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# Connecting - December 09, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

December 09, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019,

"When I was a youngster," **Norm Abelson** says, "it was expected that older folks, like grandparents, would act with great dignity and reserve. As my years piled on, I decided to take another direction..."

Our colleague explains his approach to life in an essay that leads today's issue of Connecting. I am guessing Norm would agree with the singer Pink, in "Raise Your Glass", and her lyrics, "Don't be so serious."

Today's issue brings first responses to our call for the story behind your first AAA (national) wire byline.

And one last thought, on a serious note: Today's issue notes the death of former Joplin Globe editor **Jim Ellis**. I had the privilege, as Jim's AP bureau chief, to know and work with him for 14 years. Rather than resist change, Jim embraced new technology including the AP Leaf electronic darkroom that revolutionized photography. He took the Globe's AP membership responsibility most seriously and instilled it in his staff including another friend and former Connecting colleague, the late **Carol Stark**, who would become editor. RIP, Jim.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

## Getting old? Try acting young and foolish

**Norm Abelson** ([Email](#)) - Not long ago, just months shy of my 89th birthday, I intentionally jumped into a big puddle of water.

These results ensued: A great fountain of muddy water splashed its way up my pant legs.

More than a few fellow shoppers in the parking lot looked on curiously.

Magdalene, my partner, couldn't stop laughing.

Most importantly, I felt free.

Let me try to explain. I was the first grandchild in the family, so as a kid I was always on display, dressed to the nines, not daring to get dirty. And certainly not even thinking about jumping into a mud puddle. In the years following, conventional behavior ruled, and I obeyed it religiously. Calling attention to myself? No way. What would people think? But as time passed, and I found myself nearer the end and farther from the beginning, self-consciousness took a back seat to fun. And sometimes, as the puddle-jumping incident demonstrates, just plain foolishness.

There's a wonderful old song, "Young and Foolish," that opens:

"Once we were foolish children  
playing as children play...  
Now we're growing older  
we have no time to play."

Then the tune wistfully recalls the carefree young days,

"Smiling in the sunshine  
laughing in the rain...  
I wish that we were young and foolish again."

I heeded the admonition.

After taking jazz-singing lessons, I bought a karaoke machine, even started singing before small groups. At the amusement park I delighted in chasing after Magdalene in the bumper cars, and (to hell with the diet), downing mounds of greasy French fries. I became a "picker," collecting kid stuff, my house now chock-a-block with Disney memorabilia, toy cars, and vintage cap pistols.

Once on Independence Day, I swung sparklers over my head while running along the beach, yelling "Happy Fourth!" Began playing the harmonica (O.K. with Magdalene) and the kazoo (She hates it.). Asked my granddaughter, Natasha, to introduce me to the new pop music. Some of it is darn good, even hummable. Oh, yeah, I let my hair grow long and affected a Van Dyke beard.

Begin to get the picture?

Most of the time I am still doing all the regular stuff - reading, cooking, paying the bills, changing my socks. and, of course, writing every day. As to the outre behavior, it's just that sometimes I...well, let me share a few explanatory quotes:

"The idea is to die young as late as possible." -Ashley Montagu

"You will do foolish things...do them with enthusiasm." - Colette

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."  
- George Bernard Shaw

What other free-wheeling behavior has popped up? Well, if you're up my way shopping, and you happen to hear some old guy happily whistling and singing oldies from the '40s and '50s as he makes his way along the supermarket aisles, that'll be me.

## My first AAA byline



**Baby shoes worn by one of the orphans on the plane that crashed. From the Gerald Ford Museum.**

**Jim Hood (Email)** - I almost hung up on the woman who called the Denver bureau in 1975, promoting a bake sale at her church in Boulder, Colorado.

"Ma'am, that's not really the kind of news we handle. You should contact the Boulder Camera (the AP newspaper in Boulder)," I said, trying to make my way through the pile of broadcast wire copy that had accumulated that day.

"But this is important," she insisted. "Thousands of orphans are about to be left behind in Vietnam when the U.S. pulls out and we're trying to save them."

Soon I was rolling along the highway to Boulder, where I would visit the church women and their adopted Vietnamese-American children who were learning to love McDonald's and the Broncos.

I pieced together a story about the efforts by the Boulder group and others around the country who were seeking to evacuate children who would be abandoned when American troops left Vietnam.

The story was supplemented by the General Desk with reporting from Saigon and elsewhere and moved on the AAA Wire. It got a lot of attention. Soon President Ford took time out from his flu vaccine drive to announce that the U.S. would operate 30 flights a day until the children were all evacuated. More than 2,500 children were eventually loaded onto military transports and flown from Tan Son Nhut to waiting adoptive families in the U.S.

The initial flight, however, ended in tragedy when an AC-5A Galaxy crashed and broke apart shortly after takeoff, killing 78 children, 35 government staff and a number of volunteers, including my contact -- the woman whose call led to the AP story and awakened the nation's interest.

I learned of the crash when the General Desk called me at home at 3 or 4 a.m. and asked me to get out to Boulder as soon as possible and get the reaction of the woman's family to her death. I did as instructed but must admit I was glad to find the house dark and to get no response to my doorbell rings.

In the years that followed, there were complaints that some of the children might not truly have been orphans, and that the effort was essentially racist -- white people trying to "save" children from their mixed-race parents. Could be, but everyone I encountered did the best they could under extreme time pressure and as far as I could tell, had only the children's interests at heart..

I'm sad to this day that the generous and courageous Boulder mother who was my source and contact died in the crash, leaving her adopted children orphans once again. I'm embarrassed that I cannot even remember her name, although I can still see her and her children lounging around their spacious suburban home, enjoying the new life they would never have had without her.

I guess we all can think of the people whose lives and deaths we covered, even if we can't call up their names. Did we help them? I like to think so, even if the story didn't end the way we had hoped it would.

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**Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)) - My first A-Wire byline was also my first A-Wire budget story, and it came my first day on the job with the AP.

I joined the Des Moines bureau on Monday, Oct. 3, 1977. The day before, a story out of Ames, Iowa, had caught the eye of the General Desk. Prince Mohammed al Faisal, a nephew of the Saudi Arabian king, was interested in using icebergs to solve his country's freshwater problems. He put up a bunch of money to bring 200 experts to a conference at Iowa State University. To get attention, he'd even flown a couple-ton chunk of iceberg from Alaska to Ames.

Since I was brand new and utterly useless in the bureau, News Editor Don Beman dispatched me to cover the conference. "We'll need a budget line by 10 o'clock," Don said as I headed out the door. "What's a budget line?" I asked, before being told to just find a story and phone him with the lead.

I broke speed limits to get up I-35 to Ames. With one eye on the clock (it was already 9:30 a.m.), I grabbed a list of participants and desperately looked for somebody to interview. I spotted the name of a Dutch oceangoing tugboat captain - as a Navy vet and longtime sailor, I knew the Dutch were marine salvage experts - and tracked the guy down.

Our 20-minute hallway interview gave me my budget line: A guy who tows things across the ocean for a living says it would be really hard to tow an iceberg to Saudi Arabia.

Before dictating the story to Don, I attended the conference luncheon. Bits of ice were chipped off the prince's iceberg and used to chill drinks. I remember the ice bubbling as it melted, releasing air that had been trapped for hundreds of years.

New York liked the story and wanted more. Don sent me back the next day, and I notched my second A-Wire budget and byline in two days.

By week's end, I was learning how to take hog markets and file night radio.

Iowa State's website.

## Connecting new-member profile: Hiro Komae



Hiro Komae at the New York Photo Desk in 2015. (Photo/Patrick Sison)

**Hiro Komae** ([Email](#)) - In November 2015, I sat on a chair with my old boss from Cairo, surrounded by neon signs only to realize minutes later I was at the Times



Square, a few days before I started my first day as a photo editor for the New York Headquarters Photo Desk.

I became a full-time employee for the AP in 2013 as a photo editor for the Middle East Photo Desk in Cairo, when Egypt was erupting with daily protests before a coup. I was there for two and a half years before coming to New York. Before Cairo, I was a freelance photographer based in Tokyo. I also worked for the AP's Asia-Pacific Photo Desk as a photo editor on a contract base, in two different occasions, total three years. While working for the Asia photo hub in Tokyo, I got to travel on shooting assignments to cover the aftermath of the meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant, as well as other port towns wiped out by tsunami following the M9 earthquake in northern Japan in 2011.

Before returning to Japan in 2005, I was a staff photographer for local papers in Texas cities for seven years. I first came to the United States in December 1991 and graduated from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in photojournalism in 1997. I was a truck driver for a few years in Osaka, my hometown in Japan, before moving to the States, not knowing what to study in college and not knowing many English words.

## **Connecting mailbox**

***Go visit the Newseum before it closes Dec. 31***



**Steve Paulson** ([Email](#)) - I would strongly urge journalists who have not seen the Newseum to see it before it closes.

My wife and I flew to Washington D.C. to tour the museum on Thursday and were very impressed. They had displays showing the dangers of reporting, including the remains of the car driven by Don Bowles, an investigative reporter for The Arizona Republic, whose murder was linked to his coverage of the Mafia. There is also what remains of the camera used by William Biggart, a freelance photographer who died in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, the only photographer to be killed while covering the attacks. A documentary of his last photos shows the towers crumbling as he did his job and covered the story. The lenses on his camera look like they exploded, and weren't crushed, leaving his film intact as his final legacy.

There are also copies of broadsheets dating back to the 1500s, with detailed explanations of the history up until recent events. The Newseum also tackles the issue of fake news, and acknowledges the mistakes of journalists that led to serious miscarriages of journalism. I did object to the \$10 fee for a tour in addition to the \$20 entrance fee, which I believe should have been done by a docent from the field of journalism who could explain how journalists cover stories. I was pleased to see busloads of children who were excited to see how they get their news. I was also a bit surprised by the Newseum store, which offered T-Shirts proclaiming FBI, along with coffee cups labeled FNN-Fake News Network. Thank goodness they weren't selling T-Shirts labeled "Press" or "Media," though I did wonder why they had a bulletproof vest in the museum store.

I wish the museum could continue its mission explaining the importance of a free press, along with the mandate in huge letters in front of the building outlining the First Amendment that members of Congress are forced to pass on their weekly trips to Reagan National Airport. The museum tour will go on the road after it closes, but there is no substitute for the real thing.

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## ***A memory of covering Pope John Paul II in 1986***



**John Miller** ([Email](#)) - Enjoyed the pictures in the Dec. 5 newsletter of AP staffers on the plane with Pope Francis. I thought your readers might enjoy how things were on Pope John Paul II's plane as we returned from visiting 12 cities in 10 days in India in February 1986.

In the above photo, that's me to the left standing on a seat. I recall asking His Holiness a question, but I can't for the life of me remember what it was or what he said in response.

Standing above me with the mustache is Phil Pulella of Reuters, who I believe is still working in Rome. Holding the AP microphone over my shoulder (with glasses) I think is Brad Kalbfeld of AP Broadcast. The man with curly hair with his back to the camera and holding a microphone is Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

Note that Brad is wearing short sleeves. We were just about to land in Naples after a long flight from a very hot Mumbai (Bombay). Our flight had been diverted from Rome because a rare heavy snowstorm had closed Fumincino Airport. We had to ride in our summer clothes on an unheated train to Rome.

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## ***-73- 2 U is a greeting on the Fromson car***



**Dodi Fromson (Email)** - Apropos your natal day, here's a photo of the license plate on Murray's (Fromson) car, which my son and daughter like to drive when they visit. It gets a lot of attention and questions! (As noted Friday when Ye Olde Connecting Editor's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday elicited a few notes ending with -73-, that term -73- - in old telegraphic code means "best regards."

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## ***Commuting to the 20th Century***



**Will Lester** ([Email](#)) - Reasons why I love my commute from Washington, D.C. to a small town (Shady Side, Maryland) on the Chesapeake Bay:

1. The commute home leaves behind the craziness of the news, partisan infighting and overstated accusations on both sides of the political aisle.
2. The sirens that wail away on the streets of D.C. and impatient, pushy drivers are gradually left behind as you drive east toward home.
3. It weaves through national forest on Suitland Parkway. Deer are visible on the drive, two or three times a week, beautiful creatures munching on their dinner and staring with disdain at the passing traffic.
4. On the way in you can drive almost all the way to Washington before you emerge from the forest and see the Capitol and the Washington Nationals stadium - something my nature-loving dad marveled at on a visit many years ago.

5. The occasional view to the east of a rising crescent moon, a brilliant orange and bigger than any you have seen, gives a sense of the awesome natural beauty that occasionally overwhelms the senses. Or the geese flying above in formation, or the hawks soaring overhead or the occasional murmuration of swirling blackbirds.

6. The drive through the towns of Deale and Shady Side reminds how they have avoided the urban sprawl that afflicts so many areas by demanding cautious and slow development.

7. The community of Shady Side is by the Chesapeake Bay, which is a magnificent sight, even as it fights the inevitable problems associated with growth, like pollution.

8. The best route home goes by the common waterfront on Chesapeake Ave. shared by all residents of the neighborhood, thanks to some very smart planning by the original developers.

9. The nighttime view of the bay is often punctuated with the lights of cargo ships and other massive vessels navigating the deeper waters on the eastern side.

10. The people, a mix of locals, retirees, and city commuters, are as relaxed and unworried about their image as they can be, whether shopping for groceries, going out for a meal or launching their early commutes.

11. The total effect makes it feel like a place to escape from the problems, pressures and challenges of the 21st Century back to the 20th Century, and I say that in the most positive way.

12. The commute of an hour (or more) each way is second nature after 20 years, with the soothing sounds of XM radio helping melt the tensions of the nation's capital.

In conclusion, I acknowledge there are many pleasures of living in a great place like Washington, D.C. - great restaurants, many entertainment options and a very well-designed and beautiful city. But the other option has its joys as well.

*(Will Lester is an editor on the DC Desk of the AP's Washington bureau.)*

## ***Best of the Week***

# AP all-formats crew provides unmatched coverage of Albania earthquake



**Rescuers try to free a man from a collapsed building after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake in Thumane, western Albania, Nov. 26, 2019. Rescue crews with excavators searched for survivors trapped in toppled apartment buildings and hotels after the pre-dawn earthquake that killed 51 people. AP PHOTO / VISAR KRYEZIU**

A resourceful all-formats team dominated the play with strong content delivered at lightning speed in the hours immediately following the earthquake that killed dozens in Albania.

Jolted out of bed by the 6.4-magnitude earthquake just before 4 a.m., correspondent L Lazar Semini in Tirana knew immediately he was dealing with a major story. He got his family to safety and went to work.

Communications networks were shaky, but he managed to reach colleagues in other formats by phone, including Tirana photographer Hektor Pustina, who had rushed from his 12th floor apartment after the quake struck. While Semini filed his first copy to the Asia desk, Pustina secured photos from his network of Albanian sources before heading toward the hard-hit city of Durres.



Read more [here](#).

## ***Best of the States***

# **Dual labors of love: Documenting a Chicago neighborhood that would not die**



**Hasan and Mary Smith stand cheek to cheek outside their newly rehabbed home in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood of Chicago, Sept. 11, 2019. The home is one of dozens of "reclaimed" houses and apartment buildings that went vacant during the mortgage crisis that began in 2008. Smith, a former gang member, turned his life around and is now part of the South Side neighborhood's renewal. AP PHOTO / MARTHA IRVINE**

An uplifting all-formats profile of Chicago Lawn, a South Side neighborhood that struggled in the wake of the Great Recession. But residents were not prepared to let their neighborhood succumb to the same malaise that had engulfed many other areas of the city. Instead, they came together to make Chicago Lawn a desirable place to live.

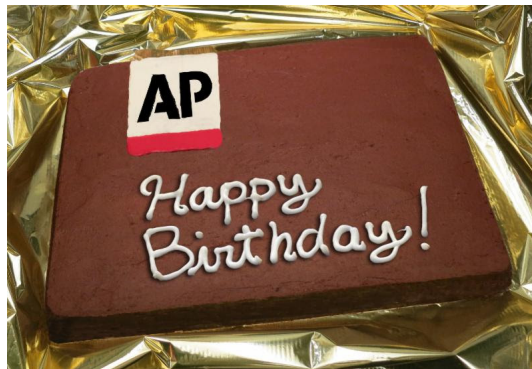
Chicago-based triple-threat Martha Irvine - a national writer who now reports in text, photos and video - has always been interested in telling stories about the city's

neighborhoods that buck stereotypes. So when she was approached by a property attorney who was volunteering his time to a grassroots project to "reclaim" abandoned housing in a neighborhood on the city's South Side, she visited the neighborhood and launched a multimedia project.

Irvine also applied for and received a Restorative Narrative Fellowship from [ivoh.org](http://ivoh.org) and the Michigan-based Fetzer Institute - funding for journalists to tell the stories of people coming together to solve problems. The fellowship allowed Irvine to spend a bit of her own time pursuing the story, evenings and weekends, in addition to time on the clock. Emily Leshner, now a New York-based AP producer and shooter, also became interested in the project, spending a weekend in Chicago to shoot with Irvine.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Howard Goldberg - [newsdigits@gmail.com](mailto:newsdigits@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***Newsonomics: This is how the 5 biggest newspaper chains could become 2 - and it all comes down to one day, June 30, 2020*** (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

Is an end in sight?

The first half of 2020 "will be the final dance of the newspaper industry," one of my savviest financial sources told me Thursday - someone who's been right on the money for years. "Everything will get resolved in the first half of 2020."

By "everything," he means the consolidation of ownership and control of the United States' major newspaper companies. What as recently as three weeks ago were five big chains - Gannett, GateHouse, McClatchy, Tribune, and Alden Global Capital's MNG Enterprises - could well, by the middle of 2020, be two. In sight is the big industry-wide rollup I first pointed to way back in 2011.

Because of their origins in local communities, the newspaper business historically lacked the centralization and scale of other industries. Even the "big" chains that developed as family owners cashed out in the 1970s and 1980s weren't really that big. When Al Neuharth - "the brash and blustery media mogul who built the Gannett Company into a communications Leviathan," according to his New York Times obit - died in 2013, Gannett owned 93 daily newspapers. That was still less than 7 percent of the nation's total.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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## ***7,700 people have lost their jobs so far this year in a media landslide*** (Business Insider)

**By Benjamin Goggin**

The media industry continued to execute cuts in December and November as Gannett, Highsnobiety, and the CBC reduced headcounts.

The cuts followed large rounds of layoffs and buyouts earlier in the year from companies including BuzzFeed, Verizon, and Vice Media.

The massive cuts this year represent a recent trend in media that has seen upstart companies and newspapers alike shrinking and disappearing.

Here are the media jobs that have been lost so far in 2019.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane.

***And...***

## ***USA Today owner Gannett guts several newsrooms as GateHouse takeover begins*** (New York Post)

**By KEITH J. KELLY**

Gannett, the owner of USA Today, slashed more than 200 jobs on Thursday in its first big downsizing since its takeover by New Media Investment Group's GateHouse Media last month.

At least 20% of the cuts hit newsrooms.

Gannett, which did not change its name as a result of the merger, did not confirm the cuts. The tally was provided by a crowd-sourced spreadsheet on media website Poynter.org, which counted 204 cuts by the end of Friday across 46 daily papers, including the elimination of 41 newsroom jobs.

The Indianapolis Star was the hardest hit, with 29 jobs whacked and six newsroom positions cut. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel saw 11 positions eliminated, including buyouts for seven reporters and one editor. The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Kentucky, lost nine people.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright, Mark Mittelstadt.

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## ***Jim Ellis, former Joplin Globe editor, dies at 83***

**By Debby Woodin**

Jim Ellis, a retired editor and editor emeritus of The Joplin Globe who shaped the paper's news operation for decades, died Friday after an illness.



Ellis, 83, Joplin, worked 43 years in the news department. He was editor and editor emeritus for 17 years, retiring in 1998.

After his appointment as editor in 1982, Ellis was responsible for news department policy, operations and planning. He led the newspaper into digital technology, selecting the equipment needed to transition the news department into the use of computers.

During his tenure, the Globe won five first-place Missouri Press Association General Excellence awards in its category during the 1980s and 1990s, along with numerous awards for the individual work of reporters, photographers and page designers.

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

## **Today in History - December 9, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2019. There are 22 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1990, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) won Poland's presidential runoff by a landslide.

### On this date:

In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.

In 1911, an explosion inside the Cross Mountain coal mine near Briceville, Tennessee, killed 84 workers. (Five were rescued.)

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

In 1960, the Domino's Pizza chain had its beginnings as brothers Tom and James Monaghan started operating a pizzeria in Ypsilanti, Mich.

In 1962, the Petrified Forest in Arizona was designated a national park.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan-authorization that officials of New York City and State said would prevent a city default.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

In 1987, the first Palestinian intefadeh, or uprising, began as riots broke out in Gaza and spread to the West Bank, triggering a strong Israeli response.

In 1992, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation. (The couple's divorce became final in Aug. 1996.)

In 2000, the U-S Supreme Court ordered a temporary halt in the Florida vote count on which Al Gore pinned his best hopes of winning the White House.

In 2013, scientists revealed that NASA's Curiosity rover had uncovered signs of an ancient freshwater lake on Mars.

Ten years ago: Five young American Muslims were arrested in Pakistan over possible links to terrorism. Iran claimed that a newly-built U.N. station to detect nuclear explosions was built near its border to give the West a post to spy on the country. Former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, 82, died in San Juan. Actor Gene Barry, 90, died in Woodland Hills, California.

Five years ago: U.S. Senate investigators concluded the United States had brutalized scores of terror suspects with interrogation tactics that turned secret CIA prisons into chambers of suffering and did nothing to make Americans safer after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate, paid a solemn, rain-drenched visit to the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum as they wrapped up their first visit to New York. Mary Ann Mobley Collins, 77, a former Miss America and actress, died in Beverly Hills, California.

One year ago: A massive storm brought snow, sleet and freezing rain across a wide swath of the South, cutting power to hundreds of thousands. Melvin Dummer, the former Utah gas station owner who claimed that billionaire Howard Hughes had left him \$156 million for rescuing him on a desert road, died in Nevada at the age of 74; courts had determined that he lied, and that the will in which he was named as a beneficiary was a fake.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kirk Douglas is 103. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 89. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 85. Actor Beau Bridges is 78. Football Hall of Famer Dick Butkus is 77. Comedian-songwriter Neil Innes is 75. Actor Michael Nouri is 74. Former Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., is 72. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Kite is 70. Singer Joan Armatrading is 69. Actor Michael Dorn is 67. Actor John Malkovich is 66. Country singer Sylvia is 63. Singer Donny Osmond is 62. Rock musician Nick Seymour (Crowded House) is 61. Comedian Mario Cantone is 60. Actor David Anthony Higgins is 58. Actor Joe Lando is 58. Actress Felicity Huffman is 57. Empress Masako of Japan is 56. Country musician Jerry Hughes (Yankee Grey) is 54. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., is 53. Rock singer-musician Thomas Flowers (Oleander) is 52. Rock musician Brian Bell (Weezer) is 51. Rock singer-musician

Jakob Dylan (Wallflowers) is 50. TV personality-businessperson Lori Greiner (TV: "Shark Tank") is 50. Country musician Brian Hayes (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 50. Actress Allison Smith is 50. Songwriter and former "American Idol" judge Kara DioGuardi (dee-oh-GWAHR'-dee) is 49. Country singer David Kersh is 49. Actress Reiko (RAY'-koh) Aylesworth is 47. Rock musician Tre Cool (Green Day) is 47. Rapper Canibus is 45. Actor Kevin Daniels is 43. Actor-writer-director Mark Duplass is 43. Rock musician Eric Zamora (Save Ferris) is 43. Rock singer Imogen Heap is 42. Actor Jesse Metcalfe is 41. Actor Simon Helberg is 39. Actress Jolene Purdy is 36. Actor Joshua Sasse is 32. Actress Ashleigh Brewer is 29. Olympic gold and silver medal gymnast McKayla Maroney is 24.

**Thought for Today: "The real question is not whether machines think but whether men do. The mystery which surrounds a thinking machine already surrounds a thinking man." [-] B.F. Skinner, American behaviorist (1904-1990).**

## 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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