

Connecting - February 19, 2018

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Mon, Feb 19, 2018 at 9:19 AM









Connecting

February 19, 2018



Click here for sound of the Teletype





<u>AP books</u> <u>Connecting Archive</u> The AP Store <u>The AP Emergency Relief Fund</u>

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Connecting interrupts your Presidents Day holiday to ask:

What's your favorite song tied to newspapers, television or radio?

Mine is "Escape" - also known as the Pina Colada song, a 1979 classic by Rupert Holmes in which he reads the personal ads in the newspaper and spots an ad that catches his eye: a woman seeking a man, who among other little things, must like pina coladas. He takes out an ad in reply and arranges to meet the woman, only to find she is actually his current partner.

The ad read: "If you like Pina Coladas, and getting caught in the rain; If you're not into yoga, if you have half a brain; If you like making love at midnight, in the dunes of the cape; I'm the love that you've looked for, write to me, and escape"

The age of the internet dawned after Rupert penned this song, and from what I can tell, personal ads have disappeared from most newspapers these days. But it is a favorite song, one I belt away loudly when alone in the car. **Click here** for a link to the song.



What's your favorite news media-related song, and why is it special to you?

Tough work on a holiday, I know, but get to it!

Here's to a great week!

Paul

A celebration of the life held Saturday for retired AP Denver photographer Ed Andrieski



Father John Lager conducts service. Photos/Doug Pizac

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Doug Pizac (**Email**) - A celebration of life party for retired Denver AP photographer Ed Andrieski drew more than 50 former AP colleagues and newspaper friends Saturday at the Denver Press Club.

Following a short service by Father John Lager, several people, including myself, told Ed stories much to the chagrin of everyone. Ed's favorite fried chicken was served, and of course, there was a bar.

Ed retired in 2014 after 35-year career in the Denver bureau. He died in January at the age of 73.

Nick Ut, Kim Phuc speak at Creativity Conference in Georgia



Nick Ut (**Email**) and **Kim Phuc** were among speakers on Friday to a standing roomonly crowd at the fifth annual Sea Island Creativity Conference in Georgia. Nick, retired AP photographer, won the Pulitzer Prize for one of history's most iconic images - Kim and other children running from her burning village during the Vietnam War. Kim is now an advocate for victims of war. She was 9 when badly burned by the napalm in 1972.

Connecting mailbox

Did you cover the 1968 Fair Housing law debate?

Larry Margasak (Email) - I occasionally send Connecting the articles I write, as a volunteer, for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. I'm currently working on a story to coincide with the 50th anniversary of President Johnson's April 11, 1968 signing of the fair housing law. I'd like to ask Connecting colleagues for their experiences if they covered the congressional debate, the signing and the aftermath of a law that remains controversial to this day. Just last month, the Trump administration delayed enforcement of an Obama administration rule to require communities to address patterns of racial segregation in residential housing. I'd love to be able to quote from Connecting colleagues' first-hand experiences. And any accounts may make interesting reading for Connecting subscribers. Please identify where you worked at the time you covered this issue.

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Bill Haber 'ratted out' for inappropriate refrigerator art

Angie Lamoli Silvestry (Email) - Looking at refrigerator pictures (in Friday's Connecting) brought fond memories of raising our children in our AP family. From the time our girls were in preschool until they were in middle school, we had a few sets of magnetic letters and numbers on our refrigerator door. The girls would use them to learn to spell new words and, later on, leave corny messages to one another. One day, I came upon my husband, New Orleans AP writer Kevin McGill, "giving a lecture" to Marianna, our oldest, regarding an "inappropriate message" she had left on the refrigerator door, which she vehemently denied writing. After a few minutes Angelina, our youngest, broke her silence to rat out "Uncle Haber" (New Orleans photographer Bill Haber) who had visited the night before. "Uncle Haber" is Angelina's godfather and prankster extraordinaire. He came clean when asked after being grilled over the infraction. In our family, still today, there is never a dull moment.

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This AP internal hire landed Weinfeld his dream job

Michael Weinfeld (Email) - Following up on Mark Hamrick's comments on the many opportunities he got because AP hired from within...Mark failed to mention one of his stepping stones: that of Music Editor, which led him to some fascinating interviews.

I, too, took advantage of the many roles available to broadcast staffers, including National Editor, news writer, reporter, sports writer, even shifts in Business and Agriculture, finally landing my dream job creating the Broadcast Entertainment division, which I headed from 1987 to my retirement in 2014.

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His favorite brief

Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - My friend Norm Abelson's reminiscence of writing briefs to fill holes in newspapers reminds me of a favorite Guild grievance story.

UPI used to have "brief parties," demanded by managers, plying the staff with pizza and beer to search exchanges for briefs. Those who didn't like being volunteered, grieved the practice and put in for overtime. The briefs parties stopped.

My favorite brief was a news story I wrote soon after I arrived in Concord. It went something like this:

LOST NATION, N.H. (AP) -- Maurice Belanger, 24, of Stewartstown, escaped injury, police said, when his snowmobile crashed into a pile of frozen chicken manure.

Wish I had saved a clipping.

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Florida school shooting reminds of story when assault weapons ban expired

Libby Quaid (**Email**) - I had a thought about a Connecting story related to the Florida school shooting. The news continues to be the community's vocal arguments for more gun control.

It made me think of when the assault weapons ban expired. The AR-15, the weapon used by the Florida shooter, was covered by the 1994 assault weapons ban. I interviewed Nancy Kassebaum since she was one of those who voted for the ban in 1994.

I found my story from 2004 on a website and offer it below. I just keep thinking about it.

As assault weapon ban expires, key supporter recalls the debate

LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The phone calls were more angry than at any time she could remember. Then-Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum was breaking ranks with Republicans to help Democrats pass a crime bill banning assault-style weapons.

"It was big. I think I got more hateful phone calls on that than almost any other issue, and some from friends I knew," the former Kansas senator, now Nancy Kassebaum Baker, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I was a strong supporter of the Brady Bill - that was different, when that first passed. But the phone calls were just unusually hateful. I had receptionists in tears. I'd answered the phone for a while to get a feel for what people had to say. There was no reasoning with anybody."

It was a tough decision for her and the other five Republicans who voted for the bill. Baker was challenging her senior senator and friend from Kansas, then-Majority Leader Bob Dole.

At one point during debate, Kassebaum was a solitary figure on the Senate floor, surrounded by empty chairs until fellow defector Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania joined her, according to news reports at the time.

The crime bill became law, but on Monday, 10 years after President Clinton signed it into law, the assault weapons ban will expire.

The Senate majority leader, Bill Frist of Tennessee, told reporters Wednesday, "The will of the American people is consistent with letting it expire, so it will expire."

Baker was disappointed.

"I don't agree with the leader on that one. I don't think necessarily that the will of the people is that it expire," Baker said in a telephone interview from her husband's home in Tennessee. Her husband, former Sen. Howard Baker, is serving as ambassador to Japan but is at home recovering from open heart surgery.

She referred to a poll released Monday showing that 68 percent of Americans say they want Congress to extend the assault weapons ban. Even among Republicans, 61 percent said they wanted the ban.

The National Annenberg Election Survey interviewed 4,959 adults from Aug. 10 through Sept. 4, and the poll's margin of sampling error was plus or minus 1 percentage point.

"It's a step it's important to take to show that we really do care about what kind of climate exists in our communities," she said. "It does make an important statement. It is not denying people of their right to, as the Second Amendment says, a militia that can defend itself.

"But it's like anything else, like having a driver's license that becomes limited for one reason or another," she said. "There are limits to what is reasonable."

Under a provision in the 1994 bill, the ban expires without a vote in Congress to renew it. The ban outlawed 19 kinds of military-style assaultweapons.

The Senate voted in March to extend the ban, adding it to a bill protecting gun manufacturers from liability lawsuits. But on final passage, the bill failed amid opposition from the National Rifle Association. There is little appetite for renewing it in the House, Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas said Wednesday. According to NRA chief executive Wayne LaPierre, many Democrats believe the 1994 ban cost them control of Congress that year when voters went to the polls.

"There's a lot of Democrats up there that are like, `I'm not walking off that bridge," LaPierre said in an interview with the AP.

He and other foes of the ban say its supporters have always misrepresented it as banning automatic weapons, which are banned under a different law and will remain illegal. The 1994 ban was on certain semiautomatic weapons.

"This time, members I'm talking to now view it as faulty legislation," LaPierre said.

Besides the former Kansas senator, Republicans voting for the crime bill were Sens. John Danforth of Missouri, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the late John Chafee of Rhode Island, William Roth of Delaware and Jim Jeffords, now an Independent, of Vermont.

Dole, of course, voted against the crime bill, as did the only Kansan still in Congress today, then-Rep. Pat Roberts, who now has Baker's old Senate seat.

The other three representing Kansas at the time - Democratic Reps. Dan Glickman and Jim Slattery, and Republican Rep. Jan Myers - voted for the crime bill.

In March, Roberts and GOP Sen. Sam Brownback, who replaced Dole, both voted against extending the assault weapons ban.

Baker said, "I would hope that it wouldn't become so polarized this time."

"That's what I really regret: There's no opportunity to try and bridge these very emotional debates," she said. "We may just have to recognize that, and see what we can do to improve the climate."

I'll Never Forget Day Two Of My Nearly 30 Years At Enquirer

(**NOTE**: Connecting colleague **Dan Sewell** shared this story, and noted Howard Wilkinson's reference to another Connecting colleague, **Bill Keating**, former publisher of the Enquirer who served as chairman of the AP board of directors.)

By HOWARD WILKINSON

WVXU, Cincinnati

Usually, when you look back at a long period of time working in the same place, it is the first day on the job that you remember the most.



The nervousness. The overwhelming desire to impress. The first time you have to go to someone and ask where the restroom is.

In other words, your general dorkiness.

That first day is something to remember.

But, for me, it is the second day I worked at the Cincinnati Enquirer I remember the most.

I had that job for 29 years, six months and two days before I took an early retirement buy-out. I was "retired" for exactly 13 days before I went to work for Cincinnati Public Radio and 91.7 WVXU.

Read more here. Shared by Dan Sewell.

New York spy museum to feature 'Seafood from Slaves' investigation

The Pulitzer Prize-winning AP reporting that exposed modern day slavery in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia will be showcased at a new interactive spy museum in midtown Manhattan.

Part of Spyscape's gallery on surveillance, the "Seafood from Slaves" exhibit explores how a team of AP reporters combined shoe-leather journalism with new technology in their efforts to document labor abuses and trace slave-caught seafood to U.S. supermarkets and pet food suppliers.

Tools that journalists Esther Htusan, Margie Mason, Robin McDowell and Martha Mendoza used during the course of their reporting will be on display, as well as a film explaining how intelligence technology and techniques played a role in the investigation.

"Part of the magic of this project was that it combined cutting-edge reporting tools with old-fashioned, on-the-ground reporting," said AP Managing Editor Brian Carovillano. "There was GPS tracking and satellite photography, but there were also all-night stakeouts and great source reporting. And of course, the impact it had was astounding. Thousands of slaves were freed because of the journalism of some very dedicated and talented women."

Read more here.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Belatedly from Saturday... Eldon Cort - elcort@aol.com Dean Lee - dean_lee217@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting

Gmail - Connecting - February 19, 2018



Blake Sell - blakepsell@gmail.com



AP staffers on three continents scramble to fact-check the pope on Chile abuse



At the Vatican, April 12, 2015, Marie Collins, a member of the Pope Francis' sex-abuse commission, hands to Cardinal Sean O'Malley a letter from Juan Carlos Cruz detailing the alleged abuse of Cruz and a cover-up by Chilean church authorities. This photo by a colleague of Collins established the letter's chain of custody to O'Malley. Cruz and Collins say that O'Malley has assured them that he delivered it to the pope, contradicting the pope's claim that he was not aware of alleged victims' claims. CATHERINE BONNET VIA AP

Vatican correspondent Nicole Winfield sensed a potentially explosive development in Chile's long-running sex abuse and cover-up scandal when she noticed a cryptic tweet from a former member of the Pope Francis' abuse advisory board.

Board member Marie Collins had tweeted that Francis was well aware that victims of Chile's most infamous predator priest had placed Bishop Juan Barros at the scene of their abuse, since she herself had been involved in relaying their concerns to him.

Intrigued and sensing an important twist in a story that AP has already dominated, Winfield and Santiago correspondent Eva Vergara kicked off an extraordinary effort that would culminate in the beat of the week - a three-day, multinational, crossformat papal fact-check that prompted published calls for the pope to come clean about a scandal that now threatens his legacy.

It involved a Paris airport stakeout by senior TV producer Jeff Schaeffer, a missed Super Bowl party hosted by Philadelphia-based TV producer Yvonne Lee and a surreal TV interview conducted by AP reporters on three continents.

All over the course of one frantic weekend.

A brief recap: A Vatican court in 2010 convicted a prominent Chilean priest, the Rev. Fernando Karadima, of sexually and psychologically abusing minors. Barros was a Karadima protege who went on to have a successful career as a bishop.

After the Karadima scandal exploded, Chile's bishops recommended Barros and two other Karadima-trained bishops resign and take a year sabbatical, to calm the waters.

Francis, though, refused to accept the resignations because he said he had no "evidence" that they had done anything wrong. He named Barros to head the diocese of Osorno, in southern Chile, where priests and lay faithful have refused to accept him.

During his tumultuous in-flight press conference home from South America last month, Francis said he could not remove Barros because he had never heard from any victims about the bishop's behavior.

Which is why Collins' tweet was pivotal.

Collins revealed to Winfield that during an emergency summit of the pope's sex abuse advisory commission in April 2015, she handed over a letter to the pope's top adviser, Cardinal Sean O'Malley. The letter from Karadima victim Juan Carlos Cruz concerned Barros; it was intended for the pope.

This is why I was shocked when I heard the Pope had said on the plane the Karadima victims had not come to him and he would listen if they did. I knew they

had contacted him directly with this letter three years ago!karadimahttps://t.co/ Dzv5L76tLT

- Marie Collins (@marielco) February 5, 2018

Enter Vergara, who has cultivated a years-long personal relationship with Cruz over the course of her coverage of the Karadima affair.

She obtained the letter from Cruz, and it was heartbreaking: a plea for help from Francis, written in his native Spanish, to finally listen to him. The eight-page letter described in detail the abuse Cruz suffered at the hands of Karadima, and accused Barros of witnessing it, ignoring it and covering it up.

The letter called into question Francis' assertion that he had never heard from victims about Barros, and had no evidence of wrongdoing.

But did it ever get into his hands?

Winfield and Vergara knew that tracing the chain of custody of the letter would be crucial, and Collins offered up two links.

She told Winfield that O'Malley had assured her that he had given it to the pope and raised the issue with him. And she provided visual proof that it had at least gotten as far as O'Malley: A photo of her handing the letter over to O'Malley that she had asked a fellow commission member, Catherine Bonnet, to take so she could send it to Cruz.

The photo was crucial to telling the story, and Winfield set about securing authorization to use it from Bonnet, who also agreed to go on camera to describe the moment of the handoff.

Bonnet, though, was travelling from San Diego to Paris on a more than 24-hour odyssey.

Enter Schaeffer, who kept in touch with Bonnet by texts during her layovers and tracked her hours-delayed flight online, so that he could meet up with her at Charles de Gaulle to conduct the interview. Paris photographer Michel Euler joined him in scouting the location that would be appropriate for such a sensitive interview.

Once set up, Schaeffer waited outside the baggage carousel with a sign saying "Catherine - AP" in big letters so Bonnet would recognize him.

Lee rushed from her Super Bowl party to shoot video at the victim's Philadelphia home, where she called Winfield, who was waiting at home in Rome to conduct the phone interview. Winfield had Vergara on WhatsApp, completing the three-continent interview.

Next, the attention shifted to trying to get Cruz on camera. Cruz was home in Philadelphia, about to go to a movie when Vergara asked him to stay put and wait for an AP film crew.

Enter Lee, who was preparing for a 6 p.m. Super Bowl watch party at her house, a historic occasion given Philadelphia had been waiting more than a half-century for a championship.

Called upon to help out, videographer Lee said she was preparing for a party. But she dropped everything after learning the details.

She hustled to the office to get her equipment and arrived at Cruz's apartment, only to realize that her tripod plate was missing. Lee improvised, using a high chair and a stack of books.

As soon as she was set up, she called Winfield, who was at home in Rome on a Sunday night in her pajamas, waiting to conduct the interview by speaker phone. Winfield had Vergara online in a WhatsApp chat and relayed what was happening, completing the three-continent interview.

AP Exclusive: The Vatican's sex-crimes expert is changing plans and will fly to New York to take in-person testimony from a Chilean sex-abuse victim whose pleas to be heard by Pope Francis were ignored. https://t.co/rqjdVVPwx8

- The Associated Press (@AP) February 7, 2018

Cruz revealed that O'Malley had assured him that he had delivered the letter, completing the chain of custody with two named sources. (For the record, Lee made it to her party. As her guests watched the Eagles win, she edited and transcribed the interview, and sent the file to the BNC before the game ended.)

With all the parts in place, the story rolled out on Monday morning. The New York Times credited AP, as did numerous Italian media as well as France's Le Figaro, Spain's El Pais and Chile's major newspapers. Teletrax reported extraordinary video play.

Commentary followed, predicting that Francis' legacy would be forever tarnished: "Pope Francis' failure to address the abuse allegations jeopardizes his papacy," read an opinion piece in Time magazine.

For teamwork that spanned the globe, in service of a story of immense global interest, Winfield, Vergara, Schaeffer and Lee share this week's \$500 prize.



APNewsBreak: Lawmaker accused of meeting with prostitute used taxpayer money for hotel



State Rep. Jon Stanard votes on the House floor at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City, Feb. 8, 2017. The AP exclusively reported that the Republican lawmaker used

taxpayer money to book at least two hotel rooms he is accused of using to meet with a prostitute. AP PHOTO / RICK BOWMER

Allegations that a lawmaker had been trysting with a prostitute while the Utah Legislature was in session rocked the state's politics. The former lawmaker who had previously pushed for stricter laws cracking down on prostitution went into hiding. His attorney refused comment. The House speaker washed his hands of the scandal, saying the lawmaker was no longer a member of the Legislature - and the prostitute was no longer talking, after having sold the story to the tabloid site dailymail.com.

Political reporter Michelle Price needed another way into the story, so she started asking questions around the capitol.

Price told officials that a public records request was forthcoming.

Was the lawmaker's government-issued cell phone used to arrange the meetings with the prostitute? Was there a record of the calls? Of texts? She told authorities a public records request was forthcoming.

She made a key discovery while looking at the screen grabs of the texts in the tabloid story: The dates lined up with the legislative session. She knew the lawmaker from southern Utah didn't commute to the Legislature and would be staying in hotels while in Salt Lake City. She knew lawmakers get reimbursed for hotel stays.

She started asking tougher questions. Was taxpayer money used to reimburse the lawmaker for hotel rooms where he met the prostitute?

Now she had the attention of officials in state government.

The House chief of staff told Price the office was beginning an investigation. Officials would probe whether the lawmaker used a state-issued cellphone and hotel rooms paid for with taxpayer money to meet with the prostitute.

That gave her enough to put a solid story on the wire beyond the thinly sourced report by dailymail.com, which AP credited for being the first to speak to the prostitute.

Next, Price reported the Utah elections office was reviewing the lawmaker's campaign finance reports to see if he had used campaign money for his rendezvous.

Utah is investigating whether a Republican state lawmaker who resigned this week used taxpayer money or campaign cash to arrange trysts with a prostitute. https://t.co/YxJBRyBpIA

- AP West Region (@APWestRegion) February 9, 2018

Then came the APNewsBreak: Price exclusively reported that the lawmaker used taxpayer money to book at least two hotel rooms he is accused of using to meet with the prostitute.

Price's work put The Associated Press ahead of other media in a story that was used widely by Utah members and major U.S. outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times. Even dailymail.com ultimately used the AP's story.

For determination and a commitment to exploring all angles even when the main characters weren't talking, Price wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Stories of interest

The hysterical obituary that made strangers miss a man they never knew (Washington Post)



Terry Ward and his daughter, Jean Lahm. (Family photo)

By Marwa Eltagouri

When Jean Lahm sat down to write her father's obituary, the words that poured onto the page reflected the wit and honest humor she says she inherited from him.

"Terry Wayne Ward, age 71, of DeMotte, IN, escaped this mortal realm on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018, leaving behind 32 jars of Miracle Whip, 17 boxes of Hamburger Helper and multitudes of other random items that would prove helpful in the event of a zombie apocalypse," she wrote.

Lahm then dived into just about every detail that made her father so distinctly lovable - details others might consider minute or maybe even out of place for an obituary.

Read more here. Shared by Randy Evans. Click here for the full obituary.

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Fear itself: Donald Trump isn't the only existential threat facing journalism (CJR)

By BOB MOSER

or reporters, it's surely as close to a Golden Rule as journalism affords: Fear nobody and nothing in your quest to unearth hard truths and afflict the powerful.

Donald Trump's once-unimaginable matriculation into the White House has given journalists a historic opportunity to demonstrate this fearlessness. A fair number of reporters, editors, and opinionators have risen nobly to the occasion-partly with their investigative work, partly by learning to call politicians liars without qualification when they lie, and partly by playing their traditional role as the Paul Reveres of modern democracy, sounding the alarm when foes of freedom come into view.

Read more here. Shared by John Hartzell.

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Nominees in the 2018 World Press Photo Contest (Atlantic)

The top images being considered to win awards in the 61st World Press Photo Contest have just been released, with the final announcement of the winners coming on April 12. Jury members selected the nominees in eight categories, including the new environment category, from submissions made by 42 photographers hailing from 22 countries. World Press Photo has been kind enough to allow us to share some of this year's nominees here with you. A warning: some viewers may find some of the images disturbing.

Read more here. Shared by John Willis.

Today in History - February 19, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2018. There are 315 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 19, 1968, the children's program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," created by and starring Fred Rogers, made its network debut on National Educational Television, a forerunner of PBS, beginning a 31-season run.

On this date:

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In 1915, during World War I, British and French warships launched their initial attack on Ottoman forces in the Dardanelles, a strait in northwestern Turkey. (The Gallipoli Campaign that followed proved disastrous for the Allies.)

In 1934, a blizzard began inundating the northeastern United States, with the heaviest snowfall occurring in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens. Imperial Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed.

In 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful monthlong battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

In 1963, "The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan was first published by W.W. Norton & Co.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, calling the issuing of Executive Order 9066 in 1942 "a sad day in American history," signed a proclamation formally confirming its termination.

In 1984, the Winter Olympics closed in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved, 83-11, the Genocide Convention, an international treaty outlawing "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group," nearly 37 years after the pact was first submitted for ratification.

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping (dung shah-oh-ping), the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

Ten years ago: An ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him. President George W. Bush, visiting Rwanda, pleaded with the global community for decisive action to stop grisly ethnic violence plaguing other African nations like Kenya and Sudan. Democrat Barack Obama cruised past Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Wisconsin primary and Hawaii caucuses.

Five years ago: The United Nations said the number of U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan had risen sharply in 2012 compared with 2011. A bail hearing began in Pretoria, South Africa, for double-amputee Olympian Oscar Pistorius, charged with killing Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day; the defense said Pistorius had

mistaken his girlfriend for an intruder while prosecutors said he had deliberately opened fire on Steenkamp as she cowered behind a locked bathroom door.

One year ago: A SpaceX rocket soared from NASA's long-idled moonshot pad, sending up space station supplies from the exact spot where astronauts embarked on the lunar landings nearly a half-century earlier. Hundreds of scientists, environmental advocates and their supporters held a rally in Boston to protest what they saw as increasing threats to science and research. More than a thousand people of various faiths rallied in New York City for an "I Am A Muslim Too" event to support Muslim Americans. Three former elite U.S. gymnasts, including 2000 Olympian Jamie Dantzscher, appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" to say they were sexually abused by Dr. Larry Nassar, a volunteer team physician for USA Gymnastics. Anthony Davis had an All-Star Game for the record books, scoring 52 points as the Western Conference beat the Eastern Conference 192-182 - the highest-scoring game in league history.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 78. Actress Carlin Glynn is 78. Former Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer is 76. Singer Lou Christie is 75. Actor Michael Nader is 73. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 70. Actor Stephen Nichols is 67. Author Amy Tan is 66. Actor Jeff Daniels is 63. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 62. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 61. Actor Ray Winstone is 61. Actor Leslie David Baker is 60. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 59. Britain's Prince Andrew is 58. Tennis Hall of Famer Hana Mandlikova is 56. Singer Seal is 55. Actress Jessica Tuck is 55. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 54. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 53. Actress Justine Bateman is 52. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 51. Actress Bellamy Young is 48. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 43. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 33. Christian rock musician Seth Morrison (Skillet) is 30. Actor Luke Pasqualino is 28. Actress Victoria Justice is 25. Actor David (dah-VEED') Mazouz (TV: "Gotham") is 17. Actress Millie Bobby Brown is 14.

Thought for Today: "There is, I think, nothing in the world more futile than the attempt to find out how a task should be done when one has not yet decided what the task is." - Alexander Meiklejohn (MIHK'-ul-jahn), American educator (1872-1964).

Got a story or photos to share?

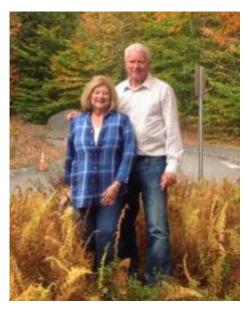
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos! Here are some suggestions:

- 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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