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Connecting

June 22, 2020

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Colleagues,
Good Monday morning on this the 22nd day of June 2020,

Covid-19 has claimed a second Associated Press journalist – **John Bompengo** , who covered Congo’s political turmoil as a freelance photographer and video journalist for the AP over the course of 16 years. He died Saturday at the age of 52.

Anick Jesdanun , deputy technology editor for The Associated Press, died April 2 in New York City of coronavirus complications.

We also bring you news – expected by many of us – that the AP changed its writing style guide Friday to capitalize the “b” in the term Black when referring to people in a racial, ethnic or cultural context, weighing in on a hotly debated issue. The change conveys “an essential and shared sense of history, identity and community among people who identify as Black, including those in the African diaspora and within Africa,” **John Daniszewski** , AP’s vice president of standards (and a Connecting colleague), said in a blog post Friday. “The lowercase black is a color, not a person.”

The son of one of our Connecting colleagues appeared Sunday on CBS-TV's Face the Nation – and his proud dad brings us the story.

Jide Zeitlin, CEO and board chairman of Tapestry Inc., appeared on the news program anchored by **Margaret Brennan**. Jide did a fantastic job, his dad **Arnold Zeitlin** said – “What else do you expect me to say?”

Here's to a great day and week ahead – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

John Bompengo, veteran AP video, photojournalist in Congo, dies of COVID-19



This photo taken on Dec 20 2018, shows AP contributing photographer John Bompengo, center, during a press conference in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Relatives say longtime Associated Press contributor John Bompengo has died of COVID-19 in Congo's capital. Bompengo, who had covered his country's political turmoil over the course of 16 years, died Saturday, June 20, 2020 at a Kinshasa hospital. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

By KRISTA LARSON

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — John Bompengo, who covered Congo's political turmoil as a freelance photographer and video journalist for The Associated Press over the course of 16 years has died, relatives said Sunday. He was 52.

The cause of death was complications due to the coronavirus. Bompengo had been hospitalized for about a week but his condition rapidly deteriorated Friday and he died the following day.

Bompengo had contributed to AP since 2004, including coverage of the Ebola outbreak in northern Congo, in 2018. He also worked for the U.N.-backed news service, Radio Okapi.

Andrew Drake, the AP's Africa news director who also served as senior video producer for West Africa from 2011 to 2018, remembered Bompengo as a "stalwart colleague and an impressive storyteller."

"John could talk his way in and out of places where others couldn't to get striking images," Drake said. "He had great contacts and friends across the entire country. Whether news was breaking in Kinshasa or across the river in Brazzaville, John was always on top of things, fast to arrive on the scene and with a plan to get the best pictures.

"He was committed to covering the flow of Congo's sometime violent politics, always to be found at the heart of the action on the streets taking photos and video, but soon after he would be back in his suit covering the president."

Among his memorable assignments was covering Congo's 2006 election, the country's first multiparty vote in more than 40 years — held nine years after the death of longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

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

AP changes writing style to capitalize "b" in Black

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press changed its writing style guide Friday to capitalize the "b" in the term Black when referring to people in a racial, ethnic or cultural context, weighing in on a hotly debated issue.

The change conveys "an essential and shared sense of history, identity and community among people who identify as Black, including those in the African diaspora and

within Africa,” John Daniszewski, AP’s vice president of standards, said in a blog post Friday. “The lowercase black is a color, not a person.”

The news organization will also now capitalize Indigenous in reference to original inhabitants of a place.

Daniszewski said the revisions aligned with long-standing identifiers such as Latino, Asian American and Native American. He said the decision followed more than two years of research and debate among AP journalists and outside groups and thinkers.

“Our discussions on style and language consider many points, including the need to be inclusive and respectful in our storytelling and the evolution of language,” he wrote. “We believe this change serves those ends.”

The AP said it expects to make a decision within a month on whether to capitalize the term white. Among the considerations are what that change might mean outside the United States.

An ongoing debate over capitalization of Black accelerated in many U.S. newsrooms in recent weeks as journalists grappled with massive protests and sweeping changes in the aftermath of George Floyd’s death at the hands of police.

The Los Angeles Times, USA Today and NBC News last week embraced capitalization, and the National Association of Black Journalists urged other news organizations to follow.

The AP Stylebook of usage policies is highly influential in the industry, with many news organizations, government and public relations agencies using it as a guide.

The death of Floyd, a Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck, sparked nationwide protests and lent momentum to a variety of social changes, from police reform and the public removal of Confederate statues and flags to the capitalization of Black.

“It’s certainly long overdue,” said Doris Truong, director of training and diversity at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank. “It’s something that people who are Black have been calling for for a long time.”

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Lou Boccardi, Adolphe Bernotas, Sibby Christensen.

Click [here](#) for the AP Definitive Source story on this change, by John Daniszewski. Your thoughts on AP Stylebook suggestions are welcomed by clicking [here](#) .

Connecting mailbox

'Got Dixie cups and long piece of string?'



Mark Thompson ([Email](#)) - “Anyone got a pair of Dixie cups...and a long piece of string?” Portable satellite phones were a relatively new thing three decades ago, and these folks weren’t the most technologically literate. This intrepid band of correspondents is trying to figure out how to relay Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld’s words to the world, if memory serves, from outside the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, April 27, 2002. Think they include (L-R), Ellen Uchimiya, Fox News producer; the intrepid and indefatigable Bob Burns, still covering the Pentagon for the Associated Press (as he has been since 1990!); Mark Thompson of Time; Mike Hedges of Hearst; Otto Kreisher of the Copley News Service; Jean-Michel Stoulling of AFP; and Fox News cameraman Greg Gursky. (Repeated from Friday’s edition to include photo.)

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Watching Hopalong Cassidy at Gallagher home

Larry Heinzerling ([Email](#)) - My father (Lynn Heinzerling) worked with Wes Gallagher, AP World War II correspondent who later became AP general manager and president, in Berlin and they were friends for decades. I recall that his daughter Jane Gallagher was asking a while back for anyone who remembered her father but I got tied up in other things -- as one does in a pandemic -- and forgot about it. Wes gave me an opportunity during a family visit to the Gallagher home in Rye, New York, when I was just a kid to watch Hopalong Cassidy on a test 48-inch screen television set loaned him by NBC.

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Another phone story from Reagan assassination attempt

Evans Witt ([Email](#)) - A minor footnote to Ann Blackman's excellent recollection (in the June 12 Connecting) from 1981 of being at the George Washington Hospital as President Reagan was being rushed to the operating room.

It was a grey and drizzling day. The GW hospital at that time had a semi-circular driveway to the emergency room. The police were not letting us into the hospital or onto the property, so Ann took one end of the driveway and I took the other.

Frist, Lyn Nofziger came out and talked to the gaggle of reporters where Ann was. Then he walked over to the other end of the driveway and repeated his very limited information. As I took notes, I watched the rain wash away my notes on the reporter's notebook. (Always carry a pencil!)

Not knowing if Ann had been able to file, I rushed to a group of pay phones down toward K Street. Picked up the phone and nothing. No dial tone. No dial tone on any of the phones. (Yes, an overloaded central office simply cannot provide dial tone, as I learned the hard way.) So I ran the two blocks back to the AP bureau to learn Ann had already filled completely from the bar.

I believe later that afternoon there was a news conference in the hospital, where Nofziger would provide the "Honey, I forgot to duck" quip. As soon as the location was announced, I was dispatched to the location, a large classroom. I got there early and looked around for a pay phone. No luck. I did find a regular phone over the side, tucked under a desk. Again, no dial tone. So I unplugged the phone and walked around the room, looking for another jack. There was one down the floor off to the side behind the teacher's stand/podium. I plugged it in and there was dial tone. I sat on the floor, curling up as small as possible. I dialed the office, told them where I was and left the line open. Sometime later, the news conference started, with Nofziger and the surgeons standing right in front of me. I dictated notes after the news conference was over but I don't remember whether the desk could hear the news conference over the open line.

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He really got to say, 'Stop the Press!'

Chris Sullivan ([Email](#)) - One more about the ancient history (this from the mid-1970s) of telephones as reporters' tools:

The first paper I worked for out of college, the Farmington Evening Press, was a five-day daily, Monday through Friday, in a county seat in a fairly roughneck part of Missouri. There was a shocking murder in town – a woman was shot through her kitchen window while doing the dishes; her husband was charged – and the trial was held an hour away in another county on a change of venue. If the murder was shocking, the verdict was, too, at least for those of us who listened to all the testimony: The husband was acquitted. (Unforgettably, moments after the jury was released, he was handed back his gun, still tagged as evidence, a nice detail for the story).

In those days, believe it or not, there were two five-day dailies covering our little town, and the competing reporter, a nice guy named Joe, had also been reporting on the trial each day. When the verdict came in and the judge finally allowed everyone to leave the courtroom, Joe and I raced down the stairs to the one pay phone. I probably couldn't beat him now, but I did then.

It was a Friday, right around the deadline for my paper's last edition of the week. Breathlessly, I dialed my office, asked for the pressman (our big press was in the back) and heard myself say, "Eugene, stop the press!" And I heard him reply with a shrug in his voice that he hadn't started it yet.

After dictating a brief piece about the verdict, I drove back to Farmington and smiled when I saw the blaring headline on our front page: "Stephens Not Guilty!" As it turned out, I ran into Joe in town, and he said his deadline had already passed when he called in; his story would have to wait until Monday. We had a beer and laughed about it.

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A Father's Day scene along Salmon Creek



Doug Pizac ([Email](#)) - As Betty (a former AP photo editor) and I ate dinner on our rear deck Sunday night we watched two kayakers paddle along Salmon Creek that runs past our home with Mt. Hood in the background. Here is a photo -- very peaceful and

tranquil to the end of Father's Day. Our big thrill today was getting haircuts for the first time in three months. WooHoo!

Jide Zeitlin 'Faced the Nation' Sunday



Arnold Zeitlin ([Email](#)) - After he learned that my son, Jide, was scheduled to appear on CBS-TV's Sunday morning talking heads program, Face the Nation, Paul Stevens, bowing to the old AP tact of stopping at nothing to get a story, tasked me with reporting on my own son's appearance. He was asking me to break with what usually is a medical tradition of not operating on members of your own family.

Of course, Jide did a fantastic job (what else do you expect me to say) of deflecting the questions of Margaret Brennan, the host anchor of the program, who twice during Jide's 10 minutes of fame (five minutes less than artist Andy Warhol allotted to us), asked him about using quotas to establish diversity in industry.

Jide was on the program in his capacity as CEO and board chairman of Tapestry Inc., the umbrella corporation of the Coach, Kate Spade and Stuart Weitzman brands of high-end luxury goods. He also is just one of four African-American CEOs of a Fortune 500 company (and, as Brennan pointed out in her introduction, no CEOs are women). He had gained a certain notoriety a couple of weeks ago after writing a letter to the 21,000 Tapestry employees around the world in which he referred to the damage of his company's retail stores during protest rioting. He wrote: "We can replace our

windows and handbags, but we cannot bring back George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Emmett Till, and too many others. Each of these black lives matter."

Jide in his response to Brennan's use of "quotas", remarked that Tapestry's work force (and by implication the work force of other U.S. corporations) should reflect America's demographic and that a company's work force diversity was as necessary for boards of directors to consider as revenue and profit figures. (PS: Tapestry's 9-member board includes two women, one of whom is Chinese and one man of Indian descent; Jide is the lone Black).

Jide went on to say, in response to questions, that Tapestry's customers not only were shipping online but were coming back to its physical stores, a trend he sees as continuing, that Tapestry, unlike some of its rivals, kept most workers on the payroll during store closures, and that those jobs were returning now that stores were re-opening. All company stores in China (including 11 in Wuhan, home of the pandemic) have re-opened.

The full interview may be seen at [this link](#).

A one-minute shot filmed after Jide's appearance was posted on the Face the Nation website in which Jide refers to e pluribus unum as the diversity model to follow. Click [here](#).

Friend (and Connecting colleague) Henry Bradsher suggested adding a brief family background about Jide. Here goes:



Jide and his sister, Jenny, in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1967 at age 3

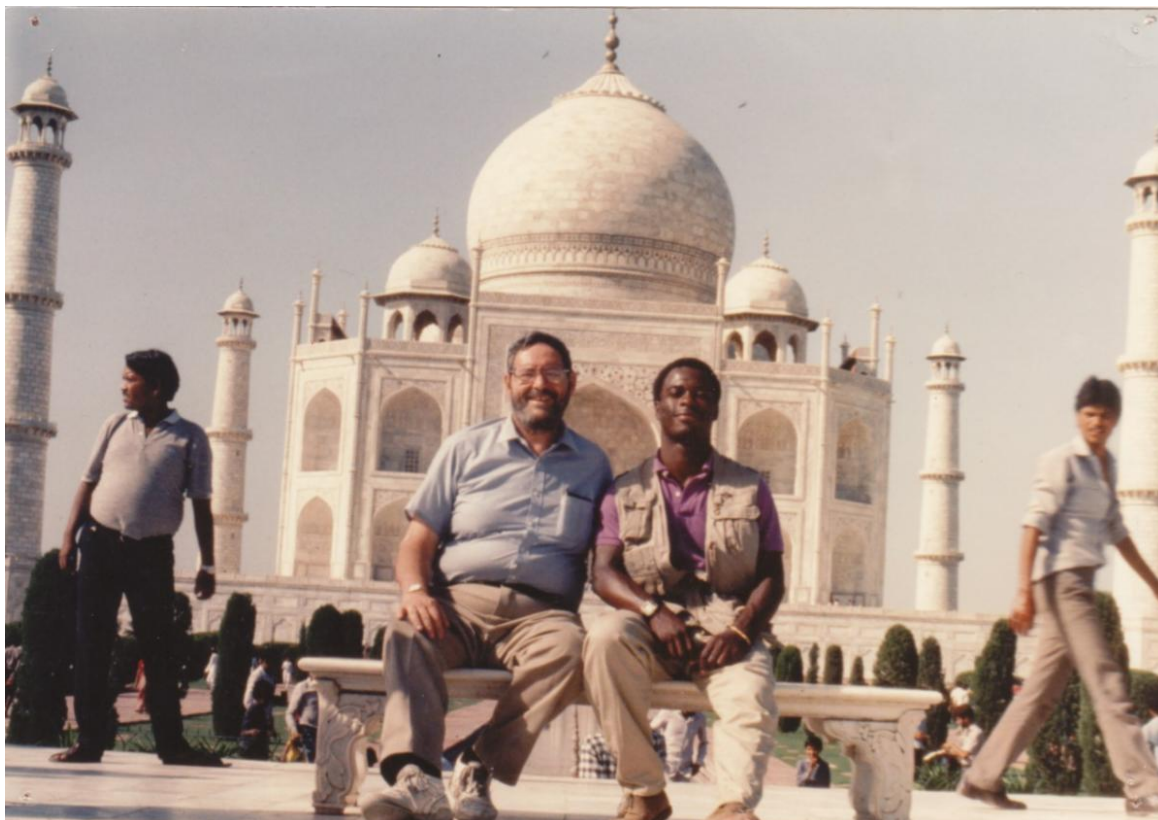
I went with my young family to Lago, Nigeria, in July 1966 for my first overseas assignment as AP's West Africa correspondent, We moved into a house that served as AP's bureau across the road from police headquarters in a commercial part of town. There was no residential community. My 2-year-old daughter, Jenny, with no playmates her age, began asking for a baby brother. The mother's helper we had hired, a young woman named Ola, said she had a son the same age as Jenny living upcountry. He was the product of a brief affair between Ola and a student. My wife immediately invited the boy, Olajide Bamidele Oke, to join the household. He not only did he do that, he joined the family. She and Jide were inseparable. They attended Yoruba-language first grade together.

We wanted to take Jide, then 5, with us when we left Nigeria for assignment in Pakistan. Nigeria has no adoption law. A local judge said he could grant us guardianship with the right to take him from Nigeria -- after a hearing. At that hearing, Ola testified she was willing to let Jide go with us. The judge then did something he did not warn us he would do. He called 5-year-old Jide to the witness chair.

"Do you want to go with these people?" the judge asked him. "Yes," he answered.

Years later, Jide told us that at that time, it did not occur to him that he would not return to Nigeria.

From then, he was a member of our family. He did not take the Zeitlin name until we were able to adopt him under Massachusetts law when he was 13 years old. He became an American citizen at 16 in a ceremony in Boston's Faneuil Hall.



Arnold and Jide at the Taj Mahal in 1989.

He attended Milton Academy and Amherst College. During the summer between his freshman and sophomore years at Amherst, Jide worked at AP Photos in New York for \$300 a week thanks to photo chief Hal Buell. He spent that summer watching the Financial News Network on the TV on the fourth floor of 50 Rock. He decided that the next summer he wanted to work on Wall Street because that's where the money was. That's what happened. He worked at Goldman Sachs as a summer intern with 19 other interns who all were from Stanford, Harvard and Wharton business school. Jide was the lone undergraduate. He learned his fellow interns were earning \$800 a week while he was getting \$400. He went to his boss and said he should be getting the same pay as his colleagues because he was doing the same sort of work. He got his raise -- and kick-started his Goldman career.

After two years at Harvard Business School for an MBA, Jide returned to work full-time in 1987 for Goldman, where his initial mentor was a fellow named Steve Bannon. By the time he was 32, he was a partner. After Goldman went from a partnership to a public company, Jide retired with a stake close to \$50 million. He started his own investment company.

Jide joined the Coach board of directors in 2006 and was chairman of the board when Coach was folded into Tapestry Inc in 2017. In recognition of his Nigerian ancestry, Jide also serves as chairman of the board of the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority, based in Abuja, Nigeria.

Best of the Week

Race and Ethnicity team explores question: 'What is a black life worth?'



People gather, June 1, 2020, outside the Cup Foods grocery store where George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police on May 25. Floyd was accused of using a fake \$20 bill to buy cigarettes from the grocery store. His story echoes that of other African Americans who died at the hands of police over minor offenses. AP PHOTO / BEBETO MATTHEWS

The police killing of George Floyd was extraordinary on many levels, but as New York-based race and ethnicity writer Aaron Morrison stripped down the narrative it became clear to him that the fatal encounter had started like so many others between African Americans and law enforcement. At the core of Floyd's arrest was a minor offense: the accusation he used a fake \$20 bill at a grocery store.

Morrison started thinking about other cases that began over minor offenses and ended with a black person dying after a run-in with police or citizens: Tamir Rice carrying a toy handgun, Eric Garner allegedly selling untaxed cigarettes, Michael Brown jaywalking, Sandra Bland failing to signal a lane change.

Morrison had spent more than a week in Minneapolis covering protests and a memorial service for Floyd. He had visited the scene where Floyd took his last breaths and talked to some of Floyd's family and to protesters with this question in mind: What is a black life worth?

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP teams deliver a deeply reported all-formats profile of George Floyd



A mural surrounded by flowers honors George Floyd in Houston's Third Ward, June 7, 2020. Floyd grew up here and took pride in his roots in the Third Ward, but he moved to Minneapolis to start over. AP PHOTO / DAVID J. PHILLIP

Journalists from half a dozen AP teams came together to tell George Floyd's story in all formats, capturing moments of his life from Houston to Minneapolis.

The story of George Floyd's death will be told in history books and recognized as a universal catalyst to overhaul policing, his name a chant for those demanding change.

But his life – from a start in Houston's Cuney Homes public housing to his death in Minneapolis, where he hoped to start a new chapter – wasn't lived in a spotlight.

Turning to people who knew Floyd throughout his life, journalists from across the AP set out to tell his story:

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

I'm a Black Reporter. Covering America Almost Broke Me. (Foreign Policy)



Jesse J. Holland interviews then-Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma in Washington, D.C., in an undated photograph. COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**

Years ago, when I was in the midst of covering the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and others, I woke up one morning feeling a little uncomfortable and weird.

I didn't think much about it, because as a reporter for a major international news organization I had to get to work. I had spent months trying to collect news stories that documented the deaths of African Americans, like me, at the hands of police. At work, I'd look at death again and again, something I was used to. I've been a media witness at four executions, and my first professional beat was crime and policing, so I'd seen my share of dead bodies and dying people.

But at the same time as I dealt with violent death at work, I had responsibilities as a father and husband at home. My first job every morning was to get my children up, feed them, get them dressed, and take them to day care in downtown Washington, D.C., then drive to work.

I loaded my children into my truck that morning and was driving out into traffic when it hit. My chest seized, it became hard to breathe, and my heart started racing uncontrollably.

I remember thinking, "I'm too young for a heart attack, but this is what I'd think one would feel like." But the only thing I could focus on was that I had two children in the car with me. "I've got to get my children somewhere safe before I hit a lamppost or another car or die behind the wheel," I thought to myself. So I rushed them to their day care and then staggered back out to my car.

I rushed from Southeast D.C. to Alexandria, Virginia, praying that I would make it in time. And I did. I checked myself into the emergency room and sat there until a doctor showed up and examined me. After administering hours of tests, the doctor determined it wasn't a heart attack or a stroke. It was a panic attack, my very first.

But it wouldn't be my last.

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

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Furloughs will end for reporters and visual journalists from USA Today and local Gannett sites(Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

Reporters and visual journalists at USA Today and Gannett's local newsrooms will come off furlough July 6, according to a Friday memo sent by Maribel Wadsworth, Gannett's president of news and the publisher of USA Today.

"Beginning July 6, reporters and photo/video journalists for USA TODAY and our local sites will be exempted from furloughs. We must bring our reporting firepower back to full strength as we juggle the enormity of three major events — the pandemic, the fight for social justice and the looming election."

Gannett is the biggest newspaper chain in the United States, with 261 newspapers in 46 states. In March, the company announced furloughs and pay cuts. In April, it started a round of layoffs after its merger with GateHouse.

On Thursday, Gannett announced Paul Bascobert, operating CEO, was leaving that job.

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

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How Trump's obsessions with media and loyalty coalesced in a battle for Voice of America (Washington Post)

By Sarah Ellison

On Monday, President Trump's long-deferred pick to head the U.S. Agency for Global Media finally started work after a bruising, two-year Senate confirmation battle.

By the end of Wednesday, Michael Pack had achieved a clean sweep of the top offices of every division he oversees — including venerable news outlets like Voice of America and Radio Free Europe.

The swift purge of former appointees has increased the worry among Democrats and press freedom advocates that the Trump administration is attempting to gain control over an independent but federally funded media organization with among the largest audiences in the world. On its own, the Voice of America delivers television and radio programs to 236.6 million people — and in some countries dominated by state media, it is the only free and unshackled news source.

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

Today in History - June 22, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 22, the 174th day of 2020. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 22, 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated for a second time as Emperor of the French.

In 1911, Britain's King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1941, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, a massive invasion of the Soviet Union.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1969, singer-actress Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up. (He was released 19 months later.)

In 1981, Mark David Chapman pleaded guilty to killing rock star John Lennon. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was deposed as president of Iran.

In 1987, actor-dancer Fred Astaire died in Los Angeles at age 88.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, unanimously ruled that "hate crime" laws that banned cross burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

In 2012, ex-Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was convicted by a jury in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on 45 counts of sexually assaulting 10 boys over 15 years.

Ten years ago: White House Budget Director Peter Orszag announced he was stepping down. South Carolina Republicans chose Nikki Haley, a tea party favorite, to run for governor (she went on to win a runoff and the general election). Dino Ciccarelli, Cammi Granato and Angela James were elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame as players; Jimmy Devellano and the late Daryl "Doc" Seaman were elected as builders. South Africa became the first host nation not to advance in 80 years of World Cup play.

Five years ago: The Obama administration released a report on global warming that said failure to act on climate change could cause an estimated 57,000 deaths a year in the United States from poor air quality by 2100. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said the Confederate flag should be removed from the grounds of the state capitol, reversing her position on the divisive symbol amid growing calls for it to be removed. Oscar-winning film composer James Horner, 61, was killed in the crash of his plane in Los Padres National Forest. Italian actress Laura Antonelli, 73, died in Rome.

One year ago: Novelist Judith Krantz, whose steamy tales of the rich and beautiful included "Scruples" and Princess Daisy," died at her Southern California home at the age of 91. Officials at the Santa Anita race track banned Hall of Fame trainer Jerry Hollendorfer after a fourth horse from his stable died at the track; it was the 30th horse death overall since the racing season began at the California track in December. North Carolina's state lottery reported a record payout after the winning numbers in a Pick 4 game turned up as "0-0-0-0;" there were about 2,000 winning tickets worth either \$2,500 or \$5,000.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Prunella Scales (TV: "Fawlty Towers") is 88. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is 87. Singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is 84. Movie director John Korty is 84. Actor Michael Lerner is 79. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 77. Fox News analyst Brit Hume is 77. Singer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 76. Actor David L. Lander is 73. Singer Howard "Eddie" Kaylan is 73. Singer-musician Todd Rundgren is 72. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., is 71. Actress Meryl Streep is 71. Actress Lindsay Wagner is 71. Singer Alan Osmond is 71. Actor Murphy Cross is 70. Actor Graham Greene is 68. Pop singer Cyndi Lauper is 67. Actor Chris Lemmon is 66. Rock musician Derek Forbes is 64. Actor Tim Russ is 64. Rock musician Garry Beers (INXS) is 63. Actor-producer-writer Bruce Campbell is 62. Rock musician Alan Anton (Cowboy Junkies) is 61. Actress Tracy Pollan is 60. Environmental activist Erin Brockovich is 60. Rock singer-musician Jimmy Somerville is 59. Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler is 58. Actress Amy Brenneman is 56. Author Dan Brown is 56. Rock singer-musician Mike Edwards (Jesus Jones) is 56. Rock singer Steven Page is 50. Actor Michael Trucco is 50. Actress Mary Lynn Rajskub (RYS'-kub) is 49. TV personality Carson Daly is 47. Rock musician Chris Traynor is 47. Country musician Jimmy Wallace is 47. Actor Donald Faison (FAY'-zahn) is 46. Actress Alicia Goranson is 46. Actor-comedian Mike O'Brien (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 44. TV personality/actor Jai Rodriguez is 41. Americana singer-songwriter John Moreland is 35. Actress Lindsay Ridgeway is 35. Pop singer Dina Hansen (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 23.

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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