



Paul Shane &lt;pjshane@gmail.com&gt;

## Connecting - December 08, 2017

1 message

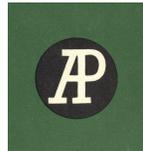
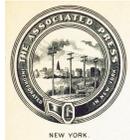
**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 9:23 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

December 08, 2017

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Colleagues,

**Merrill Hartson**, who forged a career of distinction over four decades in the AP's Washington bureau, plans to retire at the end of this month.

The announcement was made Thursday by **Julie Pace**, Washington chief of bureau, who called him "a true giant of this bureau."



As to his plans for the future, Merrill - who served in recent years on the Washington editing desk - shared this with his Connecting colleagues:

"I have a lot of plans to do the things that took second fiddle to the newsroom, like traveling, touring museums, reading and generally adjusting to life outside the fast lane. But first, I need to figure out how to live without breakfast at 8 p.m., lunch at 2:30 a.m. and dinner at 9 a.m."

If you'd like to send him a note, his email is - [jrdhartson@peoplepc.com](mailto:jrdhartson@peoplepc.com) And if you'd like to share a favorite memory of working with Merrill, send it along for use in Monday's issue.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Merrill in his next chapters.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## **Merrill Hartson to retire after 44-year AP career - 41 of them in Washington bureau**



### **From Julie Pace, Washington chief of bureau:**

Please join me in congratulating our dear colleague Merrill Hartson, who is retiring at the end of the month after an incredible 44 years at The Associated Press, including 41 years in the Washington bureau.

Merrill is a true giant of this bureau, and his assignments over the years trace the history of this city. He served as political editor for the 1980 presidential race, then covered the Reagan and Mondale campaigns during the 1984 election. He helped lead AP's coverage of Iran-Contra and Clinton-Lewinsky. And he's covered some of our most important beats, both as a reporter and news editor. There were stints at the White House, Congress and Justice Department, in addition to posts editing legal affairs, environment and economic stories.

More recently, Merrill has served on the Washington editing desk, making sure our copy is fast and flawless. As a reporter, I know first-hand how reassuring it is to hear Merrill's voice on the other end of the phone while traveling in some far-off locale.

Most importantly, Merrill has been a kind, funny and supportive colleague. So many of us are so fortunate to have learned from him over the years and his presence in the newsroom will be missed.

We're working on a date for a party where we can toast Merrill's career and wish him all the best in his retirement.

(Shared by Bill Kole)

## **AP leaves national election pool**

Politico's Michael Calderone reports in today's Morning Media:

**ASSOCIATED PRESS LEAVES NATIONAL ELECTION POOL:** The news agency confirmed to Morning Media that it has left the consortium of major networks that share expenses and the results of exit polls used on election night. "We continue to provide AP member news organizations and customers with our industry standard vote count - the backbone of our election night race calls - and continue to experiment with evolving the exit poll, as we have for years, to match how people are voting today," a spokeswoman said. The AP quietly left the consortium a few months ago, but its departure had not been previously reported. Fox left the network election group in April over frustrations with 2016 election night polls.

The 2016 consortium came back into the news this week when Trump campaign insiders Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie wrote in their new book that Chris Vlasto - a former executive producer of "Good Morning America" and now ABC News' senior executive producer for investigative reporting - gave the campaign proprietary exit poll data from the group on election night. An ABC News spokesperson told me Vlasto has been reprimanded over the incident.

## **Connecting mailbox**

### ***A view of the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor***



**Doug Kienitz** ([Email](#)) - shared on Thursday, the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks: A view of the Arizona Memorial looking through the anchor. Took the pix when Sandie and I visited last year; a regular stop on each and every visit to Hawaii.

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## ***Proud of the work of Lori Hinnant***

**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - Great work and story by a former staffer who worked in New Jersey when I was chief of bureau there. Lori Hinnant now works in the AP's Paris bureau.

## **Chronicler of Islamic State 'killing machine' goes public**

**By LORI HINNANT**

The historian carried secrets too heavy for one man to bear.

He packed his bag with his most treasured possessions before going to bed: the 1 terabyte hard drive with his evidence against the Islamic State group, an orange notebook half-filled with notes on Ottoman history, and, a keepsake, the first book from Amazon delivered to Mosul.

He passed the night in despair, imagining all the ways he could die, and the moment he would leave his mother and his city.

He had spent nearly his entire life in this home, with his five brothers and five sisters. He woke his mother in her bedroom on the ground floor.

"I am leaving," he said. "Where?" she asked. "I am leaving," was all he could say. He couldn't endanger her by telling her anything more. In truth, since the IS had invaded his city, he'd lived a life about which she was totally unaware.

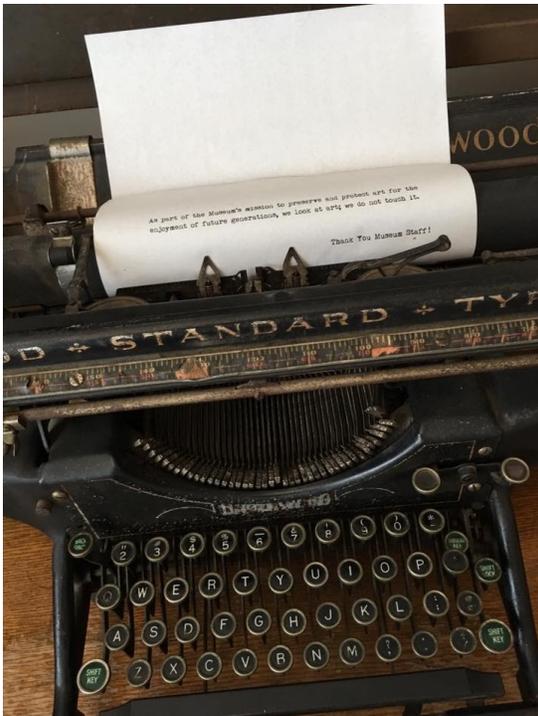
He felt her eyes on the back of his neck, and headed to the waiting Chevrolet. He didn't look back.

Read more [here](#).

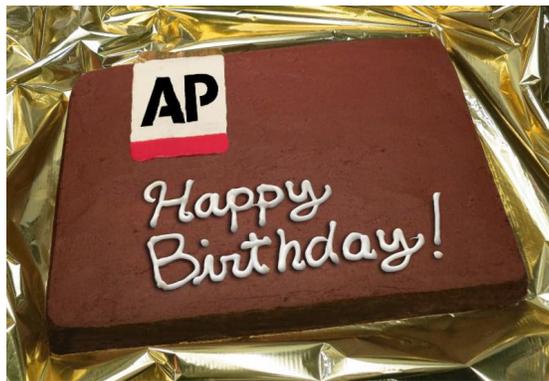
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## ***Recognize any of these items from journalism's past?***

**Ed Williams** ([Email](#)) - shares these photos - you remember them? And what about our kids and grandkids???



# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Howard Goldberg - [newsdigits@gmail.com](mailto:newsdigits@gmail.com)

Patrick Kelley - [rambledaway@yahoo.com](mailto:rambledaway@yahoo.com)

Doug Weaver - [douglas.g.weaver@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.g.weaver@gmail.com)

On Sunday to...

Rachel Ambrose - [rambrose@rocketmail.com](mailto:rambrose@rocketmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Investigative Journalism Can Still Make Bad Guys Squirm*** (The Nation)

By Mark Schapiro

Johannesburg, South Africa-Stellar investigative journalism had already upended politics in South Africa when more than a thousand overseas colleagues assembled here from November 16-19 to plot further disruptions of business as usual the world over. Convened by the Global Investigative Journalism Network, some of whose member organizations helped bring us the Panama and Paradise Papers' exposes of tax evasion by international elites, it was one of the largest international conferences of investigative journalists ever held.

In a keynote address, Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist who popularized the term "the 1 percent," saluted investigative journalism for spotlighting the roots of economic inequality and dubbed Donald Trump the "money launderer in chief." At a time when news organizations in the United States are besieged by collapsing revenues, shaky public confidence and bogus charges of "fake news," to hear investigative reporters from 130 countries describe their latest revelations-and unpack how they did them and brainstorm their next targets-was a bracing reminder that bona fide journalism is capable of shaking establishment structures to the core. "We're the backlash to the backlash," David E. Kaplan, the global network's executive director, told The Nation.

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

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## ***Requiem for an Alt-Weekly - The strange and sudden demise of the Houston Press.*** (Texas Observer)

**By Michael Hardy**

On the afternoon of Friday, November 3, hundreds of thousands of cheering, flag-waving baseball fans lined the streets of downtown Houston to catch a glimpse of the newly crowned World Series champions, the Houston Astros, as they rode firetrucks through a shower of orange and blue confetti. Many businesses closed early for the day to allow their employees to watch the parade; Houston ISD canceled classes.

Not in attendance was the small editorial staff of the Houston Press, the city's 28-year-old weekly newspaper. That morning they had received an email summoning them to a 3 p.m. all-hands meeting with the Press' publisher, Stuart Folb, and its editor, Margaret Downing. Some had managed to sneak out of the paper's Midtown office to briefly watch the parade before hustling back in time for the meeting.



Staff writers Dianna Wray and Meagan Flynn arrived at the conference room in a sweat after running some 15 blocks from the parade route. They found the rest of the staff already sitting around a table loaded down with pizza boxes and six-packs of beer. Perhaps it was an office party to celebrate the Astros, Wray thought. Flynn, who had been dreading the meeting since receiving the email, was momentarily relieved. "There was that glimmer of hope that maybe this is something great," she remembered. "And then we saw Margaret's face."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

## The Final Word

### *A Millennial Job Interview*



Making the rounds on social media is this YouTube video that highlights the differences in the cultural and work inclinations between the generations. It is sure to get some LOL among our group (that's Laughing Out Loud for us older folks.) Please note that there are two adult-themed videos at the end of the same video site.

[Click here](#) for the interview.

# Today in History - December 8, 2017



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2017. There are 23 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

### On this date:

In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1813, Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92, was first performed in Vienna, with Beethoven himself conducting.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction for the South.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1940, the Chicago Bears defeated the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in the NFL Championship Game, which was carried on network radio for the first time by the Mutual Broadcasting System (the announcer was Red Barber).

In 1962, the first session of the Second Vatican Council was formally adjourned. Typographers went on a 114-day strike against four New York City newspapers.

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. (After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.)

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1992, Americans got to see live television coverage of U.S. troops landing on the beaches of Somalia as Operation Restore Hope began (because of the time difference, it was early Dec. 9 in Somalia).

Ten years ago: The Justice Department and CIA announced a joint inquiry into the spy agency's destruction of videotapes of interrogations of two suspected terrorists. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey, in her first-ever presidential endorsement, backed Barack Obama's White House bid during appearances in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Skiers, fire-eaters and an ice sculptor joined in worldwide demonstrations to draw attention to global warming. Florida quarterback Tim Tebow became the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy.

Five years ago: Police charged Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Josh Brent with intoxication manslaughter after he flipped his car in a pre-dawn accident that killed teammate Jerry Brown. (Brent was convicted in Jan. 2014 and sentenced to 180 days in jail; he was reinstated by the NFL in Sept. 2014.) Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.

One year ago: John Glenn, whose 1962 flight as the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth made him an all-American hero and propelled him to a long career in the U.S. Senate, died in Columbus, Ohio, at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 78. Singer Jerry Butler is 78. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 76. Actress Mary Woronov is 74. Actor John Rubinstein is 71. Reggae singer Toots Hibbert (Toots and the Maytals) is 69. Actress Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 64. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 61. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 60. Country singer Marty Raybon is 58. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim is 58. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 56. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 55. Actor Wendell Pierce is 54. Actress Teri Hatcher is 53. Actor David Harewood is 52. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 51. Singer Sinead (shih-NAYD') O'Connor is 51. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 51. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 45. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 41. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 39. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 38. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 35. Actress Hannah Ware is 35. Country singer Sam Hunt is 33. Rock singer-actress Kate Voegelé (VOH'-geh) is 31. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 28. Actress Wallis Currie-Wood is 26. Actress AnnaSophia Robb is 24.

***Thought for Today: "I'm not interested in my legacy. I made up a word: 'live-acy.' I'm more interested in living." - John Glenn (1921-2016).***

## 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.

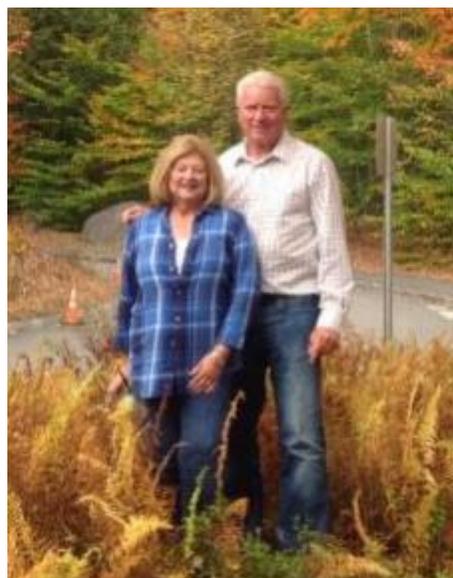
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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.



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