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Connecting August 10, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 10th day of August 2020,

Pursuing your passion has been a frequent theme of Connecting posts – and our colleague **John Strauss** is the latest to share his story.

John's passion is flying – first in learning to fly a Cessna before taking a job with the AP in Indianapolis in 1984, and then resurrected decades later when he became the owner of a drone aircraft.

Speaking of passions, today's issue brings more of your stories of memories of your first or favorite vehicle.

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

Paul

Former AP news editor has a new passion as a remote pilot



John Strauss ([Email](#)), former news editor in Nashville and Indianapolis with a stint on the General Desk in between, left AP to join The Indianapolis Star in 1998. His post-wire work has included making news magazine shows for Indiana public television stations, which led to his current interest.

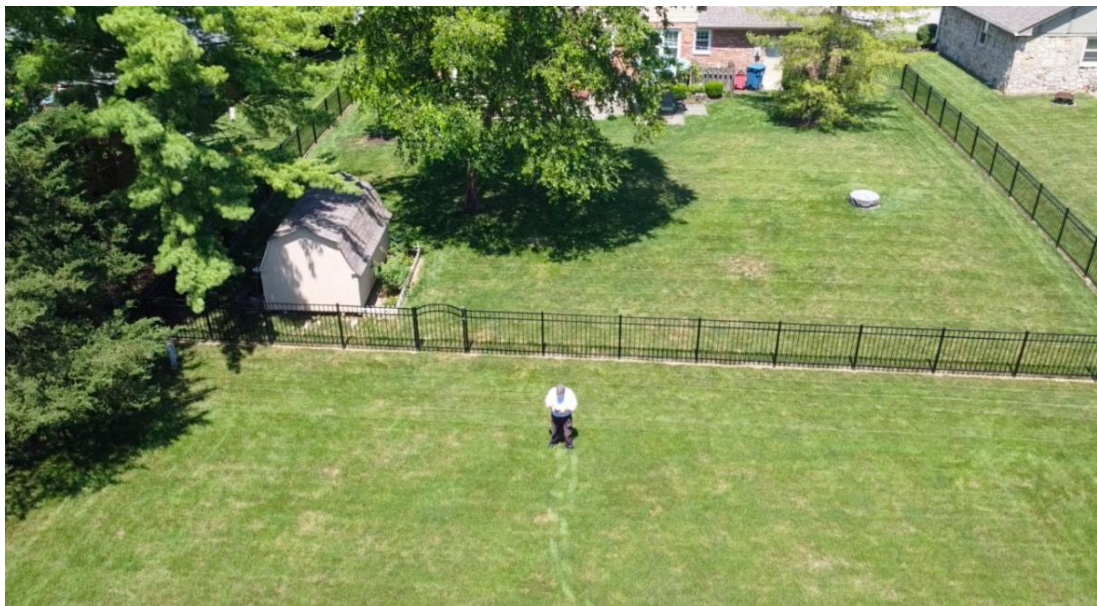
I learned to fly in a Cessna 152 with the tail number 757XB, so that when talking to the tower, I was “757 X-ray Bravo,” which sounded cool. The training included solo flights from South Bend, Indiana, to Michigan and Illinois, but I put flying on hold after moving to Indianapolis for a new job with the AP.

Now, after moving from the wire to jobs in local news, teaching, and strategic communications, I’m flying once more, this time with a plane that fits in one hand but packs a startling amount of technology – and fun.

My aircraft is a DJI Mavic Mini, which at \$400 is only slightly more expensive than two hours of flight instruction these days in a tiny Cessna. It’s really a flying camera: I wrote and produced shows for public television, and often thought it would be good to become a licensed drone pilot and get nice high-angle views of the towns we visited.

A license isn’t required yet for recreational, non-commercial flyers, but to shoot video for freelance video work, I needed to pass the FAA’s Aeronautical Knowledge Exam, which covers airspace classification, flight restrictions, aviation weather, emergency procedures, and other necessities.

Here’s the short course: Don’t fly over people, near airports, or more than 400 feet above the ground. The FAA has jurisdiction over the skies, but there are a myriad of state and local regulations. The best advice: Don’t bother people.



I love anything that flies, and the little drone fits the bill surprisingly well. Controlling it via a live video link over a central Indiana soybean field the other day, I swooped down between some trees and followed a winding creek, skimming 6 feet above the ground. In the historic southern Indiana town of Madison a couple of weeks ago, I flew out over the Ohio River for a scenic look back at the town and a cruise downstream.

Virtually all of the flying is done by microprocessors as the bird locks on to a dozen GPS satellites for stability. Press a button, and it lifts to about 3 feet in the air and waits for instructions. Push a stick and it climbs, descends, goes in any direction you point it, with the camera stabilized the whole time. For shooting, the challenge is making the kind of careful, precise control movements to produce smooth images.

I'm still a rookie pilot, but the practice is fun. And these days, it's good to have an excuse to get out – and over – nature. Here are three of the pieces I've done for practice:

[Madison Saturday](#) - [Hamilton County Country](#) - [White River and the GM Plant](#)

That's our Sue Manning – in left field of Dodger Stadium



Rachel Ambrose ([Email](#)) - The late Sue Manning is out in left field. Left field at her beloved Dodger Stadium, that is.

Friends and AP Family contributed for her cutout with surplus funds (\$565 at latest report) going to the AP Emergency Staff Fund. Here is Sue at last Thursday night's home game against the San Francisco Giants, her Dodgers winning 7-2. Outfielder Joc Pederson warming up with another player (not pictured) is in this photo taken by Mark J. Terrill of AP/Los Angeles.

According to an [ESPN story](#), the Dodgers have sold more than 9,500 cutouts to hang out with one another around Dodger Stadium -- capacity: 56,000 -- when the team plays at home. The coronavirus pandemic has caused MLB and sports around the world to play on without fans in the stands, and so teams like the Dodgers and the New York Mets have given their fans the opportunity to still be part of the game. The Dodgers are donating all money to its charity. So far, that is \$1.6 million given directly to the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation.

More thoughts on dropping of atomic bombs in Japan

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - Connecting's pieces on the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing offered a variety of views on whether it or the Nagasaki bombing was necessary. This has been debated since soon after the use of the first atomic bombs caused Emperor Hirohito to overrule his generals, accepting unconditional surrender. The generals were preparing to fight to a bitter end after their unsuccessful efforts to get a neutral country to negotiate a settlement that would leave the general staff in control.

Researching lectures that I gave on cruise ships visiting both atomic-bombed cities, I concluded that President Truman had no responsible choice but to order A-bombs used.

After Japanese troops had fought to the death in earlier Pacific battles, they killed 14,000 Allied forces on Okinawa in April-June 1945 (American losses were third only to Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge in Europe). Of the 77,000 Japanese soldier deaths on Okinawa, many were suicides rather than surrender, and 42,000 or more Okinawa civilians were killed or committed suicide. This left no expectation of easy victory on Japan's main islands, where civilians were being told to sharpen bamboo spears to repel American troops.

Planning for the largest amphibious operations in history – far larger than D-Day in France – estimated 109,000 Allied dead and 350,000 wounded for landing on Japan's southern main island, Kyushu, on Nov. 1, 1945, and 267,000 dead and almost a million wounded if a second landing near Tokyo was needed on March 1, 1946. In preparation, nearly half a million Purple Heart medals were made. Awarded in Korea and Vietnam, some remained to be awarded to U.S. wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan six decades later.

The old man whom Doug Tucker quoted was right. "There was not a man in our unit who expected to survive (invading Japan) . . . Everybody knew the Japanese were determined to fight to the last man."

Troops were being withdrawn from Japan's puppet state of Manchukuo in northeastern China to defend the home islands, making easier the Soviet attack into China beginning August 9. Stalin had promised the western Allies at Yalta in February 1945 that he would join the Asian war then, three months after Germany was defeated (and have an opportunity to loot Japan's

Manchukuo industries, shipping equipment back to the devastated USSR, while turning Japanese weapons over to Mao Zedong for the civil war that brought him to power in China). But Soviet forces, some supplied by camel-drawn carts, lacked an amphibious capability to help in Japan's home islands.

As for Hiroshima's being a military base, it was the main port shipping supplies to Japanese troops to the south. The museum there obscures this point, part of compromising its generally good displays that show little of Japanese aggression in Asia. The less-visited and inferior museum at Nagasaki also plays down its importance as a port, although it was the secondary A-bomb target on August 9 when the primary one (Kokura) was obscured by clouds. (The excellent harbor at Nagasaki was where Westerners first entered Japan as a 16th-century Portuguese and Dutch trading center, introducing Christianity to Japan.)

Seldom remembered is that the total deaths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were lower than those caused by earlier U.S. explosive- and fire-bombings of Tokyo and other cities. Various studies came up with different totals, but all were higher.

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Steve Hendren ([Email](#)) - I've read a bit about the WWII use of the atomic bombs and I'm not convinced they were necessary to end the war without additional U.S. mass casualties. I think it's plausible that Truman used the bombings partially to warn the Soviets as he looked ahead to the next (cold) war. The attached article – [Were the Atomic Bombings Necessary?](#) - has some interesting quotes from US military leaders on the subject.

On the flip side, at least the world saw how awful these things really are and we've avoided nuclear annihilation for 75 years.

More stories of your first or favorite vehicles



Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - I thought this might make an amusing addition to the first-car column.

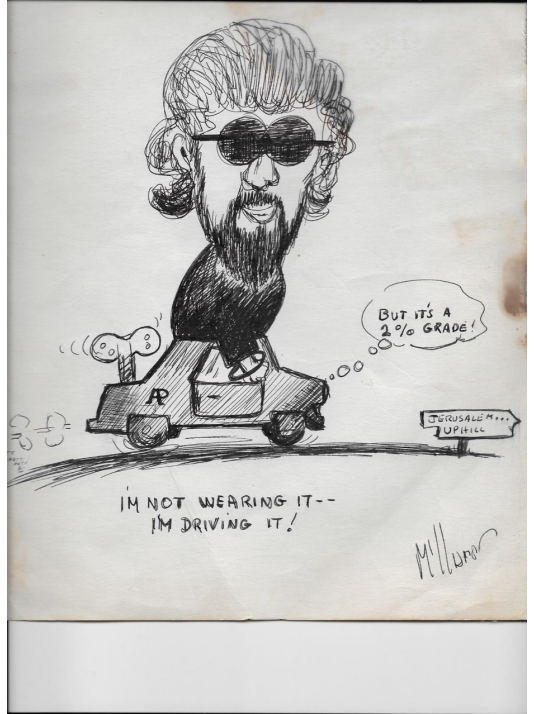
This is mine.

It's an Italian two-seater called a Vespa 400 which I drove in my early years at AP Tel Aviv.

The cartoon was drawn by the late, great COB who hired me, Hal McClure.

This valiant little machine, rather old and very cheap, was the best I've ever owned, though it did struggle with the uphill drive from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

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Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - Connecting's auto appreciation series just keeps on driving, so it's about time this LA car guy joins the rally. Presented here are my first, favorite and current rides – a '61 VW Beetle, '68 Porsche 912 and 2015 Audi TT – followed by one of the cars (not mine) that started it all in 1939. As you can see by a resemblance that spans four generations, I like keeping it in the family. Ferdinand Porsche would be proud.



Charlie Monzella ([Email](#)) - I had two cars before this one, but this is the first car I have a photo of (at least, that I can find). This is a 1959 German-made Borgward.

We were living in Huntington, West Virginia, and had recently bought our first home. So, because of the low-paying AP job and the fact we had no children, we bought this two-door Borgward. Another reason we bought it was that the salesman who sold it to us happened to be the husband of an AP teletype operator and we expected him to give us a good deal!

A couple of years later, Borgward was no long being made in Germany. However, the brand was still manufactured for a number of years after that in Mexico, so getting parts for it was no problem.

This was not the only car I've owned that went out of production. I bought an Oldsmobile a year or so before GM discontinued production of them. I now have a Saturn, which hasn't been produced since a couple of years after I bought it.

Best of the Week

AP Exclusive: Portland protests – the view from both sides of the fence



AP Photo/Mario Jose Sanchez

As conflict unfolded night after night in Portland, Oregon, AP journalists spent a weekend both outside among the protesters, and inside the courthouse with rare access to federal agents, providing unmatched perspective from both sides of the political divide.

This week's Best of the Week winner celebrates the work of a team of reporters, photographers and video journalists whose extensive coverage of the Portland protests against racial injustice culminated in an exclusive all-formats look at the conflict from the perspective of both demonstrators and federal law enforcement agents.

On the last weekend of July, federal law enforcement reporter Mike Balsamo embedded overnight Friday and Saturday with U.S. agents inside the downtown federal courthouse, where thousands of demonstrators gathered nightly to protest their presence, while Portland reporter Gillian Flaccus continued her coverage from the crowd massed outside the courthouse perimeter.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Players open up to AP, describe coach's abusive practices at Oregon State



Oregon State University volleyball coach Mark Barnard poses for a photo in Corvallis, Ore., in an undated photo. Players, parents and observers of the program tell the AP that Barnard's treatment of players is abusive. OSU says an investigation into the program has concluded and appropriate action has been taken to address the complaints. GODOFREDO VASQUET / ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD VIA AP

A tip and a five-month AP investigation led to detailed accusations by players of abusive treatment by a college coach whose bullying and threats reportedly drove almost a dozen players to leave campus and at least two to contemplate suicide.

Denver-based national sports writer Eddie Pells was first approached in February by the mom of a player who said she had some concerns about abuses going on in the volleyball program at Oregon State. She was referred to Pells by a friend in Eugene, Oregon, who thought Pells – who has led AP’s coverage of the SafeSport program to protect athletes – would be a good fit for this story, giving it the attention and approach it deserved.

Over the next five months, Pells conducted dozens of interviews with about 15 people, both in and out of the program. He was careful to separate actual abuse from hard coaching, and checked with experts to learn if the behavior by volleyball coach Mark Barnard was over the line.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai arrested, newsroom searched



Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, right, who founded local newspaper Apple Daily, is arrested by police officers at his home in Hong Kong, Monday, Aug. 10, 2020. Lai was arrested Monday on suspicion of collusion with foreign powers, his aide said, in the highest-profile use yet of the new national security law Beijing imposed on the city after protests last year. (AP Photo)

By ZEN SOO

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities broadened their enforcement of a new national security law on Monday, arresting media tycoon Jimmy Lai, searching the headquarters of his Next Digital group and carting away boxes of what they said was evidence.

Two days after Chinese and Hong Kong officials shrugged off sanctions imposed on them by the U.S., the moves showed China's determination to enforce the new law and curb dissent in the semi-autonomous city after months of massive pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

The police action marked the first time the law was used against news media, stoking fears that authorities are suppressing press freedom. Next Digital operates Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid that often condemns

China's Communist Party government. Last year, the newspaper frequently urged readers to take part in the anti-government protests.

Hong Kong police arrested Lai on Monday morning, an aide to the businessman said, in the highest-profile detention under the new law since it took effect in late June. Lai, 71, is an outspoken pro-democracy figure who regularly criticizes China's authoritarian rule and Hong Kong's government.

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

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Reversing a decade-long trend, Gannett plans to grow its newsroom staffs in the second half of 2020 (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

As Gannett plans for continued COVID-related revenue pressure for the balance of the year, permanent expense reductions are in the works — but no newsroom layoffs.

In fact, some staffing increases are coming at both USA Today and the company's network of 260 regional dailies, Mike Reed, Gannett's CEO, told me in an interview Thursday.

Reed said that the company wants to build on traffic and paid digital subscription momentum over the last few months as its journalists have provided high volume and high-quality coverage of the pandemic and social justice protests.

"We need to get even better (at news content)," he said, to support the key strategy of strong audience revenue growth as advertising losses have accelerated. The company expects to pass the 1 million mark in paid digital subscriptions this quarter, he said. (And, of course, the basic USA Today site remains free.)

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

Regulating social media? Be careful what you wish for (Times of Israel)

By DAN PERRY

One of the sad things about life is that principles can emerge badly from collisions with reality. So it is with the principle that social media sites are not publishers but rather platforms that should not be held accountable for horrible content they disseminate globally. It is starting to dawn on people that this situation is causing huge damage to society, and a critical mass is forming in favor of change.

We're supposed to love change and the fashionable view is that only a Luddite resists it. But not all change is good; the emergence of social media was itself a huge disruption, and many today regret it. We are probably headed for controls and regulation on the wild circus that is social media, which sounds good. But it also smacks of censorship, which sounds bad.

Read more [here](#).

Boycotted. Criticized. But Fox News Leads the Pack in Prime Time. (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

In one sense, this has been a difficult period for Fox News: a star anchor fired after being accused of sexual harassment, a lawsuit depicting a misogynist workplace, a top writer exposed as a racist internet troll, advertiser boycotts and outrage after Tucker Carlson called protesters “criminal mobs” and questioned the patriotism of a senator who lost her legs in Iraq.

In another sense, business has never been better.

In June and July, Fox News was the highest-rated television channel in the prime-time hours of 8 to 11 p.m. Not just on cable. Not just among news networks. All of television. The average live Fox News viewership in those hours outstripped cable rivals like CNN, MSNBC and ESPN, as well as the broadcast networks ABC, CBS and NBC, according to Nielsen.

Read more [here](#).

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A roar, an explosion, then a blank: An L.A. Times reporter's ordeal in the Beirut blast (Los Angeles Times)

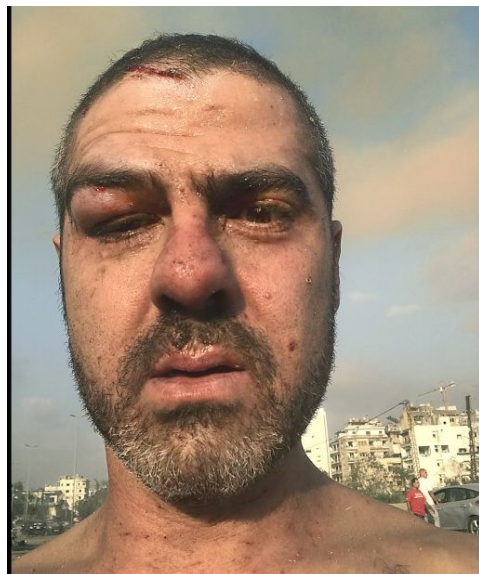
By **NABIH BULOS**
STAFF WRITER

BEIRUT — I don't know how I'm still here.

On Tuesday, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate — a common fertilizer that's also highly explosive (it's Islamic State's chemical of choice) — blew up in Beirut's port. The blast, which ranks as one of the world's largest non-nuclear detonations, registered as a magnitude 3.3 earthquake and could be felt as far away as Cyprus.

I was less than 500 yards away, so really, I mean it literally: I don't know how I'm still here.

I remember doing mundane stuff before the chain of events that led to the explosion: postponing a restaurant reservation, sketching out a story brewing in my mind, making plans for the weekend with my fiancée. Then I heard a roar, a rumbling crescendo that had my neighbors running out to the street, convinced that the long-expected Israeli attack on Lebanon had finally come.



I went outside onto my apartment's balcony, scanning the sky for jets before glimpsing fires eating away at the port. I tweeted a video of the rising plume of smoke, scrambled down the stairs and fired up my motorcycle, heading toward the port to take a closer look.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Brian Bland.

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Kurt Luedtke, former Free Press editor and Oscar-winning screenwriter, dies at 80 (Detroit Free Press)

Tim Kiska, Special to the Detroit Free Press

Kurt Luedtke, the former Detroit Free Press executive editor who went on to win an Academy Award for his "Out of Africa" screenplay, has died. He was 80.

Luedtke, after a long illness, died Sunday at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, his wife confirmed.

A native of Grand Rapids and the son of lumber broker Herman Luedtke and Virginia Luedtke, he received a bachelor's degree from Brown University then entered the University of Michigan Law School.

After Brown, he enrolled in a fast-track summer law program at U-M. But the burgeoning civil rights movement was gaining traction. "He simply felt he had to be there," recalled his wife of 55 years, Eleanor.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Charles Hill.

The Final Word

One photographer's intimate view of the presidency (CBS)



President Gerald Ford conducts an early-morning meeting in Tokyo's Akasaka Palace State Guest House with military aide Steve Todd, special assistant Terry O'Donnell, and chief of staff Donald Rumsfeld, November 19, 1974. DAVID HUME KENNERLY

CBS Sunday Morning

The guiding principles of presidential imagery have always been dignified, commanding and, well, presidential, at least with the images a White House has control over – those taken by a president's official photographer.

But when it came to the nation's 38th president, Gerald Ford had other ideas, such as this meeting with his advisors, conducted in his pajamas.

"He let me do whatever I wanted," said David Hume Kennerly. "I mean, it was the perfect situation for a photographer to have the ability to do this and have him not care."

As Mr. Ford's official photographer, Kennerly had unprecedented access to Ford and his family – something he demanded when offered the job: "So, I looked him in the eye and I said, 'Mr. President, I would love to do it on two conditions: I report directly to you, and I have access to everything that's going on in the White House, to shoot it for history. And he started laughing, and then he said, 'You don't want Air Force One on the weekends?'"

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - August 10, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 10, the 223rd day of 2020. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 10, 1944, during World War II, American forces overcame remaining Japanese resistance on Guam.

On this date:

In 1680, Pueblo Indians launched a successful revolt against Spanish colonists in present-day New Mexico.

In 1861, Confederate forces routed Union troops in the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River.

In 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio at his summer home on the Canadian island of Campobello.

In 1945, a day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Imperial Japan conveyed its willingness to surrender provided the status of Emperor Hirohito remained unchanged. (The Allies responded the next day, saying they would determine the Emperor's future status.)

Give the gift they'll open every day.

In 1962, Marvel Comics superhero Spider-Man made his debut in issue 15 of "Amazing Fantasy" (cover price: 12 cents).

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actor Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by their government during World War II.

In 1991, nine Buddhists were found slain at their temple outside Phoenix, Arizona. (Two teenagers were later arrested; one was sentenced to life in prison, while the other received 281 years.)

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1995, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were charged with 11 counts in the Oklahoma City bombing (McVeigh was convicted of murder and executed; Nichols was convicted of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to life in prison).

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using explosives smuggled in hand luggage.

In 2016, Lonnie Franklin Jr., the Los Angeles serial killer known as the "Grim Sleeper," was sentenced to death for the murders of nine women and a teenage girl. Franklin was found dead in his cell on March 20, 2020.

Ten years ago: The House pushed through an emergency \$26 billion jobs bill that Democrats said would save 300,000 teachers, police and others from layoffs; President Barack Obama immediately signed it into law. Hollywood producer David L. Wolper, 82, died in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Five years ago: A draft of a secret study obtained by The Associated Press found that air traffic controllers' work schedules often led to chronic fatigue, making them less alert and endangering the safety of the country's air traffic system. A power plant operator in southern Japan restarted a nuclear reactor, the first to begin operating under new safety requirements following the Fukushima disaster.

One year ago: Jeffrey Epstein, accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found unresponsive in his cell at a New York City jail; he was later pronounced dead at a hospital. (The city's medical examiner ruled the death a suicide by hanging.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rhonda Fleming is 97. Singer Ronnie Spector is 77. Actor James Reynolds is 74. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 73. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 71. Singer Patti Austin is 70. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 68. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 66. Actor Rosanna Arquette is 61. Actor Antonio Banderas is 60. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 59. Singer Julia Fordham is 58. Journalist-blogger Andrew Sullivan is 57. Actor Chris Caldovino is 57. Singer Neneh Cherry is 56. Singer Aaron Hall is 56. Former boxer Riddick Bowe is 53. Actor Sean Blakemore is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 53. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 52. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 49. Actor Angie Harmon is 48. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 47. Actor-turned-lawyer Craig Kirkwood is 46. Actor JoAnna Garcia Swisher is 41. Singer Cary Ann Hearst (Shovels & Rope) is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nikki Bratcher (Divine) is 40. Actor Aaron Staton is 40. Actor Ryan Eggold is 36. Actor Charley Koontz is 33. Actor Lucas Till is 30. Reality TV star Kylie Jenner is 23. Actor Jeremy Maguire is 9.

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



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"