0-

Discussion of 'journalist' continues

Hal Bock - Regarding job description, I always identify myself as "sports writer" because that is what I did for 40 years and sometime before and after my AP career. Once, I was rejected for life insurance because I put down "journalist" in the occupation box and it was identified as a dangerous profession.

-0-

Bill Kaczor - I always identified myself as a reporter because every Joe Six-Pack knows what that is and that's the most accurate description of what I did with the AP and a couple newspaper jobs I had previously held. At times I aspired to be an editor but in retrospect I'm glad I stuck with reporting. I often resist the temptation to preface "reporter" with "mild mannered" as in Clark Kent but that would be too pretentious. The title journalist has often been claimed by all sorts of folks with whom I shared little in common such as TV newsreaders and dispensers of opinions including some who are little more than political propagandists. As for identifying myself as an AP reporter I found it helpful working in the South, where football is a religion, to note we are the guys who do the college poll. I also often compared the AP to farmers' co-ops that folks are familiar with in the South and Midwest.

-0-

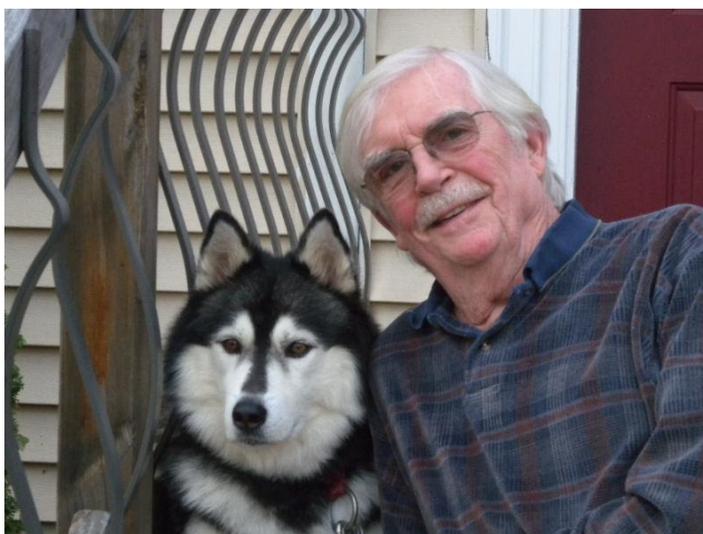
Linda Deutsch - As for the issue of journalist vs. other title. I usually tell people I'm a reporter. My AP cards always said, "Special Correspondent," my title. In retirement, I had a new card made up that covers all bases. It lists me as Journalist-Author and below that AP Special Correspondent (ret.). It also shows a little typewriter just in case people remember what that was.

My dear departed friend Bill Farr, a legend in Los Angeles news circles who went to jail for 46 days for protecting a source, was dying of pancreatic cancer when he wrote his own epitaph for his tombstone. It says: "A Good Reporter."

Connecting profile - Malcolm Barr

Malcolm Barr ([Email](#)) - Mike Feinsilber encouraged me while re-uniting with him at Barry Schweid's funeral to contact you and "get on his list."

I joined The Associated Press in Honolulu in 1962, a few months before one of AP's ultimate "greats," Jim Lagier, came into the bureau. We remained friends and always in contact from the time I was reassigned to the Washington bureau in 1967 until he died a few weeks ago. A Brit, I began my journalism career aged 16 in England; continued in Western Canada (1955-61); joined the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in 1961.



I left AP in 1970 for a job as press secretary to U.S. Senator Hiram L. Fong of Hawaii, then entered the executive branch of government public affairs in the departments of Labor, Justice and Commerce, retiring after 25 years. I'm now 82 and continue to write for our local newspapers in northern Virginia. For 21 years, I turned my hobby of breeding and racing Thoroughbred horses into a business, winning 130 races at East Coast tracks, and publishing a book, "1,000 To 1!" Claiming, Breeding and Racing Thoroughbreds on a Shoestring and Beating the Odds, available on eBay or directly from the publisher at authorhouse.com.

It was Schweid who encouraged me to first run for president of our Wire Service Guild (Local 222) Washington chapter in 1967, then, "for name recognition!" national president of the local. My opponent, a UPI photographer, dropped out at the last minute and left me holding the bag. A strike (the first and the last) against AP (rarely mentioned) had been fermenting for many months. I wound up leading it by stepping outside 50 Rockefeller Plaza on a cold January morning with other picketers in New York, immediately joined by union members from every other domestic bureau. The strike lasted 10 days with foreign service bureaus sending in newsmen to cover the American bureaus.

Prior to that, I was assigned to the Justice Department beat and assisted Schweid with his U.S. Supreme Court duties on decision days (Mondays). Later, Schweid became "dean" of correspondents covering the State Department.

I moved from Washington with my wife, Carol, and son, now Staff Sgt. Malcolm Barr, Jr., USAF, to Front Royal, VA, in 2002, having retired from the government in 1997.

How AP stories are changing how retailers purchase fish and shrimp

By **CHRIS ROUSH**
Talking Biz News

A team of four Associated Press reporters disclosed earlier this week that grocery stores and restaurants across the world, including Wal-Mart and Red Lobster, are selling shrimp peeled by slaves.

That story has prompted exporters and retailers to promise changes this week in the system of exporting and purchasing fish.

The story, by **Margie Mason, Robin McDowell, Martha Mendoza** and **Esther Htusan** followed stories reported and published earlier this year that disclosed that retailers across the world were selling fish caught by slaves

from Myanmar.

Those stories resulted in more than 2,000 slaves being freed and retailers changing how they purchased fish. And they won the gold award in the ninth annual Barlett & Steele Awards for Investigative Business Journalism for their work exposing slavery in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia and connecting the practice to U.S. supermarkets and pet food companies. Those awards are run by the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at Arizona State University.

[Click here](#) to read more, Shared by Paul Colford.

Florida charter-schools investigation highlights a more collaborative approach for the AP

By Susannah Nesmith
Columbia Journalism Review

A surprising triple byline appeared not long ago in *The Miami Herald*. Gary Fineout and Terry Spencer of The Associated Press shared credit with the *Herald's* Christine Veiga for a story on the millions of dollars the state of Florida has doled out to charter schools that later closed.

As newspaper companies adapt to the new reality of smaller budgets and staffs, we're seeing more and more examples of collaborations and networks that support enterprise reporting. A chain of small rural and suburban newspapers finds the resources to hire statewide reporters in 10 states and Washington, DC. A group of Gannett papers in Wisconsin shares investigative reporting from a common I-team. Here in the Sunshine State, the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and the *Tampa Bay Times* roll out a major investigation that involves collaboration across company lines.

But The Associated Press, the largest news organization on earth, working together with its member papers? That surprised me. I've worked for the AP, and for two member papers in Florida. When I was with the *Herald* during the rebellion that toppled President Jean Bertrand Aristide in 2004, we saw the AP as our primary competition in Port-au-Prince. When I was with the AP in Bogotá, Colombia, the other foreign correspondents in town were all friends, but they were also competition.

The AP's Florida news editor, Terry Spencer, said the Florida project—which was published far beyond the *Herald*—is indeed kind of a new thing. It's also part of a national effort to get more out of the relationship between the AP and its members.

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



By **JOHN DANISZEWSKI**

Penetrating the violent, secretive world of Mexico's drug gangs is difficult and risky.

But for the latest installment in the series "The Other Disappeared," AP's Eduardo Castillo, Dario Lopez-Mills and Teresa de Miguel braved danger to land a meeting with someone who has a unique insider's view of the out-of-control violence: a cartel assassin. For nearly an hour, in the heart of bloody Guerrero state, they conducted a chilling interview, in which he admitted killing 30 people.

The AP team's extraordinary all-formats report earns the Beat of the Week.

The disappearance last year of 43 students from a rural teachers college got worldwide attention. Unfortunately, that outrage was part of a grim pattern: Some 26,000 Mexicans have vanished nationwide since 2007. AP has been reporting in depth on these other disappeared, including in an interactive showcasing photos of dozens of victims' survivors, which earned the Beat of the Week earlier this year.

But why are these disappearances happening? "It was clear that it wasn't only the money, because many families didn't receive any phone call asking for a ransom," said Castillo, acting Mexico City bureau chief. "The way to better understand the motives was trying to get to a person involved in the disappearances."

For months, AP journalists worked sources close to cartel bosses, seeking someone who would talk from the inside. Finally, one of the leads paid off, and a gang agreed to let one of its own speak. A time and place were set.

"We were nervous, but we thought that it was worth doing," Castillo said. The team stayed in constant touch with Paul Haven, the acting Latin America regional editor, using smartphone apps and sending messages or calling hourly, leading up to the planned interview.

Then, after a long wait at a designated spot, the killer was a no-show. AP's team, who'd traveled to Guerrero from Mexico City, more than six hours away, decided to stay overnight, and the next day a call came in: OK, it was on.

The caller instructed Castillo, chief photographer in Mexico City Lopez-Mills, and APTN senior producer De Miguel to drive to a different small town about 20 minutes away. There they sat down with the 29-year-old killer.

He spoke on condition that neither his organization nor the name of the town where they met would be identified. He wore a mask, his voice was distorted while on camera, and a boss was present throughout.

"Have you disappeared people?" AP asked him.

"Yes," he replied, explaining he first killed at age 20. Now, nine years later, he has eliminated 30 people, he said. He sometimes feels sorry about the work he does but has no regrets, he said, because he feels he's providing a kind of public service, defending his community from outsiders. "Things would be much worse if rivals took over."

In a calm voice, he described methods used in the abductions and what's behind them. Someone may be disappeared for being a member of a rival gang, he said, or for giving information to one. Some are considered security risks. Some are kidnapped for ransom, though the killer said he didn't do that.

Getting information, by using torture, is another reason people are taken; 99 percent talk, he said. Afterward, he kills them _ "usually with a gun" _ and the bodies are burned, dropped in the ocean or buried in clandestine graves.

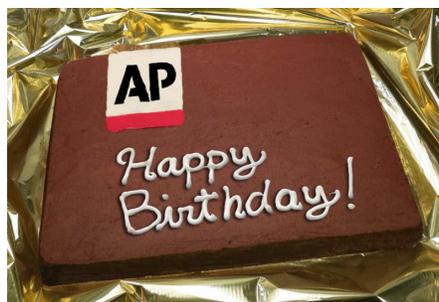
The cartel hit man, who has a grade-school education, said he does not use drugs himself. He isn't married and has no children. Although he would like to have a family, he said, "I don't think you can make plans for the future, because you don't know what will happen tomorrow."

Play for the story was strong. It ranked No. 2 for the week on AP Mobile, according to Google Analytics. The article, photos and video were published widely, including in The New York Times and The Washington Post. It was also a top story on Yahoo. The Spanish version was used by many outlets, including Mexico's La Jornada and El Nuevo Herald in the U.S.

For their courage and resourcefulness to obtain a risky and chilling interview that helps illuminate a dark chapter of Mexico's struggle against crime and violence, Castillo, Lopez-Mills and De Miguel share this week's \$500 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Connecting salutes Christmas babies



Mike Cochran ([Email](#))

Chris Connell ([Email](#))

Ed Bell ([Email](#))

Anita Snow ([Email](#))

(No Connecting for Christmas Day, so how about an early salute to these four born on Dec. 25.)

Stories of interest

Ted Cruz Cartoon Is Pulled by Washington Post (New York Times)



The Washington Post pulled a cartoon from its site on Tuesday that depicted Senator Ted Cruz's young daughters as monkeys.

Mr. Cruz, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, angrily denounced the animated cartoon in a fund-raising email that sought to bring in \$1 million.

The animation, by the Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Ann Telnaes, depicted the senator turning a crank that made two monkeys dance. It was online for several hours before it was replaced late Tuesday by a note from Fred Hiatt, The Post's editorial page editor.

[Click here](#) to read more.

-0-

As print journalism declines, fate of sidewalk newspaper boxes is unclear

(Newsweek)



Newspaper boxes are so ubiquitous along city streets that it's easy to forget they're there. Sometimes made of metal, other times of plastic, some coin-operated or chained to street signs, the boxes tell a story of a changing industry in which consumers of news now carry around iPhones instead of coins and publications get thinner and thinner until they disappear.

In recent months, changes in print journalism markets hit New York City, Philadelphia and Seattle. Those cities, like others across the country, are all trying to figure out what to do with their newspaper boxes (sometimes called newspaper vending machines, newspaper racks, newsracks or honor boxes). In October, Philadelphia City Paper, which was available free of charge in orange metal boxes, went out of print. Days later, the Village Voice, which in New York City is made available in red plastic boxes, announced it had a new owner. This month, Seattle Weekly, in red metal boxes, reportedly laid off nearly a third of its employees because of costs.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - December 24, 2015



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2015. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1955, the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, found itself fielding phone calls from children wanting to know the whereabouts of Santa Claus after a newspaper ad mistakenly gave the Center's number; the result was a tradition continued by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) of tracking Santa's location the night before Christmas.

On this date:

In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the original version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1871, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" had its world premiere in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers.

In 1939, Pope Pius XII delivered a Christmas Eve address in which he offered a five-point program for peace and denounced "premeditated aggressions."

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

In 1974, Cyclone Tracy began battering the Australian city of Darwin, resulting in widespread damage and causing some 65 deaths.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds - one second for each day of captivity.

In 1990, actor [Tom Cruise](#) married his "Days of Thunder" co-star, [Nicole Kidman](#), during a private ceremony at a Colorado ski resort (the marriage ended in 2001).

In 1995, fire broke out at the Philadelphia Zoo, killing 23 rare gorillas, orangutans, gibbons and lemurs.

Ten years ago: Iraq's governing Shiite coalition called on Iraqis to accept results showing the religious bloc leading in parliamentary elections and moved ahead with efforts to form a "national unity" government. Michael Vale, the actor best known for portraying sleepy-eyed Fred the Baker in Dunkin' Donuts commercials, died in New York at age 83.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI ushered in Christmas Eve with an evening Mass amid heightened security concerns following package bombings at two Rome embassies and Christmas Eve security breaches at the Vatican the previous two years. John Warhola (cq), the older brother who helped raise pop art icon Andy Warhol and later helped establish the Andy Warhol Museum, died in Pittsburgh at age 85.

One year ago: Sony Pictures broadly released "The Interview" online - an unprecedented counterstroke against the hackers who'd spoiled the Christmas opening of the comedy depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A Jordanian pilot, Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, was captured by the Islamic State group after his warplane crashed in Syria; he was later killed. TCU's Gary Patterson was named The Associated Press college football coach of the year. Western Kentucky held on to defeat Central Michigan 49-48 in a wild inaugural Bahamas Bowl.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter-bandleader Dave Bartholomew is 97. Author Mary Higgins Clark is 88. Federal health official Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., is 75. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 71. Rock singer-musician Lemmy (Motorhead) is 70. Actress Sharon Farrell is 69. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., is 69. Actor Grand L. Bush is 60. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 60. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 59. The former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeye), is 58. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 58. Actor Anil Kapoor is 56. Actor Wade Williams is 54. Designer Kate Spade is 53. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 52. Actor Mark Valley is 51. Actor Diedrich Bader is 49. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 45. Singer **Ricky Martin** is 44. Author Stephenie Meyer is 42. "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest is 41. Actor Michael Raymond-James is 38. Rock singer Louis Tomlinson (One Direction) is 24.

Thought for Today: "Christmas comes, but once a year is enough." - American proverb.

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.
- **"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

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to pjshane@gmail.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215