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## Connecting - February 23, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 9:06 AM

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# Connecting

February 23, 2018

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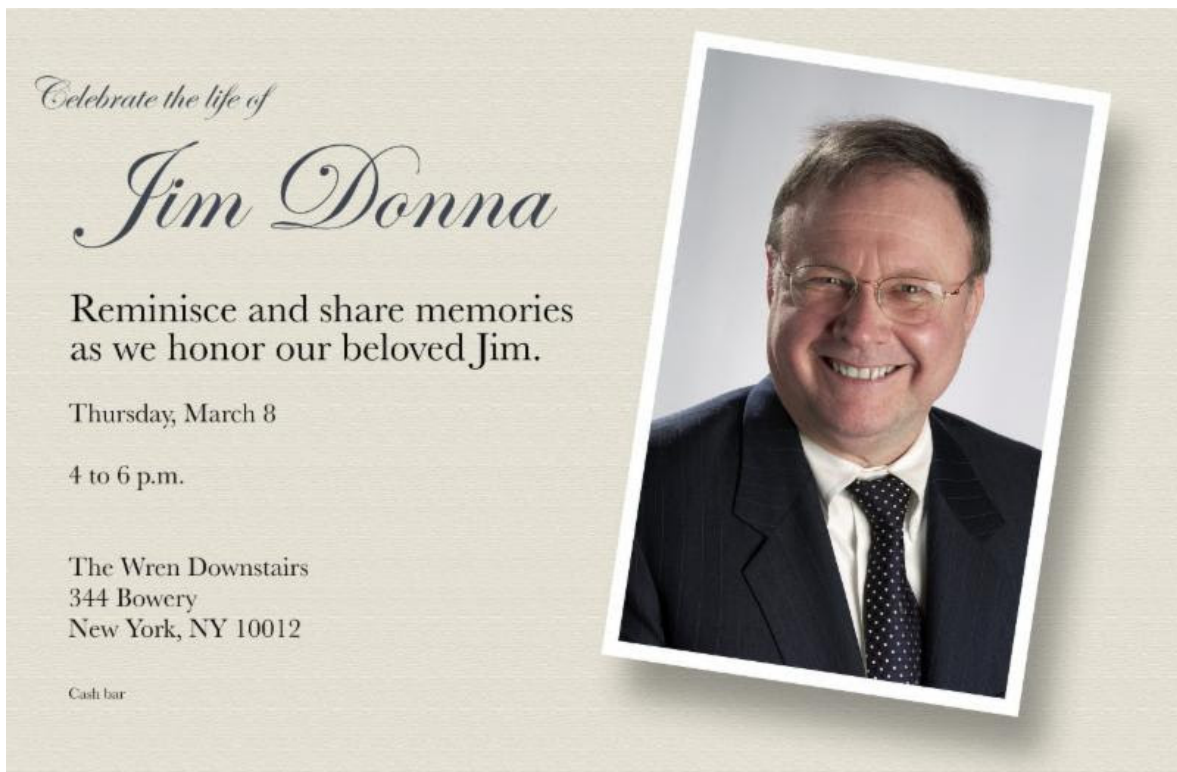
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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

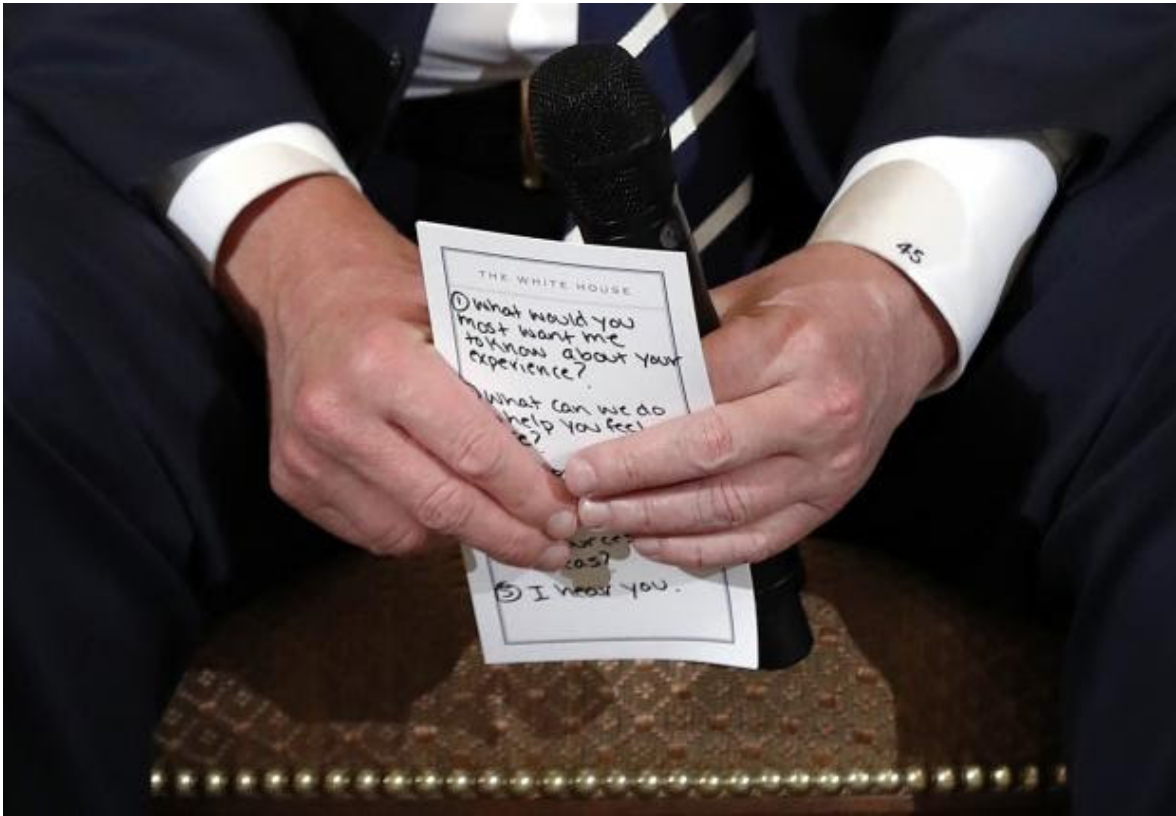


**Paula Stone** ([Email](#)) - a former AP staffer, is helping to organize a memorial celebration for Jim Donna. She notes that no RSVP is necessary and that you can contact her if you need further information or have a question. Donna, who held an array of news and management posts in three decades with the AP, died in early January.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## How I got that photo of Trump's notes



**By Lauren Easton**

When President Donald Trump met with high school students, teachers and parents affected by school shootings at the White House on Wednesday, he was photographed holding handwritten notes.

The last note on the page, obscured in some images, was captured by AP Washington photographer Carolyn Kaster. It read: "I hear you."

Kaster explained how she got that photo:

*Why did you focus on the paper President Trump was holding? Could you read what was written from your position?*

The big picture can be in the small details.

I could see how President Trump was holding the notes and the large writing - what I thought were talking points. He held them for a few moments before putting them back in his pocket. That's when I took this image.

*What strikes you most about the image?*

There are times when the details come in an impactful way. The "I hear you" written on the card struck me. Especially after hearing the emotion in what the students and family members said.

*Were you surprised by the response?*

I was surprised by the response. It shows that people care and are invested.

*Anything to add?*

My job is to gather visual information to tell the story. It is so interesting what you see when you are paying attention beyond what is presented.

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

## **How I was declared a 'Warrior for Christ'**



**Billy Graham and Myron Belkind wearing the Naga shawls we were presented on Nov. 22, 1972, the day before he flew out of Nagaland on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23.**

**Myron Belkind (Email)** - The death of the Rev. Billy Graham brought back memories of his visit to Nagaland in November 1972 marking the centenary of the arrival of the first Baptist missionaries in northeast India. I was the only American journalist with him and had one of the most memorable experiences of my career, as I recounted in a speech to the Watergate Speakers Series in September 2016 about my life in journalism and which was reproduced in Connecting at the time. Here are the excerpts from my remarks and how I was declared a "Warrior for Christ".

And how can I ever forget going to Nagaland on the remote Indo-Burmese border with the Rev. Billy Graham in November 1972 to cover his crusades marking the centenary of the arrival of the first Baptist missionaries? I was the only American journalist with him.

For five days I was literally at his side, starting with breakfast each morning when he would tell me what lesson he planned to use as the basis for his sermon each evening.

I still remember the leads of my dispatches that week:

The first night I reported:

The Rev. Billy Graham told the story of Jonah and the Whale tonight to 50,000 Naga tribal members and won fresh converts to Christ at the start of a series of crusades marking the centenary of the arrival of the first Baptist missionaries in the remote region on the Indo-Burmese border.

And for my final lead, I wrote:

The Rev. Billy Graham celebrated Thanksgiving today with a cold turkey box lunch aboard a Russian-built Indian Air Force helicopter that flew him out of Nagaland a day after guerrillas ambushed an Indian army patrol near the site of his final crusade celebrating the centenary of the arrival of the first Baptist missionaries in the region.

Covering Graham's visit to Nagaland was also memorable, because of a new title I was given.

After Graham concluded his final sermon, the head of the local Naga Baptists presented a large Naga shawl to him in appreciation of all the time he had spent preaching to the local Naga tribes and traveling a long distance to come to Nagaland. And then he called me up and presented me a lovely shawl and declared:

"May you be a Warrior for Christ."

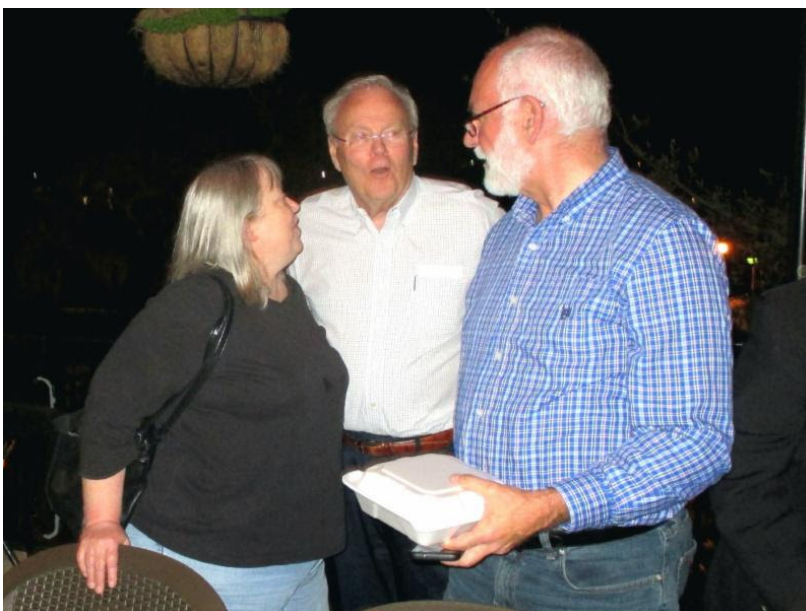
I was honored to receive the shawl, although it was appropriately somewhat smaller than the one Graham had received, but it was still lovely, and I was honored to be declared a "Warrior for Christ," although I was a little worried on two accounts:

First, I had to make an instant ethical decision: should I accept the shawl as a gift? I decided it was appropriate to do so as I would only use it as a personal memento at home.

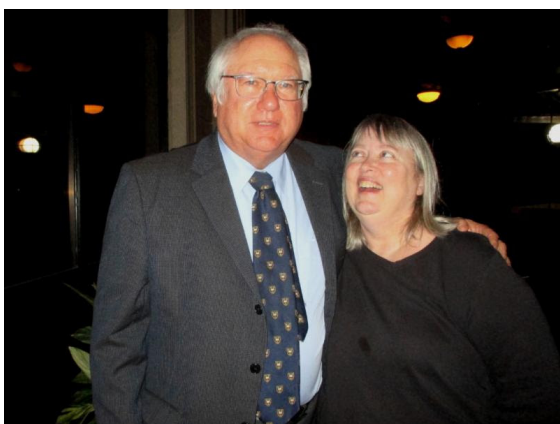
Second, I thought for a moment about what my mother in Cleveland would think about her son who had had his Bar Mitzvah at age 13 being made a "Warrior for Christ." And I knew my mother would be fine and would be honored, because she and my late dad always taught us to be tolerant and respectful of all religions.

## Connecting mailbox

***Current, former Tallahassee staffers bid farewell to Jackie Hallifax***



**Jackie, Brent Kallestad and John Lucas**



**Bill Kaczor and Jackie**



**Eldon Cort and Jackie**

**Bill Kaczor (Email)** - Current and former Tallahassee AP staffers bid farewell to former colleague Jackie Hallifax last Saturday. Jackie worked in the Miami and Tallahassee bureaus from 1985 to 2005, when she joined the Florida Supreme Court as deputy public affairs officer. She's now moving back to her hometown of Bath, N.Y.

A long wait for an outdoor table at Harry's restaurant hard by the Capitol and Supreme Court gave us more time to reminisce and wish Jackie well in her return home. The group included current Correspondent Brendan Farrington and newsman Gary Fineout, former TV chief John Lucas and former photographer Mark Foley along with three retirees: editorial staffers Brent Kallestad and Bill Kaczor and technician Eldon Cort.

We were joined by spouses and Jackie's nephew, Air Force Lt. Jeremy "Jake" Snell, a helicopter pilot and flight instructor at Fort Rucker, Ala., who is helping Jackie



move.

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## ***Asking about an AP report on Michael Oreskes***

**Marc Humbert** ([Email](#)) - shared a New York Times story on the release Tuesday of an independent investigation on Michael Oreskes, the former NPR executive who resigned last November amid sexual harassment accusations. Oreskes moved to NPR from The Associated Press in 2015. He was with AP seven years as a vice president and senior managing editor.

"I think it is time that we AP veterans begin asking what might have happened at the AP during his tenure. Where is the AP's report?" Humbert said.

When contacted by Connecting for a reply, Lauren Easton, AP's director of media relations, pointed to a statement issued last November by the AP that said:

*AP has a long-standing policy against sexual harassment, which includes an investigative procedure with a strong assurance of confidentiality to the complaining employee. While we want to be responsive and transparent, we will not disclose any information about anyone who files a complaint.*

*The Associated Press received one complaint of unwelcome and inappropriate verbal communication by Michael Oreskes while he worked at AP. It did not involve any sexual activity, inappropriate or unwelcome touching, or any claim of quid pro quo.*

*AP Human Resources promptly and thoroughly investigated the complaint and took appropriate remedial action. AP received no further complaints about Oreskes from the person who complained or anyone else.*

*The AP is committed to maintaining a safe working environment and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.*

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## ***Paper is Not Dead***

**Harold Olmos** ([Email](#)) - shares what he calls the best email he's received this year - titled, Paper Is Not Dead - Why Paper Will Never Be Dead - Le papier ne sera jamais mort - Emma!

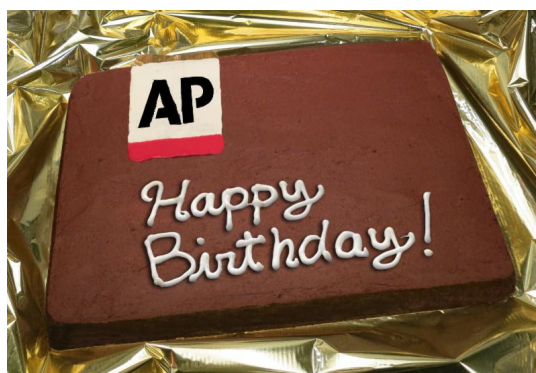
[Click here](#) to view.

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## ***Kelly Kissel's sister dies***

Our condolences go out to Connecting colleague **Kelly Kissel** ([Email](#)) - whose sister Debbie Smithling died Thursday evening. Kelly said: All of her kids were there, along with me, the lone Kissel left from that Nebraska-to-Louisiana move almost 50 years ago. Among the last things we had been planning was a party this October 24 to commemorate the move. No word yet on whether I will still have it. Not in the mood to party right now. She was a great sister and a great caregiver to my mom as she took this journey in 2016.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

**Warren Levinson - [wlevinson@ap.org](mailto:wlevinson@ap.org)**

***On Saturday to...***

**Phil Dopoulos - [pdopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:pdopoulos@gmail.com)**

*On Sunday to...*

**Susan Brady Boyle - [sbrady@ap.org](mailto:sbrady@ap.org)**

**Julie March - [jmarch@ap.org](mailto:jmarch@ap.org)**

**Diane Balk Palguta - [dbpalguta@yahoo.com](mailto:dbpalguta@yahoo.com)**

**Amy Shafer - [amycatherineshafer@gmail.com](mailto:amycatherineshafer@gmail.com)**

## **Welcome to Connecting**



**Carol and Dave Ochs - [Email](#)**

## **Stories of interest**

***In Parkland, journalism students take on role of reporter and survivor*** (CJR)

**By Alexandria Neason and Meg Dalton**

LAST THURSDAY, the day after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Melissa Falkowski texted her students. As the school's newspaper adviser, the teacher knew she and her students had a responsibility. "[I told them] nobody could tell this story the way that we could tell it," she says. "The kids really embraced that."

On that fateful Wednesday afternoon, their community lost 17 of its own—a soccer player, football coach, geography teacher, and member of the marching band among them—after a gunman opened fire at the school. Already, members of the school newspaper, The Eagle Eye, along with its broadcast journalism program, WMSD-TV, are sharing their experiences in their own outlets and in the national spotlight, treading the increasingly murky line between journalism and activism.

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

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## ***NRA spox: 'Many in legacy media love mass shootings'*** (CNN)

**By Maegan Vazquez**

The National Rifle Association's national spokeswoman argued on Thursday that "many in legacy media love mass shootings" during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

"Many in legacy media love mass shootings. You guys love it," Dana Loesch said Thursday. "Now I'm not saying that you love the tragedy. But I am saying that you love the ratings. Crying white mothers are ratings gold to you and many in the legacy media in the back (of the room)."

"And notice I said 'crying white mothers' because there are thousands of grieving black mothers in Chicago every weekend, and you don't see town halls for them, do you?" Loesch asked. "Where's the CNN town hall for Chicago? Where's the CNN town hall for sanctuary cities?"

Read more [here](#).

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## ***CBS names Margaret Brennan as 'Face the Nation' anchor***



NEW YORK (AP) - In appointing Margaret Brennan as moderator of "Face the Nation" on Thursday, CBS News gets the first person with day-to-day experience covering the Trump administration as host of a Sunday morning political talk show.

Brennan, 37, replaces John Dickerson and will start on Sunday. Dickerson recently moved to New York to become one of the three anchors of "CBS This Morning."

Brennan, in an interview, said the Sunday political shows are an increasingly important forum for lending perspective at a time the news cycle moves so quickly for journalists and viewers.

"To be able to step back and give some perspective is value-added," she said.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***What Happens When Athletes Do the Sportswriting?*** (New York Times Magazine)

By **AMOS BARSHAD**

Earlier this month, just before the N.B.A. trade deadline, the Cleveland Cavaliers offloaded their point guard, Isaiah Thomas, to the Los Angeles Lakers. It was the second time that Thomas had been traded in the last six months, and it suggested that he was destined for a career as a journeyman scorer, plodding from team to team. Things looked very different for Thomas as recently as last summer. Back then, he was the star gunner for the Boston Celtics, and he was becoming something of a folk hero in the city. But then in August, the organization abruptly traded him to the Cavs for Kyrie Irving. At the time of the first trade, Thomas was just months off a colossal playoff run in which he played through major dental surgery, a hip labral tear and the loss of his younger sister, Chyna, in a car accident. In the days after her death, Thomas suited up against the Bulls: He had Chyna's name written on his sneakers and fat tears pooled in his eyes. And then, as he'd done for years, Thomas - the shortest man in the N.B.A. - scored bunches of points with an intricate, endless string of feints, jabs and soft, soft jumpers.

Boston's callousness shocked people. ESPN broke news with details of back-room negotiations. The Boston Globe celebrated Thomas's bond to the city. FiveThirtyEight quantified the trade's impact on the Celtics' win-share probabilities. Barstool Sports posted a meme implying the Cavs' J.R. Smith - a man known to enjoy life - would be too high to notice his team had swapped starting guards. It was an onslaught of facts, justifications, adjusted advanced-analytics projections and bits. But no amount of coverage could ever fully account for such an unexpected transaction.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion: Free Speech and the Necessity of Discomfort*** (New York Times)

By **BRET STEPHENS**

This is the text of a lecture delivered at the University of Michigan on Tuesday. The speech was sponsored by Wallace House.

I'd like to express my appreciation for Lynette Clemetson and her team at Knight-Wallace for hosting me in Ann Arbor today. It's a great honor. I think of Knight-Wallace as a citadel of American journalism. And, Lord knows, we need a few citadels, because journalism today is a profession under several sieges.

To name a few:

There is the economic siege, particularly the collapse of traditional revenue streams, which has undermined the ability of scores of news organizations to remain financially healthy and invest in the kind of in-depth investigative, enterprise, local and foreign reporting this country so desperately needs.

There is a cultural siege, as exemplified by the fact that a growing number of Americans seem to think that if something is reported in the so-called mainstream media, it is ipso facto untrue.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

## Today in History - February 23, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2018. There are 311 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 23, 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

**On this date:**

In 1685, composer George Frideric Handel was born in present-day Germany.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1848, the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, died in Washington D.C., at age 80.

In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

In 1927, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill creating the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission.

In 1934, Leopold III succeeded his late father, Albert I, as King of the Belgians.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1965, film comedian Stan Laurel, 74, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1970, Guyana became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

In 1981, an attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18



hours later.)

In 1992, the XVI Winter Olympic Games ended in Albertville, France.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other U.S. officials held daylong meetings with Australian leaders in Canberra. Former United Auto Workers president Douglas A. Fraser died in Southfield, Michigan, at age 91.

Five years ago: Some 30 NASCAR fans were injured when rookie Kyle Larson's car was propelled by a crash into the fence at Daytona International Speedway, and large chunks of debris flew into the grandstands. The Ultimate Fighting Championship held its first women's bout as Ronda Rousey beat Liz Carmouche on an armbar, her signature move, with 11 seconds left in the first round of their bantamweight title fight at UFC 157 in Anaheim, California.

One year ago: Seeking to tamp down growing unease in Latin America, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly pledged during a visit to Mexico City that the United States would not enlist its military to enforce immigration laws and that there would be "no mass deportations." Lottery officials said the sole winning ticket for an estimated \$435 million Powerball jackpot was sold at a Lafayette, Indiana, convenience store.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Fonda is 78. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 75. Author John Sandford is 74. Country-rock musician Rusty Young is 72. Actress Patricia Richardson is 67. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 67. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 66. Singer Howard Jones is 63. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 56. Country singer Dusty Drake is 54. Actress Kristin Davis is 53. Tennis player Helena Sukova is 53. Actor Marc Price is 50. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 49. Actress Niecy Nash is 48. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 47. Country singer Steve Holy is 46. Rock musician Lasse (loss) Johansson (The Cardigans) is 45. Actress Kelly Macdonald is 42. Rapper Residente (Calle 13) is 40. Actor Josh Gad is 37. Actress Emily Blunt is 35. Actor Aziz Ansari is 35. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 32. Actress Dakota Fanning is 24.

***Thought for Today: "If you wish to avoid seeing a fool you must first break your mirror." - Francois Rabelais (ra-beh-LAY), French satirist (1494-1553).***

## Got a story or photos to share?

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

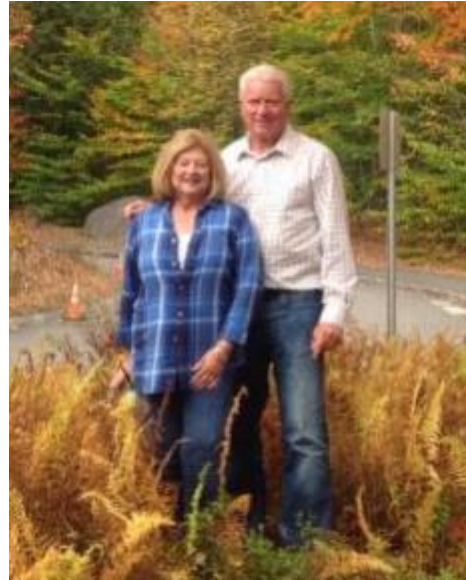
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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