



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - December 24, 2019

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 24, 2019 at 9:14 AM

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



# Connecting

December 24, 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 Tuesday morning on this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019,

**Skip Foreman**, breaking news supervisor for the Carolinas based in the AP's Charlotte bureau, has a bone to pick:

"Few things bother me more," said the 40-year AP veteran, "than when I tell someone I'm with The Associated Press and the person responds, 'What is that, a newspaper?' I know some people avoid the news, but really."

Advanced Placement? A and P Grocery? How about sharing your favorite story on the dichotomy of working - now or in the past - for the world's oldest largest news organization that to many in the general public, at least, is somewhat anonymous. And how you respond.

We lead today's issue with an honor to be bestowed on our former Connecting colleague **Jon Wolman**, who served as AP executive editor and Washington chief of bureau before he was editor and publisher of The Detroit News. Jon died in April 2019 at the age of 68.

And we bring you memories of those bureau codes. My AP journey? It began in AB, moved on to ST, then WI and AQ and NA and finally KX. (One issue: NA, aka Indianapolis, was omitted in the bureau code listing in Wirespeak, shown below. I am guessing there are others.)

Connecting will be back in your Inbox on Friday morning. Early next week, we will remember those colleagues whom we lost during the past year. If you would like to send a memory of any of them who died in 2019, please share with me by the weekend.

I hope your Christmas and Hanukkah holidays are full of love and happiness.

Paul

## **Jon Wolman to receive posthumous 'Let Freedom Ring Award'**

**By BANKOLE THOMPSON**

**The Detroit News**

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January 2020 will put the spotlight on the life of former Detroit News publisher and editor Jon

Wolman. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a former top aide to King and president and founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, will present the "Let Freedom Ring Award" for Journalistic Leadership to Wolman's family for the late publisher's strong commitment to coverage of civil and human rights issues. Wolman died April 15 at 68 after battling pancreatic cancer.

The award, which will be presented at a public ceremony on the evening of Jan. 20 at the Fox Theatre in downtown Detroit, is a remarkable testimony of the kind of news leader Wolman was, and how he demonstrated a profound commitment in tackling the difficult questions of race and economic inequality over the decades as a first-rate newsman. He will be honored alongside Maureen Taylor, leader of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, the late iconic Detroit Congressman John Conyers and others.



In a letter announcing the posthumous honor, Jackson praised Wolman's indelible commitment to his profession:

"For more than 45 years, Wolman applied his splendid skills, compelling courage and instructive integrity to the journalism profession ... [H]e excelled as a journalist of journalists and leader of leaders," Jackson wrote.

Read more [here](#).

## No Christmas at Notre Dame, as fire forces Mass into exile



**This photo taken on Monday Dec. 16, 2019, shows Notre Dame Cathedral lit up at night, in Paris. Notre Dame Cathedral kept holding services during two world wars as a beacon of hope amid bloodshed and fear. It took a fire in peacetime to finally stop Notre Dame from celebrating Christmas Mass for the first time in more than two centuries, since the French Revolution, because the Paris landmark was too deeply damaged by this year's fire. So its exiled clergy, choir and congregation are celebrating the holiday in another Gothic church next to the Louvre Museum instead. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)**

## The art of 'cablese'

**Henry Bradsher** ([Email](#)) - On the subject of wire service, telegraph and cable contractions and abbreviations, the use of "cablese" was common for foreign correspondents in olden, pre-computer days of high filing rates from many parts of the world. When I was in the University of Missouri journalism school in 1950, a course was offered on the subject, but few took it. I did not, although hoping to become a foreign correspondent.

Even in Commonwealth countries where the Cable and Wireless (CandW) rate for press material to London was just a British penny a word, some contractions were used.

In May 1963, a cyclone (hurricane) hit East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), killing some 22,000 people. I was then bureau chief in AP Delhi, which was responsible for coverage of all of South Asia. Before racing off to East Pakistan's capital, Dacca (now Dhaka), I cabled London for relay to New York that I was going "Daccawards."

But I ran into trouble with contractions shortly after being posted in late February 1959 to AP Delhi.

I had been on the overnight foreign desk in New York during the August-September 1958 Chinese Communist shelling of Taiwan's offshore islands. AP correspondents in Taiwan had to file at a rate that, as best I remember, approached a dollar a word, so used as many contractions as possible. One was "antiChiComm", which editors had to expand. Often expansions required rewriting entire sentences for clarity.

On March 21, 1959, news of a Tibetan uprising in Lhasa filtered through only thinly. Wally Sims, then my bureau chief in Delhi, sent me up to the Indian frontier with Tibet to try to gather whatever I could about the uprising and what had become of the Dalai Lama.

In Kalimpong, I interviewed robed Tibetan exiles with green jade earrings in their left ears (this was long before some American men began wearing earrings). They explained the history, geography, latest mule-train-carried reports and other information about Tibet. This included the little-known existence before the Lhasa uprising of armed opposition to Chinese control. It had begun in the eastern Tibetan region of Kham, from which came the name Khampas later applied to all Tibetan guerrillas. While we still did not know that the Dalai Lama was making his way on yaks through the deep-snow Himalayas to exile in India, protected by CIA-trained Khampas from Chinese efforts to capture him, I hoped my reports shed some light on the overall situation.

These reports, filed with the Morse-punched Indian telegraph office in Kalimpong to Calcutta (now Kolkata) for CandW to send on to London, included my use of the term "antiChiCom" for the Khampa fighting.

Soon London came back that editors there were having to spend too much time padding out the reports, especially "antiChiCom", before sending them on to New York. This time and effort were costing more than the penny a word rate would have cost for me to quit using such contractions. So I quit.

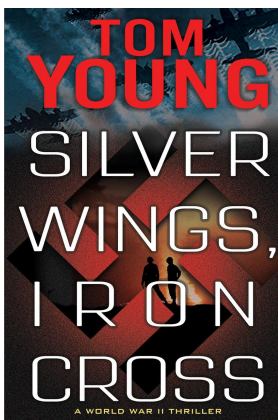
## **New-member profile: Tom Young**

**Tom Young (Email)** - spent ten years with AP Broadcast in Washington, DC, from 1987 to 1997. At AP's Broadcast News Center, Young was a writer, producer, and newsroom supervisor. His colleagues included Brad Kalbfeld, Ed Tobias, Jan Thomas Johnson, Barbara Worth, Eugene Kim, Mark Hamrick, Ken Giglio, Lisa Matthews, Camille Bohannon, Chuck Rice, Paul Courson, Oscar Wells Gabriel, Phil Soucheray, James Limbach, Karen Sloan, David Melendy, and many others.

During his AP tenure, he joined the Air National Guard and flew as a flight engineer on the C-130 Hercules and the C-5 Galaxy. He retired from the military in 2013 at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Young studied broadcast journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received BA and MA degrees. In addition, his interest in fiction writing led him to UNC's Creative Writing program.



After college, Young wrote a few short stories for literary magazines. "But I never had a good idea for a novel that I could sink my teeth into," he said, "until my West Virginia Air National Guard unit got activated after 9/11." His experiences flying into Afghanistan and Iraq inspired his first novel, *THE MULLAH'S STORM*, published by Putnam. That first novel led to a series of six military-related thrillers. Click [here](#) for his website.

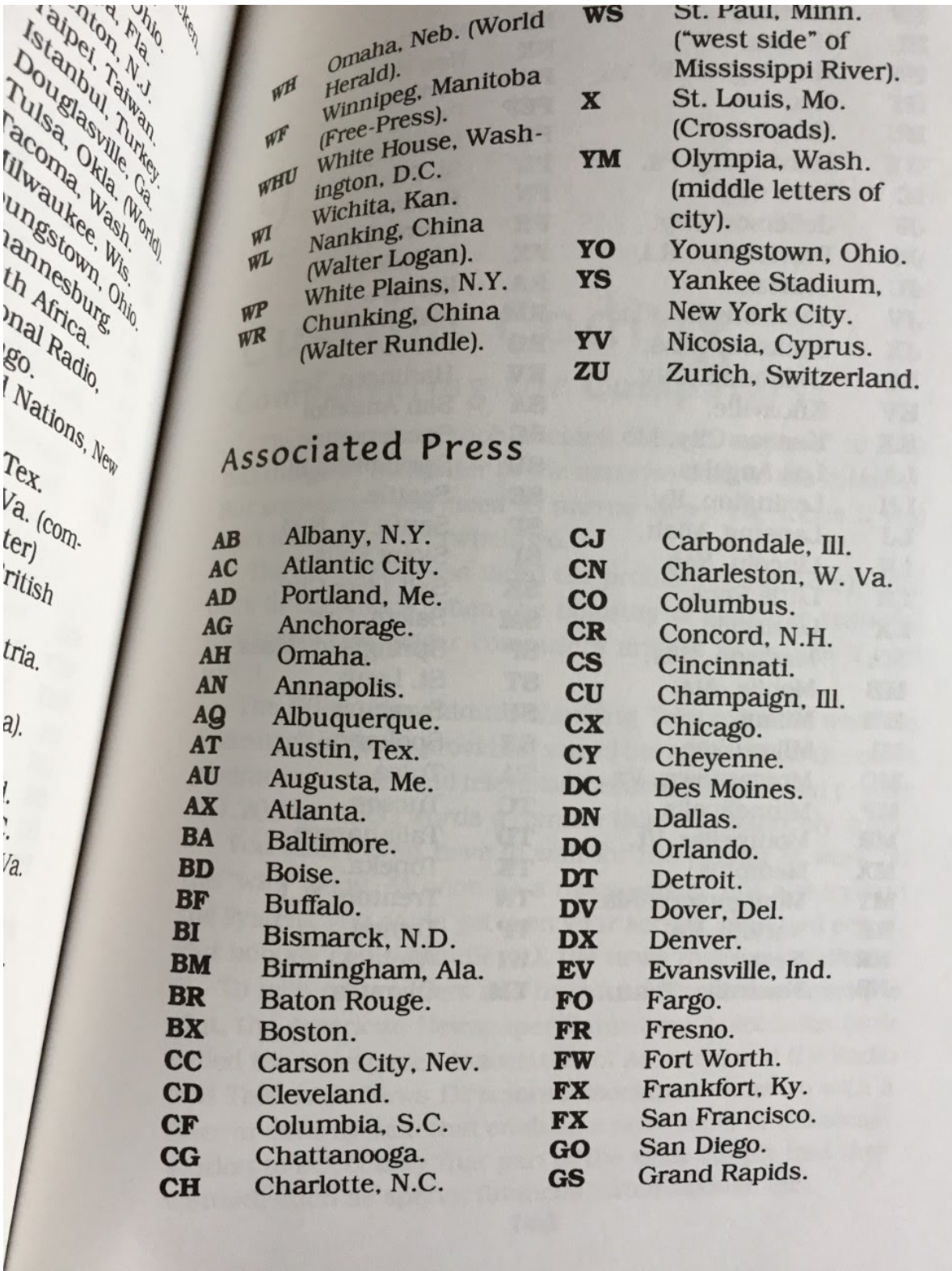


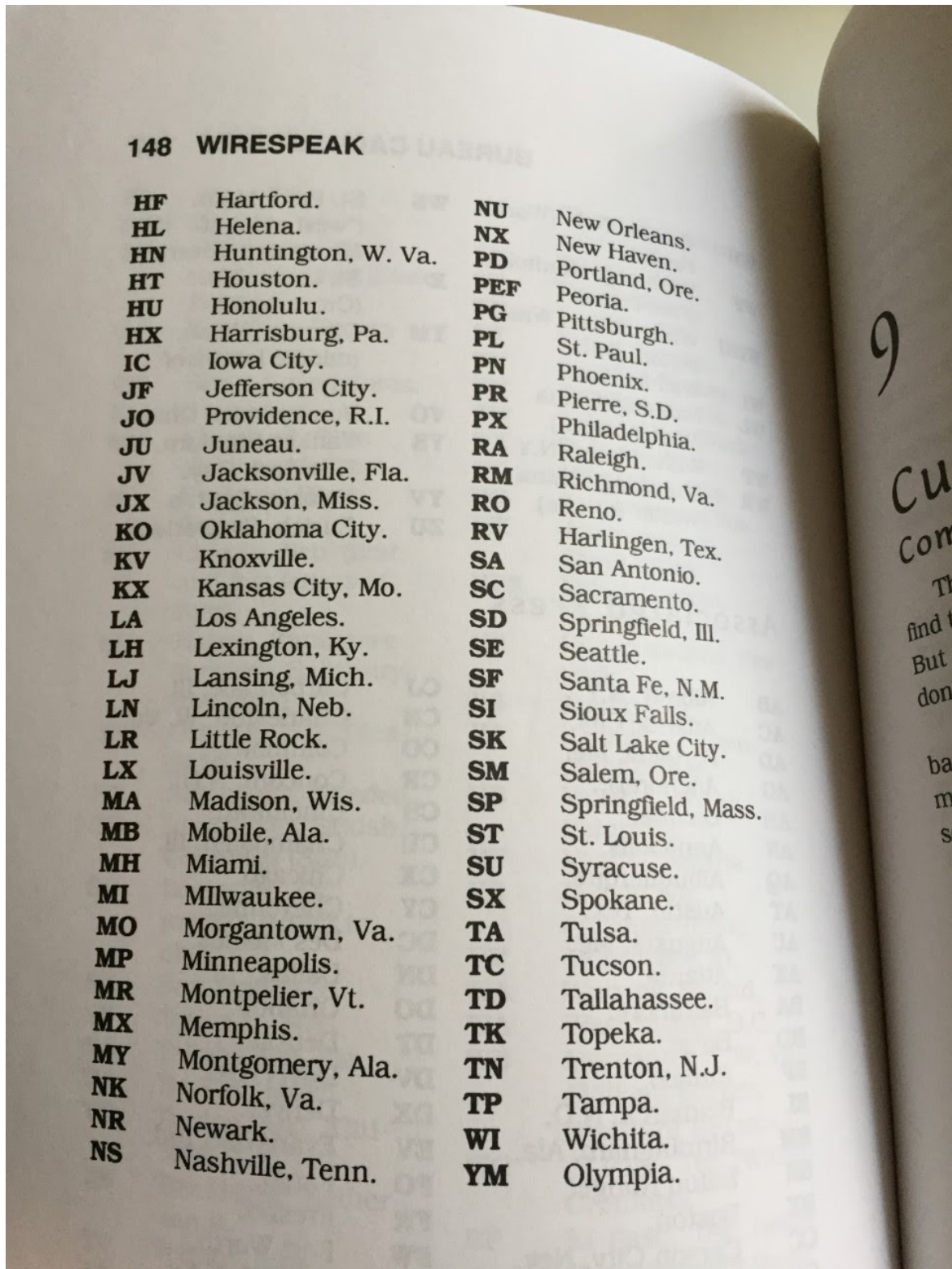
More recently, Young has turned his pen to historical fiction. His newest novel, titled *SILVER WINGS, IRON CROSS*, will be released on May 26, 2020, by Kensington. It is a historical novel set in World War II: A downed American aviator and a deserting German officer try to survive as the Third Reich collapses around them.

Currently, Young is working on another World War II novel. When not writing, he's at his day job: Young is a pilot for Republic Airways, based at Reagan National Airport.

## All you want to know about AP bureau codes







Pages from Wirespeak, shared by Mike Holmes

**Mark Duncan** ([Email](#)) - The bureau codes were an important part of Wirephoto captions when I started with the AP in 1980. The Transmission reference number was the first part of the typed photo caption and from what I see are still used today...now embedded in the digital photo metadata.



The first photo from the Cleveland bureau on any given day was CD1 followed by the dateline and caption. (CD1)CLEVELAND - Cleveland Mayor George Voinovich speaks at a news conference... When the switch was made to color photo transmissions this changed to using 100 numbers for color - CD101, CD102, etc.

For other transmitting locations like the stadium, three letter designations were used. CDS was Cleveland Stadium. Member locations with transmitters also used three letter codes: AKR - Akron, DAY - Dayton, TOL - Toledo.

For a temporary setup (like the World Series of Golf in Akron) AKRX would be used if a wirephoto circuit was installed and XAKR if photos were only sent over standard phone lines (LD). Barry Sweet probably remembers those temporary setups in Seattle - SEX.

With the advent of digital cameras and the ability to send photos from anywhere, the standard for the off site transref was the state two letter code and the photographer's initials...mine was OHMD. I still used the old codes for permanent locations (CD, CDS, CDA) until I retired in 2015.

-0-

**Steve Graham** ([Email](#)) - I'm fascinated by the Connecting discussion of AP bureau codes, since I was the one (supported by John Reid) initially responsible for relegating the Western Union-based two-letter codes to the trash bin -- and suffering the slings and arrows from those to whom change was heresy -- or worse.

(I called such resistance to change the "Joan of Arc Effect," i.e. the tendency to burn supposed heretics at the stake.)

In 1988, the AP rolled out the first implementation of the Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) VAX computer system, which included world-wide networking, for the 1988 Olympics at Calgary (winter) and Seoul (summer).

The internet and the World Wide Web were still in their infancy in those days, but change was coming, including the ability for every bureau in the AP to communicate directly with every other bureau, which did not exist at that time. Today, of course, world-wide communication is taken for granted (and is why you are able to receive this outstanding newsletter).

An analysis of the historic AP bureau codes showed that they were neither unique world-wide nor always intuitive.

Mark Berns was given the unenviable task of developing a set of three-letter codes.

Initially, it seemed to be a simple project, but as it turned out, it was far from simple.

One suggestion was to use international airport codes, but that crashed upon takeoff when we realized that some airport codes were far from intuitive, e.g. CDG for Paris (France), ORD for Chicago, MCI for Kansas City, LGA for New York, etc.

There was also the suggestion that we simply use the first three letters of a city's name, but not only did that lead to duplicates (or worse - I never realized How many San Joses exist and the late Jon Wolman in Washington accurately pointed out that "WAS" would be less than appropriate for the nation's capital.)

Today, of course, the three-letter codes are taken for granted, but Mark deserves a continuing debt of gratitude for his efforts, as does John Reid for supporting the project.

-0-

**Kelly Kissel** ([Email](#)) - A couple of things about the two-digit bureau codes:

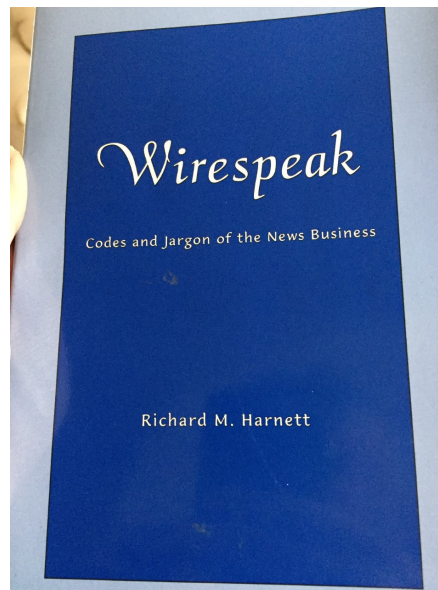
I started in NU (New Orleans) and then went to JX (Jackson, Miss.) and CN (Charleston, W.Va., a code that made sense because we were in the Charleston Newspapers building). After my first time building the zone forecasts (yikes! remember that?) in New Orleans, I wrote on the log, in the Source column, "WX" - shorthand I had always used in previous jobs for the Weather Bureau. A confused Janet McConnaughey asked me why Washington would have involved in doing the zones and the error was exposed.

The three-digit codes started around the time I went to my next post, in STC (State College). I was the fourth correspondent there, and I heard AP's initial address for the buro was patterned after the local airport, which is University Park. Certainly AP wouldn't have named a bureau "UP."

-0-

**Charles Richards (Email)** - Re your unfruitful quest to find a list of the AP bureau codes, the complete list of bureau codes, for both UPI and AP, can be found on pages 141-148 of the 1997 publication, "Wirespeak -- Codes and Jargon of the News Business" by Richard M. Hartnett.

One can access this in about five minutes by clicking on [downhold.org](http://downhold.org), which welcomes you to "The Downholders, a free site intended to preserve the history and lore of United Press International and its predecessor agencies, United Press and International News Service, their alumni (the Downholders), and the people who still work there."



The fifth of 12 underlined headings on that site is:

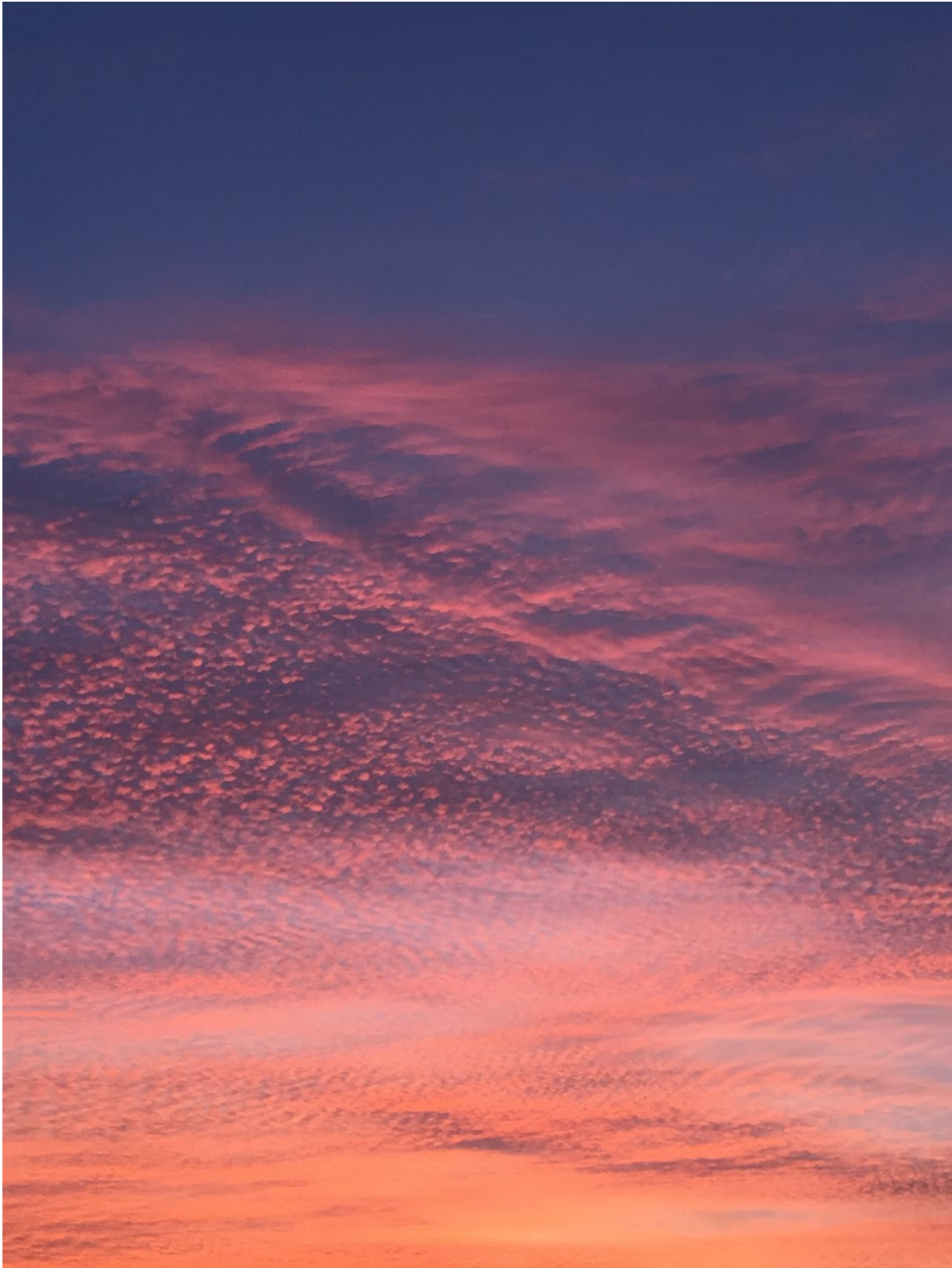
WIRESPEAK - The 1997 book on "cablese" and wire service codes and jargon by Richard Harnett, founder of the "-95-" newsletter and the Downhold Wire listserv. This is a scan of the entire 174 page book, courtesy of Joyce Harnett. Because of the file size (about 22 megs), it is more recommended for a download than online reading. To download, RIGHT-CLICK on the link above and follow the "SAVE LINK AS" instructed.

To access "Wirespeak":

- 1) Go to [downhold.com](http://downhold.com)
- 2) Right-click on "WIRESPEAK" (the fifth bold, underlined item), which will result in the command: "save target as"
- 3) Left-click on that command and you will see "File saved as wirespeak.pdf"
- 4) Accept that and seconds later you have a scan of the entire 174-page book
- 5) The UPI and AP bureau codes are on pages 141 through 148.

But don't stop with bureau codes. That's just Chapter 8. Other chapters are "1--Wire Service Jargon," "2--Wirespeak Glossary," "3--Phillips Code," "4--Morse," "5--Number Codes," "6--Cablese," "7--Secret Codes," "9--Custom Coding," "10--Thirty" and "11Newspaper Jargon Glossary."

# Connecting sky shot - Nebraska



**Mike Holmes** - How's this for one of your exotic locales - sunrise over the Great Plains near Cozad, Nebraska.

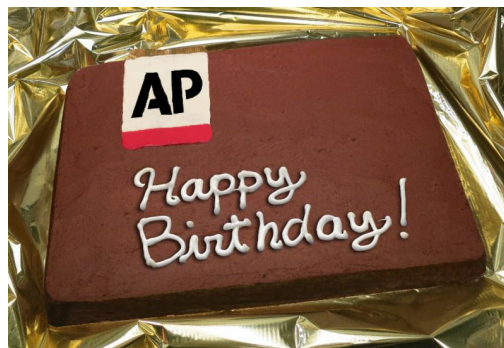


# And a Merry Christmas from Indonesia



**Jim and Graca Reindl** ([Email](#)) - Christmas Eve, Gili Meno, Lombok, Indonesia. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from a peaceful, beautiful island corner of the world.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Bill Wertz** - [wcwertz@gmail.com](mailto:wcwertz@gmail.com)

***On Christmas Day to...*****Ed Bell - [edbell40@gmail.com](mailto:edbell40@gmail.com)****Mike Cochran - [cochranmike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cochranmike@sbcglobal.net)****Chris Connell - [cvconnell@gmail.com](mailto:cvconnell@gmail.com)****Roger Petterson - [repetterson@gmail.com](mailto:repetterson@gmail.com)****Anita Snow - [anitasnow@hotmail.com](mailto:anitasnow@hotmail.com)*****On Thursday to...*****Darrell Christian - [darrellchristian@yahoo.com](mailto:darrellchristian@yahoo.com)****Tom Cohen - [tomandlesley@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlesley@verizon.net)****Peggy Simpson - [pegsimpson38@gmail.com](mailto:pegsimpson38@gmail.com)**

## **Stories of interest**

### ***Publishers prepare for new California law that puts limits on freelance journalists*** (CNN)

**By Kerry Flynn, CNN Business**

New York (CNN Business) - Freelance journalists in California will either be out of work or face limitations on how much content they can produce for one publication. Those are seemingly the only options for media outlets that must soon abide by a California law, going into effect January 1, that affects independent contractors.

California Assembly Bill 5, or AB5, prevents freelancers writers, editors and photographers from contributing more than 35 "content submissions" to a media organization per year. Since the bill was passed in September, publications that rely on California-based freelancers have had to grapple with how to adhere to the new law. Vox Media's sports site SB Nation announced on Monday that it will comply by parting ways with about 200 freelancers in favor of hiring about 20 full-time and part-time employees.

Earlier this month, Sacramento News & Review, an alternative weekly newspaper in California, held a lunch meeting for its two dozen or so regular contributors to tell them that they can either stick to the limit or create a limited liability corporation (LLC) to qualify for a business-to-business exemption. The outlet employs a six-person editorial staff that includes a mix of full-time and part-time workers, but its contributors produce about half of each issue's content.

"Our goal is to make sure they can keep writing," Foon Rhee, editor-in-chief of Sacramento News & Review, told CNN Business. "We can't put the paper out without them."

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

-0-

## ***Death of a Freelancer*** (Huffington Post)

**By Charlotte Alfred**

The wreckage was still smoldering when Christopher Allen reached the wheat fields where 298 people had fallen to their deaths. Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur had exploded in the air, scattering bodies and hunks of plastic and metal across miles of Ukrainian countryside.

Chris picked his way through the debris, trying to take in every detail. He was torn between recording everything and keeping his eyes firmly on the ground, trying not to step on body parts. Some bodies had lost skin or limbs. Others were still strapped into their seats. "They look as if they are manikins, twisted, turned and rearranged," he scribbled in his notebook, "their limbs bent at impossible angles, their skin like dull yellow plastic."

Weeks earlier, the 23-year-old had told his nervous family back in the U.S. that he was going to Ukraine to witness history in the making. He wanted to become a journalist and to get as close to his story as possible. On July 17, 2014, he found himself one hour's drive away from the biggest news story in the world. The death of nearly 300 people from 10 countries put the six-month war between Ukrainian forces and Russian-supported separatists back in international headlines.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

## ***Roenick suspended by NBC Sports for inappropriate comments***

**By STEPHEN WHYNO**

Former NHL forward Jeremy Roenick was suspended indefinitely by NBC Sports on Monday for his inappropriate comments about coworkers.

Roenick made a series of questionable remarks about fellow hockey broadcasters Kathryn Tappen, Patrick Sharp and Anson Carter during a recent appearance on the Spittin' Chiclets podcast. An NBC Sports spokesman said the suspension is without pay and the network would have no further comment at this time.

On the podcast, Roenick discussed a vacation to Portugal with his wife and Tappen where he made repeated references to the NBC Sports anchor's appearance and joked about the possibility of the three of them having sex together.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History -December 24, 2019**



**By The Associated Press**



Today is Tuesday, Dec. 24, the 358th day of 2019. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

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

On Dec. 24, 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

### **On this date:**

In 1809, legendary American frontiersman Christopher "Kit" Carson was born in Madison County, Kentucky.

In 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the original version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1913, 73 people, most of them children, died in a crush of panic after a false cry of "Fire!" during a Christmas party for striking miners and their families at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Michigan.

In 1914, during World War I, impromptu Christmas truces began to take hold along parts of the Western Front between British and German soldiers.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds [-] one second for each day of captivity.

In 1984, actor Peter Lawford, 61, died in Los Angeles.

In 1990, actor Tom Cruise married his "Days of Thunder" co-star, Nicole Kidman, during a private ceremony at a Colorado ski resort (the marriage ended in 2001).

In 1992, President Bush pardoned former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five others in the Iran-Contra scandal.

In 1993, the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, who blended Christian and psychiatric principles into a message of "positive thinking," died in Pawling, New York, at age 95.

In 1994, militants hijacked an Air France Airbus A-300 at the Algiers airport; three passengers were slain during the siege before all four hijackers were killed by French commandos in Marseille two days later.

Ten years ago: The Senate passed health care legislation, 60-39, in the chamber's first Christmas Eve vote since 1895. Sean Goldman, a 9-year-old boy at the center of a five-year custody battle on two continents, was finally turned over to his American father, David Goldman, in Brazil. A woman jumped barriers in St. Peter's Basilica and knocked down Pope Benedict XVI as he was walking down the main aisle to begin Christmas Eve Mass; the pope was unhurt.

Five years ago: Sony Pictures broadly released "The Interview" online [-] an unprecedented counterstroke against the hackers who'd spoiled the Christmas opening of the comedy depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A Jordanian pilot, Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, was captured by the Islamic State group after his warplane crashed in Syria; he was later killed. TCU's Gary Patterson was named The Associated Press college football coach of the year. Western Kentucky held on to defeat Central Michigan 49-48 in a wild inaugural Bahamas Bowl.

One year ago: An 8-year-old boy from Guatemala died while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; he was the second immigrant child to die in December while in the agency's care. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump took Christmas Eve calls from children anxious to find out where Santa was on his gift-giving journey; Trump asked one 7-year-old girl if she still believed in Santa and added, "Because at 7, it's marginal, right?" An hours-long coordinated attack on a public welfare building in the Afghan capital of Kabul left at least 40 people dead, as gunmen held out for eight hours against security forces. A federal judge ordered North Korea to pay more than \$500 million in a wrongful death suit filed by the parents of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died shortly after being released from that country.

Today's Birthdays: Author Mary Higgins Clark is 92. Federal health official Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., is 79. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 75. Actress

Sharon Farrell is 73. Former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is 73. Actor Grand L. Bush is 64. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 64. Actress Stephanie Hodge is 63. The former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeyeh), is 62. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 62. Actor Anil Kapoor (ah-NEEL' kuh-POOR') is 60. Actress Eva Tamargo is 59. Actor Wade Williams is 58. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 56. Actor Mark Valley is 55. Actor Diedrich Bader is 53. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 49. Singer Ricky Martin is 48. Author Stephenie Meyer is 46. TV personality Ryan Seacrest (TV: "Live With Kelly & Ryan") is 45. Actor Michael Raymond-James is 42. Actor Austin Stowell is 35. Actress Sofia Black-D'Elia is 28. Rock singer Louis Tomlinson (One Direction) is 28.

**Thought for Today: "Christmas comes, but once a year is enough." [-] American proverb.**

## 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!