



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - September 18, 2019

1 message

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

Wed, Sep 18, 2019 at 8:50 AM

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Connecting

September 18, 2019



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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 18th day of September 2019,

Making climate "a human story"

That's the headline for a Definitive Source story Tuesday by colleague **Lauren Easton** that the AP has launched a 12-part series about efforts underway around the world to save or revive ecosystems and restore landscapes and species in a world affected by human activity and climate change.



A new installment of "What Can Be Saved?" will be published each week in video, photos, text, infographics and more.

Diver Everton Simpson untangles lines of staghorn coral at a coral nursery inside the White River Fish Sanctuary on Feb. 11, 2019, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

"We really thought long and hard about what could we do on the environment that would be different, that would really engage people, that would reach a big audience," said AP Managing Editor **Brian Carovillano**. "This is really great coverage, amazing, visually stunning journalism with great characters that hopefully really connects with people around the world."

Read more [here](#).

Congratulations to our Denver AP colleague **Dan Elliott** on his retirement from journalism on Friday. He was hired by another colleague, then Denver CoB **Pete Mattiace**.

Have a great day!

Paul

Dan Elliott to retire Friday after 45 years in journalism - last 20 in AP's Denver bureau



Dan Elliott outside Eaton, Colorado, covering a story in July on drones were being used to track information on crop growth. AP Photo/Dave Zalubowski

Dan Elliott ([Email](#)) - I'm retiring Friday after 45 years in journalism, the last 20 with the AP in Denver. Nobody would mistake me for a star reporter, but I have done some stories I'm proud of, and I'm honored to have swum among some much bigger fish in this distinguished pond.

I'll remember my experiences more than my accomplishments. I flew across the Pacific in an international military exercise, with a Russian fighter jet so close outside the window I could see the pilot's air hose wag when he turned his head. I got soaked with beer and champagne while fetching quotes after the Cardinals clinched their division at Coors Field in 2009. I interviewed a prostitute about how many times he had sex with a famous preacher. Noam Chomsky once emailed me a four-paragraph no comment, and damn, I sure wish I'd saved it. I could go on, but as a humanitarian gesture, I won't.

Except for one more story, which sums up my experience nicely: AP colleague Peter Banda and I were covering a wildfire, watching an airplane drop slurry in a canyon below us late one afternoon, and for a moment, things seemed almost quiet and peaceful. Peter said, "Can you believe we get paid to do this?" There have been several times I couldn't believe it. It's been a thrill.

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Jim Clarke, AP Director - West, and former Denver chief of bureau, adds:

When the higher ups at Mother AP make the big mistake and promote a guy like me, here's what happens. Almost every day in Denver, I walk in the door and glance around. When I see Dan Elliott at his desk, I feel better. Dan is the sort of professional that the AP is built on. Day after day, when news breaks, he handles it. He steadies the younger staffers and gets the news on the wire, fast and accurately.

He's the kind of staffer you miss immediately. And then you miss him again in a couple of months, when everything goes pear shaped and you wished you had Dan there to square it away. And I say this even though he's a Cardinals fan.

After riding motorbikes in South Vietnam for work and pleasure, Carl Robinson back in the saddle in Australia





Carl covering Vietnam War on his Honda 90. Photos by Le Ngoc Cuong/AP

Carl Robinson ([Email](#)) - I've been a life-long motorbike rider and used one frequently in South Vietnam for both work and pleasure. It was an easy way to get around and I always reckoned if I ran into a VC ambush on a run outside of Saigon, I'd just do a quick U-turn and get the hell outta' there. I used a bike frequently for day trips out of Saigon, often for "reaction shots and stories" for various news stories and occasions, e.g., the Moratorium marches, moon landing etc.

On my regular trips back to today's Vietnam, I hop instinctively back on a bike and am right at home zipping in and out of traffic. I've made several long exploratory trips around the country, most memorably along its entire northern border with China a while back.

But back in Australia where cars dominate the roads, I've never dared ride a bike until after our younger son Lincoln recently bought one. And despite my years of experience, getting a licence wasn't easy and I needed two formal courses - first an L for Learner and then a P for a one-year Provisional licence. Last week, the day before my 76th birthday, I got my "P for Pensioner" - and ready to ride.

To illustrate, in the photos above, here I am covering the movement of US armoured troops shortly before the Cambodia Invasion of 1970. A second one of me out interviewing GI's at a unit outside of Saigon. (Their first comment, "What the hell are



you doin' here?!" And more recently, me and 6-year old grandson Toby, last week after I got my P.

Connecting mailbox

More on hyphens

Dave Skidmore ([Email](#)) - Reading (in Tuesday's Connecting) the impassioned defense of The AP's hyphen style from my esteemed former colleague Paula Froke (The AP, and before that, Penn State's Daily Collegian) caused me to recollect an age-faded

yellow sticky note tacked to the bulletin board next to my computer. It says, "'If you take hyphens seriously, you will surely go mad.'- John Benbow, former editor of the Oxford University Press." Wise words.

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My Memories of 9/11

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - I remember well the day those planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City, a day that "Will go down in infamy."

That morning, 8:45 a.m., September 11, 2001, the world fell into shock as two planes hit the skyscraper towers, leading to their total collapse, and killing some 3,000 people, including 400 rescue personnel who rushed in to attempt rescues and save lives. Many died later from their injuries and physical deterioration. After all of this time, the heroic rescue people, those who survived, and the families of the deceased, continue their battle for overdue reparations.

I remember that day like yesterday, as I was volunteering for the non-profit agency Helping Hands on the second floor of the Rudy Haywood building on South Main St., in Rocky Mount, VA. Rudy loaned me his little radio, and I had to place it in an open window to improve reception. We all gathered and listened intently to the almost panicky reporting, as various stages of the disaster developed, including another terrorist plane strike against the Pentagon in Washington, and the

passengers' heroic act of overtaking the terrorist pilot and crew and forcing a crash in a field near Shanksville, PA, killing all aboard.

As a retired Associated Press journalist, I emotionally lived the tremendous, unbelievable, news event, and all of the planning, and scurrying about to formulate news coverage. Instant coverage is tantamount; coordination is unbelievable, and communication is of the essence.

The three almost simultaneous disasters immediately changed the country and its people. There was an outpouring of sympathy, fear, anger, and cohesiveness as the news spread from eastern shore to western shore, and beyond. There seemed an immediate rebirth of brother and sisterhood. There was a national bonding. Petty things were put aside. We talked of heroes, sacrifice, helplessness, and, of course, hope. Religions of all faiths, except for maybe the Muslims, bonded in a common cause. The nation bonded as never before. There was a giant sense of patriotism, with American flags flying proudly everywhere in the nation. Yet we remain in a state of emergency, and alertness to this day.

A huge piece of irony is the fact that the Muslim terrorists that brought about these disasters were living amongst us in this country. They had plenty of time to plan, and at the same time fit into their American communities.

The terrorists were agents of Osama bin Laden, of the Saudi Arabian royal family, and the leader of the Muslim terrorist group, Al-Qaida. Much later, bin Laden was sought out from hiding, and killed by two bullets in a U.S. Seals raid on May 1, 2011. His body was dumped at sea.

Al-Qaida, as such, has faded a bit, but continues to compete with ISIS, and the Taliban in Afghanistan, and parts of the Middle East, for control of the terrorist world, and its battle against democracy, and freedom of the world's peoples. It has caused a disruption of world order, poverty, displacement, and generally a down-play of human beings, livelihood, respect, and freedom of mind and body. Other parts of the world also feel the effects.

But now, 18 years later, we are continuing to feel the effects and horror of that 9/11 event. It continues to affect our politics, policy, and wars and battles of the world. Russia had been occupying Afghanistan since 1979, and for some 10 years after that, but then left in frustration and defeat. After the World Trade Center disaster, American troops were sent into Afghanistan to battle the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Our troops are still there after all of these years. It has been described as the longest war in history.

This total world discord has led to nation-after-nation being afraid, disordered, and battling for survival. The U.S. battles for its former world leadership role, but we

struggle over tariffs, atomic weapons development, and other sensitive matters.

Whatever the outcome, we know there will be battles for mankind, for now and for generations to come. Yes, 911 was, and is, a major focal point for our bonding, and the world's future.

A very salient point was made concerning attacks on the United States. Japanese Admiral Isoroku **Yamamoto, a leader in the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1942,** questions the effectiveness of the attack on Pearl Harbor, **saying, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."**

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the former U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, probably said it best, "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face, you are able to say to yourself: I lived through this horror, I can take the next thing that comes along."

Yes, we, as a nation, continue to fly our flags with pride, and we continue to gird ourselves against the next challenge to our liberty.

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I want this to be my obit photo someday

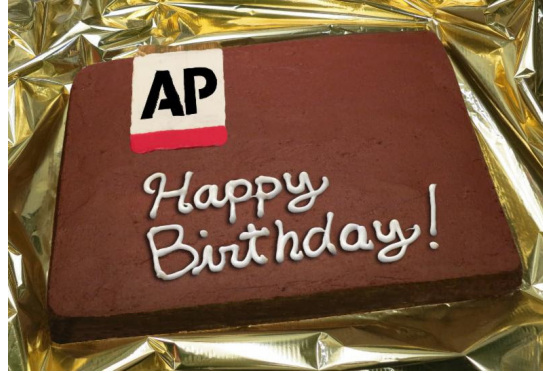


Susan Ragan (Email) - Paul, I so understood how you liked seeing Otis Williams of the original Temps (see Monday's Connecting). I think I was very different in high school. I liked the Temptations and Motown better than the Beatles.

So when I worked at UPI in LA, I shot the Grammys several times and when they got to the R&B male at this one, it happened to be my favorite, Marvin Gaye. Well, they made him stand in the deadline photo for quite a while waiting to be photographed with the female R&B winner and he became very uncomfortable. So I took it upon myself to make his wait more interesting and I got my favorite photo of myself in my whole career. Reed Saxon of the LA AP buro shot the best photo of the 30 or so I received later from all the photographers in the deadline room.

I think I want this to be my obit photo someday.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Joe Somma - joesomma82@gmail.com

Erin Madigan White - erinmadiganwhite@gmail.com

Stories of interest

***Cokie Roberts, longtime political journalist,
dies at 75***



FILE- In this April 19, 2017, file photo, Cokie Roberts speaks during the opening ceremony for Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. Roberts, a longtime political reporter and analyst at ABC News and NPR has died, ABC announced Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019. She was 75. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Cokie Roberts, the daughter of politicians and a pioneering journalist who chronicled Washington from Jimmy Carter to Donald Trump for NPR and ABC News, died Tuesday of complications from breast cancer. She was 75.

ABC broke into network programming to announce her death and politicians including former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama offered sympathy.

Roberts devoted most of her attention to covering Congress, where her father Hale Boggs was a House majority leader who died in 1972 when his plane went missing over Alaska. Her mother, Lindy Boggs, took over his Louisiana congressional seat and served until 1990, later becoming ambassador to the Vatican.

Roberts co-anchored the ABC Sunday political show "This Week" with Sam Donaldson from 1996 to 2002. She was most proud professionally of a series of books about women in Washington. "We Are Our Mother's Daughters" was about the changing roles and relationships of women. She also wrote two books with her husband, Steven Roberts, about marriage and an interfaith family.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the NPR story on her death. Shared by Scott Charton, Doug Pizac.

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Veteran television newsman Sander Vanocur dies at 91

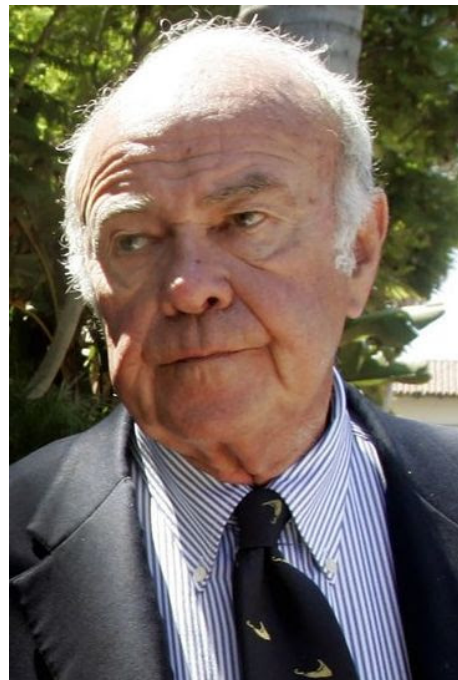
By ANDREW DALTON

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Sander Vanocur, a television newsman who for decades covered momentous events from political campaigns to assassinations, the Vietnam War to the civil rights movement, has died, his son said Tuesday.

Vanocur died Monday night in Santa Barbara, California, said Chris Vanocur. He was 91. He had been dealing with dementia in recent years.

As national political correspondent at NBC in the 1960s, Vanocur was a questioner at the first presidential debate between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960, then covered Kennedy's administration as a White House correspondent.

"His storied career put him on the front lines of the biggest political stories of the 1960s, the first stories being televised for many of us," NBC News political director Chuck Todd said in a segment Tuesday.



2006 AP Photo/Reed Saxon

Vanocur was among the last people to interview Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, where he was assassinated shortly after winning the California Democratic primary in his run for president in 1968.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



(Shared by Bruce Lowitt)

Today in History - September 18, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 18, the 261st day of 2019. There are 104 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 18, 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

On this date:

In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which created a force of federal commissioners charged with returning escaped slaves to their owners.

In 1940, Harper and Brothers published "You Can't Go Home Again" by Thomas Wolfe, two years after the author's death.

In 1947, the National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment and the position of Secretary of Defense, went into effect.

In 1959, during his U.S. tour, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev visited Wall Street, the Empire State Building and the grave of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Khrushchev called on all countries to disarm.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld (dahg HAWM'-ahr-shoold) was killed in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia.

In 1964, the situation comedy "The Addams Family," inspired by the Charles Addams cartoons, premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.

In 1975, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco, 19 months after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1990, The organized crime drama "GoodFellas," directed by Martin Scorsese, had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1994, tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis (VEE'-tuhs gehr-uh-LY'-tihs), 40, was found dead in the guest cottage of a friend's home in Southampton, New York, of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

In 2001, a week after the Sept. 11 attack, President George W. Bush said he hoped to "rally the world" in the battle against terrorism and predicted that all "people who love freedom" would join. Letters postmarked Trenton, N.J., that later tested positive for anthrax were sent to the New York Post and NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw.

In 2007, O.J. Simpson was charged with seven felonies, including kidnapping, in the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in a Las Vegas casino-hotel room. (Simpson, sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison, was released on parole in October 2017.)

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of protesters rallied in defiance of Iran's Islamic leadership, clashing with police and confronting state-run anti-Israel rallies. Writer-editor Irving Kristol, known as the godfather of neoconservatism, died at 89. The final episode of "Guiding Light" aired on CBS, ending a 72-year run on radio and television.

Five years ago: In a show of solidarity with Ukraine, President Barack Obama welcomed the new president of the embattled former Soviet republic, Petro Poroshenko, to the White House. Congress cleared the way for the U.S. military to train and equip Syrian rebels for a war against Islamic Group militants. Home Depot said a data breach that lasted for months at its stores in the U.S. and Canada had affected 56 million debit and credit cards. Voters in Scotland rejected independence, opting to remain part of the United Kingdom in a historic referendum. The Royal and

Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, Scotland, ended years of male-only exclusivity as its members voted overwhelmingly in favor of inviting women to join.

One year ago: The death toll from Hurricane Florence rose to at least 37 in three states; the victims include two female detainees being taken to a mental health facility in a van that was overtaken by water in South Carolina. China announced tax increases on \$60 billion worth of U.S. imports, a day after the U.S. announcement of new tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese-made goods. Russia said a Russian reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by a Syrian missile over the Mediterranean Sea, killing all 15 people on board; the Russians blamed Israel, saying the plane was caught in the crossfire as four Israeli fighters attacked targets in Syria.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jimmie Rodgers is 86. Actor Robert Blake is 86. Actor Fred Willard is 86. Gospel singer Bobby Jones is 81. Singer Frankie Avalon is 79. Actress Beth Grant is 70. Rock musician Kerry Livgren is 70. Actress Anna Deavere Smith is 69. The U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Ben Carson, is 68. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino is 67. College Football Hall of Famer and retired NFL player Billy Sims is 64. Movie director Mark Romanek is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg is 60. Alt-country-rock musician Mark Olson is 58. Singer Joanne Catherall (Human League) is 57. Actress Holly Robinson Peete is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ricky Bell (Bell Biv DeVoe and New Edition) is 52. Actress Aisha Tyler is 49. Former racing cyclist Lance Armstrong is 48. Opera singer Anna Netrebko is 48. Actress Jada Pinkett Smith is 48. Actor James Marsden is 46. Actress Emily Rutherford is 45. Actor Travis Schuldt is 45. Rapper Xzibit is 45. Comedian-actor Jason Sudeikis is 44. Actress Sophina Brown is 43. Actor Barrett Foa is 42. Talk show host Sara Haines (TV: "GMA3: Strahan, Sara & Keke") is 42. Actor/comedian Billy Eichner is 41. Actress Alison Lohman is 40. Designer Brandon Maxwell is 35. Congressman and former NFL player Anthony Gonzalez, R-Ohio, is 35. Actors Brandon and Taylor Porter are 26. Actor Patrick Schwarzenegger is 26. Country singer Tae Dye (Maddie and Tae) is 24. Actor C.J. Sanders is 23.

Thought for Today: "Make your mistakes, take your chances, look silly, but keep on going. Don't freeze up." - From "You Can't Go Home Again" by Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938).

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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