



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - January 17, 2020

1 message

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

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# Connecting

January 17, 2020

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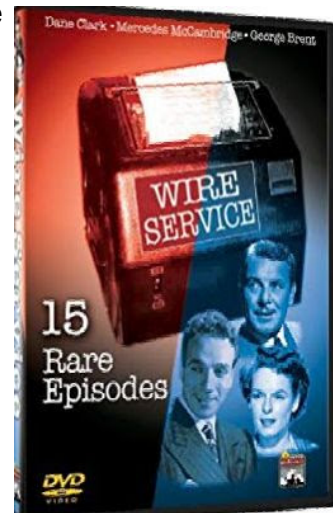
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Colleagues,

Did a TV show in the late '50s called "Wire Service" influence you to become a journalist...or work for a wire?

That's a question one of your Connecting colleagues asks about the show that was loosely based on the doings of the AP and UPI. According to a Wikipedia entry, "Wire Service" focused on three reporters for the fictional Trans Globe wire service, similar to (and obviously inspired by) real-life news wire services such as The

Associated Press and United Press International. It was the first hour-long, weekly scheduled dramatic series with continuing characters to last a full season on network television. However, the three reporters functioned independently of each other, meaning that the series was essentially three different ones sharing a time slot and title. This program was aired Thursdays from September 1956 to February 1957, when it was moved to Mondays. It was not renewed for a second season.



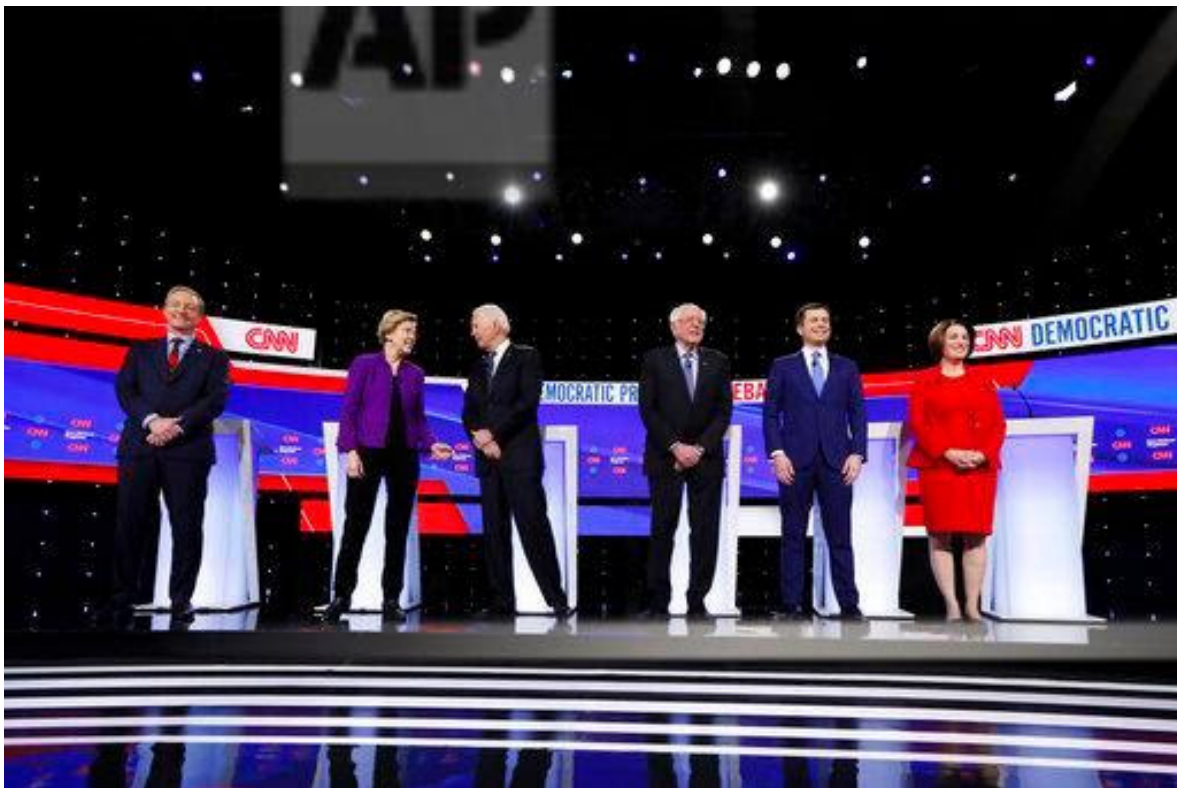
I thank those of you who responded to my request Thursday for your thoughts on how Connecting can get better. One responder, **Dale Leach**, said, "I am reminded each day as I read Connecting that I am a part - albeit a small and insignificant one -- of a group of exceptionally talented, brave and conscientious professionals. To read their takes on some of the most impactful events of our lives is a privilege."

If you haven't yet responded, I look forward to hearing from you. Include in your response, if you wish, any ideas for Connecting features.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## How AP will call Iowa winner



**From left, Democratic presidential candidates businessman Tom Steyer, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., stand on stage, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, before a Democratic presidential primary debate hosted by CNN and the Des Moines Register in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)**

**By LAUREN EASTON**

The Associated Press will declare the winner of the Feb. 3 Iowa caucuses based on the number of state delegate equivalents awarded to the candidates.

AP will base its race call on state delegate equivalents because delegates are the metric used to decide the eventual winner of the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Iowa Democratic Party will also provide two additional results for the first time this year: how much support candidates had from voters at the beginning of the caucuses and how much support they had at the end, after voters backing low-performing candidates are allowed to switch their support. The latter total is then used to determine state delegate equivalents.

AP will report all three results and provide all three numbers to its election subscribers.

AP Election Decision Editor Stephen Ohlemacher explains the decision to base AP's race call on state delegate equivalents in the Ground Game podcast. Click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read more.

## *To my friends and family in Iowa...*

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - To my friends and family in Iowa: I feel your first-in-the-nation caucus pain. For the past four years (and four years before that, and four years before that, and four years ... well, you know), you've been flooded with politicians hoping to become the next leader of the free world. You've been barraged with political ads on TV and radio; your postal mailbox has been stuffed with mailers supporting one candidate or another, or tearing the others done. Your email inbox likely has seen crammed with political messages, social media, too. And let's not get into the robocalls to your telephones.

The rest of the country is largely unaware of what you've been suffering.

As a former newspaper editor in Cedar Falls, then a news manager for AP in Des Moines, I was intimately familiar with the impact of the caucuses during the 1980s. I can only imagine it has been magnified in the decades since.

In typical Midwestern style, let me say it could be worse. At least this time the nomination is only open on one side. The attention is broader when both parties don't have an incumbent.

And it'll all be over in three weeks. The rush of reporters, campaign staff, other operatives out of Des Moines International on Feb. 4 will make your head spin.

And in about 11 months, the process will start over...

## **Connecting mailbox**

## ***Small World story involving an AP shirt***



**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - I was hiking along a jungle path outside of Puerto Vallarta and got separated from my hiking companions. I was telling my tale of woe to a passing hiker, explaining my stupid mistake of putting my wallet and cell phone in my friend's backpack. I was about to ask to use his phone when my friend came

along the trail. The passing hiker then noticed the AP logo on my t-shirt and said "Geez, I come across AP even while on vacation!"

He explained he has a great working relationship with AP as a public relations official for the federal government and enjoys working with Garance "Poppy" Burke and others. I told him I worked with Poppy in Kansas City and suggested he tell her he ran across me in the middle of nowhere.

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## ***More on those New York Times matchers***

**Adolphe Bernotas** ([Email](#)) - I bet many of us had this experience. A staffer in the bureau develops a fine story, pitches it to the General Desk, where it marinates. The staffer calls to ask why it hasn't been used and is told the story is not A-wireworthy, use it on your state wire.

But two nanoseconds after the same story appears in the Times, the General Desk frantically calls the bureau, demanding to know why we don't have the story. We sent it to you last week, we tell the Gen Desk, drop everything and match our own old story.

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## ***A cable - and a comeback - to remember***

**Joe Galloway** ([Email](#)) - Famous comeback messages to New York Foreign Desk (UPI):

After weeks of official Pakistani censorship which cut out any anti-government comments, and unofficial censorship by Bengali punchers at PTT (Post & Telegraph) who cut out any pro-government comments. Plus a week of the India-Pakistan War in 1971 when nothing moved at all out of Dacca, which began that week as East Pakistan and ended it as the independent nation of Bangladesh, I received this cable from New York:

NEED MORE SIGHTS SOUNDS SMELLS COPY EXDACCA.

After some weeping and gnashing of teeth my response, which I assure you I DID SEND, was thus:

DACCA BEST OF TIMES LOOKS LIKE SOUNDS LIKE HELL SMELLS LIKE SHIT  
STOP SITUATION WARTIME MUCH WORSE.

GALLOWAY

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## ***'Shooting' bald eagles - with a Canon***

**Jim Willis (Email)** - John Willis, your "shooting a candidate" remark in Thursday's Connecting reminded me that terms we've used for years sometimes need to be adjusted. I've had to rethink my long-time practice of referring to photographers as "shooters" in light of the many "active shooter" reports we currently see. I was talking with a friend recently who shares my interest in photographing a pair of nesting bald eagles. After I used the term "shooting eagles," I realized a couple nearby was listening in on the conversation. The woman said, "Isn't that illegal?" The man said, "Aren't they hard to hit?" I replied, "Not if you use a Canon."

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## ***Ever been to Male' in Maldive Islands?***

**Joe McGowan (Email)** - Unfortunately, I have not been to Antarctica, but have come close. Babette and I a few years ago took a tour called "Cruce Andino" (Crossing the Andes). You fly into Santiago, Chile, and then fly south to Puerto Montt, Chile. You are at the extreme southern tip of South America. Then you begin a trip across the Andes by boat and bus. You pass several volcanoes AND beautiful scenery. You go through customs and enter Argentina, eventually arriving at San Carlos de Bariloche which has a nearby ski area very popular with wealthy Brazilians and others who want to ski while it is summer in North America. From Bariloche you fly to Buenos Aires and from there fly home.

Also, I have been to one place that I imagine few in Connecting have visited - Malé in the Maldive Islands. While I was based in New Delhi, the Maldives became independent. I decided to report on this newest member of the U.N. I went to travel

agencies, the British High Commission (embassy) and American embassy and no one had any idea how to get to the Maldives, off the southwest coast of India.

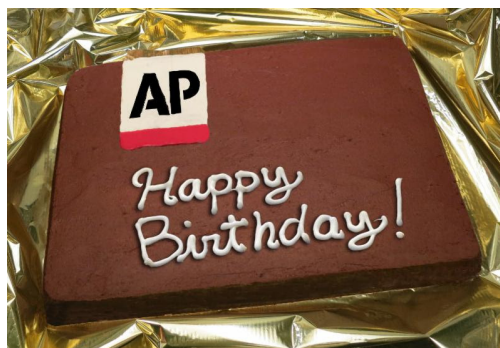
About that time, plans were announced for an Asian Newspaper Publishers Convention in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). I needed to attend that convention, so flew down there. After the convention ended, I called on some of the Ceylonese publishers and then one night went to the bar in the hotel where I was staying. A fellow at the bar had on a sort of ratty looking ship captain's uniform. I sat next to him and, to my amazement, he told me he captained a freighter that would leave the next morning for the Maldiv Islands!! His ship hauled rice from the nearby countries and returned with fish that had been dried in the sun in the Maldives!! I asked if I could go along and he said "yes" but I would have to sleep on deck. He said they would rig some shelter for me. Next day, I reported and the captain informed me one of his officers had to take emergency leave and I could use his cabin. I was unpacking in the cabin when there was a knock at the door. I opened it and a young man tried to hand me two bottles of whiskey and a case of beer. I told him "we are only going to be gone a week" and he replied "oh, if you need more I will get it for you!! I turned down all of the booze.

We arrived in Malé the next morning and the freighter crew began unloading bags of rice into small wind-powered boats that came alongside. There was no dock for the freighter. The captain signaled one of the boats and it came alongside. I went down a rope ladder and got in the boat. I pointed toward shore and off we went. When we neared shore, I took off my shoes and rolled up my pants legs. I waded ashore into the Maldives! I looked around for a customs or any official office and did not see anything. About then a fellow dressed like a policeman bicycled by and I hailed him. In slow English I told him I was foreigner (obviously) and needed to officially check in. He said "welcome" and bicycled off! I have no official entry in my passport showing I had visited there!

The Maldives were subject to flooding at high tides with strong winds, so most buildings were up on stilts. The main government building was at least eight feet above the sandy ground. Walking around, I spotted a fellow sitting in the shade underneath that building. He was having tea. I walked up and found out he was the country's education minister and had been educated in Britain! So, for the next few days he was my source for several stories, including an APN budget. Then the freighter sailed back to Colombo and the smell of that fish cargo was incredible!!! The dried fish are a mainstay of the Maldives' economy.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





to

Jim Salter - [jsalter@ap.org](mailto:jsalter@ap.org)

*On Saturday to...*

David Longstreath - [dlongstreath@gmail.com](mailto:dlongstreath@gmail.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Matt Barba - [mbarba@socket.net](mailto:mbarba@socket.net)

Denis Gray - [denisdgray@gmail.com](mailto:denisdgray@gmail.com)

Patty Woodrow - [pwoodrow@ap.org](mailto:pwoodrow@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

***McSally slams reporter as 'liberal hack,' and Trump 2020 offers fundraising boost*** (Washington Post)

By Mike DeBonis and Lateshia Beachum

Rather than answer a question about the pending impeachment trial of President Trump, Republican Sen. Martha McSally repeatedly on Thursday called a CNN reporter a "liberal hack" - an exchange that a McSally staffer taped and Trump's campaign later praised and promoted.

CNN reporter Manu Raju caught McSally (R-Ariz.) entering a hearing Thursday morning in a Senate office building, hours before the impeachment trial formally began. He asked about the rules for the trial, which are under debate and expected to be adopted next week.

"Sen. McSally, should the Senate consider new evidence as part of the impeachment trial?" Raju asked.

Said McSally, "Manu, you're a liberal hack. I'm not talking to you."

"You're not going to comment, senator, about this?" Raju replied.

"You're a liberal hack," McSally said again before walking into an anteroom.

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

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## ***What Will Each Senator Say About Trump? We Deserve to Know*** (New York Times)

**By Floyd Abrams, Hillary Greene and Melissa H. Maxman**

*The writers are lawyers.*

Twenty-one years ago, the public and the press were shut out of some of the most critical parts of the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. The Senate closed its doors so that senators could deliberate in secret on key motions and, most important, on whether to convict him.

The Senate did the same thing in 1868, closing the trial of Andrew Johnson, the only other president to have been impeached by the House until now. Like President Clinton, President Johnson prevailed. In both cases, though the deliberations were secret, the vote on whether to convict was public. But that's not enough.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who was also a scholar of impeachment, presided over the Clinton trial. When the issue of opening it to the public in its entirety was raised, the chief justice acknowledged that the text of the Senate's rules did not require closed deliberations but did permit them. Nonetheless, he determined that secrecy was required because the Senate rules seemed to intend it and in light of the "Senate's longstanding practice."

But in the end, it's not up to the chief justice - in this case, John Roberts - who will preside over the trial of President Trump. It's up to the Senate whether to open its deliberations during the trial. And given the gravity of the proceedings and their bearing on the republic, that's what the Senate should do, despite its practice of secrecy in impeachment deliberations. The public is entitled to hear what every senator says in support of or opposition to the president.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***How the New York Times verified the Iran missile-strike footage*** (Columbia Journalism Review)

**By Amanda Darrach, CJR**

ON JANUARY 8, Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 caught fire in the sky above Tehran. All 176 people on board the flight died in the incident, the cause of which was not immediately known. The next day, the New York Times published a 20-second video clip which showed the explosion was caused by an Iranian missile. The video refuted statements by Iranian officials that such a cause was "scientifically impossible."

"We first learned that it was a missile that took down a Ukrainian airliner over Iran because of this video showing the moment of impact," a Times staffer explained in subsequent coverage. (On Tuesday night, the Times team updated its reporting based on new video evidence, from which they concluded that two missiles had been fired at the plane.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## ***Former New Yorker executive Lisa Hughes named Philadelphia Inquirer's first female publisher***

**By Anna Orso**

The Philadelphia Inquirer announced Tuesday that its chief executive officer, publisher Terrance C.Z. Egger, will retire and be replaced next month by Lisa Hughes, a member of the company's board of directors, who will become the first female publisher of The Inquirer in its 190-year history.

Hughes, who worked in magazine publishing for decades and served as vice president/publisher of the New Yorker until 2017, will take over Feb. 3. She said she plans to build on Egger's strategies to diversify revenue sources, through both commercial means and philanthropy, to preserve local journalism in a time of economic turmoil.

"Nothing matters more in our democracy than local journalism," Hughes said, "to speak truth to power, to hold elected officials accountable, to celebrate our sports teams' wins and losses, and to report on justice reform and the education system and gun violence, all of which has been part of The Inquirer's beat for 190 years."

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

### ***Remembering Fran Mears***



**Fran and Walter Mears**



**Fran Richardson (in red dress) was Kansas City assistant chief of bureau when this photo was taken in the early 1990s of Kansas-Missouri AP staff. She is flanked by Curt Anderson (left), Kansas-Missouri Washington regional, and Scott Charton, Jefferson City correspondent. Standing, from left, Paul Stevens, Kansas City bureau chief; Lori Rose, St. Louis correspondent; Lew Ferguson, Topeka correspondent; Jerry Nachtigal, Springfield correspondent; Kent Zimmerman, Kansas City news editor, and Cliff Schiappa, Kansas City photographer. Curt now works in the AP's Miami bureau. Lew and Jerry are deceased.**

This Sunday, January 19, marks the one-year anniversary of the death of Fran Mears, an Associated Press reporter, editor and bureau chief during a journalism career that

spanned more than 40 years. She was 66. She had been ill with cancer when she died in North Carolina.

Her husband is our Connecting colleague Walter Mears, the Pulitzer Prize-winning political writer and retired AP vice president; his email - [wmears111@gmail.com](mailto:wmears111@gmail.com) Her daughter is DawnElise Snipes and her email - [dr.snipes@allceus.com](mailto:dr.snipes@allceus.com)

Fran was a friend to many of us during her career - a great journalist and an even finer person - and will long be remembered.

## Today in History - January 17, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2020. There are 349 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 17, 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

### On this date:

In 1806, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In 1916, the Professional Golfers' Association of America had its beginnings as department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker hosted a luncheon of pro and amateur golfers in New York City. (The PGA of America was formally established on April 10, 1916.)

In 1917, Denmark ceded the Virgin Islands to the United States for \$25 million.

In 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II; Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1955, the submarine USS Nautilus made its first nuclear-powered test run from its berth in Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Connecticut.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

In 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1996, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine followers were handed long prison sentences for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks.

In 1997, a court in Ireland granted the first divorce in the Roman Catholic country's history.

In 2001, faced with an electricity crisis, California used rolling blackouts to cut off power to hundreds of thousands of people; Gov. Gray Davis signed an emergency order authorizing the state to buy power.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI paid a visit to a Rome synagogue, where he and Jewish leaders sparred over the World War II-era record of Pope Pius XII. Erich Segal, author of the best-selling novel "Love Story," died in London at age 72. At the Golden Globes, top honors went to James Cameron's "Avatar" as well as the TV series "Glee" and "Mad Men."

Five years ago: Pope Francis braved an approaching tropical storm to travel to the far eastern Philippines to comfort survivors of the deadly Typhoon Haiyan. Bill Cosby performed to a welcoming Denver audience, despite a protest by some 100 people chanting "Rape is not a joke!" and "No means no!" outside the Buell Theatre.

One year ago: As House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other lawmakers were set to depart on a previously undisclosed trip to Afghanistan and Brussels, President Donald Trump denied use of a military plane for the trip, calling it a "public relations event" and saying it would be best if Pelosi stayed in Washington to negotiate an end to the government shutdown; the move came a day after Pelosi called on Trump to postpone his State of the Union address due to the shutdown. A judge in Chicago acquitted three police officers of trying to cover up the fatal 2014 police shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver, known for her rapturous odes to nature and animal life, died at her Florida home; she was 83.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 98. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 94. Actor James Earl Jones is 89. Talk show host Maury Povich is 81. Pop singer Chris Montez is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 75. Actress Joanna David is 73. Actress Jane Elliot is 73. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 67. Singer Steve Earle is 65. Singer Paul Young is 64. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 63. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 61. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 59. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 58. Actor Denis O'Hare is 58. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 56. Actor Joshua Malina is 54. Singer Shabba Ranks is 54. Rock musician Jon Wysocki is 52. Actor Naveen Andrews is 51. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 51. Rapper Kid Rock is 49. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 45. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 43. Actress-singer Zooey Deschanel is 40. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 40. Singer Ray J is 39. Actor Diogo Morgado is 39. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 38. Former NBA player Dwyane Wade is 38. Actor Ryan Gage is 37. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 36. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 34. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 32. Actress Kelly Marie Tran (Film: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") is 31. Actress Kathrine (cq) Herzer is 23.

**Thought for Today: "The only thing wrong with immortality is that it tends to go on forever." [-] Herb Caen, American newspaper columnist (1916-1997).**



# 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](#)

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