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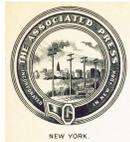
Connecting - May 09, 2017

1 message

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Tue, May 9, 2017 at 9:19 AM

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Super stringers! They help make AP bureaus go and have for many decades - these freelance photographers and news people who do work for bureaus around the world.

Connecting colleague **Will Lester** shared an idea - reminded of it after the heartfelt piece that AP Tampa Correspondent **Tamara Lush** wrote on **Bill Cooke**, the former photo stringer for the AP's Miami bureau who recently died. Tamara's remembrance is in today's issue.

Cooke was what Lester and others would call a super stringer. How about sharing your memories of someone who fit that description and what they meant to the AP operation? Your colleagues would enjoy, just as I know you and they will Tamara's story today.

CORRECTION: The ABC News story in Monday's Connecting on 1,000 layoffs by Gannett was old, published in 2008. It carried no time stamp, but that's no excuse. Connecting regrets the error.

Paul

News agencies of the world chronicled in new book



Kaz Abikio (Email) - I'm happy to report to you that the book I co-authored about news agencies of the world has been published just recently by Japan Press Research Institute, a not-for-profit, public-interest incorporated foundation. The English translation of the title is "News Agencies: Challenges in the New Digital Era."

A group of writers participated in the book project, intended primarily to examine what issues the news agencies are facing and what directions they are heading for in this ever-evolving digital age, in addition to their brief histories. I was assigned to write about The Associated Press and Thomson Reuters (mainly, the Reuters news agency part), while others worked on AFP, DPA, TASS, EFE, ANSA, Xinhua, Yonhap, KCNA, Middle East News Agency, etc. A separate chapter was reserved for Kyodo News and Jiji Press, the two Japanese news agencies.

I visited New York late last summer and interviewed top executives of the two leading news agencies - AP President Gary Pruitt, Senior AP vice presidents Jim Kennedy and Kathleen Carroll, and Steve Adler, president and editor-in-chief, and Reg Chua, executive editor for data and innovation, of Reuters, as well as Isaac Showman, managing director of Reuters TV.

Needless to say, the AP and Reuters are prominently featured in the book. On the AP part, I started my writing with the following quote from Melville Stone's "50 Years A Journalist," which was published in 1921:

"A national cooperative newsgathering organization, owned by the newspapers and by them alone, selling no news, making no profits, paying no dividends, simply the agent and servant of the newspapers, was the thing. Those participating should be of every conceivable partisan, religious, economic and social affiliation, but all equally zealous that in the business of newsgathering for their supply there should be strict accuracy, impartiality, and integrity. This was the dream we dreamed."



AP CEO Gary Pruitt

And I mentioned that this basic objective is still true at the AP today, despite the passage of time and vast technological advancements that have changed the environment surrounding news media. Gary Pruitt provided nice remarks to verify the statement and explain about the specific nature of the AP in a positive tone.

Jim Kennedy also gave me invaluable analyses, regarding the challenges the AP has been facing, largely due to the digital disruption that changed the media

ecosystem, and the direction the AP is heading. Connecting colleagues must be aware of these developments, so I will not go into detail here.

For me, it was rather easy to write about the AP, but I had limited knowledge about Reuters. Among the references I checked, "The Power of News: The History of Reuters" by Donald Read, emeritus professor at the University of Kent, and "The Price of Truth: The story of the Reuters millions" by John Lawrenson, a former Reuters executive, and Lionel Barber, a Financial Times journalist, were most helpful in understanding the nature and history of Reuters.

A large volume of copies of the book have been distributed free of charge to media organizations, educational institutions and public libraries by the foundation, while the rest will be for sales through Amazon and some book stores. I have arranged that complimentary copies be sent to the AP's Tokyo bureau.



Top executives of two American and two Japanese news agencies get together in Tokyo in May 1933. This photo taken by an unidentified photographer shows: (Front row from left to right) President Roy Howard of UP, President Yukichi Iwanaga of Rengo, U.S. Ambassador Joseph Grew, President Hoshiro Mitsunaga of Dentsu, and General Manager Kent Cooper of AP. (Second row from left to right) UP Manager for Japan Miles Vaughn, AP Tokyo Bureau Chief Glen Babb, Vice President Sekizo Ueda of Dentsu, and Vice President Inosuke Furuno of Rengo.



Yukichi Iwanaga, president of Rengo News Agency, was the guest at a reception given in his honor by Kent Cooper, general manager of the Associated Press at Cooper's residence in New York on August 22, 1933. At center is Cooper flanked by Iwanaga (left) and Kiyoshi Iwamoto (right), Rengo correspondent in New York." Other AP executives in the photo are unidentified. (This photo provided by Kyodo News apparently was taken by an AP photographer and a print with signatures was presented to Iwanaga. Rengo's English name, by the way, was the Associated Press of Japan.)

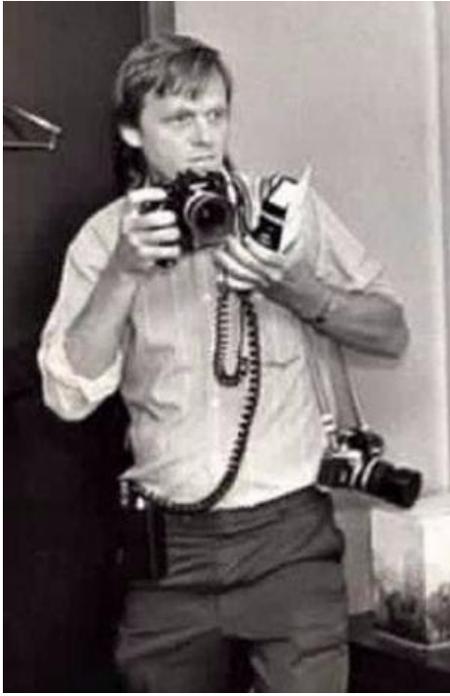
Godspeed, Bill - I wish you hadn't left US

By Tamara Lush ([Email](#))

(The tribute that a Miami original deserved)

Bill Cooke was brilliant, maddening, annoying, hilarious.

I miss him already, and knew in my heart that because I hadn't heard from him in a few days, because he hadn't tagged me in a post or a tweet, that something was wrong. His last tweet was to me, about a giant rabbit, because we had a years-long conversation about cute animals which broke up the sad and the devastating we'd both dealt with in our careers and lives.



Bill embodied Miami, or Miami as it used to be. He had a memory for details that everyone had forgotten in a place where forgetting is all too easy.

I met Bill in 2004 when I worked for the then-St. Petersburg Times. I was newly assigned to Miami, and a little frightened, frankly. Miami was insane, and the photographer assigned to cover a story with me was a bit insane, too. He had wild white hair and a weird, red nose and my God, his shoes...they had holes in them. He didn't have a car and I had to pick him up at what appeared to be a rooming house on South Beach.

But somehow, we hit it off, me and this homeless-looking curmudgeon who was the same age as my father. Perhaps because there were parallels with my own dad - both Vietnam vets, both skeptical of bullshit - that I liked him. Sometimes he was difficult to like, including when he'd ask for money or beg me to click on ads for his website. He'd had a difficult life, and made it hard for people to love him. I'm certain that was a theme in his life, whether he would admit it or not.

But you couldn't ignore Bill, not for long. Because he was sharp and usually right. When I first met him, he used that sharpness to make great photos. Later, he turned to writing, and would often chuckle when people told him he was a pretty damned good wordsmith. He was. Read his blog. You'll see.

He had a passion for investigative reporting. He went after local officials with unabashed glee, and often called me to recount in excruciating detail how he'd come about some document or snippet of information. He'd turn that same critical eye on the Miami Herald. If you knew Bill, you knew his determination to get the dirt on the Herald wasn't from a place of anger or maliciousness. It was because he was frustrated at what journalism, and a great paper, had become.

Bill embodied the old Miami, the Miami of Edna Buchanan and Milt Sosin and keeping an ear to police scanners while you worked the midnight shift. He was like a walking history book of Miami. He loved telling stories about the old Miami to us youngsters, and I think he felt that we were his kids, me and Alfred Spellman and Billy Corbin and Francisco Alvarado and Tim Elfrink and many others.

Everyone has a Bill Cooke story. I have many. Like the time I drove him to get his kitty fixed, or the time we did a story on a man seeking the restoration of his voting rights. How we'd get coffee at Starbucks on West Avenue on South Beach, or how we'd wander around South Beach on Memorial Day, while he took photos. We did a story together when Playboy did a casting call and one in 2004, where we incredulously asked: who *is* buying all those \$200,000 condos downtown?

He loved animals.

His final years were spent in a beautiful assisted living facility on Biscayne Bay. (Elinor J. Brecher, there is a special place in heaven for you, for hooking him up with that situation).

The last time I saw him was there, in November, when Castro died.

"Come on over," he rasped.

I hadn't seen him in years, not since I'd moved back to Tampa Bay. My heart pounded as I drove through Miami traffic and parked near his nursing home.

When I opened the gate into the vibrant courtyard, I saw the parrots and dogs, and a kitty, all lazing about in the late-day sun. There were flowers and a garden. The nurse told me I could go upstairs, but we had to sit in the hall. House rules, and all.

There Bill was, hooked up to oxygen, in a rocking chair. And you know what he thought of rules.

"Fuck this, let's go in my room," he said.

We shuffled in and watched the news, talking about everything and nothing, about Castro and how the Miami meteorologist looked particularly sexy that day in her tight red dress. His bed was strewn with books and newspapers.

My editor called and I had to leave to do more reporting. We went downstairs and he slowly walked into the dining room. I paused in the courtyard, watching him move like a man without much time. I stood there with the birds and the flowers and

wondered what his life would have been like had he not gone to war, had he had a different childhood, had he been slightly less rigid in his beliefs.

I knew it would be the last time I'd see him, and wept as I walked to my car, just as I'm weeping tonight.

Godspeed Bill. I wish you hadn't left us. We needed you.

Phil Sandlin honored by NASA's Kennedy Space Center



The AP team celebrating Phil Sandlin's big day - from left: Joe Skipper, Al Diaz, Marcia Dunn, Johnsie Sandlin, Phil Sandlin, Terry Renna, Marta Lavandier and John Raoux. Photo by Anthony Peritore.

By **MARCIA DUNN**, AP Aerospace Writer ([Email](#))

Retired AP Florida photo chief Phil Sandlin has received the highest honor bestowed by NASA's Kennedy Space Center press office.

Sandlin is one of six new inductees into Kennedy's Chroniclers program, representing journalists and public affairs officers who helped spread the story of America's space exploration. The ceremony was held at the Kennedy press site on Friday, May 5, the 56th anniversary of the launch of America's first man in space, Alan Shepard.

Sandlin became the fourth AP staffer to be elected to the Chroniclers and have his name added to the rows of plaques gracing a wall at the press site. The others -- all now deceased -- are former Cape Canaveral correspondent Howard Benedict, photographer Jim Kerlin and Harry Rosenthal, formerly of the Washington bureau who traveled frequently to the cape for manned launches.

One-time AP science writer Warren Leary also became a Chronicler on Friday. He moved over to the New York Times in 1989, after working for the AP in Boston and Washington.

The AP Chroniclers are among good company: Past inductees include Walter Cronkite of CBS News, Jules Bergman of ABC News and John Noble Wilford of The New York Times. Besides Sandlin and Leary, this year's group includes Bruce Hall of CBS News, who died just three days before the award ceremony; Scott Harris, a deceased Orlando TV reporter and anchor; former NASA public affairs officer Bill Johnson; and Bob Murray, NASA's first videographer to provide live airborne TV coverage of space shuttle launches and landings. Altogether, there are now 74 Chroniclers.

Honorees must no longer be working in the field and have spent at least 10 years covering the space program at Kennedy. Twenty were nominated for this year's awards. The selection committee included AP aerospace writer Marcia Dunn, yours truly.

Kennedy Space Center director Robert Cabana, a former astronaut, presented each honoree with a framed certificate featuring a small U.S. flag that flew on the last space shuttle flight in 2011.

"I'm really thrilled," Sandlin, 79, told the crowd. Wife Johnsie was there, along with several



Phil Sandlin is shown with former space shuttle astronaut and Kennedy Space Center Director Bob Cabana and KSC Communications Director Cheryl Hurst.

current AP employees and freelancers who drove in for the big event: Marta Lavandier and Al Diaz from the Miami bureau; John Raoux from the Orlando office; and freelancers Terry Renna and Joe Skipper.

Retired since 2001, Sandlin started working as a photographer while in the 101st Airborne. His first newspaper job was with The Star in Wilmington, North Carolina, his hometown. He then went to the St. Petersburg Evening Independent. He joined UPI in 1961, covering NASA's Gemini and Apollo

programs and the civil rights movement, including the Selma March. He jumped to AP in 1974, continuing his space coverage with the shuttle program. Long a tinkerer, Sandlin devised unique still camera remote systems to photograph rocket launches - a process still in use today.

Sandlin won the National Press Photographers Association's prestigious Joseph Costa Award in 2016 for his 50 years of documenting news in Florida and throughout the South, including the civil rights movement, the space program, presidential elections and hurricanes.

And one more thought about Phil...

Bill Haber (Email) - Not sure what an "retired" AP Photographer should look like, but one certainly cannot use Phil's picture for that description. Some of my fondest memories at the Cape, Masters, Super Bowls, etc. are because of Phil. At the risk of offending many hardworking photographers, and there are many, Phil, Jack Thornell and Jim Boudier come to mind as people that were tough to keep up with. Excellent photographers, great people and would work as hard as they played and trying to keep up was something else...

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A tick-tock of AP'c coverage of the Hindenburg explosion

was slowly settling to earth at Lakehurst, N.J., the A.P. wires were carrying the story as it was dictated by a reporter a few hundred feet from the flaming craft.

"The story of the coverage of the Hindenburg's tragic end, told today by J.C. Stark, chief of the Newark bureau of The Associated Press, is one of amazing coordination. Here it is, stripped of the heart-aches, the emotions, the fretting over detail and time."

The account, shared by AP's corporate archives ahead of last Saturday's 80th anniversary, is fascinating even by today's standards. In an era without cell phones, internet, smartphones even portable radios, the news cooperative did what it has historically done best: rushed to get all available hands -- including a Washington writer visiting friends in Princeton and a newsman who would later become AP's general news editor -- on deck, and put them in places where they all contributed to AP's comprehensive report.

Read the full account [here](#).

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Connecting mailbox

Gathering in Frankfurt to re-fight old wars



Bob Reid (Email) - Three AP "has-beens" and one still in the saddle gather at a Frankfurt, Germany, restaurant May 7 to re-fight old wars. From left - Nesha Starcevic, Slobodan Lekic, Bob Reid and Frankfurt-based business writer Dave McHugh.

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First byline was no byline at all

Hal Bock (Email) - My first byline was no byline at all.

My first sports budget story was a college football roundup, a lookahead to Saturday's games written for Friday PM papers, when there were such things. This was at the height of the battle with UPI when we tried to beat the opposition at every turn.

On Saturday morning, on my way to the office, I picked up the New York Post. There was my story staring back at me. No byline but a "By The Associated Press" line instead. That was fine with me because it meant my college football story was in the paper and UPI's was not.

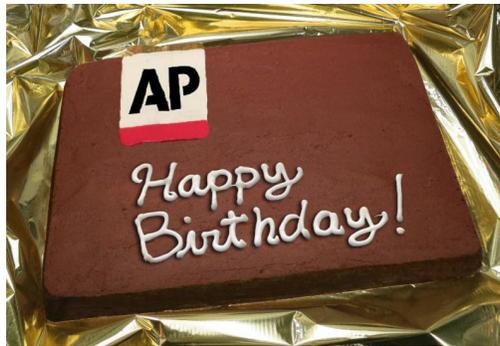
I was walking on air when I arrived at work, anxious to share my success. It was then that I learned that the Post did not subscribe to UPI's sports report. A hollow victory, but a victory nevertheless.

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AP - the Anonymous Press?

Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - "AP" was one of the categories Monday on "Jeopardy." Some of the answers included "What is Atlantic and Pacific?" and "What is advanced placement?" and "What are accounts payable?" but, alas, not "what is The Associated Press?" I guess that would have been too obvious.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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Thom Callahan - tc5959@gmail.com

Marc Humbert - marc.a.humbert@gmail.com

Anita Miller Fry - topscoop@aol.com

Stories of interest

Ad Buyers Have a Say in Whether Real News Survives (New York Times)

PHILADELPHIA - Hey, America's Advertisers: You got some good news last week, didn't you?

Facebook, where you are increasingly placing your advertising, says it will do more to keep live killings, streaming suicides and terrorist videos off its site.

With any luck the 3,000 new content monitors Facebook says it is hiring will be able to remove those sorts of hand grenades from its news feed before any can roll up next to your ads and blow your public images to kingdom come.

That followed similar news from YouTube, owned by Google, where you are spending even more of your advertising money. It announced it was looking for ways to give advertisers more say over where their ads go, after The Times of London recently discovered an automated system had inadvertently put ads from L'Oréal, Nissan and others into videos featuring the anti-Semitic stylings of a hater whose name I will not publicize here.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jenny Volanakis, Sibby Christensen.

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The most common punishment for killing a journalist in Mexico: Nothing (Washington Post)

As the number of Mexican journalists killed for doing their jobs has spiked in recent months, organizations trying to draw attention to the murders have had to use stronger language to describe the epidemic. Amnesty International said it was "open season" on journalists and described a "war" against the media. The British human rights organization Article 19 described a "new peak" in violence.

But a scathing new report by the Committee to Protect Journalists described the violence with a pointed word: preventable.

The committee said government indifference and rampant corruption have contributed strongly to the attacks on journalists.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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For one day, the world's richest people yield the floor to reporters (Poynter)

OMAHA - New York Times financial columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin found himself sorting through printouts of more than 1,000 emails on a floor back home, he said, trying to put them into obvious categories.

What was Warren Buffett's take on active or passive investing? His views on President Trump? What about the scandal at Wells Fargo, where Buffett has a big stake? What about his investing in three billionaire Brazilians who have brought huge layoffs to consumer product giants Anheuser Busch, H.J. Heinz and Kraft?

They were among the themes coursing through emails solicited by Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway company before its annual shareholders meeting on Saturday that was part revival meeting, county fair, global pilgrimage for investors and an unavoidable lure for the financial press.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 9, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 9, the 129th day of 2017. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1754, a political cartoon in Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette depicted a snake cut into eight pieces, each section representing a part of the American colonies; the caption read, "JOIN, or DIE."

On this date:

In 1814, the Jane Austen novel "Mansfield Park" was first published in London.

In 1864, Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick was killed by a Confederate sniper during the Civil War Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1926, Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett supposedly became the first men to fly over the North Pole. (However, U.S. scholars announced in 1996 that their examination of Byrd's flight diary suggested he had turned back 150 miles short of his goal.)

In 1936, Italy annexed Ethiopia.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a 225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 1987, 183 people were killed when a New York-bound Polish jetliner crashed while attempting an emergency return to Warsaw.

In 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

Ten years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney pressed Iraq's leaders to do more to reduce violence and achieve political reconciliation during a trip to Baghdad that was punctuated by an explosion that shook windows at the U.S. Embassy where Cheney was visiting. Pope Benedict XVI began his first papal trip to Latin America as he arrived in Brazil.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage in a historic announcement that came three days after Vice President Joe Biden spoke in favor of such unions on NBC's "Meet the Press." Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney repeated his opposition to gay marriage, telling reporters in Oklahoma City, "I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman." Hair stylist Vidal Sassoon, 84, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Filipinos went to the polls to elect Rodrigo Duterte, the controversial, tough-talking mayor of Davao city, to be their country's next president.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 83. Rock musician Nokie Edwards (The Ventures) is 82. Actor Albert Finney is 81. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 81. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 80. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 80. Singer Tommy Roe is 75. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 73. Actress Candice Bergen is 71. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 71. Actor Anthony Higgins is 70. Singer Billy Joel is 68. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 68. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 67. Actress Alley Mills is 66. Actress Amy Hill is 64. Actress Wendy Crewson is 61. Actor John Corbett is 56. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 55. Actress Sonja Sohn is 53. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is 49. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 47. Country musician Mike Myerson (Heartland) is 46. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 42. Rock musician Dan Regan (Reel Big Fish) is 40. Actor Daniel Franzese is 39. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 38. Actress Rosario Dawson is 38. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 38. Figure skater Angela Nikodinov is 37. Actress Rachel Boston is 35. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 32. Actress Grace Gummer is 31.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing to fear except the persistent refusal to find out the truth, the persistent refusal to analyze the causes of happenings."
- Dorothy Thompson, American journalist and author (1894-1961).

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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

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