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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 20th day of August 2020,

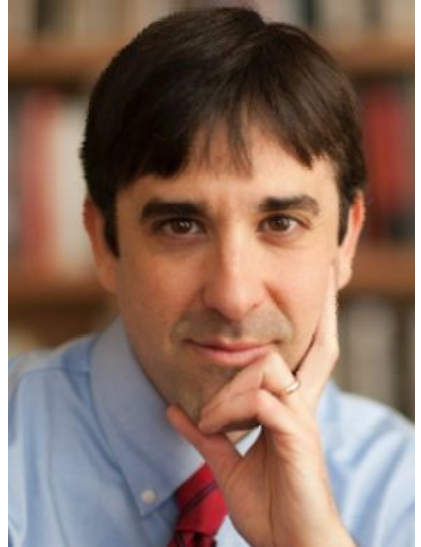
In these days of COVID-19, our world as we knew it has been turned upside down. And that includes one of the most important things in life: giving a proper farewell to a loved one who has died. Funeral and memorial gatherings are limited or delayed, if held at all, or done virtually by Zoom and other means of safe social distancing.

“In Praise of the Zoom Funeral” is a thoughtful article by [Jeremy Smith](#) published

recently in [Slate](#), a daily magazine on the web and podcast network.

Its lead graf:

I went to my first Zoom funeral a couple of weeks ago. I had no idea what to expect. That phrase — “Zoom funeral” — sounds so tacky and degrading. Who would come? How would it work? What would people wear? Would we be gathering respectfully to mourn a loved one, or slouch on our respective couches, alone together, arguing with other family members at home about how to position the phone, tablet, or laptop screen, with the cat mewling to be fed?



“A Zoom funeral feels ... like a travesty,” Violet Kim wrote for Future Tense in May. Until I went to one, I would have agreed. By the end of the ceremony, I had the opposite conclusion: A Zoom funeral, in many ways, might be better than an in-person one. Certainly, it was no less “real.”

I hope you will read the rest of the article by clicking [here](#) — and then sharing your own experiences and thoughts with your colleagues.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The article by **Jerry Cipriano** on FDR, the AP and remote acceptance speeches that led Wednesday's edition had a key graf omitted due to this editor's error and I would like to present the article to you in its entirety. See today's Final Word. It is even more current as Joe Biden's acceptance speech - the first done remotely since FDR's in war-time 1944 - is set for tonight.

Editors at Car and Driver and Motor Trend can relax. Connecting will not be taking over their audience. For the first time in weeks, we received no colleague stories of your first or favorite vehicle. It's been a fascinating series, sparked by an idea from **Norm Abelson**, and my guess is that I have not yet received the last story. We'll see.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Your stories of covering national conventions

Mike Graczyk ([Email](#)) - I participated in three national political conventions – all GOP – in Detroit in 1980, Dallas in 1984 and Houston in 1992.

I was news editor in Detroit and COB Jim Wilson was responsible for getting the AP convention bureau built. He was continually stymied by delays and difficulties with the construction vendors until he managed to grease the skids with cash. I don't know if 50 Rock approved his slush fund and I suspect it may have been the product of some creative expense account maneuvers. Most COBs at the time were masters at that. But whatever he did convinced the special interests at Cobo Hall and ensured the bureau was up and running on time. I remember sitting in the upper deck at the then new Joe Louis Arena, next door to Cobo Hall, watching Reagan's acceptance speech and the obligatory balloon drop.

By 1984, I'd been moved to Houston and was part of the Texas staff in Dallas for Reagan's bid for a second term. We were told Texas staff was responsible for everything outside the convention. National folks handled everything inside. In the early morning hours of Thursday, what would be the last day of the convention, I got a phone call at my AP-assigned room at the Dallas Plaza Hotel (not the Crowne Plaza, just the Plaza, a place so obscure in the downtown bowels the taxi driver who brought me from the airport didn't know where it was). The infamous Texas School Book Depository was on fire, you're only a few blocks away and you need to get there asap, I was told. I believe it reached five alarms with about 100 firefighters called to the scene. Authorities also determined quickly it was an arson. I don't remember Reagan's acceptance speech or much else from later that day, although I think a bunch of us AP folks wound up that night at the bar in Reunion Tower, the iconic ball skyscraper downtown.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush threw a bone to his adopted hometown by holding the GOP convention at the Houston Astrodome – in August. In Houston there's summer (most of the time) and August, the most oppressive month of the year. And the poor Houston Astros were roused from their home park and forced to play 26 games over 28 days on the road, one of the longest road trips in MLB history. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and it wasn't unbearably hot for those of us assigned to outside duties, but the Astros lost

more of those road games than they won. And ultimately so did Bush, whose bid for a second term was thwarted by Bill Clinton.

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Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - For journalists covering a national political convention it is like covering a fire, a war, and a mud-wrestling event at the same time. In the "Old Days" a journalist could also forget about sleep.

My first national political convention was in Chicago, in 1952, not long after I became an Associated Press photographer. What a shock. I was bug-eyed, but alert to my responsibilities. In those days, before Walter Cronkite changed the whole format, we had very long hours, and food and toilet breaks were difficult to come by.

Then the convention lasted some five days. For journalists, it started about 6 a.m., with caucuses in the lodging hotels where the various delegates stayed, and ended about 2 a.m. after the day's work was finished and we had something to eat. I would take a shower with my suit and clothes on. They were quick-dry clothes. I would stand in the shower and wash my suit, then underwear and socks. Hang them up to dry, go to bed for about three hours and back to the caucuses. I lived in, and covered the old (and later destroyed) Morrison Hotel, but I also covered the Palmer House.

After taking pictures at one caucus, I would quickly write the captions, put them into a big envelope, and hand it to a Chicago policeman, who was waiting at the door along with other Chicago men of blue (hired by AP as motorcycle messengers), who would jump on their wheels for a very rapid trip to the Chicago Stockyards where AP and other news organizations headquartered. That usually lasted until at least noon.

I well remember the day I took pictures at the Morrison, but also went over to the Palmer House for other coverage. The location of the Palmer House was unknown to me. I jumped into a taxi and directed the driver to hurry to the Palmer House. He looked at me strangely, but swung over into the outside lane, turned the corner, and immediately stopped at the front door of the Palmer House! He smiled. I felt stupid.

A funny experience at the Palmer House was trying to get a bite to eat in between covering the hotel caucuses. I would go into the lobby coffee and sandwich shop just off the lobby and get a sandwich and a carton of milk. The routine involved taking a bite of the sandwich, a gulp of milk, and then hiding

the remainder in the palm bushes in the lobby. Then rush to an upper floor and take pictures of another caucus. Then repeat the process until time to go to the convention center and the activities of the afternoon and evening.

Some of the experiences I had over the years. My first convention was, of course, exciting, except for one afternoon. In those days Rinky-dink speakers spoke. The delegates were seldom there, except for a very few. One day it was so boring that I sat down in an empty row seat. I sat there, alone, for some time. There was absolutely nothing to photograph. I finally went into the work room where Executive Newsphoto Editor Al Resch asked me how I was doing. I replied that it was mighty slow and quiet. He responded: "Well, you were the feature event on national television for a long period just now." Turned out the convention was so boring that a TV camera was pointed at me resting, and for a long period of time! We all laughed.

Another event was that I always had a handful of requests from various papers asking for a picture of their delegation. I kept busy at that, except for one paper. Their delegates never showed up until the last night of the event. No, I didn't bother.

For years the conventions lasted for a long time, and were raucous much of the time, with spontaneous speeches from the floor, surprise parades of bands, college kids, flag-waving delegates, and loud music, etc. The halls of the Center, where the media worked, were usually jammed, especially if you were there when they played the Star Spangled Banner before the event started. We were jammed cheek-to-cheek, which brought smiles from the person in front, and the person behind. It was always an experience to do this with cameras held high overhead. It was an experience to walk through the lobby of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, at 3 A.M. with the crowd so thick that again, cameras overhead.

In those days, there was a little narrow platform at the base of the speaker's podium. Two of the regular photographers that were always there were AP's Charlie Knoblock and Time Magazine's "Nig" Miller, who was a character, about whom many stories have been told.

Then, all of a sudden, the whole format for the conventions changed. CBS's Walter Cronkite seemed to take over, for the sake of national television. Afternoon sessions were no longer held – just evening. There were no spontaneous celebrations; only planned responses from the leader of a state delegation. All of the fun went out of the events.

After the convention in Chicago, 1952, and I was working out of the Milwaukee AP office then, it was time to go home. My roommate from Boston, and I, awakened and tried to get ready to pack our clothes and leave. It took me almost two hours to do this because of total fatigue. He was still in bed when I left. My wife picked me up, and I gave her directions for lunch at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and Spa in Geneva, Wisconsin. I then went to sleep. We ate, and I slept all the way back to Milwaukee. We went into our apartment and I went to bed, and to sleep.

So much for the old National Political Conventions. Now we have conventions with no people in attendance, but everything handled by Virtual Television, where every participant is somewhere out in space, and not crowded in smokey, hot convention halls. How do still photographers handle conventions where there isn't anyone? Hmmm.

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Jim Spehar ([Email](#)) - In midsummer 1972, KPHO AM in Phoenix was gasping its last all-news breaths, soon to be sold to a local country music magnate and its format converted to twangs, fiddles and steel guitars (back when you could still hear those sorts of sounds in recordings by real country performers.) Once the sale was finalized by the Meredith Corporation, news and management staffs would all be out of jobs and, worse yet, minus our complimentary subscriptions to "Better Homes and Gardens" and "Successful Farming".

As News Director, I managed to convince our GM we should cover the Arizona delegation to the Democratic National Convention in Miami. I assigned myself and one of our most able but scruffiest reporters, James R. Hood, to the task. Nearly 50 years later, I don't recall if Hood took along his pride and joy, the world's most cumbersome "portable" tape recorder, a massive Uher reel-to-reel. Our crack engineering staff provided us with some sort of technically challenging phone interface device for relaying our reports back to the station.

I don't recall much about the so-called "McGovern" convention other than Miami's July heat and humidity that might cause a #2 lead pencil to sprout leaves if stuck into the ground, bus rides from the hotel to the convention center, interesting chats with one of my all-time favorite politicians, Mo Udall, and the on-scene excitement regarding the McGovern-Eagleton ticket that would soon dissolve before Democrats suffered one of the worst defeats in presidential election history. My abiding memory is of needing seven post-midnight takes to complete a recorded report to be aired in prime morning drive time back in Phoenix. Unfortunately, our early-morning host, the late

Dave Zorn, aired number six, complete with one of George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words" when a miscue left me saying "Oh _____, let's try it again."

I left the station and Phoenix shortly thereafter, leaving it to Hood to preside over the dying breaths of all-news KPHO. Months later, after Bonnie and I returned from our low-budget "hippie" tour of Europe, I learned he'd entered us in the annual Press Club awards competition, where we were honored for "Best General Radio Reporting" for our convention coverage, drive time profanity and all. Somehow Hood and I ended up at the AP and Dave Zorn went on to an illustrious career at KNX in Los Angeles.

Votes for Women: The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON AUG 26---(NEW LEAD SUFFRAGE)---The proclamation announcing officially that the suffrage amendment to the constitution had been ratified was signed today by Secretary Celby of the State Department.

-ib-1007am



In this Aug. 19, 1920 photo made available by the Library of Congress, Alice Paul, chair of the National Woman's Party, unfurls a banner after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, from a balcony at the NWP's headquarters in Washington. (The Crowley Company/Library of Congress via AP)

AP Images Blog

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th amendment to the constitution, securing women's right to vote. One week later, on August 26th, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed the official proclamation certifying the adoption of the suffrage amendment. Although the 19th amendment granted the right to vote to all women, many Black women and women of color would remain disenfranchised for decades to come.

Read and view more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

Much to be thankful for: a new AP Hall of Famer reflects



When **John Hanna** ([Email](#)), AP's Topeka correspondent, was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame last week, his acceptance speech was filmed from his office in the Kansas Statehouse and shared virtually.

COVID-19 prevented an in-person Kansas Press convention for the first time in its history, but it did not deter Hanna from giving thanks to those who played key roles in his career. Here is his acceptance speech:

I'm extremely grateful to the Kansas Press Association for this honor and to Paul Stevens for making the nomination. But I have to acknowledge that I'm still a bit gob-smacked by being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

After all, I went to a School of Journalism at the University of Kansas named after William Allen White. I took classes from John Bremner and Mike Kautsch. Del Brinkman and Tom Eblen were there when I was a student.

I had a summer internship at The Wichita Eagle when Buzz Merritt was in charge. Paul Stevens hired me at The Associated Press. Later, he took me on trips across the state to meet editors like Ned Valentine and Tom Throne and John G. Montgomery and Hub Meyer and Ed and Dave Seaton. I still have an Eisenhower Library mug from Vivien Sadowski; it was her token of appreciation for speaking to Rotarians in Abilene. Emerson Lynn and Carter Zerbe would stop by The AP's Statehouse office.

And, of course, like dozens of other Associated Press staffers, I had the enormously good fortune of having Lew Ferguson as my mentor at The Associated Press. That was like getting two extra degrees in journalism and 25 years of experience crammed into the first five years of my career.

More recently, I've been working around and with some talented younger reporters, whose energy and intelligence have kept me from getting too complacent.

All of this good fortune is a reminder of God's infinite grace. I get more daily reminders in the form of my family, especially my mother, Pat; my late father, John, and my daughter, Karly.

I inherited my competitive streak, a good deal of any resourcefulness that I have and my willingness to question authority from my late father, John. I still miss his guidance.

As far as I know, I'm the first professional reporter in my family. This career choice probably wasn't on my parents' radar at first but they've always been very, very supportive. My father once went into a meeting to close a deal with an executive who grumbled about he'd something he'd read in the morning paper and said that if he were in charge, he'd shoot all the reporter. My father shot back, "My son is a reporter." That's an example of how fortunate I've been in the support that I've had.

My daughter has made me smarter, more empathetic and a better storyteller, but more importantly, she's brought me this bottomless joy. Her smile alone is an antidote when the world feels hostile.

And my colleagues at The Associated Press get a lot of credit for this honor, too, because good journalism requires collaboration. None of them have let me settle, take a window seat or coast. A correspondent like me needs colleagues who are supportive but who aren't so overly impressed that they won't say things like, "Well, did you ask?" or "Where's the nut graf?" or my personal

favorite, “You didn’t mean to write THAT, did you?” I work with a lot of insanely talented people.

The AP is place where a legislative relief staffer like Sally Buzbee in Topeka in 1988 can become, through talent and hard work, the executive editor. But it also honors reporters like me, who stay in a single place to see the sweep of history there.

What is humbling about being inducted into this Hall of Fame is that it’s filled with people dedicated to making sure that a single community or region had great journalism. It’s therefore a double honor to be in the same class with Linda Denning and Gary Mehl.

I’m grateful to the Press Association for its persistence in holding a virtual convention.

I know this has been a tough year – and perhaps a tough decade or even a tough 21st Century – for journalism.

And I don’t have a clue what business model will work best going forward and I doubt we’ll see an end to the attacks on our mission to hold public officials accountable.

Yet, I remain optimistic about the future. I’ve seen the next generation of journalists at work. I’m confident that some of them will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, 30 or 40 years from now.

Just as Linda, Gary and I are now bound more closely to legendary editors, teachers and mentors, we’ll then be tied to the reporters and editors who will keep journalism vital in the decades to come.

And for that, my deepest gratitude. Thank you.

Connecting mailbox

Packing up in Denver



Technician Mark Steers poses for a photo, Aug. 11, 2020, after packing up AP's Denver bureau, which is moving to a new office, co-locating with Rocky Mountain PBS and several other news organizations. (AP Photo/Jim Clarke)

A cloud growing over Napa Valley



Michael Rubin ([Email](#)) - No sunset photo - instead what has been called a pyrocumulus cloud growing over the foothills east of us in the Napa Valley,

about three or four miles from our home.

Stories of interest

How 20+ newsrooms are turning to the public to focus 2020 election reporting (Poynter)

By Bridget Thoreson

A new portrait appears in every edition of the Santa Cruz Local newsletter, with a local resident's response to this question: What do you want local candidates to talk about as they compete for your vote in November?

The responses have ranged from racial inequalities to homelessness, from municipal budgets to the human challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That question is being put to voters all around the country as newsrooms incorporate the citizens agenda approach in their 2020 coverage. Media critic and journalism professor Jay Rosen is to thank for articulating this approach, and tirelessly advocating for it each election cycle. The citizens agenda is a powerful model for reaching new audiences and deepening your existing relationships that allows newsrooms to focus their coverage on the most important issues and demand accountability for responses from candidates. This approach centers on a key question: What do you want the candidates to be talking about as they compete for votes?

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

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A different view of the Democrats on Fox News prime time

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity are providing television viewers with a distinctly different vision of the Democratic National Convention each night from their perches on Fox News Channel.

Hannity calls the virtual convention “the worst infomercial ever made” and provides brief, annotated highlights of some Democratic speakers. Carlson said that if the Democratic National Committee was in direct marketing, it would “be bankrupt by now.”

Fox News is providing an hour of convention news coverage each night, the same as broadcast networks ABC, CBS and NBC. But as cable rivals CNN and MSNBC devote three hours in prime time to the convention — including showing the Democrats’ feed virtually uninterrupted — Fox will not dislodge its biggest opinion stars.

Carlson and Hannity offer a viewpoint familiar to supporters of President Donald Trump. In the first two nights, their guests have included Donald Trump Jr., Kellyanne Conway, former White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders and Trump campaign spokeswoman Erin Perrine.

No one minces words.

Read more [here](#).

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Should The NYPD Get To Decide Who's A Journalist? (Gothamist)

BY DANNY LEWIS, WNYC

The NYPD is considering changes to the rules regarding when it can suspend or revoke the credentials it issues to members of the press.

For many New York City journalists, an official NYPD press pass is key to doing their day-to-day jobs. The plastic cards signify that a reporter has been vetted by the police department in exchange for easier access to things like government press conferences, courtrooms, and emergency situations where

police or firefighters have set up a barricade. But NYPD officers are also given broad discretion to confiscate a journalist's press pass on the spot.

The new rules stem from a 2015 federal lawsuit brought against the department by photographer J.B. Nicholas, whose press pass was confiscated while covering a deadly Midtown building collapse for the New York Daily News. But the announcement about the proposed changes came in after several months of anti-police brutality protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, during which NYPD officers publicly clashed with and threatened to revoke credentials of journalists covering the demonstrations. Since then, some media outlets and elected officials have criticized the proposed changes, arguing that the NYPD should no longer be in charge of issuing press credentials in the first place.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

FDR, AP and remote acceptance speeches



Jerry Cipriano (Email) - When Joe Biden addresses the Democratic National Convention tonight from his home state of Delaware, it will be the first time a presidential nominee has delivered an acceptance speech remotely since 1944, during World War II.

That year, on July 20th, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt accepted the Democratic nomination for an unprecedented fourth term. He spoke to the convention in Chicago via radio from his train in San Diego. Roosevelt had traveled there en route to Pearl Harbor, where he would discuss war strategy with his Pacific commanders.

For security reasons, the location of the train was described only as a West Coast naval base. A radio studio was set up in an observation car that was added to the train. The convention nominated Roosevelt in the afternoon. And, that evening, he went on the radio to accept.

After the President spoke live to the delegates, he read parts of the speech again for the benefit of pool photographers on the train, including George Skadding of The Associated Press.

The film was taken to the AP bureau in Los Angeles for processing. Photo editor Dick Strobel selected a shot to send to newspapers across the country. Strobel later said he chose a picture of Roosevelt with his mouth open, because he was giving a speech.

When Skadding saw the photo, he was shocked. Roosevelt looked awful -- pale, haggard, rings under his eyes. But Strobel said papers were pressing for a picture of the President accepting the nomination for their morning editions, and it was too late to print another. They would have to go with that one.

White House Press Secretary Steve Early was livid. Roosevelt's health was an issue in the 1944 campaign, and he did not appear well in the photo now landing on doorsteps all over America.

Skadding told Early it was not his fault. "I just shot the picture," he said. "Some idiot in L.A. picked it." Just the same, Early kicked Skadding off the President's tour.



PRESIDENT SPEAKS FROM A BASE. FROM RIGHT, MRS. JOHN ROOSEVELT, COLONEL JAMES ROOSEVELT, MRS. JAMES ROOSEVELT. HEAD IN FOREGROUND IS ADMIRAL LEAHY'S

ROOSEVELT NOMINATED FOR TERM IV

A footnote: the same photograph later appeared in Life magazine -- this time, uncropped. (Above) You can see, sitting to the President's right, Lieutenant Commander Howard Bruenn, a Navy cardiologist who had been secretly attending to Roosevelt. The President, 62 years old, was suffering from heart failure. He had less than nine months to live.

(Jerry Cipriano retired in 2018 after more than four decades in journalism. He worked at The AP for 11 years, starting as a copy boy while attending Fordham University and later was a Special Writer and Day Supervisor for the Broadcast Wire. He spent 34 years at CBS News, writing for Dan Rather, Bob Schieffer and Scott Pelley as senior news editor and senior producer for the CBS)

Evening News. Jerry covered 16 straight national party conventions, from 1988 to 2016.)

Today in History - August 20, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 20, the 233rd day of 2020. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

On this date:

In 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley calling on President Abraham Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free the slaves and end the South's rebellion.

In 1920, pioneering American radio station 8MK in Detroit (later WWJ) began daily broadcasting.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky was assassinated in Coyoacan, Mexico by Ramon Mercader, a Spanish Communist agent working at the behest of Josef Stalin. (Trotsky died the next day.)

In 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

In 1955, hundreds of people were killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.

In 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

In 1981, Michael Devine, a member of the Irish National Liberation Army, died after a 60-day hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he was the tenth and last hunger-striker to die that year.

In 1986, postal employee Patrick Henry Sherrill went on a deadly rampage at a post office in Edmond, Okla., shooting 14 fellow workers to death before killing himself.

In 1989, entertainment executive Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, were shot to death in their Beverly Hills mansion by their sons, Lyle and Erik. Fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames (tehms) in London after colliding with a dredger.

In 2005, Northwest Airlines mechanics went on strike rather than accept pay cuts and layoffs; Northwest ended up hiring replacement workers. San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Thomas Herrion, 23, died of a heart attack shortly after a preseason game against the Denver Broncos.

In 2008, a Spanish jetliner crashed during takeoff from Madrid, killing 154 people; 18 survived.

In 2017, actor, comic and longtime telethon host Jerry Lewis died of heart disease in Las Vegas at the age of 91.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama invited Israel and the Palestinians to meet face-to-face in Washington the following month for talks aimed at achieving an agreement to establish an independent Palestinian state and secure peace for Israel.

Five years ago: With a broad smile and an upbeat attitude, former President Jimmy Carter told a news conference in Atlanta that he had cancer in his brain, and felt “perfectly at ease with whatever comes.” (In March 2016, Carter announced that recent scans had shown no signs of cancer and that he no longer needed to receive doses of an immune-boosting drug.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly canceled an upcoming trip to Denmark, which owns Greenland, after the Danish prime minister dismissed the idea of the United States purchasing the mostly frozen island.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter Bernstein is 101. Boxing promoter Don King is 89. Former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, is 87. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 85. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 76. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 74. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 73. Actor Ray Wise is 73. Actor John Noble is 72. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 72. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 68. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 68. Actor-director Peter Horton is 67. TV weatherman Al Roker is 66. Actor Jay Acovone is 65. Actor Joan Allen is 64. Movie director David O. Russell is 62. TV personality Asha Blake is 59. Actor James Marsters is 58. Rapper KRS-One is 55. Actor Colin Cunningham is 54. Actor Billy Gardell is 51. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 50. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 50. Rock musician Brad Avery is 49. Actor Misha Collins is 46. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 45. Jazz/pop singer-pianist Jamie Cullum is 41. Actor Ben Barnes is 39. Actor Meghan Ory is 38. Actor Andrew Garfield is 37. Actor Brant Daugherty is 35. Actor-singer Demi Lovato is 28. Actor Christopher Paul Richards 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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