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Connecting July 01, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the first day of July 2020,

All of us who called on members for their AP living had a handful of unique individuals whom we got a chance to know – and during my 19 years as Kansas City chief of bureau, **Dick Boyd** of the tiny Norton Daily Telegram in north-central Kansas was one of mine.

Dick died recently – and it brought back memories of those twice-a-year visits I made to his newspaper in downtown Norton, including:

Going across the street with Dick to the health food store and trying not to wretch as he ordered me some juice concoction and I gamely tried to drink it. He was huge into health. Cross country biker.



Delivering a couple hundred Telegrams late in the day to the nearby Phillipsburg post office to save Dick a trip since, as usual, he was running late.

Seeing his darkroom where hundreds of film strips hung from the ceiling. No filing whatsoever but I marveled that he somehow knew what shots each one contained.

The drum set and band equipment in the press room as I recall an employee, the head press man, had a rock band and where they practiced for their gigs.

Stories of the yogurt store he bought in Aggieville - ICBY – in downtown Manhattan, where Dick played football at Kansas State

University, that his son Larry ran - and Dick telling me how much more he made from that store than with his newspaper.

Click [here](#) for his obituary – you too will marvel at a life well lived.

Got a story to share of a memorable member who you got to know? Send it along.

We lead today's issue with a remarkable piece by **Kristen Hare**, a Connecting colleague and journalist for Poynter.org, with a comprehensive look at key figures who worked to get the B in Black capitalized when referring to people and culture - and their interplay with the AP to make it happen June 19 with a Stylebook change.

Here's to a great month ahead – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Many newsrooms are now capitalizing the B in Black. Here are some of the people who made that happen



Clockwise from top left, Bobbi Booker, Sarah Glover, Lori Tharps, Meredith Clark, Crystal Paul and Marlon A. Walker. (Submitted photos)

By KRISTEN HARE, Poynter.org

Lori Tharps was at work in her basement home office in Philadelphia on June 19 when she got a text: The Associated Press Stylebook — the grammar bible for journalists — would start capitalizing the B in Black when referring to people and culture.

She screamed.

Sarah Glover was driving to cover a Juneteenth event at Malcolm X Park in Philly. At a stoplight, notifications on her phone lit up with the news. She pulled over to the side of the road and started texting and calling colleagues to celebrate.

Marlon A. Walker was driving in Atlanta when a notification with the news popped up on the screen of his car. He hurried home to read more.

Meredith Clark was scrolling Twitter for something else from her home in Charlottesville when she saw the news fly by.

“BLESSED,” she tweeted with the AP’s news.

And Bobbi Booker was on a short break from hosting her jazz radio show at Philly’s WRTI when the news came across her screen. She pushed her chair back and jumped up silently, clapping, before sitting back down, hand over heart, still bouncing with excitement.

Those journalists all greeted the stylebook change news with joy, celebration, and the frustration that it took way too damn long. They're among the people who worked privately and in public for years to push mainstream American newsrooms to acknowledge Blackness as a culture and identity worthy of a proper noun.

Read more [here](#).

Stars and Stripes, AFR helped keep us more sane in Vietnam



Jim Carlson (Email) - I'm in full agreement with all the vets and journalists who can't stand the thought of killing off the Stars and Stripes. That publication and Armed Forces Radio helped keep us a little more sane in Vietnam.

I was looking through memorabilia today and found this front page with a letter home to Mom and Dad scrawled across it.

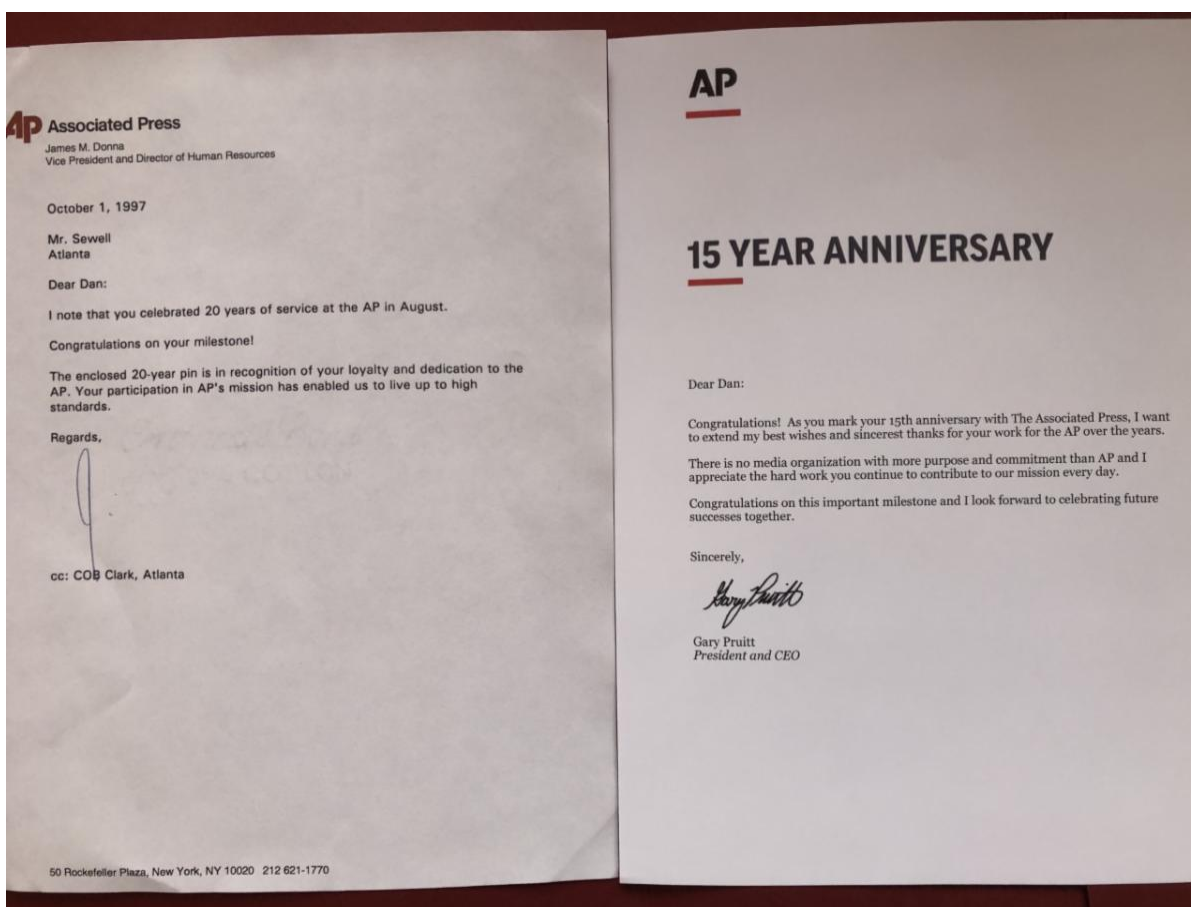
I guess I caught the irony of the big headline – at the same moment I had just taken off from Fort Lewis on the flight to Vietnam, as Army infantry, for a year-long tour.

The issue was from June 11, 1969. My note describes how we left Fort Lewis, Wash., Saturday and arrived at Cam Rahn Bay 21 hours later. Then we had to wait for the flight to Pleiku in the Central Highlands.

Going through the letters I sent home, the theme is mostly the same – Here's my latest address, thanks for the letters, how's everyone doing, now please don't worry too much because "it doesn't do any good to worry. It just hurts."

And this one to my parents is signed off, simply -- "Keep smiling, Jim."

Anyone else in the AP's 20-15 Club?



Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) – I'm wondering if there's anyone out there in the AP 20-15 Club?

I'll have an interesting anniversary this weekend, on the 4th. It will be my 15th anniversary with AP. I had my 20th anniversary in 1997. So a couple service breaks with The Enquirer of Cincinnati sandwiched around a year in Chicago as Jim Reindl's ACoB account for the oddity.

My 1997 20-Year letter came from Jim Donna, AP's director of Human Resources, and my 2020 15-Year letter came (a few days early) from Gary Pruitt, AP's president and CEO.

No one would dare claim a first in The AP, but wondering if anyone knows of other examples.

(Dan, AP's Cincinnati correspondent, became a full-time AP staffer in Buffalo in August 1977. So 1997 was his 20-year anniversary. After twice leaving The AP for The Enquirer, he left The Enquirer for AP again in July 2005. So this Saturday, the 4th, makes his 15-year anniversary. His total AP years is 38.)

This photo is not so much iconic as ironic



AP reporter Brian Bland makes a call from the “AP TREE” across the street from Gov. Ronald Reagan’s home in Pacific Palisades, Calif. Photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives.

Brian Bland ([Email](#)) – The AP has provided the world with many iconic photos over the years, but there's one that's not so much iconic as ironic.

Soon after Ronald Reagan won the GOP presidential nomination in 1980, Sacramento, Calif., correspondent Doug Willis rightly decided the AP needed a telephone near Reagan's home in the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles. The nearest phone booth was a mile-and-a-half away.

At least one TV network rented a nearby house to provide a phone (and bathroom relief) to its Reagan-watchers. Willis, a true APer, hit on a more frugal method. He rented a tree from one of Reagan's neighbors and had a telephone installed on it. As I recall, the rent for the tree itself was 50 cents a day, later doubled by the homeowner when Reagan became president-elect.

The phone was encased in a lockable metal cabinet, strapped to the tree. Willis wrote a short "bright" describing the arrangement. Someone up the chain quickly asked for "art" to accompany the item.

The phone was still a virtual virgin, except for a test or two. The order to make a picture reached Los Angeles when I was in the bureau. Photographer Red McLendon was given the assignment and someone – I truly don't remember who – tasked me to go along to give the shot a human scale and to provide a reason to have the phone out of its box.

Everyone involved knew there was no Reagan story to report from the phone that day and that I would be posing, not reporting. The story was about the phone, I told myself, and if the brass wanted the members, or the public, to see an AP reporter on the phone, they would see one.

The world loved the picture. From San Francisco to Clarksdale, Mississippi, and beyond, the AP got good feedback. Among the calls I received at the bureau in the following days was one from a London disc jockey, not the only one to ask if I'd been bothered by chattering squirrels or pooping birds.

In those pre-cellular days, the idea of a rented tree phone provided chuckles all around. Almost no one asked who I was talking to. For the few who did, the answer was: "It's an illustration of how the AP does what's necessary to get the news out quickly, but at that moment there was no actual call."

Or something like that.

Even in the AP book *Breaking News*, the photo caption refers to me "covering former Gov. Ronald Reagan..." and so I was, in the sense that had there been any Reagan news that day at that place, I would've been on it.

Illustration? News photo? Staged photo? Iconic? Ironic? Or just comic?

The final irony is that in the index of *Breaking News*, published in 2007, there is a reference to "Bill" Bland, p. 294. Wrong name, wrong page. The tree phone picture actually rests on p. 394.

AP's Michael Fabiano joins Harvard Alumni Association board of directors

Interim Dean of Continuing Education Henry H. Leitner announces the appointment of Michael F. Fabiano ([Email](#)) to a three-year term as a Graduate School Director on the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) Board of Directors. The HAA Board of Directors is an advisory board that focuses on developing volunteer leadership, increasing and deepening alumni engagement through an array of programs that support Harvard alumni communities worldwide.



Michael Fabiano is the Vice President & General Manager, Americas Media at The Associated Press. He oversees the content licensing business, productions and creative partnerships for all business in the Western Hemisphere. Michael previously served as VP of Business Development at NBC. Michael holds a Master of Liberal Arts in Journalism from Harvard Extension School (2016), a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University (2007), a BE in Mechanical Engineering, and a BA in English and American Literature from Stevens Institute of Technology (1993). Michael is also serving a two-year term as the current President of the Harvard Extension Alumni Association.

Click [here](#) for the Harvard news release.

Memories sparked by story of Jide Zeitlin on Face the Nation

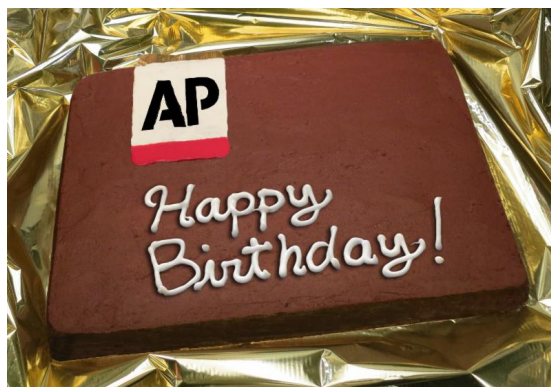
Arnold Zeitlin ([Email](#)) - I sent the Face the Nation you ran in Connecting to family and friends and got the following response from W. Scott Butcher, a friend of long standing. Scott was the young U.S. Foreign Service officer in the Dhaka U.S. consulate in March 1971 when the Pakistan Army cracked down on East Pakistan politicians and set off the events that lead by the end of the year to the independence of Bangladesh.

W. Scott Butcher - Excellent interview. As I noted previously, (your son) Jide's very impressive - thoughtful on very topical and difficult issues. And what a great story

about Jide's coming into your family!

What also caught my attention was your mention of Henry Bradsher, who I met when he was with the Washington Star and visited Daca - he, Syd Schanberg, and John Woodruff of the Baltimore Sun tried to send a pooled dispatch out via the Consulate-General the night of March 25-26, 1971 - with Syd dictating it over the phone to me (I still have my notes from that call). Wasn't able to do anything with it other than convey it to my boss, Bob Carle, who at the time was attending a reception at Consul-General Arch Blood's residence - and shortly after we talked the phone lines went dead. The rest, they say, is history (I ended up stuck at my house for 36 hours until the curfew was lifted - I tried to leave that morning (March 26) but when I went to open the gate to walk out a Pakistani Army jawan was right outside and lowered his weapon at me and motioned me to stay in our yard - he didn't speak English and I didn't speak Urdu but I understood his gestures - especially with the weapon!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Jeff McMurray - mcmurrayjeff@gmail.com

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(**EDITOR'S NOTE** : Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Bill Chevalier
Albert Habhab

George Hanna
Gene Herrick
Sister Donalda Kehoe
Elaine Light
Joe McKnight
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder
Hank Waters
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Malcolm Barr
Myron Belkind
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Mike Cochran
Eldon Cort
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Chick Harrity
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Warren Lerude

Carl Leubsdorf
Art Loomis
John Marlow
Dave Mazzarella
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Harry Moskos
Greg Nokes
Mike Rouse
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Ed Staats
Marty Thompson
Ron Thompson
Kernan Turner
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Joe Yeninas
Arnold Zeitlin
George Zucker

Stories of interest

Journalists are reexamining their reliance on a longtime source: The police (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi

For several weeks early this year, reporter Larry Hobbs struggled to nail down the story he was chasing. Police in his hometown of Brunswick, Ga., had offered few details about the death of a young African American man, shot to death at midday on a quiet residential street — no suspects, no arrests. The name of the deceased didn't even appear in the initial police narrative about the incident.

Hobbs, a veteran reporter for the Brunswick News, came to a conclusion: "This is starting to stink."

More than a month later, Hobbs broke the story that would soon make national news of how unarmed Ahmaud Arbery had been chased and attacked by three white men who suspected him of committing burglaries in the area. One was a former police

officer who had also worked for the district attorney, raising questions about a conflict of interest for investigators — and perhaps explaining Hobbs's difficulty in getting the facts of the case.

It is among several high-profile stories that have recently caused newsrooms to reflect upon their relationship with law enforcement — especially reporters' reliance on official police accounts as they construct breaking news stories about a violent incident or arrest. In several of these cases, cellphone video of the incident offered a dramatic contradiction of the first police accounts.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Sibby Christensen, Len Iwanski.

-0-

Iran journalist who fueled 2017 protests sentenced to death



In this June 2, 2020 photo, journalist Ruhollah Zam speaks during his trial at the Revolutionary Court, in Tehran, Iran. The judiciary spokesman, Gholamhossein Esmaili, announced Tuesday, June 30, 2020 that Zam, a journalist whose online work helped inspire the 2017 economic protests and who returned from exile to Tehran was sentenced to death. The Persian writing on the podium reads, "defendant's place." (Ali Shirband/Mizan News Agency via AP)

By **NASSER KARIMI**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran sentenced a once-exiled journalist to death over his online work that helped inspire nationwide economic protests that began at the end of 2017, authorities said Tuesday.

Ruhollah Zam's website and a channel he created on the popular messaging app Telegram had spread the timings of the protests and embarrassing information about officials that directly challenged Iran's Shiite theocracy. Those demonstrations represented the biggest challenge to Iran since the 2009 Green Movement protests and set the stage for similar mass unrest last November.

The details of his arrest still remain unclear. Though he was based in Paris, Zam somehow returned to Iran and found himself detained by intelligence officials. A series of a televised confessions have aired in recent months over his work.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili announced Zam's death sentence on Tuesday, saying he had been convicted of "corruption on Earth," a charge often used in cases involving espionage or attempts to overthrow Iran's government. It was not immediately clear when the sentence was handed down.

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

-0-

Survey finds confusion among public about pandemic news

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — For a story that has dominated the news during the past four months, a survey out Monday illustrates the difficulty that many Americans have in finding information they can believe about the coronavirus pandemic.

Three in 10 Americans say they trust President Donald Trump and his administration to get the facts straight all or most of the time when talking about COVID-19, the Pew Research Center said.

"I can't think of any precedent for that," said Dan Fagin, director of New York University's Science, Health and Environmental Reporting program, and a former reporter. "There's a reason why that number is so low. Honestly, what disturbs even more is that there is 30% of the public who think they can believe the president on this."

The president, along with some other leaders, were criticized initially for not taking the threat seriously, for delivering misinformation about potential treatments and, even today, delivering mixed messages on the need for masks and social distancing.

Read more [here](#) .

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WarnerMedia puts 'for sale' sign on CNN Center in Atlanta

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — WarnerMedia said Monday it will sell the iconic CNN Center in downtown Atlanta, but that it doesn't mean the network will abandon the city.

The network will consolidate its Atlanta workforce in a series of offices across town, the same office campus where CNN was first located upon its founding by Ted Turner in the early 1980s.

"Downtown Atlanta has seen great investment and is quickly becoming an entertainment destination," Pascal Desroches, chief financial officer at WarnerMedia, said in a memo to staff. "The CNN Center is of great value to a third party that specializes in such developments."

The CNN Center has been a mix of offices and retail space.

The exit of CNN employees will be a gradual process. The company said it plans to lease the CNN Center offices for five years as its move to the so-called Techwood campus is completed.

Read more [here](#) .

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Dave Lopez Calls It A Career After Nearly A Half-Century In SoCal TV News (CBS/LA)

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) – From the O.J. Simpson saga and the Freeway Murders to the L.A. Riots and dozens of disasters, for the last 48 years, if there has been news in Southern California, Dave Lopez has been in the middle of it.

Dave began his legendary career as a sportswriter at the Huntington Park Daily Signal newspaper. After six years there, he decided to make the move to TV, signing on to do general assignment and sports reporter at KHJ – now KCAL9 – and then KFMB in San Diego.

“A wonderful man named Pete Noyes hired me and in his gruff wonderful voice, he said, ‘I’m not gonna have you do sports, you’re gonna be a newsman! You’re gonna have a lot longer career in news than in sports!’” Lopez recalled.

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

Today in History - July 1, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 1, the 183rd day of 2020. There are 183 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

In 1912, aviator Harriet Quimby, 37, was killed along with her passenger, William Willard, when they were thrown out of Quimby's monoplane at the Third Annual Boston Aviation Meet.

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1961, Diana, the princess of Wales, was born in Sandringham, England. (She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris at age 36.)

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1966, the Medicare federal insurance program went into effect.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony. Actor Robert Mitchum died in Santa Barbara, California, at age 79.

In 2002, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, the International Criminal Court, came into existence. A Russian passenger jet collided with a cargo plane over southern Germany, killing all 69 people, including 45 schoolchildren, on the Russian plane and the cargo jet pilots.

In 2004, actor Marlon Brando died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 2009, Academy Award-winning actor Karl Malden, 97, died in Brentwood, California.

Ten years ago: California lawmakers approved a \$20 million settlement with the family of Jaycee Dugard, who was kidnapped as a girl and held captive in a secret backyard for 18 years by a paroled sex offender. At least two suicide bombers attacked a popular Muslim shrine in Pakistan's second largest city, Lahore, killing some three dozen people.

Five years ago: After more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared they would reopen embassies in each other's capitals, marking a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes. Episcopalians voted overwhelmingly at their General Convention in Salt Lake City to allow religious weddings for same-sex couples. San Francisco resident Kate Steinle, 32, was fatally shot in the back while walking along the city's popular waterfront. (Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, a Mexican national who was in the U.S. illegally, acknowledged holding the gun that killed Steinle but said it fired accidentally after he found it. He was found not guilty of killing Steinle; a state appeals court threw out his conviction on a gun charge.)

One year ago: Fifteen-year-old Coco Gauff, the youngest player to qualify at Wimbledon in the professional era, defeated 39-year-old Venus Williams in the first

round, 6-4, 6-4. Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, 27, was found dead in his room at the Texas hotel where the team was staying; the medical examiner found that Skaggs had a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body. Hundreds of protesters swarmed into Hong Kong's legislature, defacing portraits of lawmakers and spray-painting pro-democracy slogans in the chamber before vacating it as riot police cleared surrounding streets with tear gas; the three-hour occupation came on the 22nd anniversary of the former British colony's return to China.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Olivia de Havilland is 104. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 89. Actress Jean Marsh is 86. Actor Jamie Farr is 86. Actor David Prowse is 85. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 84. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 79. Actress Genevieve Bujold is 78. Rock singer-actress Deborah Harry is 75. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 70. Actor Daryl Anderson is 69. Actor Trevor Eve is 69. Actor Terrence Mann is 69. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52's) is 69. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 69. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 68. Actress Lorna Patterson is 64. Actor Alan Ruck is 64. Rhythm and blues singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 60. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 59. Country singer Michelle Wright is 59. Actor Andre Braugher is 58. Actor Dominic Keating is 58. Actress Pamela Anderson is 53. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 50. Rock musician Franny Griffiths (Space) is 50. Actor Henry Simmons is 50. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 49. Actress Julianne Nicholson is 49. Actress Melissa Peterman is 49. Actress/writer Jill Kargman is 46. Rock musician Bryan Devendorf (The National) is 45. Singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens is 45. Actor Thomas Sadoski is 44. Actress Liv Tyler is 43. Bluegrass musician Adam Haynes (formerly w/Dailey & Vincent) is 41. Actress Hilarie Burton is 38. Actress Lynsey Bartilson is 37. Actress Lea Seydoux (LEE' -uh say-DOO') is 35. Actor Evan Ellingson is 32. Actors Andrew and Steven Cavarno are 28. Actress/singer Chloe Bailey is 22. Actress Storm Reid is 17.

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

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