



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - December 20, 2019

1 message

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

Fri, Dec 20, 2019 at 9:08 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

December 20, 2019

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019,

Our colleague **Mark Hamrick** shares the following:

This is for friends and former colleagues of my father **Dan Hamrick**, whose career in journalism stretched from West Virginia and New York (in the AP) to Kansas.

He is hospitalized near his home in Akron, OH and will likely be for a while. Facing some big health challenges at 82, he's fully aware (talking a lot as you might imagine), engaged and in good spirits. For those of you interested in sending him a card, his address: Dan Hamrick, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, Room 4223, [1 Akron General Ave., Akron, OH 44307](#). If you want more info or want to send him an email, please do so through me directly - [hamrickusa@gmail.com](mailto:hamrickusa@gmail.com)

We lead today's issue with the Flash that AP filed Wednesday night on the impeachment of President Donald Trump by the U.S. House - and provides some background on the use of Flashes in past stories. It is written by our colleague **John Daniszewski**, AP vice president and editor at large for Standards.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## **In a 'flash': Alerting news of the president's impeachment**

Details	Linked Media	Preview
✉ eputman2   wdcedited		
Slug *	BC-US--APNewsAlert	
Headline *	President Donald Trump impeached by US House of Representatives	
Summary *		
Byline		
Bytitle		
Dateline	WASHINGTON	
Eds. Note		
Body	0 words	
<b>Publish Settings</b>		
Urgency *	Flash	
Platform *	Print,Broadcast,Online	
Audience *	Datastream,Latin America and Caribbean	
Category *	Government and politics	
Content Type *	Spot Development	

**This screengrab from Dec. 18, 2019, shows the AP "flash" that alerted President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives. (AP Photo)**

**By John Daniszewski**

At 8:34 p.m. ET on Wednesday, AP pushed out the news, "President Donald Trump impeached by US House of Representatives."

Prepared in advance and transmitted by editor Eileen Putman in Washington within seconds of the completed vote on the House floor, those nine words comprised one of the rarest of stories in AP's history: They moved as a "flash."

AP's internal filing guidelines state, "In the case of exceptionally important news, AP may send a 'Flash.'"

That means that the news will move across the internet with the fastest possible priority, overriding any other news being transmitted by AP in the moment.

In the digital era, this priority is not normally seen by the end user, but it is contained in the metadata of the story - the information about a story that only a computer reads.

Editors determined last week that the third impeachment of a U.S. president warranted a "flash," a designation given to stories of transcendent or historical importance.

Other news that was important, but not necessarily transcendent or historic, traditionally would have carried the slightly less urgent status of "Bulletin."

However, the term Bulletin has been phased out by AP in recent years. Instead, the first word on all important breaking news is slugged simply, APNewsAlert. And more important news alerts will be sent out to subscribers to AP's mobile app with an audible alarm, a so-called "noisy" alert.

Nevertheless, the concept of a "flash" still excites AP filers. The word itself stirs the adrenaline. It still means sending the most important, historic news at AP's fastest priority.

To push the button on a flash becomes something to reminisce on or to brag about years later because one is part of the history.

A collection of flashes amassed by my predecessor as standards editor, Tom Kent, included two truly transcendent ones, on Sept. 11, 2001, when AP moved two flashes when each of the two World Trade Center towers collapsed in the terrorist attack.

But others he cited did not quite reach the same level.

\_ Nov. 6, 2012 - Barack Obama re-elected president

\_ Dec. 18, 2011 - North Korea says supreme leader Kim Jong Il has died

\_ Feb. 11, 2011 - Egyptian VP says President Hosni Mubarak steps down

\_ Aug. 16, 2008 - Michael Phelps wins record eighth gold medal at Beijing Olympics

\_ Feb. 19, 2008 - Official media says Fidel Castro resigns presidency

\_ Dec. 27, 2007 - A party aide and a military official say Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has died following a suicide bombing

\_ Oct. 14, 2003 - China launches manned spacecraft

The AP has been sending flashes for at least 113 years, and probably longer.

According to a 1946 edition of the internal publication AP World, managers sought to standardize the use of the "flash," in an order that went out to all news wire operators on May 1, 1906, two weeks after competitive reports from the Great San Francisco Earthquake had riveted newspaper readers across the country.

"News matter of supreme importance which would necessitate the issuance of extra editions should be sent first as a "flash," in a message not to exceed ten words, and should go on all leased wires," the order said. "Such "flash" must take precedence over all bulletins, must go upon each wire ..., must be sent instantly upon the development of the news, and must never exceed ten words in length."

(They must have been really serious about that 10-word limit.)

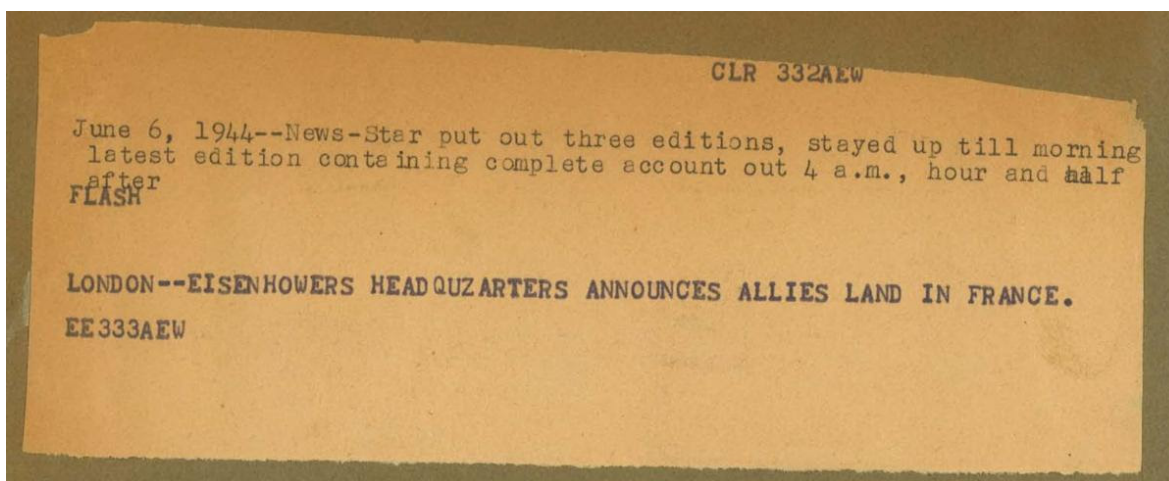
Teletype machines or teletype operators would attach "bells" to flashes - meaning they would literally ring in the newsrooms of AP's members and customers when the alert was printing out, setting the flashes apart for the normal din and clatter of the teletype machines. Five bells were standard for flashes, but some enthusiastic operators might add even more. When the bells rang, editors would race over to the machines to find out what had just happened.

Through the 20th century, flashes were sent rarely, perhaps once or twice a year, and some years could pass with no flashes at all.

Here is a sampling of some other notable AP flashes:

\_ 1941 - U.S. declares war on Japan

\_ 1944 - Eisenhowers Headquzarters [sic] announces allies land in France



\_ 1963 - Two priests who were with Kennedy say he is dead of bullet wounds

\_ 1969 - Eagle told to go for a landing

\_ 1969 - Astronauts land on moon

\_ 2005 - The Vatican says Pope John Paul II has died.

One other flash, which may seem particularly relevant in light of Wednesday night's events, was sent on Jan. 4, 2007.

\_ Jan. 4, 2007 - The House elects Nancy Pelosi first woman speaker.

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

## Impeachment of Trump voted top 2019 news story in AP poll

By DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) - The drive by the Democratic-led House of Representatives to impeach President Donald Trump was the top news story of 2019, according to The Associated Press' annual poll.

Trump also figured in the second and third biggest stories of the year: the fallout over his immigration policies and the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into whether his election campaign coordinated with Russia.

But it was impeachment that was by far the top choice in the AP poll, a story that gained steam with each passing week after details emerged about a phone call in which Trump pressured the newly elected Ukrainian president to announce an investigation into his chief Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden.

Congress held a series of nationally televised hearings during the inquiry, culminating with a party-line vote Wednesday evening to impeach an American president for the third time in U.S. history. The impeachment process laid bare the deep partisan divisions roiling American politics during the Trump presidency.

The selections for Associated Press story of the year were made by a panel of editors and managers from newspaper, TV station and AP newsrooms around the globe.

Read more [here](#).

## More memories of Wirespeak

**Rick Cooper (Email)** - The other thing that was almost unique about wire speak was the references of individuals by their initials. If you said LDB everyone knew you were referring to Lou Boccardi; KF was Keith Fuller.

One of the first messages I received at the AP read, "KF wantsno if you KC (former General Manager Kent Cooper) kin?"

It took me a minute to realize it wasn't about any relatives I might have had in Kansas City before answering. I also thought it might be a good idea not to say anything about my mother's cousin who was married to one of the brothers of Sam Newhouse Sr.

-0-

**Mike Feinsilber** ([Email](#)) - When I wrote this story in 1997, I wasn't sure AP, which I joined from UPI in 1980, would be eager to run so friendly a piece about its former competitor. My concern was groundless. AP moved the story without a blink.

## **New Book Spells Out '30' in Newspeak**

**By MIKE FEINSILBER**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON - It is the 1950s, and in Tokyo and New York two guys in white shirts, ties undone, are communicating electronically with the latest technology.

"SOS ETWIFE HEADS TOKYOWARD SMORNING SANSTOP," New York tells Tokyo. "MUCHLY APC EYEBALL ARRIVAL. URGENTEST NEED THUMBSUCKER CUM ART."

These were marching orders for the fellow in Tokyo. Put into English, the message said, "The secretary of state and his wife will fly nonstop to Tokyo this morning. We need you to be on hand for their arrival, but first we urgently need a news analysis and pictures to go with it."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

**Joe Galloway** ([Email](#)) - Ref Dan Elliott's Wirespeak note: the way I heard it told and retold and occasionally considered appropriating it for my own use the way it went in UPI was:

UPSTICK JOB ASSWISE.

-0-

**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - In Charles Richards' Learning the Art of Wirespeak (Dec. 18 Connecting), he says, at one point, "Every bureau, then as now, had its own two-



digit call letters."

That reminded me of the following series of messages I exchanged a couple of months ago with former AP colleague Michael Rubin and AP Customer Support:

--

Michael,

When you said, "I still remember yr work schedule initials (BFL) and most of the buro codes as well. Wonder if any of them are still used..." I couldn't let that go unanswered. I rarely let anything go unanswered, which makes Arlene nuts when I want to Google stuff at dinner (at home or in a restaurant) when anyone on television or across the table wonders about anything. So I called AP Sports, figuring I might get someone I know. No luck, and the editor I spoke to had no idea what I was talking about. That led me to [ap.org](http://ap.org) and customer service.

--

Dear AP Customer Service,

After 19 years with The Associated Press in LA and NY, I left AP Sports for the St. Petersburg Times in 1986, when buros still had two-letter designations (WX for Washington, MH for Miami, etc.) I understand the buro designations have changed. How can I obtain a list? It's strictly for my own curiosity, nothing else. In other words, just wondering.

Best wishes,

Bruce Lowitt

Oldsmar, Florida

--

Mr. Lowitt:

I don't remember a two letter code for the bureau. For New York, it is NYC. For Miami it is MIA, for Cranbury it is CTC. For Washington DC it is WDC.

Since you were in Sports, sports must have used a two letter code. Maybe this was something sports used two letters instead of three.

Regards,

Todd Craigmile

AP Customer Support

Email: [apcustomersupport@ap.org](mailto:apcustomersupport@ap.org)

--

Todd,

No, the two-letter codes probably preceded you. I was with AP 1967-86 and during all those years they were two letters. FX for San Francisco, VG for Las Vegas, etc. You must be a lot younger than I am (77).

Bruce

--

Bruce,

Yes, I have never heard of the 2 digit codes. I've been with AP since Oct. 86.

Cheers,

Todd

--

Michael,

I have an idea Todd was (a) never a journalist, or (b) never corresponded with a buro (especially since he spelled it "bureau"). I've decided to let it rest. You know and I know The Real Story.

BFL\*

\*In honor of The AP's new three-letter designation. I knew it'd get around to my way of thinking.

## **Connecting sky shot - Amelia Island, Fla.**



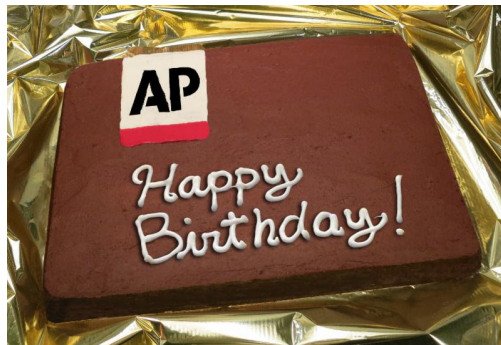
Shared by Bruce Lowitt.

## Holiday lunch with Connecting colleagues



One of our senior Connecting colleagues, Dr. Sam Montello (far right), joined with friends for a recent lunch. From left: Dr, George Varghese, John Travalent, Paul Stevens, George Rishmany and Dr. Sam, 96 years young. All of us first met playing tennis.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Lynn Elber - [lelber@ap.org](mailto:lelber@ap.org)

*On Saturday to...*



**Rik Stevens - [rikstevens1220@gmail.com](mailto:rikstevens1220@gmail.com)**

*On Sunday to...*

**Otto Doelling - [odoelling@hotmail.com](mailto:odoelling@hotmail.com)**

**Beth Grace - [bgrace9992@aol.com](mailto:bgrace9992@aol.com)**

## Stories of interest

***I survived a mass shooting. Here's my advice to other journalists.*** (Poynter)



**The author, Selene San Felice, at the Newseum. (Courtesy)**

**By Selene San Felice**

When I became a journalist, I knew I wasn't signing up to simply write happy human interest features. I knew I would be reporting on death and disaster, and I started preparing myself to handle tragic situations.

But it wasn't until a gunman opened fire in my newsroom on June 28, 2018, that my crash course in trauma began.

In the coverage of the mass shooting that left five of my colleagues dead - the deadliest attack on journalists in America - I was able to start healing by feeling heard. I went from writing our front page centerpiece to becoming it. I had one of CNN's only uncensored f-bombs (Robert DeNiro copied me in September). I was a Time Magazine Person of the Year.

I was also bribed, falsely quoted, harassed and continuously retraumatized by reporters who didn't know how to handle my story.

As I've become an unfortunate expert, I want to share a few lessons from the worst days of my life.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***'Merry Impeachmas' - Washington Post Reporters Appear To Celebrate Impeachment*** (Daily Caller)

By **AMBER ATHEY**

Five Washington Post reporters appeared to celebrate the impeachment of President Donald Trump on Wednesday night in a photo showing them drinking beer and eating snacks at a local Washington, D.C. bar.

"Merry Impeachmas from the WaPo team!" Rachael Bade, who covers Congress for the Post, declared on Twitter.

She posted a photo of herself alongside fellow Post reporters Paul Kane, Karoun Demirjian, Seung Min Kim, and Mike DeBonis. At least three of the reporters in the shot also serve as CNN analysts.

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

-0-

## ***Libyan intelligence acknowledges it arrested journalist***

CAIRO (AP) - Libya's intelligence body said it arrested a prominent local journalist, acknowledging the detention four days after his disappearance, which brought international criticism.

Journalist Reda Fhelboom disappeared after his arrival in the capital Tripoli from neighboring Tunisia. He is founder of the Libyan Organization for Independent Media, which works to document rights violations against Libyan journalists.

Fhelboom's disappearance Saturday drew the attention of local and international human rights advocates. On Monday, the Interior Ministry issued a statement denying any involvement in his arrest and accusing the intelligence services of holding him.

In an unprecedented move, Libya's secretive intelligence body issued a statement Wednesday insisting that Fhelboom's arrest met all legal standards and was coordinated with the country's public prosecutor. However, the intelligence apparatus, which operates independently from the Interior Ministry, made no mention of what, if any, charges have been filed against Fhelboom. His whereabouts are unknown.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

-0-

# ***Who brought down Roger Ailes? A new movie stirs up an argument over former Fox News stars.*** (Washington Post)

**By Paul Farhi**

In "Bombshell," the new movie about the fall of Roger Ailes at Fox News, two famous and popular TV anchors, Gretchen Carlson and Megyn Kelly, provide the one-two punch that brings down a powerful boss in a heroic tale of women fighting back against their own exploitation.

But in real life, it's not quite so simple. There's an argument brewing over who deserves credit for triggering Ailes's demise, one of the major events preceding the start of the #MeToo movement.

The movie, opening Friday, has provoked crossfire between Carlson's and Kelly's camps about how the Ailes saga actually came about. Carlson's supporters say the movie insufficiently credits Carlson and inflates Kelly's role; people close to Kelly counter that it more or less accurately portrays the real sequence of events.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

## **Today in History - December 20, 2019**



**By The Associated Press**



Today is Friday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2019. There are 11 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

### **On this date:**

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving nine months for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

In 1961, playwright-director Moss Hart, 57, died in Palm Springs, Calif.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1968, author John Steinbeck died in New York at age 66.

In 1978, former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was released from prison after serving 18 months for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1995, an American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, NATO began its peacekeeping mission, taking over from the United Nations.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded heterosexual couples.

In 2002, Trent Lott resigned as Senate Republican leader two weeks after igniting a political firestorm with racially charged remarks. The nation's ten biggest brokerages agreed to pay \$1.44 billion and fundamentally change the way they did business to settle allegations they'd misled investors by hyping certain companies' stocks.

In 2005, a federal judge ruled that "intelligent design" could not be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district, delivering a stinging attack on the Dover Area School Board.

Ten years ago: Relatives reported the death of Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, 87, the spiritual father of Iran's reform movement. Actress Brittany Murphy, who'd starred in "Clueless" and "8 Mile," died at age 32. Character actor Arnold Stang died in Newton, Massachusetts, at age 91.

Five years ago: A gunman who'd announced online that he was planning to shoot two "pigs" in retaliation for the police chokehold death of Eric Garner ambushed two New York City officers in a patrol car; Ismaaiyl Brinsley shot Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu to death before running to a subway station and killing himself.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who had differed with Trump on Syria, Afghanistan and ties to NATO, would retire at the end of February; in a resignation letter, Mattis said Trump deserved a defense chief "whose views are better aligned with yours." (Days later, Trump pushed Mattis out two months earlier than planned.) Trump declared that he would not sign a bill to keep funding the government because it failed to provide billions of dollars for his border wall with Mexico. The Trump administration announced that people seeking asylum at the U.S. border with Mexico would no longer be released into the United States and would instead be forced to wait in Mexico. Drones buzzing over the runway forced the shutdown of London's Gatwick Airport during one of the busiest times of the year.

Today's Birthdays: Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 78. Rhythm and blues singer-musician Walter "Wolfman" Washington is 76. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 75. Rock musician Peter Criss is 74. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is 73. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 73. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 73. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 71. Actress Jenny Agutter is 67. Actor Michael Badalucco is 65. Actress Blanche Baker is 63. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 62. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 62. Actor Joel Gretsch is 56. Country singer Kris Tyler is 55. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 53. Actress Nicole deBoer is 49.

Movie director Todd Phillips is 49. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 37. Actor Jonah Hill is 36. Actor Bob Morley is 35. Singer JoJo is 29. Actor Colin Woodell is 28.

**Thought for Today: "All the mistakes I ever made were when I wanted to say 'No' and said 'Yes.'" [-] Moss Hart, American playwright and director (born 1904, died this date in 1961).**

## 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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!