



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - August 04, 2017

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

August 04, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Very few bureau chiefs in the history of The Associated Press can claim to have hired two journalists on the very same day who would go on to have Hall of Fame

careers.

But that's what the late **Fred Moen**, Kansas City chief of bureau, did on May 6, 1984, when he hired **Cliff Schiappa** as Kansas City photographer and **James Finley** as St. Louis photographer.

Finley was inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame in 2009, the year after the photographer he succeeded in St. Louis, **Fred Waters**, was inducted. And Schiappa was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011.

Finley and Schiappa were far more than fellow Hall of Famers. They became close friends and worked many stories together during their years as AP photographers. Finley served as St. Louis photographer from 1984 until 2006, when he retired. Schiappa served as Kansas City photographer from 1984 to 2000, when he was appointed Kansas City assistant chief of bureau, later serving as AP's Midwest Regional photo editor.

We lead today's issue with Cliff's memories of his friend James, who died July 23 at the age of 76 and who was eulogized Tuesday night in St. Louis at a memorial and an exhibition of his photo work.



**Cliff Schiappa (left) and James Finley, in their younger days, 1986, covering an NCAA basketball tournament game.**

**One correction** from Thursday's issue of Connecting: A Texas Monthly story that shared memories of the University of Texas Tower sniper shootings in 1966 included comments from then-AP staffer Robert Heard and the story said he is a nonfiction writer living in Austin. Heard died in 2014. [Click here](#) for a link to a story on his death.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## Honoring James Finley: a man who had a profound impact on each of us



**James Finley views a display of his photos in 2009 when he was inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame. At far right standing next to James is fellow inductee Bill Eppridge. Photo by Dave Marnier, Gasconade County Republican.**

**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - The drive between St. Louis and Kansas City is a relatively boring 252-mile straight shot across the state of Missouri on Interstate 70. It's a route I've driven countless times, but on Wednesday it afforded me the chance to reflect upon my friend and colleague James Finley. The previous evening, I and about a dozen AP staffers from around the country, along with more than 100 other friends and family members, bid farewell to the private and proud (but certainly NOT prideful) man who used his camera to teach, inform, cajole, and inspire his neighbors, fellow Missourians, and readers around the world.

The memorial service was never maudlin, rather it was a celebration that verged toward a party where people could be heard exclaiming over the jazz band "I never knew he was a Marine!" or "He had a pilot's license?" or "Why would he have a degree in mathematics?"

On the other hand, everyone knew about his imposing size, or his endless smile, or the serenity he brought into a room, or the selfless kindness he would extend to strangers... and of course his boundless love for his beautiful daughter Daria.

I was asked to say a few words about James during the service, and I started by holding up a photo of him in 2009 (see it above) where he is seen looking at a display of his photos and a plaque at the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame on the day he was inducted (I had the honor of nominating him six months earlier). He is standing next to fellow inductee Bill Eppridge, known for his documenting the Kennedy clan for Life Magazine, and they are having a discussion about James' photos and career. There was also a group of at least a half dozen photographers capturing the moment, casting a spotlight that James always avoided, yet one that he completely deserved.

We met on the sidelines of Faurot Field at the University of Missouri in 1977. I was a student there, and James was a stringer for St. Louis AP staffer Fred Waters. For the next 40 years I would know a man who loved life, had a passion for photography, would save my butt a few times, and who was incredibly proud of representing AP wherever he went.

Whenever I was in St. Louis, James and I would make a point of having lunch at one of his favorite restaurants, Frazer's Traveling Brown Bag, just across the highway from the famous Anheuser Busch brewery and headquarters. Rarely would we wait for a table because the owner knew Finley and would always find a couple of chairs to accommodate us. We would lollygag over lunch, not because we were emptying bottles of good wine (I never saw James over imbibe), rather because we were catching up on each other's lives, or making coverage plans for an upcoming event, or reminiscing about a big story in the past.

When I was speaking at the service, over my left shoulder was a large framed photo of James with about a dozen pairs of over-designed (aka ugly) socks. The photo was used on a section front of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch about 25 years ago as part of a story about Father's Day gifts. I recognized about half of the socks as those I mailed him as part of our Missouri Sock Exchange. Whenever he or I would travel, we'd seek out the ugliest pair of socks and then mail them to each other. Our sock drawers at our homes were full of color and whimsy, and now they offer a fond memory of a man we all loved. I ended my presentation Tuesday evening by pulling up my pants leg to show off a new pair of ugly socks I bought, specifically for the occasion.

The last time I saw James was a couple weeks ago. Paul Stevens, Jeff Roberson (current STL photo staffer) and I spent time at his bedside. He was not as imposing as he used to be, and we knew he'd prefer we not be making a fuss about him, but it

was the least we could do for someone who had such a profound impact upon each of us.

## Connecting mailbox

***John Liotta, Don Deibler deserve every bit of praise tossed their way***

**Ben Brown** ([Email](#)) - Connecting's coverage of John Liotta's retirement has made for great reading. John and Don Deibler deserve every bit of praise tossed their way. The notes brought back many memories of how vital they were to the membership tasks at hand.

Many were the times you waited in the phone booth in the snow while John and/or Don came up with an acceptable rate response for some member questioning how we got those rates.

Those were the days.

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***Pyle, Lederer and Deutsch gather in Brooklyn to recall favorite news moments***



L to R: Richard Pyle, Edith Lederer, Linda Deutsch. Photo by Brenda Smiley

**Brenda Smiley** ([Email](#)) - Three of AP's longest-serving correspondents recalled memorable moments covering news in tumultuous times when they got together recently at the home of Richard Pyle and Brenda Smiley in Brooklyn.

U.N. Chief Correspondent, the very, very, busy Edith Lederer, coaxed quotes from former Saigon Bureau Chief Richard Pyle whose career highlights - along with 6-plus wars - include Kennedy's early campaign in Ann Arbor, Agnew's and Nixon's resignations, prison escape and recapture of James Earl Ray, (Dr. King's killer), Three-Mile Island, John Gotti trial and obit, 9/11 and jetliner "miracle" landing on the Hudson.

L.A. visitor, retired Special Correspondent Linda Deutsch commented on her past Hollywood coverage of celebrities, including the sensational O. J. Simpson trial. (We look forward to a follow-up in October.)

## AP names 3 new deputy chiefs of bureau in Washington



**From left: Kathleen Hennessey, J. David Ake, Elizabeth Kennedy**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Associated Press on Wednesday named three editors to new positions leading its coverage of the U.S. government and American politics, naming J. David Ake, Kathleen Hennessey, Elizabeth Kennedy as deputy Washington chiefs of bureau.

The appointments were announced by Julie Pace, AP's chief of bureau in Washington.

In his new role, Ake will serve as deputy chief of bureau for visual journalism and presentation. An award-winning photojournalist who has reported on presidential campaigns and administrations for more than two decades, Ake will direct AP's photo staff in Washington, oversee its text and photo publishing and presentation desks and closely coordinate with its video reporting operations.

"David is a creative and ambitious journalist," Pace said. "His deep knowledge of how Washington works will be a huge asset to journalists across the bureau."

Hennessey, the AP's White House news editor, will direct AP's reporting on the Trump administration and the presidency, Congress and politics and serve as a deputy for newsgathering.

She first joined the AP in 2005 as a state government reporter in Carson City, Nevada, and then covered politics, development and entertainment in the Las Vegas bureau. Hennessey later worked in the Washington bureau of The Los Angeles Times, where she covered national politics, Congress and the White House. She returned to AP as a White House reporter in 2015.

Kennedy, a longtime foreign correspondent for AP, most recently in Bangkok, will guide coverage of national security, law enforcement and justice, among other beats. As a deputy for newsgathering, her responsibilities will also include the ongoing investigation into allegations of collusion between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia.

She currently leads AP's news staff in 13 countries in Southeast Asia, a position she took on after serving as AP's news leader in South Asia, Syria and Lebanon, and East Africa. In Lebanon, she helped pioneer AP's methods of verifying sensitive user-generated visual content from conflict zones.

"Kathleen, Elizabeth and David are energetic journalists who aim high and love telling great stories," Pace said. "All three will be integral to AP's success during this busy and important time for Washington news."

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

[Click here](#) for Chief of Bureau Julie Pace's announcement to the staff.

## Welcome to Connecting



Hannah Dreier - [hannah.dreier@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.dreier@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

## ***Trump Has Launched A "Real News" Program On His Facebook, Hosted By His Daughter-In-Law*** (Buzzfeed)

After months of denigrating the media as fake news, President Trump has launched a news program of his own on Facebook featuring his daughter-in-law.

"Watch here for REAL news!" a post on the president's Facebook page said Sunday.

Lara Trump, who is married to the president's son Eric, appeared as the video's host in front of a Trump campaign background. Speaking to the camera like a TV news anchor, she offered updates on news favorable to her father-in-law.



"I bet you haven't heard about all the accomplishments the president had this week because there's so much fake news out there," she said.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The 45 oddest quotes from Donald Trump's secretive Wall Street Journal interview*** (CNN)

Washington (CNN) On July 25, President Trump sat down for an interview with The Wall Street Journal. The paper wrote a few stories on the 45-minute chat and released a handful of excerpts. What they didn't do was release the full transcript of the interview -- which has become common practice among media organizations over the last few years.

Thanks to the good folks at Politico, however, we can now see the full back and forth of the Journal's conversation with the President; Politico got their hands on the entire transcript and released it Tuesday night. (Hooray for transparency!) Worth noting: The New York Times didn't release its FULL transcript of the Trump interview last month. The Times, however, did release extensive excerpts.

It is a classic of the form. I went through and pulled out the strangest of the strange Trump lines. They're below in the order Trump said them.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## ***MIT and Google join forces to retouch smartphone photos in real time*** (New Atlas)

Even casual photographers nowadays have some knowledge of the benefits of a little image retouching here and there. Adding a filter, tweaking the contrast or heightening the colors before slinging the photo into the digital world is almost part of everyone's process now. A research collaboration between MIT and Google has taken the idea of computational photography to a new level by creating a system that can automatically retouch images in real-time before the shot has even been taken.

When New Atlas reviewed the new Google Pixel phone last year we were absolutely astonished at how good the photographs it produced were. This came down to Google's obsession with computational photography. Specifically, the algorithms and software the company has developed that dramatically improve the images its camera captures.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane.

## **The Final Word**

### ***What are the 10 most irritating office buzzwords in the UK?*** (Sky News)

None of them are game-changers, and few convey much optimism about journeys, missions or future blue skies.

But for jobs site Glassdoor, surveying 2,000 employees about their most hated examples of office jargon for a summertime PR push was clearly a no-brainer.

The list, announced as the 12 phrases most complained about by workers, is a thought shower of jargon that's evolved over decades of changing corporate culture.

Some terms were coined by strategists and psychologists who wanted to develop a strong company ethic, encourage employees to believe in their work or improve productivity and efficiency.

Most are metaphors that have lost their figurative punch and turned into cliches as they have been chronically overused.

So which catchphrases are inspiring the greatest fury in the country's workplaces?

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - August 4, 2017



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Aug. 4, the 216th day of 2017. There are 149 days left in the year.

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

On August 4, 1892, businessman Andrew Borden and his wife, Abby, were axed to death in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. Lizzie Borden, Andrew's daughter from a previous marriage, was accused of the killings, but acquitted at trial.

### **On this date:**

In 1782, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart married Constanze Weber at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.

In 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard had its beginnings as President George Washington signed a measure authorizing a group of revenue cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

In 1792, English romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was born at Field Place near Horsham, England.

In 1830, plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany for invading Belgium; the United States proclaimed its neutrality in the mushrooming world conflict.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the U.S. won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1942, the Irving Berlin musical "Holiday Inn," starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Marjorie Reynolds, and featuring the song "White Christmas," premiered in New York.

In 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

In 1991, the Greek luxury liner Oceanos sank in heavy seas off South Africa's southeast coast; the 402 passengers and 179 crew members all survived, largely through the efforts of ship's entertainers who oversaw rescue operations. (Capt. Yiannis Avranas and other officers faced criticism for leaving the ship while some passengers were still on board.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush toured the site of a collapsed highway bridge in Minneapolis, pledging to cut red tape that could delay rebuilding. Three students, Iofemi Hightower, Terrance Aerial and Dashon Harvey, were shot to death execution-style in a Newark, New Jersey, schoolyard. (Six people have since been sentenced to long prison terms.) NASA launched the Phoenix Mars Lander, a robotic dirt and ice digger, toward the red planet (it arrived in May 2008). Barry Bonds tied Hank Aaron's 755 career home runs as his San Francisco Giants lost 3-2 to the San Diego Padres. Alex Rodriguez became at age 32 the youngest player in major league history to date to hit 500 home runs with a first-inning homer in a 16-8 Yankees victory over Kansas City.

Five years ago: Michael Phelps won the 18th Olympic gold medal of his career as the United States won the medley relay at the London Games. The United States set a world record to win the women's medley relay. Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova 6-0, 6-1 to join Steffi Graf as the only women to complete the Golden Slam - winning the Olympics and the four majors. Three British athletes won gold medals in Olympic Stadium: Jessica Ennis in heptathlon; Greg Rutherford in men's long jump; and Mo Farah in the men's 10,000 meters.

One year ago: Speaking to reporters at the Pentagon, President Barack Obama vigorously denied that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran was ransom to secure the release of four Americans jailed in Tehran. During a practice session on the eve of the Rio Olympics, South Korean gymnast Lee Eun-ju took a smiling selfie with North Korean gymnast Hong Un Jong in a warmly received scene captured by journalists.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Tina Cole is 74. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 73. Football Hall of Famer John Riggins is 68. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 62. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 62. Actress Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 59. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 59. Actress Lauren Tom is 58. Former President Barack Obama is 56. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly & Ryan") is 56. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 55. Actress Crystal Chappell is 52. Author Dennis Lehane is 52. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 49. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 49. Actor Michael DeLuise is 48. Race car driver Jeff Gordon is 46. Rapper-actress Yo-Yo is 46. Country singer Jon Nicholson is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Marques (MAR'-kus) Houston is 36. Actress Meghan Markle is 36. Actress Abigail Spencer is 36. Actress Greta Gerwig is 34. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 32. Rock singer Tom Parker (The Wanted) is 29. Actors Dylan and Cole Sprouse are 25. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") is 22.

***Thought for Today: "When you love someone, all your saved-up wishes start coming out." - Elizabeth Bowen, Irish author (1899-1973).***

## Got a story or photos 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**  
Editor, Connecting newsletter  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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

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