



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - December 11, 2017

1 message

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

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Connecting

December 11, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and here's a toast to the new week ahead!

Holiday parties are the norm at this time of year - but the one described in our lead article by our brave, valued Connecting colleague **Claudia DiMartino** is a most special one - it was a party for lung transplant patients. Claudia is a couple months away from celebrating her third year with her lung,

Legendary AP photographer **Horst Faas** is profiled in another of the remarkable Vietnam look-back stories in The New York Times. **James Hill** wrote the profile of Faas, a two-time Pulitzer winner who died in 2012.

Got some favorite Christmas memories to share relating to your work? Send them along.

I look forward to hearing from you with your story submissions through the week.

Paul

A celebration of lung transplant patients - and the joy in those living beyond their doctors' expectations



Claudia DiMartino ([Email](#)) - Every year NY Columbia/Presbyterian Hospital throws a holiday party for their lung transplant patients, both pre- and post-surgery. I love seeing people there who are living beyond their doctors' expectations. Recipients are hoping for 6 years with their new lungs, but there is the expectation that the average will be pushed higher. I met a woman who had her lungs 9 years and she pointed out a woman at the party who had her lung 12 years. In March, I'll have my lung 3 years.

This year about 200 patients, caregivers, doctors, nurses and technicians turned out to encourage those who are on the waiting list for lungs and to celebrate those who are living by the grace of their precious gifts from their donors. Participants at this year's party were asked to send in pictures of themselves both pre- and post-transplant. I sent in a photo of myself riding a cart in the supermarket wearing a hose connected to my oxygen concentrator. While waiting for my lung I hoped I'd be able to make it to my niece Lauren's wedding. My post picture shows me dancing at her reception just 16 months after surgery. No supplemental oxygen! (See photos above.)

What a joy to be contraption free. It was quite an ordeal to make it up the steps to my condo apartment before the transplant. We put in a stair-lift for one of the two flights, but that only solved part of the problem. I still had to carry that concentrator up and down the stairs with me. After the transplant, I could feel the immediate change. I could breathe! When the rehab specialist in the hospital guided me to a flight of stairs at the end of the hall way, he said go for it. I walked straight down and right back up, no stopping, no problem. That's when I knew I was going to make it. I cried tears of pure joy.

Now- a-days I'm oxygen free most of the time, but I found out my oxygen saturation does down significantly when I fly and when I exercise. So you may see me from time to time with a small portable oxygen concentrator.

Life after transplant means being vigilant against rejection and infection. It is important to take meds, eat right, exercise, and go to doctor appointments. Surround yourself with positive people. I'm pictured at the party with one of my pre-transplant treadmill buddies, Maureen, who is now a great friend and mentor. She had her double-lung transplant 5 years ago. In between us is our pulmonologist Dr. Lori Shah who is both knowledgeable and upbeat. My advice to folks who are going through similar journeys is to be grateful for your wonderful caregiver, in my case, Hal Buell. Keep busy and reach out to people. Volunteer! And on my bad days, yes, I do have some, remember you are loved and often comforted by strangers. After all, it was someone like you, dear reader, who saved me.



The Man Who Shot Vietnam:

Horst Faas defined a new breed of war photographer



Horst Faas in Vietnam in 1967. Associated Press Photo

By **JAMES HILL**

For **The New York Times**

On Dec. 6, 1967, Horst Faas, the chief photographer of The Associated Press in Vietnam, was pinned down in a slim trench among the rubber trees lining the American air base at Bu Dop, just a few miles from the Cambodian border. It was less than two months before the launch of the Tet offensive and the area was teeming with Viet Cong activity.

It was a situation all too familiar to Faas. Earlier that year, he had been caught in a firefight closer to Saigon, near the American base at Lai Khe. Like the soldiers

around him, he was trapped; unlike them, he was armed not with a rifle but a camera. Faas was one of the greatest war photographers of his generation, a two-time Pulitzer winner known for capturing precise moments of high emotion and danger on the battlefield. "So many times," he wrote in his autobiography, "50 Years of Photojournalism," "from the bottom of my hole, from my trench or from my shelter, I could see at ten meters away a fantastic photograph being formed but, in spite of that, I stayed in my shelter because I knew that shooting would start at the slightest movement and that I could die right there."

That morning in December 1967, when he stepped out of his trench, he was almost immediately hit in the crotch and thigh by shrapnel from a grenade, severing the main artery in his left leg. Luckily for Faas, he was quickly treated by military medics and helicoptered to a hospital in Saigon. The surgeons wanted to amputate his leg; only the intervention of The Associated Press's bureau chief, Ed White, dissuaded them from cutting.

The wounds, despite their severity, didn't keep Faas out of action for very long. "By early February 1968," according to Peter Arnett, the New Zealander who was his constant reporting partner at The Associated Press throughout the war, "Horst was back in command - on crutches."

Faas was not just a combat photographer; by 1967 he was also an editor and mentor for dozens of colleagues across the country. On Feb. 1, the second day of the Tet offensive, one of those colleagues, Eddie Adams, came in with a roll of film showing Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, the deputy chief of the Saigon police, executing a Viet Cong guerrilla, Nguyen Van Lem, on a Saigon street.



Horst Faas viewing film with Malcolm Browne in AP Saigon bureau.
Photo/Peter Arnett, AP

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Mike Holmes, Brian Horton, Repps Hudson, Michael Rubin.

Omar Mohammed - Why he went public



Poynter - Omar Mohammed was a stealth historian risking death with virtually every keystroke. His is a tale of the anonymity of heroism - until now.

Mohammed, 31, revealed to the Associated Press that he indeed "is the man behind the legendary and widely read Mosul Eye, the pseudonym under which he wrote the catalog of horrors that was life under Islamic State fanatics."

Reporters Lori Hinnan and Maggie Michael broke a tale fit for a Hollywood thriller, though one probably wouldn't believe the story line if you just showed up at your favorite AMC theater.

"Anonymous for more than three years, Mohammed wandered the streets of occupied Mosul by day, chatting with shopkeepers and Islamic State fighters, visiting friends who worked at the hospital, swapping scraps of information. He grew out his hair and his beard and wore the shortened trousers required by the extremists. He forced himself to witness the beheadings and deaths by stoning, so he could hear killers call out the names of the condemned and their supposed crimes."

"By night, he was Mosul Eye, and from his darkened room he told the world what was happening. If caught, he knew he would be killed."

Read more [here](#).

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

Connecting mailbox

What not to say in a job interview

Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - Your video in Friday's Connecting of young woman setting terms of her employment reminds me of the young man who phoned me at the Columbus, OH bureau in the early 1970s and requested an employment application form. We chatted for a few minutes and he said he wanted to work in any office the AP had in Montana. I asked why and he replied that he liked to hunt and fish, that Montana was a great state for outdoors activity, and thought the AP would pay for his transportation to Montana when he went to work there.

He never got an application or further interview with me.

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Saddened by death of John Hillery, former AP Detroit photographer

Brian Horton ([Email](#)) - Was saddened to learn of the death of John Hillery. John and I had known each other for almost 50 years, stretching back to our Indiana Daily Student days. He was the upperclassman and I was the newbie and he, John R. Fulton Jr. and Sandra Eisert showed me the ropes.

Hillery and I both went on to work at the AP. John was a photographer and photo editor in the Detroit bureau in the late 70's through 1981. He later worked for Reuters, had a successful freelance business and taught photojournalism at the college level in Indianapolis. In recent years, he had been living in Madison, Ind., along the Ohio River.

During his stint in Detroit, John helped a lot of young photographers get their start.



John Hillery in 2016. Photo/Mary Ann Carter

Rob Kozloff, who would go on to AP staff and management positions in the Detroit and Chicago bureaus, and who later worked at the Chicago Tribune, said, "It was the Preston Stroup, John Hillery and Rich Sheinwald team at Detroit AP who introduced many of us to the wires and AP. I treasure those days as they all, especially John and Rich, loved to bring young photographers along on the assignments. Teaching us the ropes and then becoming a more important contributor with each assignment."

"He was a good soul and always seemed so calm on the job," Kozloff added. "We had a lot of fun in those days and it was great to be able to talk about ideas or plans for how an event should be covered with someone like John."

Since 2013, Hillery had waged a courageous battle against a debilitating neurological disease and died Sunday night, Dec. 3, in a Louisville-area hospital after suffering a heart attack at home. He was 70.

My thoughts are with his wife, Maggie, who had been his heroic caregiver during his illness, and everyone else who was lucky enough to have called him a friend or a colleague. We've lost a great guy and a talented photographer. RIP, John.

This time of year, especially, I think of my friend the late Jimmy Mills of the Birmingham Post-Herald. It was an honor to interview Alabama's oldest living newspaperman and to hear his recollection of the most memorable story he ever covered. I share it with you tonight.

It is a portrait of a true newspaper man who understood the importance of reporting the facts and witnessing truth.

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The Printshop mystery tour

Sibby Christensen ([Email](#)) - About the Ed Williams challenge photos in Friday's edition:

Top picture shows some kind of handset type drawer. I recall the Ludlow Headsetter and filling a "stick" with requisite letters, then casting the resulting headline type in hot metal.

Lower right, a Linotype machine, on which the typesetter used a keyboard to align the matrices for a line of type cast to a specific column width, usually 12 picas. You can see the image of a matrix on the machine. This was the workhorse of the newspaper industry before it switched to cold type.

The typewriter shown in the lower left is older than anything I ever used, but since my printer died the other day, I'd settle for it, temporarily.

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Connecting Christmas memories:

The Christmas Tree Fire

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - "If anyone asks, tell them I'd like to be remembered as a crusading editor," Jimmy Mills told me in 1995. I was writing a history of the Alabama Press Association at the time, and my research took me to Birmingham to interview Alabama's oldest living newspaperman.

James E. (Jimmy) Mills, who died March 5, 1998, at age 97, told me that he wanted to be remembered as a crusading editor.



Jimmy Mills

As editor of the old Birmingham Post and later the Birmingham Post-Herald from 1931 to 1966, one of Mills' legacies is a landmark Supreme Court decision that strengthened First Amendment rights.

He fought against loan sharking, for removal of the Alabama poll taxes, and for the lowering of electric rates in Birmingham. He also established the Goodfellows Fund in 1935 to provide toys, candy, fruit and nuts for poor children at Christmas.

The program continues today.

When I think of Jimmy Mills, I will remember him best for a poignant story he told me of a Christmas Eve fire that he covered when he was a young assistant editor at The Daily Oklahoman in Oklahoma City.

It happened in the pre-Depression days, sometime in the late 1920s, on a cold Christmas Eve in a rural Oklahoma community.

"It was cold as hell, blizzardy ... snow all over the ground, and sleet," Mills recalled to me. "It was at a little community at a railroad crossroads. All of the people ... most of the people in the community, were at the little church for a Christmas Eve program. They had the Christmas tree all lighted with the candles on it. And the tree caught fire. And the people in the church all rushed to get out the door, and there they pressed together as a crowd.

"The windows had bars on them to keep people from coming into the little church and stealing things at night. They couldn't get out the windows. There was no escape. Practically everybody in the community was killed.

"I drove down there with another reporter. We drove all night.

"As I said, it was just cold as hell, and we slid off the road on time. We didn't have chains, and the road was a block of ice. And we had to go out and find boards, anything that we could use to sort of pry under the wheels. I got a big board, I think it was a 2-by 6, and put it under another board, and the board hit me on the head.

"It hit me so hard, I thought my head was gone, and I felt to see if it was still there.

"We got there about daylight, and we were the first newspaper people there. We would dictate to The Daily Oklahoman, to the rewrite desk. We didn't have time to sit down and write a story.

"I went into one of the houses, and there were still burning coals in the fireplace. I saw a dog lying in front of the fireplace waiting for his family to come home, the childrens' stocking hanging on the mantel.

"And nobody there. The entire family was dead."

Jimmy Mills' voice quivered, and his lips trembled. He was silent for a few moments. Then he added, "I'll never forget what I saw. But that's what a newspaper reporter

does, he covers the good ... and the bad."

When I think of Jimmy Mills, it will be as a crusading editor who changed laws, but I'll also remember him as a gentle, kind, sensitive individual who cared about people and believed that a newspaperman could make the world a better place.

And I'll remember the story that he told me of the Christmas tree fire in a little Oklahoma community so many years ago.

(Ed Williams is a journalism professor emeritus at Auburn University)

Is this the beginning of the end of the exit poll?

By **STEVEN SHEPHARD**

Politico

After another perceived, high-profile miss in last year's presidential election, the Election Day exit poll is on life support.

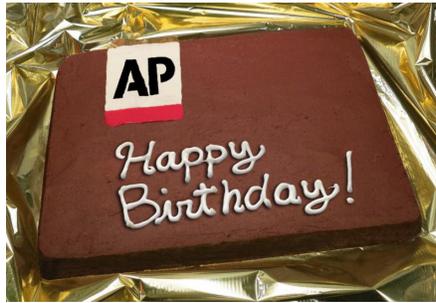
The Associated Press confirmed Friday it has joined Fox News in abandoning the so-called National Election Pool - the election surveying instrument that the news media, campaign operatives and political junkies have come to love and hate - marking the end of an era when one ubiquitous Election Day survey shaped the understanding of presidential and state election outcomes.

The departures of AP and Fox from the 20-year alliance of news organizations that have commissioned and reported national and state exit polls doesn't necessarily sound the death knell for exit polling. The four remaining networks in the pool - ABC News, CBS News, CNN and NBC News -- are locked into the current exit poll regime through the next presidential election.

But they will be facing unprecedented competition - from the AP and Fox News, among others - and the future beyond 2020 remains uncertain.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dorothy Abernathy.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Daryl Beall - peacefriendship2004@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

How do you use an anonymous source? The mysteries of journalism everyone should know. (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

When Houston Chronicle reporters want to use information from an unnamed source in a news story, they have to jump through a few hoops first.

A senior editor has to approve it, and know who the source is. A single unnamed source is rarely enough to go ahead with a story - there must be two sources with the same firsthand knowledge. And one of a handful of top editors must sign off on its use before publication.

"The one exception to the two-source rule is when we have a 'golden source' - for example, the police chief talking about an investigation," said Nancy Barnes, the Chronicle's executive editor.

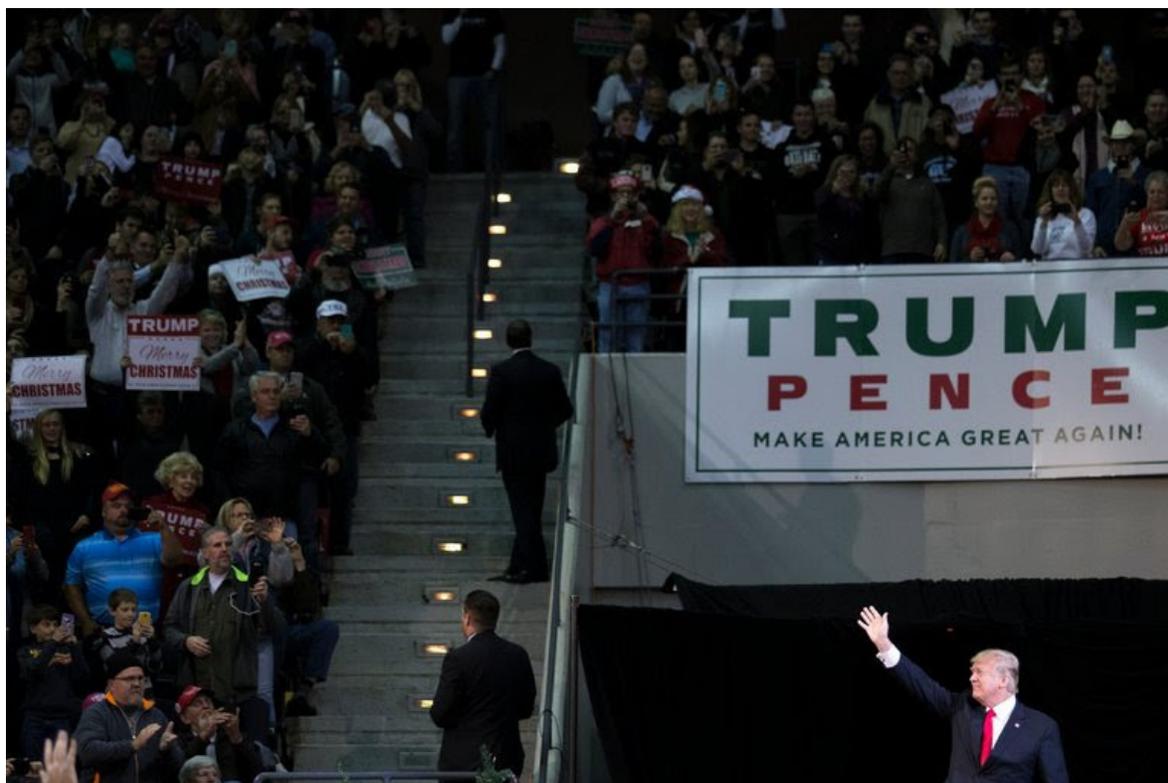
The vetting process is similar at many large news organizations - and it's just one of the practices that journalists assume, perhaps incorrectly, that news consumers understand.

Anonymous sourcing is one of the least-understood of the mysteries.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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Trump Wants Washington Post Reporter Fired Over Misleading Tweet (New York Times)



President Trump at a rally in Pensacola, Fla., on Friday. A Washington Post reporter apologized for a misleading tweet that suggested the event was sparsely attended. Credit Tom Brenner/The New York Times

By ZACH JOHNS

President Trump on Saturday called for a Washington Post reporter to be fired over a misleading tweet about the size of the crowd at a rally for the president on Friday in Pensacola, Fla.

The reporter, Dave Weigel, posted a picture of an arena with many empty seats. He deleted the tweet after learning that the venue had not yet filled up.

On Saturday night, the president posted a screenshot of Mr. Weigel's tweet and other photos that showed a crowded arena. "Demand apology & retraction from FAKE NEWS WaPo!" he wrote.

In response, Mr. Weigel apologized on Twitter, noting that the tweet was not for a Post article. "Very fair to call me out," he wrote.

Read more [here](#).

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Opinion: Journalists died for the truth; Trump lives for fake news (News & Observer)

BY CELIA RIVENBARK

While "Wall Street Journal" reporter Daniel Pearl, a highly respected war correspondent, was risking his life to cover the chilling rise of al-Qaida in Pakistan in February 2002, Donald Trump was busy with other matters.

Trump was preparing to film a McDonald's commercial in which he would have an imaginary conversation with a purple blob named "Grimace." Trump would hold up a hamburger, take a bite and invite all of us to celebrate the delicious bargain that was McDonald's new "Big N' Tasty." A hamburger this big and this tasty for just a buck? What a deal!

In the same year the fast food empire would reveal this awesomely affordable mega burger, complete with self-proclaimed deal king Trump gleefully chatting up a green-screened "monster," Pearl was kidnapped and beheaded by monsters of the very real kind. A video of his beheading was distributed to news outlets to make sure a

message was sent to the world: Journalists in war zones will be killed in unimaginably savage ways.

But that's ancient history, right? The Big N' Tasty isn't even on the menu anymore. Pearl? It's a shame but he knew what he was getting into. I mean that's what a famously draft-averse Trump would later tell Green Beret widow Myeshia Johnson.

Read more [here](#).

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Boston Herald sold to GateHouse Media for \$4.5 million (MassLive)

By MICHELLE WILLIAMS

The Boston Herald has been sold to GateHouse Media.

Publisher Patrick J. Purcell announced the sale to staff in the Herald offices during a Friday afternoon meeting, the same day it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

"I am very proud of the spectacular management team with whom I have worked hand in hand over the years," he said in a letter to staff, quoted in the Herald's coverage of the sale. "And I am equally as proud of the excellent staff in all areas of our company who have worked tirelessly to make the Boston Herald a relevant and respected provider of local and regional news for Boston and the area."

Purcell was named publisher in 1984. A decade later, he bought the paper from News Corp.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - December 11, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 2017. There are 20 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 11, 1917, British Gen. Edmund Allenby entered Jerusalem two days after his forces expelled the Ottoman Turks; in a show of respect, Allenby and his officers made their way into the Holy City on foot.

On this date:

In 1602, forces sent by the Duke of Savoy attempted to seize the walled city-state of Geneva by scaling the wall with ladders; however, the Genevans were able to repel the invaders.

In 1792, France's King Louis XVI went before the Convention to face charges of treason. (Louis was convicted, and executed the following month.)

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1957, the movie "Peyton Place," based on the novel by Grace Metalious, had its world premiere in Camden, Maine, where most of it was filmed.

In 1961, a U.S. aircraft carrier carrying Army helicopters arrived in Saigon - the first direct American military support for South Vietnam's battle against Communist guerrillas.

In 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt aboard; during three extravehicular activities (EVAs), they became the last two men to date to step onto the lunar surface.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental "superfund" to pay for cleaning up chemical spills and toxic waste dumps. "Magnum P.I.," starring Tom Selleck, premiered on CBS.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

In 2008, financier Bernie Madoff was arrested, accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme. (Madoff is serving a 150-year federal prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: Two car bombs in Algeria, including one targeting the U.N. refugee agency's offices, killed 37 people, 17 of them U.N. employees; Al-Qaida's self-styled North African branch claimed responsibility. The Senate Intelligence Committee took closed-door testimony from CIA Director Michael Hayden on how videotapes of terror suspect interrogations were made, then destroyed.

Five years ago: The Michigan Legislature gave final approval to a pair of right-to-work bills that were quickly signed by Republican Gov. Rick Snyder amid angry protests by union members and their supporters. A gunman opened fire in the Clackamas Town Center, a shopping mall in suburban Portland, Oregon, killing two people and wounding another before killing himself. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue (TAG'-lee-uh-boo) overturned the suspensions of four New Orleans Saints players in the league's bounty investigation but said three of the players had engaged in conduct detrimental to the league.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump called a recent CIA assessment of Russian hacking in the U.S. election "ridiculous" and said he wasn't interested in getting daily intelligence briefings, telling "Fox News Sunday": "I get it when I need it."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 87. Actress Rita Moreno is 86. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 77. Actress Donna Mills is 77. Former Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 76. Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is 74. Singer Brenda Lee is 73. Actress Lynda Day George is 73. Music producer Tony Brown is 71. Actress Teri Garr is 70. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 65. Actress Bess Armstrong is 64. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 63. Rock musician Mike Mesaros (The Smithereens) is 60. Rock musician Nikki Sixx (Mötley Crüe) is 59. Rock musician Darryl Jones (The Rolling Stones) is 56. Actor Ben Browder is 55. Singer-musician Justin Currie (Del Amitri) is 53. Rock musician David Schools (Hard Working Americans, Gov't Mule, Widespread Panic) is 53. Actor Gary Dourdan (DOOR'-dan) is 51. Actress-comedian Mo'Nique is 50. Actor Max Martini is 48. Rapper-actor Mos Def is 44. Actor Rider Strong is 38. Actress Xosha (ZOH'-shah) Roquemore is 33. Actress Karla Souza is 31. Actress Hailee Steinfeld is 21.

Thought for Today: "The fear of life is the favorite disease of the twentieth century." - William Lyon Phelps, American educator and journalist (1865-1943).

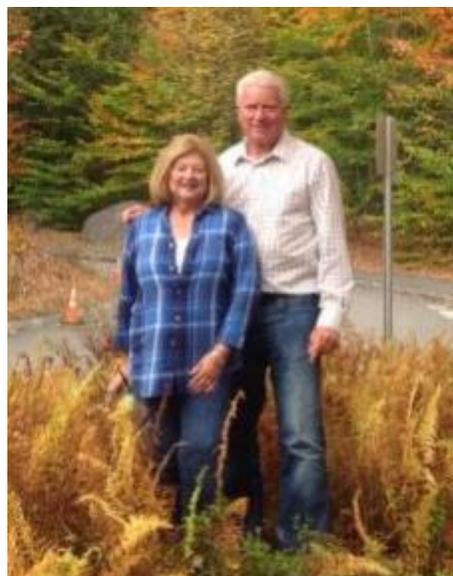
Got a story or photos to share?

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

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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