



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - March 21, 2017

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 21, 2017 at 9:18 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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



# Connecting

March 21, 2017

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



- Top AP News
- [Top AP photos](#)
- [AP World](#)

- [AP books](#)
- [Connecting Archive](#)
- [AP Essentials](#) (*Purchases benefit The AP Emergency Relief Fund*)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Here are the latest stories of interest, beginning with memories shared of **George Bria**, who died Saturday at the age of 101 and whose remarkable life was recounted in Monday's Connecting.

If you would like to send a note of condolence to his wife, **Letty**, drop me a note and I will send you the address.

Our series on your "Second Acts" after your AP career continues with an entry from **Dave Lubeski**. We have another one "in the can" and will welcome your own story. Don't be shy, send it along, with a photo or two.

Here's to a great day ahead.

Paul

*In George Bria...*

## Mother AP has lost a devoted son



Photos of young AP reporter George Bria on the job almost 70 years ago. Top left, with other journalists interviewing Italian Premier Alcide de Gasperi in 1947. Top right, meeting Kurt Dittmar, World War II German army spokesman, on his return to Germany from British internment in 1948. Bottom left, interviewing Germany's Joseph Cardinal

**Frings in Cologne in 1948. Bottom right, with Avery Brundage, International Olympic Committee vice president, in Rome in 1949. (Montage assembled by Brian Horton)**

**Charlie Hanley (Email)** - George Bria, whom we lost over the weekend at age 101, was a remarkable man. He was also second to none in his love for our AP. You might not have guessed that if you saw him in the late 1970s, when I worked with him in the final six of his 38-year AP career. Then he had the unenviable challenge for eight hours daily of supervising the Foreign Desk at 50 Rock. It was a Sisyphean task (a classical allusion George would have appreciated; but if you prefer modern myths, think Lucy and Ethel on the chocolate assembly line). Whoops, here's a plane crash. Oh, there's a coup. Now an earthquake. The intensity, under the ultimate demanding boss, Nate Polowetzky, could be seen in George's hunched shoulders as he peered at his screen, could be heard in his curt commands to us, his bumbling underlings.

The warmth, the cultivated wit might sporadically surface. But it wasn't until after hours or, for me, after his retirement, when we grew closer -- and Pamela and I got to know the two fabulous women he wed, Mary, who died in 1998, and his second wife, Letty -- that one could sense the depths of Bria learning, of his boundless curiosity, of his humanity. His talk ranged over the entire landscape of history, current affairs, art, music, language, literature and, of course, vegetable gardening. In his final weeks he told me he was re-reading Mann's *Buddenbrooks* on his I-pad. "I can't waste time now on anything less than superb."

But always the talk turned back to his first love, the AP. I would ply him for tales from his "golden age" of covering World War II, of the early Cold War in Europe, of the early United Nations, about the toughness of Gallagher, the besotted brilliance of Ed Kennedy, the clutter of Boyle's desk. And he would grill me about the latest: "How's Boccardi doing?" "Who's going to be the new executive editor?" "Who's this new byline?" "Boy, we looked great on that one." It was a nonagenarian George who insisted, "You've got to get this new AP Mobile app."

Decades after leaving that impossible, killing job at 50 Rock, he still couldn't leave The Associated Press. Much more could be said about George Emil Bria, but his Connecting colleagues should know this: Mother AP has lost a most devoted son.

-0-

***George's counsel on what to do under fire -  
Duck!***

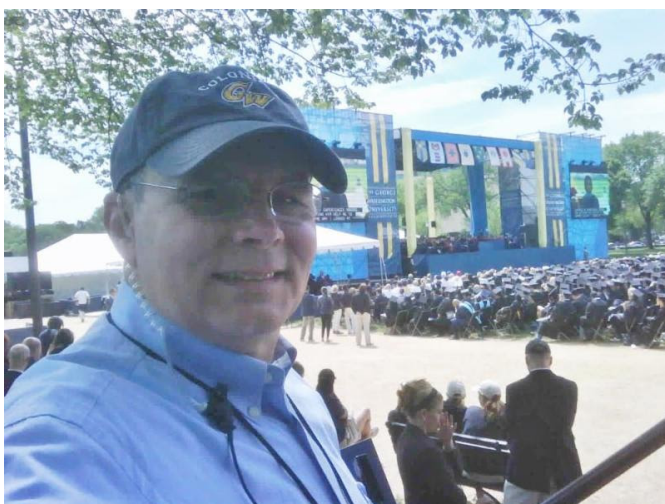
**Brian Brumley (Email)** - I was saddened to learn of the passing of George Bria, but very happy to have known and worked under his tutelage on the Cables Desk.

It was always a pleasure to work with him, or have him edit my copy in later years. While it would be impossible to list the things I learned from George, one sticks in my mind. As I was headed out on my first overseas assignment for AP, into revolutionary Iran in late 1979, I asked his counsel on what to do under fire. He looked up briefly from his keyboard and said one word: "Duck." Good advice.

### ***Connecting 'My Second Act' series:***

## **Dave Lubeski: I didn't have to go far from my old job to my new one**

**Dave Lubeski (Email)** - I enjoyed my 35 years at AP Radio. I got to travel to parts of the world I otherwise would never have seen and I got to witness sports history unfold before me on numerous occasions. The AP is and always will be the mother ship, but I always had in my mind that I'd like to do something different before I retired from working altogether.



I got my opportunity in 2009 and didn't have to go far to do it. I went to work at nearby George Washington University. I could walk from my old job to my new job.

The school was looking for someone who had media connections who could boost coverage of its athletics in the Washington, D.C. market where Georgetown and the University of Maryland dominated college

coverage in local sportscasts and sports pages.

At the same time the AP was offering the VERP to senior staffers. The goal of the Volunteer Early Retirement Plan was to reduce the payroll by 10%.

I was somewhat interested in the VERP, but not without another job to go to, so I sent a resume to GW. I heard back from the school's senior vice provost and we were off and running.

A very long vetting process by the University followed. My first interview was on June 25th, the day Michael Jackson and Farrah Fawcett died. After the initial meeting, I was called to come back about every four to six weeks. I would meet with someone else in yet another department. Sometimes they were in groups. I met with the athletic director, the head of marketing, people in external relations and on and on.

It wasn't until late October, long after the VERP offer had expired, that I heard from a former AP colleague, now the chief of staff to the president of GW. She told me all other candidates for the job had been eliminated and I was the only one they were still talking to - but they still didn't have a hiring timetable.

This was about the time that the results of the VERP were announced and they fell short in reaching the goal of the 10% payroll reduction, so on to plan B - the AP was laying off 100 employees.

With a job offer imminent (I hoped) I went to HR, crossed my fingers and volunteered to be one of the layoffs. If GW changed its mind about creating the new position, I'd at least have the buyout to live on until I found another line of work.

I didn't have to sweat for too long. GW finally made an offer and I accepted. The university brain trust had not been able to agree on what to call the new position, so a few people were moved around and I was named sports information director. There I was, an SID after years of dealing with SIDs from the other side of the fence.

I started my new job at the university the week after Thanksgiving. Same Metro ride. Different stop...and different world.

It was the beginning of two eventful years. We held major news conferences for the hiring of an athletic director, a men's basketball



**Lubeski (center) as SID at tipoff of GW-VCU game in the post-season College Basketball**

coach and the announcement by one **Invitational in 2010** of our basketball players that SHE wanted to be known as a HE, becoming the first transgender student athlete in Division One college athletics.

That news conference was the biggest, most attended, in the history of the school. The story drew attention from news outlets around the world.

The external relations division of the university had just created an award to periodically honor an employee for outstanding performance. I was the first recipient for my work in dealing with the media on the transgender student story.

During my tenure, we did a complete redesign of the school's athletic website, hired two full time staffers in a communications department expansion, attended seminars and conventions in Florida, New York City, and Cape Cod and I traveled with the women's basketball team to handle the press at a tournament in Minnesota near the hometown of the transgender student.

I also wrote a story for our athletic website about a basketball player on the men's team who volunteered at a soup kitchen just off campus. I was impressed with the place when I researched the story - enough so that I became a volunteer there after my story was published.

It was a quick, but busy two years and while it was media related, in no way did it resemble my AP life.

Something different.

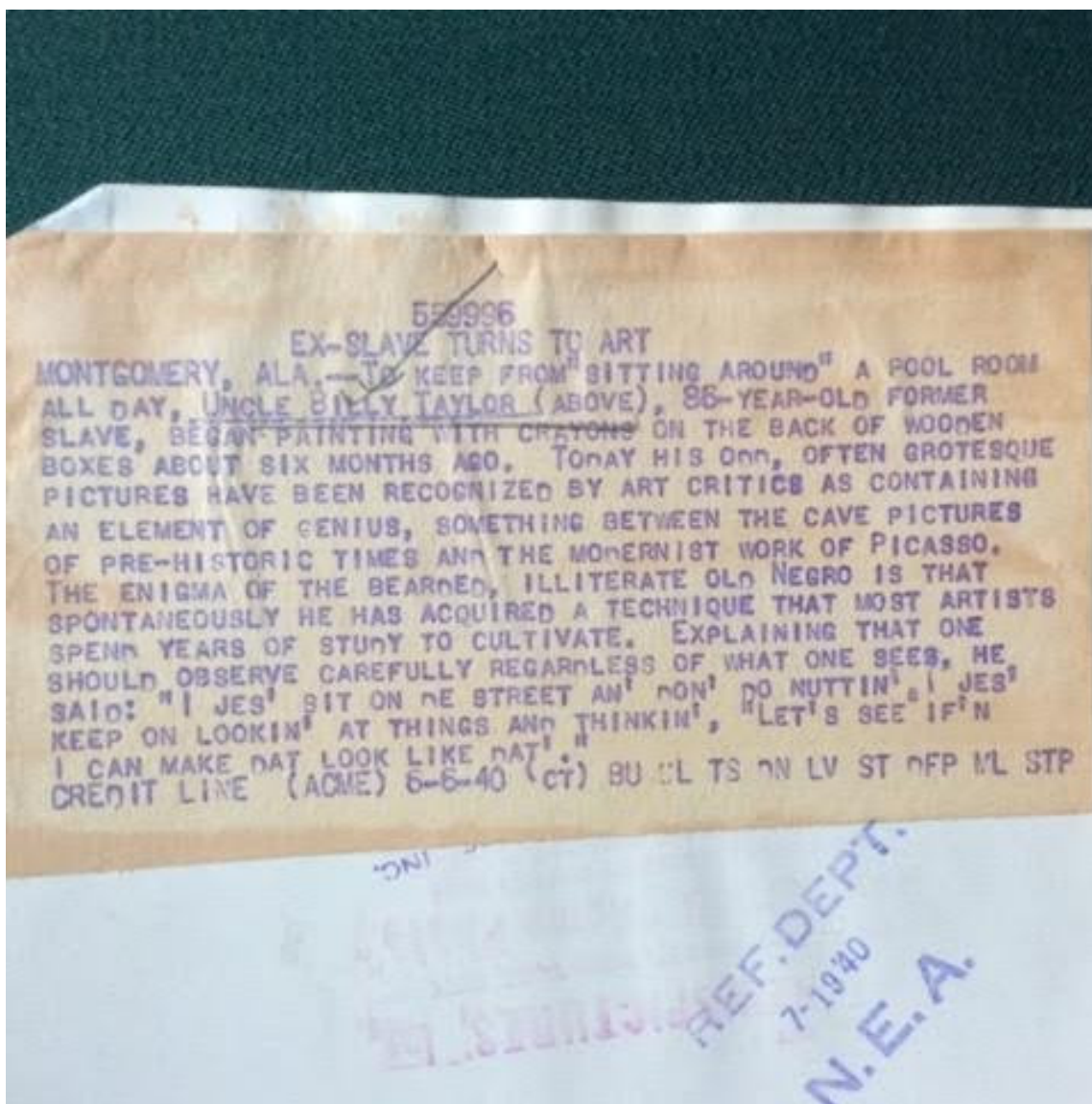
Mission accomplished.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Looking for your help on photo source*

**Kendal Weaver** ([Email](#)) - I would appreciate any help that Connecting members can give concerning the source of a photo that is to be used in a book on Bill Traylor of Montgomery, Ala., a former slave who is now considered one of America's most

important artists. The book will accompany a major Smithsonian exhibit scheduled for next year. More info on the exhibit can be found by [clicking here](#).



Above is the cutline pasted on the back of the photo, dated June 6, 1940. The photo shows the 86-year-old Traylor in Montgomery, standing next to several of his artworks. The cutline credits the ACME photo agency, which later merged with UPI. The book's author would like to identify the photographer who took the photo and the publication that requested it. Any guidance on how to track down this information would be much appreciated.

-0-

## ***His favorite photo of Chuck Berry***



**Mark Duncan (Email)** - I never actually met Chuck Berry, who passed away last week, but he figured in one of my favorite photographs during my time with the AP.

In September 1995, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened in Cleveland. Rock and Roll royalty were everywhere that weekend and almost everyone in the bureau had a hand in covering the museum groundbreaking Friday and concert the following evening.

The concert started a little after 8 pm at old Cleveland Municipal Stadium and we were well aware of newspaper deadlines on a Saturday night. These were the pre-digital photo days so film needed to be processed, scanned and transmitted to reach our members in time. I was stationed in the "pit" in front of the stage with my UPI counterpart, the late Terry Bochatay. The other credentialed photographers were on a riser some distance away in front of the sound and lighting boards.

To my relief as time ticked away, the first act to hit the stage was Chuck Berry performing Johnny B. Goode with Bruce Springsteen. Film was shipped back to the stadium darkroom before their performance ended and the photo of the legendary duet moved as the first from the event.

Even though the concert continued until the wee hours and produced many more photos of famous rockers, I knew that first shot of Berry and Springsteen would carry the Sunday editions.



-0-

## ***Kudos for Dobnik story on Breslin***

**Cecilia White** ([Email](#)) - BRAVO to AP's Verena Dobnik for her terrific Jimmy Breslin remembrance (Mon., 3/20 "Connecting"). Now that's how to write an obit! She added great quotes and colour to an already colourful life.

-0-

## ***A different perspective of a presidential election***



**Jim Reindl (Email)** - I covered and called elections for a newspaper and the AP for 35 years but now I work for USAID and I had a different election experience this week as an official observer of the Timor-Leste presidential election.

Timor-Leste is Asia's newest country, one of the newest democracies in the world. It's so new, the country's founding fathers are still active in politics and steering policy. It's as if Washington, Jefferson and Adams were still around in the U.S. Monday's vote was a milestone in that it was the first election the Timorese ran substantially on their own.

By all accounts so far, things went smoothly. I can say from my own observations that I was impressed with the efficiency and professionalism I saw from the poll workers and the patience and enthusiasm I saw from voters, some standing hours in line to cast their ballot and have their index finger tipped in purple ink as a sign they



voted.

-0-

## AP Buckaroo

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - Associated Press photographers go where the

stories are, and use all sorts of transportation to cover those assignments.

In late 1962, or early '63, I was dispatched to Highmore, S.D., to cover a cattle drive. My memory fails me now as to why. However, at the same time, The Newspaper Guild went on strike against most of the New York City newspapers for a pay raise for all of the editorial staffs.



The cattle drive, at the same time as the newspaper strike, was deplorable, with blowing snow and temperatures typically extremely low in that area. There was a large stockyard at Highmore, a little typical, almost desolate western town. The drovers had driven the cattle many miles over many days. I caught up with them about two days out. One of the drovers (cowboys) was a character. When I met him he was also galloping down a rural road lassoing automobile radio antennas, while whooping and hollering. He also waved a whiskey bottle.

Moments later, while he was still on his horse, he took a big swig of the whiskey, and then offered me the bottle. It was not

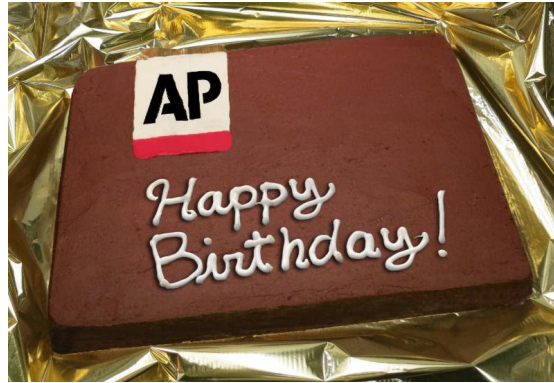
an appetizing offer, and I politely refused, even though the contents would have warmed my freezing belly. He did urge me to take a ride on his horse. Note the picture.

I transmitted pictures over those days, and was urged by New York photos to keep them coming. I was told that the papers there were on strike and that the television stations were going nuts broadcasting those wild-west pictures of the cattle drive!

The drovers said they were going to drive the huge herd of cattle right down the main street of Highmore. That morning, they said they changed their mind and were going around the town. I highly objected, and reminded them of their earlier

statements. They then decided to drive the cattle down the main street. I got in an elevated position to make the unusual, for those days, of the cattle drive down main street.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Les Weatherford - [weatherj@aol.com](mailto:weatherj@aol.com)

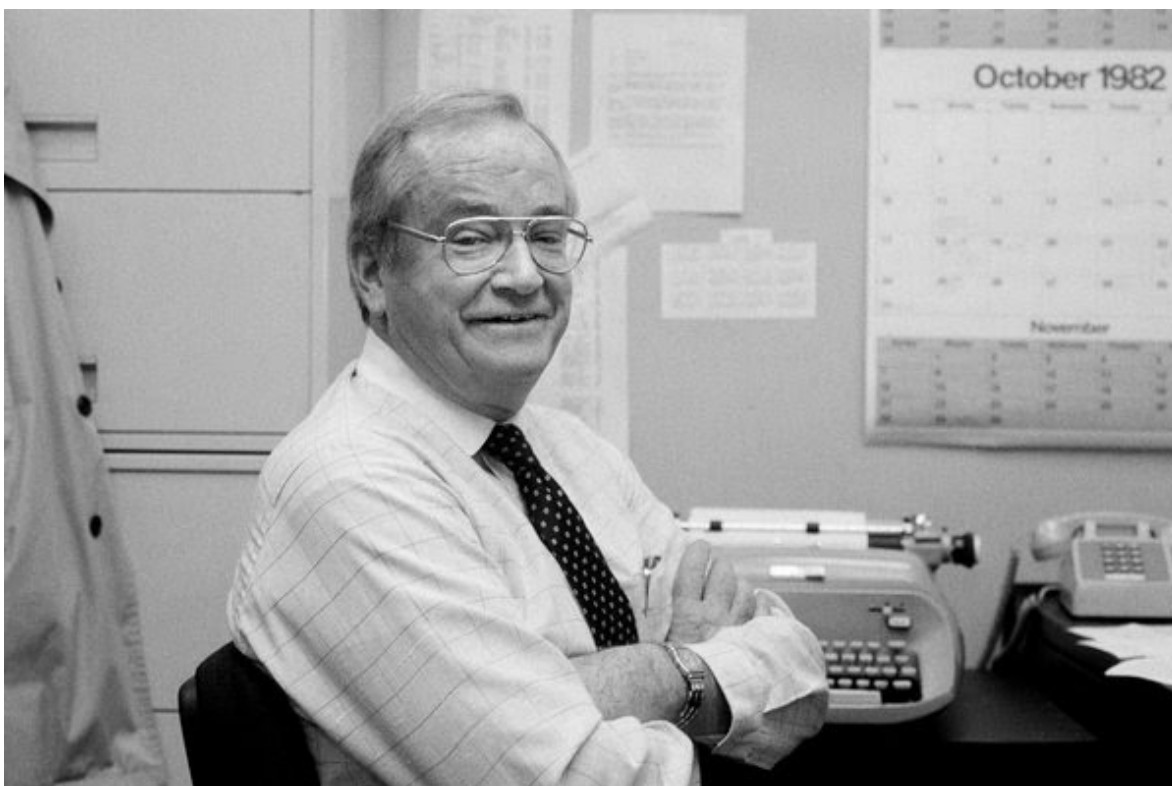
## Welcome to Connecting



Katherine Sandler - [ksandler@ap.org](mailto:ksandler@ap.org)

# Stories of interest

## ***John Herbers, Who Vividly Covered the Civil Rights Era for The Times, Dies at 93*** (New York Times)



John Herbers, a distinguished reporter for The New York Times on national affairs who in covering the racial turmoil in the Deep South in the 1960s demonstrated a rare blend of the journalistic skills, ingenuity and courage often associated with front-line war correspondents, died on Friday in Washington. He was 93.

Mr. Herbers died at Ingleside at Rock Creek, a nursing home, said his daughter Anne Farris Rosen, said.

In the political circus of Washington and in the cities and towns of a nation struggling with urban decay, the Vietnam War and racial conflicts, Mr. Herbers often reported major news: antiwar protests, civil rights marches, the 1968 presidential campaign and the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the Watergate scandal and the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***USA Today names Joanne Lipman as new top editor***

NEW YORK (AP) - Gannett has named Joanne Lipman as the editor-in-chief of USA Today, one of the country's biggest newspapers.

Lipman has been with McLean, Virginia-based Gannett Co. since December 2015 and will keep her chief content officer position.

A former Wall Street Journal reporter and editor, she founded a Conde Nast business magazine, Portfolio, to much fanfare in 2007, shortly before the financial crisis. The magazine folded two years later.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Remembering Jimmy Breslin and the 'gravedigger' school of news writing*** (Poynter)

**By ROY PETER CLARK**

I am a writing teacher, not a beat reporter. No one calls me "scoop." So it was fun last September to help break the news that the Daily Beast was about to publish a new piece of work from Jimmy Breslin.

It was a pleasure to analyze the essay, part of a fictionalized memoir, and reflect on the work of the famous/infamous New York City columnist, who died on Sunday.

I argued that part of his legacy was to have produced - in a single column - a school of news writing. Call it the Gravedigger School. While covering the funeral services of the assassinated John F. Kennedy, Breslin was the only reporter to track down the man who dug JFK's grave.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - March 21, 2017



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, March 21, the 80th day of 2017. There are 285 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On March 21, 1952, the Moondog Coronation Ball, considered the first rock and roll concert, took place at Cleveland Arena.

### **On this date:**

In 1556, Thomas Cranmer, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, was burned at the stake for heresy.

In 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

In 1804, the French civil code, or the "Code Napoleon" as it was later called, was adopted.

In 1925, Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay (pee) signed the Butler Act, which prohibited the teaching of the Theory of Evolution in public schools. (Tennessee repealed the law in 1967.)

In 1935, Persia officially changed its name to Iran.

In 1946, the recently created United Nations Security Council set up temporary headquarters at Hunter College in The Bronx, New York.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan began a four-day conference in Bermuda.

In 1963, the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates and closed at the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

In 1972, the Supreme Court, in *Dunn v. Blumstein*, ruled that states may not require at least a year's residency for voting eligibility.

In 1981, Michael Donald, a black teenager in Mobile, Alabama, was abducted, tortured and killed by members of the Ku Klux Klan. (A lawsuit brought by Donald's mother, Beulah Mae Donald, later resulted in a landmark judgment that bankrupted one Klan organization.)

In 1997, President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin wrapped up their summit in Helsinki, Finland, still deadlocked over NATO expansion, but able to agree on slashing nuclear weapons arsenals.

In 2006, the social media website Twitter was established with the sending of the first "tweet" by co-founder Jack Dorsey, who wrote: "just setting up my twttr."



Ten years ago: Former Vice President Al Gore made an emotional return to Congress as he pleaded with House and Senate committees to fight global warming; skeptical Republicans questioned the science behind his climate-change documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Five years ago: A previously divided U.N. Security Council sent a strong and united message to the Syrian government and opposition to immediately implement proposals by international envoy Kofi Annan to end Syria's yearlong bloodshed. Meting out unprecedented punishment for a bounty system that targeted key opposing players, the NFL suspended New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton without pay for the coming season and indefinitely banned the team's former defensive coordinator; in addition to other sanctions, Commissioner Roger Goodell fined the Saints \$500,000 and took away their second-round draft picks for the current year and the next.

One year ago: Laying bare a half-century of tensions, President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro prodded each other over human rights and the longstanding U.S. economic embargo during an unprecedented joint news conference in Havana. A former U.S. State Department employee who had used his government-issued computer to prey on vulnerable young women and manipulate them into sharing nude photos was sentenced in Atlanta to five years in federal prison.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathleen Widdoes is 78. Songwriter Chip Taylor ("Wild Thing") is 77. Folk-pop singer/musician Keith Potger (The Seekers) is 76. Actress Marie-Christine Barrault is 73. Singer-musician Rose Stone (Sly and the Family Stone) is 72. Actor Timothy Dalton is 71. Singer Ray Dorset (Mungo Jerry) is 71. Singer Eddie Money is 68. Rock singer-musician Roger Hodgson (Supertramp) is 67. Rock musician Conrad Lozano (Los Lobos) is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Russell Thompkins Jr. (The Stylistics) is 66. Comedy writer-performer Brad Hall is 59. Actress Sabrina LeBeauf is 59. Actor Gary Oldman is 59. Actress Kassie Depaiva ("Days of Our Lives") is 56. Actor Matthew Broderick is 55. Comedian-talk show host Rosie O'Donnell is 55. Rock musician Jonas "Joker" Berggren (Ace of Base) is 50. Rock MC Maxim (Prodigy) is 50. Rock musician Andrew Copeland (Sister Hazel) is 49. Hip-hop DJ Premier (Gang Starr) is 48. Actress Laura Allen is 43. Rapper-TV personality Kevin Federline is 39. Actor Scott Eastwood is 31. Actor Forrest Wheeler is 13.

***Thought for Today: "History is principally the inaccurate narration of events which ought not to have happened." - Ernest Albert Hooten, American anthropologist (1887-1954).***

# 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**  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try it free today