

Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 11, 2018

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 11, 2018 at 9:02 AM

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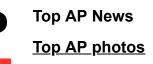


January 11, 2018









AP books
Connecting Archive
The AP Store
The AP Emergency Relief Fund

A farewell to Jim Donna



Jim Donna loved fishing - and this photo of him pursuing that passion was taken by his daughter Sarah in 2016.

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Connecting sadly brings you the news of the death of **Jim Donna**, a journalist and executive with The Associated Press whose career touched the lives of many - those of us retired and those of you still on the job in bureaus around the world.

His impact was felt in each of his New York assignments, but perhaps none more than his work as vice president for Human Resources. It came with a smile and a laugh, but with a firm resolve to do the right thing. With a human touch. "Jim did good when he could," said one of his Connecting colleagues, **Larry Blasko**, "often when others couldn't or wouldn't - and always carried the vision of what the AP could and should be. Many in the AP and beyond are better because he was here and saddened at his passing."

Former AP Human Resources executive **Madhu Krishnappa Maron** recalled fondly the days of working with Jim.

"He made me step up and lead when I was content with being in the background," she said. "When I first joined AP and went on a tour of East Coast bureaus, he called me at the end of every day to see how the day's visits went. He knew that a young Indian woman from 'Humans' may be viewed with some suspicion out in bureau-land. He let me know I belonged and that I was needed. I miss you terribly, Jim, and I'll be drinking many pints in your honor."

We bring you in today's issue the memories of those of you who wrote, including two former AP presidents for whom he worked - **Lou Boccardi** and **Tom Curley**. If you would like to share a favorite memory, send it along today.

If you would like to drop a note to Jim's wife, **Pat Lukaszewska**, her address is: P.O. Box 263. Montauk, NY 11954. Her email is - nyluk96@aol.com

Like he was for so many of you, Jim was a mentor during my working years and a friend. We will all miss him greatly.

Paul

Longtime Associated Press executive James Donna dies at 71

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

James M. Donna, who over three decades served in an array of news and management posts with The Associated Press, died Wednesday after an illness of several weeks. He was 71.

Donna's wife, Pat Lukaszewska, said the cause of death was kidney and liver failure.

Donna joined the AP at its Philadelphia bureau in 1973 after stints with Look magazine and the Reading Eagle newspaper in Pennsylvania.

He subsequently served in several posts at AP's global headquarters in New York, including enterprise editor and New York City bureau chief.

He left the AP briefly in the early 1980s to work for Gamma Liaison news photo agency, then returned to serve in a diverse series of management jobs, including assistant to the president, vice president and secretary of the board of directors, director of human resources, and senior vice president of international business.



He retired from the AP in 2006.

Tom Curley, who was the AP's president when Donna was human resources director, said Donna "brought a well-developed journalist's sense of justice" to that role.

"He made sure everyone faced the facts and worked to make AP better," Curley said in an email. "And he did it with determination and an infectious laugh."

Lou Boccardi, Curley's predecessor as president, said Donna "gave life and meaning to the 'human' half of his title as director of human resources."

"While we gave him difficult assignments throughout his career, I never heard anybody say they didn't like him," Boccardi said in an email. "He was a kind and caring and fundamentally joyful man whose loyalty was, always, to the people of the AP, even in the toughest moments."

Brian Horton, who had a long career with the AP as a photographer and photo editor, recalled accompanying Donna on his first assignment after joining the

Philadelphia bureau - covering the return of a released prisoner of war from Vietnam at Valley Forge Army Hospital.



In earlier years

"Jim filled up a notebook with information," Horton recalled. "We were heading for the door when I asked him if he had called in a story yet. From the look on his face, I could tell that no one had told him about that part of being an AP reporter."

Horton said Donna phoned the bureau and started slowly dictating his story while frantically leafing through the pages.

Donna's work ended up becoming a couple of paragraphs at the top of an already-published story, Horton recalled. "I told him it would get easier and don't try to do too much," he said.

Donna was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and had a master's degree in journalism from Penn State.

He and his wife, Pat Lukaszewska, lived in the Long Island town of Montauk, where he served on the Montauk Library's strategic planning committee and volunteered at its book fair.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Peter; his daughter, Sarah; his son-in-law, Irving Fain; and his sister, Mary Ann Kelly.

Your memories of Jim Donna

Lou Boccardi (Email) - Jim Donna gave life and meaning to the "human" half of his title as director of human resources. In fact, while we gave him difficult assignments throughout his career, I never heard anybody say they didn't like him. He was a kind and caring and fundamentally joyful man whose loyalty was, always, to the people of the AP, even in the toughest moments.

That he could be both respected that way and effective made him a pillar.

He enjoyed his sometimes tough work and I enjoyed having him at my right hand."

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Tom Curley (Email) - Jim was a much beloved colleague and friend who provided terrific guidance when I joined AP. He brought a well-developed journalist's sense of justice to the HR role and was effective because of it. He worked with determination and penetrating institutional knowledge. He delighted in holding up a mirror to make sure we all faced the facts and were moving on the same path to make AP better. In so doing, Jim was a true AP hero who had a deep and lasting impact. And he did it with an infectious laugh.

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Tori Smith Ekstrand (Email) - Someone once described Jim as Lou's fireman when Jim served as assistant to the president. I met Jim when I interviewed for my first junior position in Corp Comm and instantly liked him. And it was true that he was the fireman. Problem with the annual report? Tell Jim first. Can't get a bureau chief to respond? Jim will call and prod the response. Major screwup in a printed company publication? Jim will smile and wag his finger at you and let out a big: "Christ!" Next comment: "Well, he'll have to know." Finger pointed toward LDB's office.

Mostly I remember a time when Corp Comm was going through a rough time. Morale was low, and we were confused. Jim told all of us to hang on, the cavalry was coming. And it did. (Yes, all purposely vague.) The point is: Jim noticed what was going on at all levels and looked out for many of us. He also always asked how my husband was doing, how I was doing, how the 8th floor was doing. He had his finger on the pulse of not only how the company was functioning but also how it was feeling. He understood that if people felt good about the AP, the rest would usually and naturally follow.

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Eddie Frerks (Email) - Jim hired me at the AP from a temp employee. His door was always open and he always had words of encouragement. He could make the worst day seem better. Jim spoke to John Keitt and said let Eddie handle the AP elections. Because of that I got to meet and speak with the best set of people ever the chiefs of bureau and the assistants. Jim was a great man. I raise my glass to him.

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Margy McCay (Email) - Jim Donna was a generous and thoughtful man, and I was the recipient of many of his kindnesses in the days and months after Wick died. My favorite occurred the week before AP's move from 50 Rock, which for me was an emotional event I was NOT looking forward to.

I was to be on vacation when the move occurred, so when I left work that summer Friday, it was to be the last time I'd set foot in the building that held so many memories.

Jim intercepted me as I left my office and rode the elevator with me to the lobby. He pulled me around the corner (where the New York Bound Bookshop used to be) and pulled out two plastic cups and an airline-size bottle of whiskey. Then he gave me a hug and we drank a tearful toast to 50 Rock.

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Walter Mears (Email) - Jim was a newsman first, and he took a newsman's talents and values to his career as an AP executive. I worked most closely with him when I was executive editor and always admired his calm and level approach to his job and to the AP staff.

When Jim led human resources - many of us still thought of it as personnel - AP men and women at every level knew they had a supportive friend in charge.

Fran found him to be a mentor and supporter during her AP career. She joins me in honoring his memory as a person and as a true professional.

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Eva Parziale Email) - I'm heart-broken at the news of Jim Donna's death. I have Jim - and Margy McCay - to thank for landing in Columbus, Ohio, in 1999 as bureau chief. I had been at headquarters in NYC, working with Wide World Photos and the Photo Archive team to roll out the new digital photo archive platform. After nearly three years on the job, it was clear that commuting to the suburbs, raising two kids under the age of three, and juggling a fascinating, fabulous job was too much. I asked to return to the field, and Jim made that happen. It's been nearly 20 years, and I do still miss working at headquarters. But moving to Columbus has brought so many good things to my life - professionally and personally that I remain ever

grateful to Jim for opening the door to the move. He was a very good man, who did so much for so many of us in AP.

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Terry Petty (Email) - So sad about Jim.

I got to know him when I was working in Bonn. Jim was HR director. My wife and I decided in 1997 that after 10 years abroad, it was time to come back to the states. Jim personally worked to find a good landing spot for me, my wife and our 11-year-old son. He understood that NYC was not an option for us. I was made supervisory correspondent for Rhode Island due to Jim championing my cause. He watched out for AP staffers. He was not just a pro, but an AP manager with a heart.

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Marty Thompson (Email) - In my 15 years in New York, Jim was ready to listen to ideas, issues that puzzled or just to talk when a person needed a listener.

Jim was always there, for counsel, advice and guidance -- delivered considerately, usually with a smile and most often with a twinkle in his eyes.

Thinking of him now, the word friend comes quickly to mind.

We have all lost a friend.

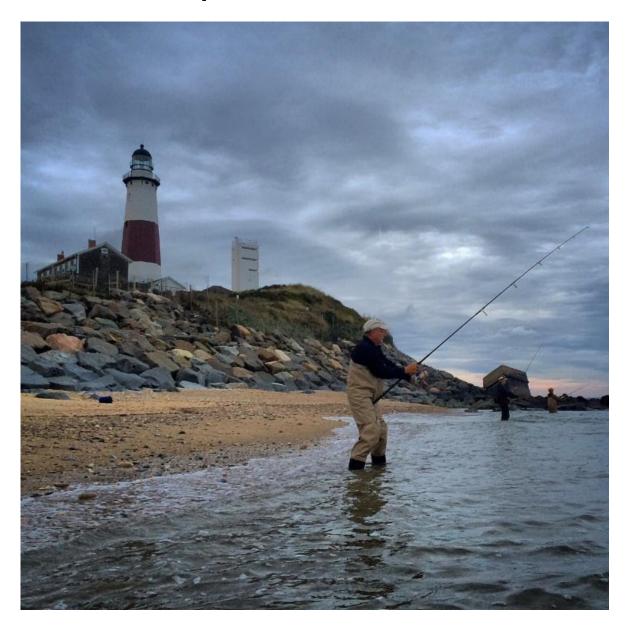
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Jon Wolman (Email) - What a shock to hear that Jim has passed away.

For many of us, he was among our closest pals or colleagues. A salt-of-the-earth headquarters guy who felt an obligation to make things work for everyone and everything he touched. The more far flung you might be, Jim Donna had your back. You might be in *someone's* doghouse but never Jim's. You might need a shoulder to lean on, and he was all shoulders. A great family man who opened his arms to the rest of us.

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And one more photo of Jim The Fisherman...



Connecting mailbox

My favorite cable-ese: UPSTICK JOB **ASSWARDS**

Neal Ulevich (Email) - There was much to mock in cable vernacular and Evelyn Waugh was a master of it in Scoop, a comic novel which cut so close to the bone it became a virtual manual for foreign correspondents. The story's hapless journo, mistakenly plucked from his British tabloid garden column and sent to a strife-ridden hell hole in Africa, receives the following admonition:

CABLE FULLIER OFTENER PROMPTLIER STOP YOUR SERVICE BADLY BEATEN ALROUND LACKING HUMAN INTEREST COLOUR DRAMA PERSONALITY HUMOUR INFORMATION ROMANCE VITALITY

They fire him, but reconsider when he lands the scoop...

CONGRATULATIONS STORY CONTRACT UNTERMINATED UPFOLLOW **FULLEST SPEEDLIEST**

But my favorite cable-ese was the apocryphal resignation message: UPSTICK JOB **ASSWARDS**

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'Rox' a play on 50 Rock

Steve Hart (Email) - I had heard 'Rox' was a play on the old HQ address - 50 Rock.

I had heard that while I was at UPI.

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Being called an 'old-style journalist' suits me just fine

Steven Paulson (Email) - Regarding the term ``photojournalist," I think it's a tribute to those of us who took their own pictures and wrote the stories to go with them.

When I went to work for the Orlando Sentinel as a stringer in the 1960s, I took my own photos and wrote my own stories. When I was hired as a photographer by the Orlando Sentinel, I continued to shoot my own pictures and write many of the stories. I still believe it's one of the best ways to get the whole picture, but I also acknowledge the need for reporters and photographers to work together.

I often joked that I decided to become a reporter when I discovered that reporters didn't actually have to be there to get the story.

During the McVeigh and Nichols trials, I gave live radio reports for trial stories before the arrival of Tony Winton, who taught me a thing or two about radio interviews. I agreed with AP Radio to do the radio reports, as long as I got to send them the questions in advance by email and I dictated the answers by phone. The folks at AP radio said it was a great idea.

The live radio interviews were a different story. I was once asked during a live AP Radio interview if I thought Timothy McVeigh was guilty. I stammered, stunned by the question, and said it would be up to a jury to decide.

I later got a letter from McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, thanking me for being even-handed. He called me an "old-style journalist," which is something to be proud of these days. Old Style suits me fine.

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AP photographer Dar Yasin receives NPPA Humanitarian Award

The National Press Photographers Association Humanitarian Award has been awarded to Dar Yasin. a Kashmir-based photojournalist for the Associated Press, and Patrick Fallon, a freelancer Los Angeles. Yasin was covering a protest event, stopped his coverage to help rescue an 18-year-old girl who had been hit by a flying stone. Risking his safety, he picked her up and rushed her to a hospital. Fallon rescued a woman from her burning home Redondo Beach, California.

The NPPA gave its highest honor, the Joseph A. Sprague Memorial Award, to David Burnett and Al Tompkins, as part of the annual NPPA Awards that recognize people for their commitment to the craft of visual journalism and to education that advances the profession.

Established in 1949, the Sprague Award is NPPA's most prestigious honor. It recognizes individuals who advance and elevate photojournalism by their conduct, initiative, leadership, and skill, or for service or achievement beneficial to photojournalism and technological advances. The Sprague Awards, along with NPPA's other top honors, will be presented during a ceremony at NPPA's Northern Short Course 2018 in Fairfax, Virginia, at the beginning of March.



Dar Yasin

Click here for a link to the story.

Pam Johnson, Rich Hood, Chad Stebbins join MSSU Hall of Fame







MARION A. ELLIS



RICH HOOD



PAM JOHNSON



LIZ JOHNSON

By JOHN M. WYLIE II (Email)

Pam Johnson and Rich Hood, longtime Kansas City Star editors involved in its Pulitzer Prize winning coverage of the 1981 Hyatt Regency Hotel Skywalk collapse, have been inducted into the Hall of Fame for acclaimed journalists whose work began at Missouri Southern State University's student newspaper, The Chart.

Also inducted in Sept. 30 ceremonies at MSSU in Joplin campus were Chad Stebbins, longtime executive director of ISWNE (International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors) and a major force in international community journalism while continuing as a key MSSU faculty member. He is a former editor of and faculty adviser to the Chart

They were joined by:

*Marion A. Ellis, part of the team that brought the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service to The Charlotte Observer for a series on brown lung disease which also earned the Robert F. Kennedy and George Polk awards, and;

*Liz (DeMerice) Johnson, whose 35-year career news career began at age 17 at The Joplin Globe and included TV stints at Joplin's KODE and continued in Oklahoma City, New Orleans, and Detroit before she joined WBBM in Chicago, where her magazine/talk show earned five Emmy awards. She now is in corporate strategic communications management ArcelorMittal, the world's largest Iron and Steel Company.

Pam Johnson worked her way to assistant managing editor of the Star before becoming managing editor and executive editor at The Arizona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette.

She was a member of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies leadership faculty and served as the first executive director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri from 2004 until retiring in 2011.

Her son Matt gave her acceptance speech, saying, "(W)ithout this institution and the start that it gave her, she would never have accomplished the things she did in her career. It...lit the fire and fueled her passion to...be a trailblazer."

As children, he and brother Brad-whose exploits were well known to those who worked with her at The Star-considered her a "super hero" who "could play the piano while cooking dinner, and follow up on a breaking story all during a time when computers and cell phones were non-existent.

"(S)he (told) me that when it came to the news, the story had to be right. It's about the reader and their experience...Do the research. Investigate. Get it right. It is here at the Chart where she learned that."

She happy and healthy in retirement in suburban Kansas City but "has challenges from a neurological condition that has limited her ability to function at the level she was accustomed to. She remembers with fondness the wonderful people she has worked with...and wishes everyone all the best," he told Connecting.

Rich Hood joined the Star in 1972 and during his 29 years there was a bureau chief, Kansas editor, Assistant city editor, political correspondent, columnist and for his last eight years there, vice president and editorial page editor. He also was part of the team that earned the Pulitzer for Hyatt Regency coverage.

After the Star, Hood joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington where he served as its highest-ranking public affairs officials and earned the agency's highest honor, the gold medal for excellence in communications and public affairs.

"My time at *The Chart* opened the way for me to have a front row seat to history. I was privileged to interview every President and major Presidential candidate from Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama (while travelling) all over the U.S. I owe all my professional successes to the experiences I had at The Chart under Miss (Cletis) Headlee," he said.

She was among the Hall of Fame's first honorees in 2012. A new class is added every five years and the Hall now has nine members.

(John M. Wylie II recently retired as owner, publisher and editor of the Oologah (Oklahoma) Lake Leader, which he purchased after 10 years at the Starincluding working on the Pulitzer prize winning Hyatt Regency effort with Johnson, Hood and many others. He and his wife Faith built the Leader into the state's most honored community newspaper. They continue freelance writing and design, consulting, book projects and the nationally syndicated newspaper feature For the Kid in You which is being re-invented to encourage family enjoyment of newspapers as sources of unusual topical stories, activities and a guide to melding the information resources of newspapers, magazines, books and the internet. Her new contemporary mystery novel, "The Revelation Key", went into initial release Monday and is available in Kindle and soft-cover editions at Amazon.com. Their corporate website is Wyliecom.com.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Brian Horton - hortonmail@gmail.com

Walter Mears - wmears111@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Trump Renews Pledge to 'Take a Strong Look' at Libel Laws (New York Times)

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM

President Trump on Wednesday repeated a pledge to make it easier for people to sue news organizations and publishers for defamation, denouncing the country's libel laws as a "sham" a day after his personal lawyer filed a lawsuit against a major media outlet. BuzzFeed News.

The salvo from Mr. Trump, who has long expressed hostility toward traditional press freedoms, followed a days-long effort by him and his team to undercut the unflattering portrayal of the White House in a new book by the writer Michael Wolff.

"We are going to take a strong look at our country's libel laws, so that when somebody says something that is false and defamatory about someone, that person will have meaningful recourse in our courts," Mr. Trump said during a public portion of a cabinet meeting in the White House.

The president added, "Our current libel laws are a sham and a disgrace and do not represent American values or American fairness."

First Amendment lawyers were quick to point out that Mr. Trump has little power to modify those laws, barring a Supreme Court appeal or constitutional amendment. Other libel laws are determined at the state level, where Mr. Trump, as president, has no direct influence.

Read more here. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Reuters Journalists Charged In Myanmar After Reporting On Rohingya Crisis (Huffington Post)

By JOSH BUTLER

Two Reuters journalists detained in Myanmar after reporting on "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya Muslims have appeared in court, with prosecutors formally charging the pair under the country's Official Secrets Act.

Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, had been involved with Reuters' coverage of the crisis in the state of Rakhine, where killing and abuse of the Rohingya minority have been blamed on the Myanmar army. The United Nations estimates more than 650,000 Rohingya have fled their homes in the face of what the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights called a "well-organised and coordinated" campaign from Myanmar security forces to drive them from the country.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, called the exercise "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Read more **here**. Shared by Richard Chady.

Today in History - January 11, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2018. There are 354 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued "Smoking and Health," a report which concluded that "cigarette smoking contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and to the overall death rate."

On this date:

In 1861, Alabama became the fourth state to withdraw from the Union.

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon National Monument (it became a national park in 1919).

In 1913, the first enclosed sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th National Automobile Show in New York.

In 1927, the creation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was proposed during a dinner of Hollywood luminaries at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began an 18-hour trip from Honolulu to Oakland, California, that made her the first person to fly solo across any part of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1942, Japan declared war against the Netherlands, the same day that Imperial Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies.

In 1946, the People's Republic of Albania was proclaimed after King Zog was formally deposed by the Communists.

In 1977, France set off an international uproar by releasing Abu Daoud, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In 1978, two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz 27 capsule linked up with the Salyut 6 orbiting space station, where the Soyuz 26 capsule was already docked.

In 1989, nine days before leaving the White House, President Ronald Reagan bade the nation farewell in a prime-time address, saying of his eight years in office: "We meant to change a nation and instead we changed a world."

In 1995, 51 people were killed when a Colombian DC-9 jetliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena - however, 9-year-old Erika Delgado survived.

In 2003, calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

Ten years ago: Bank of America said it would buy Countrywide Financial for \$4.1 billion in stock in a deal rescuing the country's biggest mortgage lender. Former Olympic track gold medalist Marion Jones was sentenced in White Plains, New York, to six months in prison for lying to investigators about using performanceenhancing drugs and her role in a check-fraud scam. Sir Edmund Hillary, who along with Tenzing Norgay conquered Mount Everest in 1953, died in Auckland, New Zealand, at age 88.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai met at the White House, where they agreed to speed up slightly the schedule for moving Afghanistan's security forces into the lead across the country, with U.S. troops shifting fully to a support role. Reddit co-founder Aaron Swartz was found dead in his Brooklyn apartment, a suicide; he was 26. Italian actress Mariangela Melato ("Swept Away"), 71, died in Rome.

One year ago: In a combative and freewheeling news conference at Trump Tower in New York, President-elect Donald Trump said for the first time that he accepted that Russia was behind the election year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race; looking ahead, he urged Congress to move quickly to replace President Barack Obama's signature health care law and insisted anew that Mexico would pay the cost of a border wall. Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany were indicted in the U.S. in the VW emissions-cheating scandal, while the company agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay \$4.3 billion - by far the biggest fine ever levied by the government against an automaker.

Today's Birthdays: Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien (zhahn kray-tee-EHN') is 84. Actor Mitchell Ryan is 84. Actor Felix Silla is 81. Movie director Joel Zwick is 76. Country singer Naomi Judd is 72. World Golf Hall of Famer Ben Crenshaw is 66. Singer Robert Earl Keen is 62. Actress Phyllis Logan is 62.

Musician Vicki Peterson (The Bangles) is 60. Actress Kim Coles is 56. Actor Jason Connery is 55. Former child actress Dawn Lyn (TV: "My Three Sons") is 55. Contemporary Christian musician Jim Bryson (MercyMe) is 50. Rock musician Tom Dumont (No Doubt) is 50. Movie director Malcolm D. Lee is 48. Singer Mary J. Blige is 47. Musician Tom Rowlands (The Chemical Brothers) is 47. Actor Marc Blucas is 46. Actress Amanda Peet is 46. Actor Rockmond Dunbar is 45. Actress Aja Naomi King is 33. Actress Kristolyn Lloyd is 33. Reality TV star Jason Wahler is 31. Pop singer Cody Simpson is 21.

Thought for Today: "Teach us that wealth is not elegance, that profusion is not magnificence, that splendor is not beauty." - Benjamin Disraeli, British statesman (1804-1881).

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

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