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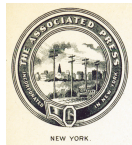
# Connecting - January 06, 2020

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
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Mon, Jan 6, 2020 at 8:59 AM

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# Connecting

January 06, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020,

Our Connecting spotlight shines on **Lindel Hutson**, a veteran Associated Press newsman and chief of bureau and a friend of mine since we first worked together in Indianapolis back in 1982.

The signature story in Lindel's career was the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, on April 19, 1995, that resulted in 168 deaths. Lindel was chief of bureau at the time and played a huge role in the AP obtaining and moving the photo that defined that tragic day.

Lindel was in the AP bureau when a banker named **Charles Porter IV** walked into the office with a handful of pictures that he had just gotten processed at Walmart. All the reporters and photographers were three hours into the story, swamped with making sense of the worldwide event, and so as a favor, Lindel volunteered to take a look at his photos. None of the first pictures was wireworthy and then he came upon a photo that stunned him: A photo of a fireman cradling a bloodied tiny baby.



When it moved, that photo commanded Page One use around the world. Porter and the AP were awarded the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography.

You ever have an similar experience with a story or photo that arrived on your doorstep unsolicited? Please share with your colleagues.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

**Connecting profile**  
**Lindel Hutson**



**Mountain climbing in Tennessee**

### **What are you doing these days?**

I never sit still. I've kept busy working with Freedom of Information Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. I was part of a group that recently finished a book on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall of fame. I'm also heavily immersed in the local art community. I started painting about 20 years ago and, since retiring, work with different art groups two or three times per week. I do both oil and pastel. I spent the last four years as president of the Oklahoma Pastel Society.

### **How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?**

I worked three years at the Jonesboro Sun while in college at Arkansas State. It was a family owned publication and the editor, John Troutt Jr., was a wonderful tutor who took many of us under his wing and helped launch careers. He was instrumental in helping me get on with AP in Little Rock in 1972 after I got out of the Army. I spent a year as city hall reporter for the Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas Gazette before landing with AP. Another Sun alum is Larry McDermott, a former AP COB and assistant to the president, who also was pointed toward AP by Troutt. My early days with AP in Little Rock were exciting and educational. Two AP mentors were Robert Shaw, later COB in Oklahoma City, Indianapolis and Little Rock; and Harry King, who made a career out of the LR (or LIT) bureau as sports editor and later news editor. And then there was John Robert Starr, the COB and an Arkansas legend. Starr was quirky

and Starr was demanding but he ranks among the best newsmen I ever knew. I also had the opportunity to work with Bob Zimmer, who arrived at the LR bureau from Little Rock Air Force Base shortly after me and became a good friend and valued coworker. We bounced many ideas off each other and became a desk team of sorts. Bob became correspondent in Champaign, IL and served as an AP farm writer. He sadly died unexpectedly and way too young. I had spent two years after college in the Army. Because of my journalism degree and experience at the Sun, I was a military journalist in Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and at SHAPE headquarters, the military faction of NATO, near Brussels, Belgium.

**What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?**



Lindel, in 1989

I spent nearly five years in Little Rock as a jack of all trades. You name it, we did it: writing, editing, member pickups, member relations. LR was typical small bureau work and an excellent training ground that provided a lot of experience. I transferred to the New York General Desk in late 1977 and stayed there until 1980 when I moved to Indianapolis as news editor. I was promoted to bureau chief in Oklahoma City in 1989.

**Who played the most significant role in your career and how?**

It's difficult to nail down any one person who was the biggest influence. John Troutt Jr., for taking green kids like me, believing in them and molding them into working journalists. Bob Starr and Harry King in LR were excellent teachers and motivators.

NYGen was a valued educational experience. I greatly appreciated working with some of AP's finest: Bill Ahearn, Julie Dunlap, Marty Suthpin, Jean-Claude Bouis, Roger Peterson, Burl Osborne, Lou Boccardi, Mike Silverman. I'm bound to miss somebody because of my advancing age.

**What was the biggest story you ever covered?**

Like most AP lifers, there's no easy answer. In September 1973, I covered the crash of Texas International Airlines Flight 655 which crashed into a mountain in western Arkansas killing everyone on board. I spent a week working nonstop when Vietnam fell and Fort Chaffee, AR was used as an intake center for refugees. I've stumbled through tornado debris and filed my share of ``It sounded like a freight train...'` quotes.

Maybe the most significant occurred in the OKC bureau the morning of April 19, 1995 when into our chaos walked a fair-haired, bespeckled young man wearing a confused look and holding a handful of pictures processed at Walmart.

We were three hours into coverage of the blast that ripped open the Murrah Federal Building, killing 168. Phones rang nonstop. Reporters called with dictation. Photographers transmitted pictures. Around noon that morning, we were center stage worldwide.

Charles Porter IV asked if we wanted to buy photos from the bombing. I think the initial reaction was, what could this young man possible have that we the pros would not have? But to be courteous, I asked to see his prints. I flipped through three or four that were not worthy of the AP.

And then one photo stunned me.

Porter's photo showed a fireman cradling a bloodied tiny baby. It was a heart wrenching photo, and it is still difficult for me to look at. It became an icon of the Oklahoma City bombing. For AP it won the 1996 Pulitzer Prize.

Another significant date was November 18-19, 1978. I was overnight supervisor on the NY General Desk and I found myself alone when the clock struck midnight, Sunday morning. As was typical, the swing shift crew fled en mass across the street to the Pig N Whistle watering hole, leaving me alone to hold the fort. But not before I was told that something was amiss at a commune in Guyana. We really didn't know what.

Usually there were two people on the overnight for Sunday protective service, but this night I was alone. Bits and pieces had dribbled in of a shooting at a place in Guyana known as the Peoples Temple. A congressman had been shot, as had an NBC correspondent. It was a cluttered story.

An AP stringer from another country was en route by commercial airline but there was no firm ETA.

About 2 a.m., NBC called and asked if AP wanted to participate in a charter flight to Guyana. It would be expensive. I woke up Lou Boccardi, the future president who then was executive editor, for permission to accept NBC's offer.

We didn't have much to go on, but Lou agreed. I then arranged for a reporter and photographer to board the charter.

A couple hours later, NBC called back. They apparently by then knew a big story was at hand and wanted to cut us out of the charter. I said flatly no. We already had a crew ready to leave. Besides, I had awoken Lou from a peaceful sleep.

I left work the next morning worried that I had committed AP money to what might turn out to be a non-story. Hours later, I climbed out of bed and turned on the TV: 918 people had died in a mass suicide in a remote settlement known as Jonestown. To my knowledge, AP and NBC had the full story exclusively.



**Indianapolis News Editor Lindel Hutson and photographer Chuck Robinson take a boat ride through a street in Fort Wayne, Ind. during the March, 1982 floods which left 9,000 people homeless. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)**

In the spring of 1982, flood waters had inundated much of northern Indiana and Ohio. Ground zero was Fort Wayne, much of it under water.

This was a national story that expanded when President Ronald Reagan decided to stop en route from the California to Washington. We had little notice of Reagan's visit, and COB Paul Stevens thought it best I go to Fort Wayne.

Air Force One buzzed the city, landed and Reagan's motorcade went to the area where kids were in a line passing sandbags to hold back the flood.

Reagan gets out of his limo and places himself in line to help pass sandbags. The perfect photo op.

With lights, camera, action, the kid next to Reagan plops a heavy sandbag into the president's outstretched arms. Reagan hadn't anticipated how heavy and clumsy the bags were and it showed. His face turned red, he looked flustered and I thought Reagan, then 71, might have a coronary.

But the Gipper shook it off, of course, and the country watched on the nightly news as the president helped save Fort Wayne. All was well in America.

Maybe Trump today could use some sandbags.

### **Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?**

I can't think of too many things I would change. Maybe stayed in NY longer. But then I would have missed some of the experience of working with a young but eager staff in Indianapolis. And I wouldn't change my bureau chief experiences. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the AP members, and I'm sorry many AP staffers never have the opportunity to get as close to the members as the COBs. You learned a lot about what made the industry tick. There were bad apples, but they were vastly outnumbered by the good guys. This also put me in a position to work with the people in NY Membership. I very much admired and respected Wick Temple, another person who died too young. In my early COB years, I answered to Ben Brown and later Elaine Hooker, a delightful lady who I admire; Rick Spratling, and the late Jim Lagier. Again I'm going to miss someone and don't want to. And of course, Linda Franklin, the long-time Oklahoma news editor and a steady hand on the desk who allowed me to concentrate on membership work.

### **What's your favorite hobby or activity?**

Painting is tops right now. I have over the years grown bonsai trees. There is a very active group in OKC. The difference in art and bonsai trees is oil paintings don't die if you forget to water them. Bob Zimmer and I were model train geeks who were often accused of going around in circles.

### **What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?**

Probably the best vacations were summers with all the family together in a rented house on a mountain lake in Arkansas. We enjoy vacationing in Europe when possible. We were in France, Holland and Belgium a few years ago. It was interesting to be back in Belgium to see how things have changed in the many years since I was based there. My wife and I took a very pleasant trip to the Bahamas many years ago after suffering through a particularly awful Indiana winter.

### **Names of your family members and what they do?**



**On a visit to Arkansas, from left: daughters Sarah Wade, Stephanie Warren; Lindel and Bunny.**

My wife, Eleanor, who goes by Bunny, was a neonatal ICU nurse (critical care for newborn infants) at all our stops. She retired two years ago after being in charge of a program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital for parents taking their critically ill newborns home for the first time.

Daughter Sarah Wade is a chef in Boston. She graduated from Oklahoma State and spent several years with both Marriott and Hyatt before moving to Boston. She recently opened her own restaurant: Stillwater, named for the home of Oklahoma State and not the home of the Minnesota prison facility. She won the grand prize on Food Network's Chopped program last year. She is going to be on another Food Network program, Beat Bobby Flay.

Daughter Stephanie Warren lives in the Houston area. She started working with Dell computer in OKC out of college and transferred to Dell headquarters in Austin a few



years ago. She is part of a group that left Dell and formed their own company and have been quite successful.

Lindel Hutson's email is - [lh0722@gmail.com](mailto:lh0722@gmail.com)

## Connecting mailbox

### *What a difference between .org and .com*

**Steve Graham (Email)** - We mentioned this one in a previous Connecting about why we're [ap.org](http://ap.org), but take a look at <https://www.ap.com/>

"Headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, AP is part of the high-tech "Silicon Forest" of the greater Portland metropolitan area. "

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### *Something treasured came from water in the basement*

**Dan Day (Email)** - If anything good can come of water in one's basement, I may have found it.

We've had some minor seepage in our basement for the last year or so, and Becky and I had thought we put everything up on shelves or in plastic containers.

The lone exception was a cardboard box on the floor, not far from the sump pump. I opened the box today to find a mishmash of office supplies and some folders containing correspondence from my Omaha and Seattle years.

The Omaha material was on the bottom, and the outer hanging folder was wet. The back end of the interior folder was a bit damp, but the photos and papers inside

were OK, thank goodness.

Among the gems I found inside was a message-wire note from April 29, 1988. That was the day the appointment of the "three amigos" was announced on the a-wire: Mark Mittlelstadt to bureau chief in Albuquerque, Ruth Gersh to bureau chief in Des Moines, and myself in Omaha.

The note read:

AH-dad

Can't get through on fones because all lines jammed with obsequious well-wishers so let me just add my astonished congratulations to this improbable appointment.

NY-Silverman

I reckon I laughed even harder today than when Mike's note arrived those many years ago, and I appreciate it all the more.

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***Remembering two of AP's best***



**Bill Haber (Email)** - This photo of legendary but now departed AP photographers James Finley (left) and Dave Martin was taken at Mulate's Restaurant, a guess, 1994-95 in New Orleans when they were in town for a Sugar Bowl. Cajun band and food enjoyed by all.

These were the days we subscribed to the saying "we play as hard as we work." Needless to say we worked really hard that Sugar Bowl. The three of us spent more time together during this time of year than with our families. My family had quite an adjustment to make now that I am home. Just ask Gene Blythe.

In retirement there is only one thing I miss it is the AP family. Great loving kind and generous people, even when we disagreed.

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***More on getting play in New York Times***

**Mike Doan (Email)** - I cannot claim to have had a front-page byline in the New York Times, but I can claim five un-bylined articles in one edition during 1978 (on a date that I cannot find.) At the time, the Treasury reporter for AP also covered the Commerce Department, Federal Reserve, the other banking agencies, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Housing and Urban Development-- what seemed like one-third of the federal government.

The Times relied on its reporters to come up with original material and cover major stories, while it depended on AP for the meat and potatoes of Washington business stories: the economic indicators, Federal Reserve announcements, wage-price guidelines, etc. I was on my own except for superb backup from a staffer who wrote economic analysis.

The beat was divided up after I left AP in early 1979, and I am told that a whole economics team with maybe five staffers now covers business news from Washington.

My father never understood what I did for a living until I showed him a \$10 bill once and pointed to a Treasury Department window on it. "That's my office," I said. Was he impressed! He loved showing that photo to his friends.

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## ***A recollection of unforgettable Y2K experience***

**Chris Sullivan (Email)** - Ted Bridis' vivid recollection of New Year's Eve 1999, Y2K, from a Washington perspective (in Friday's Connecting) reminded me of my own perspective from 50 Rock that unforgettable night-into-morning.

Of course, a special editing desk had been set up long since to try to anticipate and cover any and all angles. AP reporters and photographers were deployed all over the world, and there was a schedule of feeds to the mainbar and endless sidebars that tracked the time zones as midnight arrived at each point. There was a separate team of writers and editors watching for the tech breakdown that we'd been warned for months would come with the shift of the millennium - computer software might not know what to do with a year that began with 20- instead of 19- (or some such technical problem.) Spoiler alert: Our screens did not go blank, and the world did not end that night. In fact, as the revelry advanced, as seen in pictures and words from Sydney Harbor, illuminated by a skyful of bright rocket bursts, to Hong Kong and beyond, the whole world seemed to be having a pretty good time.

A query came in from an editor in Pennsylvania or somewhere, wanting to know the location of the first human birth of the new millennium, and I remember making calls to Pacific islands I'd barely heard of before (can't remember which), to come up with some kind of answer. Another memory: Reaching Mort Rosenblum, who was moving around Paris, reporting from a motorcycle, I believe; as he responded to a question, I could hear the fireworks over the Champs-Elysees or the Place de la Concorde.

It was a breezy night in Manhattan, and a few minutes after the ball dropped in Times Square several blocks away, we looked up from our phones and screens and half-eaten pizzas to notice clouds of confetti from there drifting by the 50 Rock windows like multi-colored snow.

## So, you work for AP. What's that?

**Dave Carpenter** ([Email](#)) - Soon after starting with AP as a vacation relief staffer in Philadelphia in 1977, fresh out of Syracuse U., I went to see a comedy show by an up-and-coming performer named Jay Leno (then 27). As part of his opening bit, he singled out crowd members for interaction and soon pointed at me in the second row. After a couple of questions, looking for his punchline, he said: "And where do you work?" Me: "The Associated Press." Leno (in his jokiest voice): "What is that, a laundry?" Laughter all around, and he moved on to his next foil. No doubt Jay was well acquainted with what AP was, and wasn't, as he monitored his press clippings on the way to the Tonight Show.

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**Pat Casey** ([Email](#)) - The AP is called Mei Lian Shi (may-leon-sure) here in China. It's widely known and well respected, too. I've been sometimes surprised by the number of people in Beijing and elsewhere in China who have heard of the AP. My Chinese friends say that's because the AP is "very famous."

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**Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)) - When I was Austin correspondent, a sheriff's deputy showed up one morning to serve us with legal notice that we were being sued.

It seems the Dallas bureau had picked up a Dallas Morning News story about a penitentiary inmate in Huntsville who was notorious for filing frivolous lawsuits, and so he sued the News and us.

But the service papers identified the defendant as "Associated Press International." I refused to accept it, telling the deputy that we weren't API. After showing him my business card, some letterhead stationery and the big orange AP logo on the wall, he agreed that we weren't API and left. A couple weeks later, he was back: the inmate had corrected his mistake.

I accepted that one. The lawsuit was tossed as frivolous - one of dozens the inmate had filed over the years.

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**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - Mike Harris' entry in Friday's Connecting about his credential experience in Montreal reminded me, in a perverse sort of way, of one of my own.

In June of 1986, after more than a decade of sitting behind home plate at the World Series, I left The AP to become National Sports Features Writer for the St. Petersburg (now Tampa Bay) Times. Four months later I was assigned to write the columns at the Red Sox-Mets World Series.

When I picked up my credential at Shea Stadium for the first game, I saw numbers on it that made no sense to me. It turned out the seat wasn't in the main press box. It was so far down the right field line that it was in fair territory, a makeshift press box in the upper deck. Seagulls were flying below us.

My first thought was "how the mighty are fallen," that I was no longer among the elite of the media. A few minutes later, Jim Murray of the Los Angeles Times sat down next to me and I realized I had the best damned seat in the house.

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**Dave Lubeski** ([Email](#)) - The story in Friday's Connecting from Mike Harris being initially denied a credential at the Canadian Grand Prix brought to mind some of the problems we often encountered in the early years of the radio network.

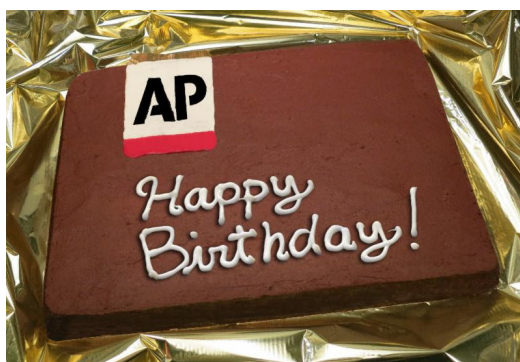
As the new kids on the block at AP Radio in Washington in the mid-70s, we often encountered a prejudice from those who knew the AP was a news organization, but were often confused when AP Radio made credential requests.

More than once in those early days we were told that AP was already credentialed when we made our request. When we tried to explain that we were its radio network we'd be told they would only take requests from one AP source.

Even though we'd been on the air for nearly a decade in 1984 when we applied for credentials for the national championship game in college football at the Orange Bowl, we were told they'd already credentialed a radio network and anyway, there was no more room in the press box.

A few phone calls later we ended up with our credential and a back-row spot in an "auxiliary" press box with no desk or counter and a bar stool for a seat.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Tim Bovee - [tbovee@gmail.com](mailto:tbovee@gmail.com)

Paula Froke - [pfroke@ap.org](mailto:pfroke@ap.org)

Bill Neikirk - [billnei1638@gmail.com](mailto:billnei1638@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***Caldara: The media's progressive bias has a propaganda guide - The AP Stylebook***

(Denver Post)

**By JON CALDARA | Columnist for The Denver Post**

At a recent wedding reception, I ran into a lady I've known for about 15 years. In her mid-60s she is the sweetest, most proper lady in the world. Never once have I heard a harsh word slip through her lips. When the conversation turned to the media, without prodding she simply asserted a loud, unambiguous, "(expletive) the media."

When Trump points to the reporter pool in the back of one of his rallies and states, "They are the enemy," he is singing to people like this. It's one of the major reasons he became president.

It is fascinating how the built-up frustration to the main-stream media carried Trump to victory. It's more fascinating that the media has shown absolutely no introspection into their role in the phenomenon. They really think most Americans see them as they see themselves - brave warriors of truth, not torchbearers for progressive ideology.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko, Jim Spehar.

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## ***Radio Group Preserves Records Of JFK Assassination*** (Radio.com)

**By MARGIE SHAFER**

Original wire copy that crossed on the teletype machines on the day President John F. Kennedy was killed by an assassin's bullet in 1963 is being preserved and archived in Alameda.

On Nov. 22, 1963 KCBS Radio was carrying the Arthur Godfrey show on tape delay when the bulletins from the Associated Press and United Press International spit urgently from a teletype machine at the station.

"Anybody who was conscious in those days will remember that as much as anybody would remember September 11th," said Bart Lee of the California Historical Radio Society, which has a collection of materials from the broadcast.



Read more [here](#).

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## ***How To Recognize A Fake News Story*** (Huffington Post)

**By Nick Robins-Early**

If you've been looking at Facebook lately, you may have seen that Pope Francis endorsed Donald Trump, a town in Texas was quarantined due to a deadly disease and Germany just approved child marriage. To be clear, none of these events really happened - but that didn't stop news of them from spreading like a virus.

Fake news articles - especially throughout this election year - have increasingly become a fixture on social media. These posts, designed to deceive, run rampant across the internet. Only later, if ever, do readers discover that the stories they shared may have been false.

The publication of blatantly inaccurate stories is certainly not new to the digital age, or even the analog era - just check your local supermarket aisle for tabloids - but what is new is how easy it is for a reader to scan a headline on Facebook, hit share and watch his 500 followers do the same.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

***A lesson to live by***

**Ed Williams** ([Email](#)) - Worth sharing again in 2020:

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.



A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

### **MORAL:**

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. **Free your heart from hatred - Forgive.**
2. **Free your mind from worries - Most never happens.**
3. **Live simply and appreciate what you have.**
4. **Give more.**
5. **Expect less from people but more from yourself.**

## **Today in History - January 6, 2020**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2020. There are 360 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 6, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

### On this date:

In 1412, tradition holds that Joan of Arc was born this day in Domremy.

In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married in New Kent County, Virginia.

In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, New York, at age 60.

In 1945, George Herbert Walker Bush married Barbara Pierce at the First Presbyterian Church in Rye, New York.

In 1968, a surgical team at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California, led by Dr. Norman Shumway, performed the first U.S. adult heart transplant, placing the heart of a 43-year-old man in a 54-year-old patient (the recipient died 15 days later).

In 1975, the original version of "Wheel of Fortune," hosted by Chuck Woolery and Susan Stafford, premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution, but denied any advance knowledge about the assault.)

In 1998, In a new bid to expand health insurance, President Clinton unveiled a proposal to offer Medicare coverage to hundreds of thousands of uninsured Americans from ages 55 to 64.

In 2001, with Vice President Al Gore presiding in his capacity as president of the Senate, Congress formally certified George W. Bush the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 presidential election.

In 2003, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused U.N. inspectors of engaging in "intelligence work" instead of searching for suspected nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in his country.

In 2005, former Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen was arrested on murder charges 41 years after three civil rights workers were slain in Mississippi. (Killen was later convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 60 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: James von Brunn, a 89-year-old white supremacist charged in a deadly shooting at Washington's Holocaust museum, died in North Carolina, where he was being held while awaiting trial. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown fended off a challenge to his leadership from within his own ruling Labour Party just months before general elections.

Five years ago: In a blend of pageantry and politics, Republicans took complete control of Congress for the first time in eight years, then ran straight into a White House veto threat against their top-priority legislation to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline. President Barack Obama pledged to stand with Mexico against "the scourge of violence and the drug cartels" as he met at the White House with President Enrique Pena Nieto. Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz, a

trio of star pitchers who dominated in an era of offense, were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame along with Craig Biggio.

One year ago: The Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" was named the best drama picture at the Golden Globes, defeating another movie about musicians, the more heavily favored "A Star is Born." U.S. national security adviser John Bolton said there was now no timetable for U.S. troops to leave northeastern Syria, saying they wouldn't leave until Islamic State militants were defeated and Kurdish fighters were protected. Another round of talks failed to break an impasse over funding for a border wall, as a government shutdown remained in effect.

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Joey, the CowPolka King (Riders in the Sky) is 71. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 70. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 69. Singer Jett Williams is 67. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 65. World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez is 63. Actor Scott Bryce is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kathy Sledge is 61. TV chef Nigella Lawson is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 60. Actor Aron Eisenberg is 51. Actor Norman Reedus is 51. TV personality Julie Chen is 50. Actor Danny Pintauro (TV: "Who's the Boss?") is 44. Actress Cristela Alonzo is 41. Actress Rinko Kikuchi (RINK'-oh kih-KOO'chee) is 39. Actor Eddie Redmayne is 38. Retired NBA All-Star Gilbert Arenas is 38. Actress-comedian Kate McKinnon is 36. Actress Diona Reasonover is 36. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 34.

**Thought for Today: "A little learning is not a dangerous thing to one who does not mistake it for a great deal." [-] William Allen White, American newspaper editor (1868-1944).**

## 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**  
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