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## Connecting August 25, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020,

Taming the Suffrage Press is the headline for our lead story – as we continue a series from **Lynn Sherr** and **Ellen Goodman** celebrating the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote.

These two journalists draw the connections between their first experiences in newsrooms of the 1960s, and the mostly all-male press of the 1800s. And

guess which newspaper never wavered in its editorials against women's rights?

And you thought the long-running series on memorable first or favorite vehicles was over? No way. We bring you two more today.

And our colleague **Gene Herrick** takes a look at what might be the most unusual Indy 500 race in history, run two days ago without a crowd. Ah, the times we live in...

Look forward to your contributions. Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Taming the Suffrage Press



**CREDIT: Cartoon showing President Grover Cleveland, carrying book "What I know about women's clubs," being chased with an umbrella by Susan B. Anthony, as Uncle Sam laughs in background, 1892-1896. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Reproduction Number LC-USZ62-96565.**

**Lynn Sherr (Email)** - Remember some of these headlines from the pre-liberated days? Back when men ran most newsrooms? GRANDMOTHER ELECTED PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL (1969, as if Golda Meir's talent was only in her ovaries). TAP MARLENE SANDERS AS ABC NEWSHEN (1964, News-hen. No wonder they called us "chicks.").

At least they recognized women's progress in the working world.

Press coverage of the early suffrage movement was equally sexist but far nastier towards women, as my podcasting partner, Ellen Goodman, and I discovered while researching stories from more than a century earlier for the latest episode of our She Votes! series:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/she-votes/id1523079598#episodeGuid=8742ddfe-529f-4b51-9569-e62d8afdeb74>. We call this episode "The Women's Pages."

The Seneca Falls convention of 1848 – the first organized public demand for a woman's right to vote – was ridiculed in one of the only newspapers that covered it, as an absurdity, attended by "Amazons" (note the fear factor) or women who were "dull and uninteresting...hardly worth noticing." A favorite word describing all suffragists back then was "unwomanly." Oh yes, and "unsexed."

Susan B Anthony – a healthy, fit woman known for her generosity of spirit – was usually drawn in cartoons as a wizened old creature wielding a rolled-up umbrella. The better to hit you upside the head with.

It reminded us of the way early Second Wave feminists were described by many male reporters in the 1970 as bra-burning, hair-legged harridans. Headlines quickly turned "Women's Liberation" into the cutesy "Women's Lib."

And for the record – it appears to have been a newspaper reporter, or perhaps a headline writer, in England who dismissed the suffragists of that country as "suffragettes." As in launderette. Kitchenette. A mini-me of the real thing. Our militant sisters across the pond immediately co-opted the term and used it as a battle cry. American campaigners preferred the term "suffragist."

As always, throughout the seven decades of the suffrage campaign here, the press both followed and led the *zeitgeist*, going along with popular opinion in some cases, then pushing it forward in others. That's the story we tell this episode: how the battle for the ballot emerged from derision to front-page

news, and how the women and men who led it learned to use the press to promote their cause.

Much of the hostility screamed out from the editorial pages back then. As in this 1848 example from the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*: “A woman is nobody. A wife is everything. ... The ladies of Philadelphia...are resolved to maintain their rights as Wives...Virgins, and Mothers, and not as Women.”

Have I mentioned that I’m from Philly?

So the movement developed its own alternative press – early *Ms. Magazines*, if you will – to bolster the confidence of what we’d now call a niche audience, and to explain the need for voting rights. Best known was Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s weekly *The Revolution*, whose motto was “Women, their rights and nothing more; Men, their rights and nothing less.” Mormon women (among the earliest to win suffrage) had *The Women’s Exponent*. Agriculturalists, *The Farmer’s Wife*. And Boston suffragist Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin created *The Woman’s Era*, the only such newspaper for African American women. Ruffin told her readers that the only way for women to find out about suffrage was to control their own paper.

In time, and prodded by young thinkers like the fiery Alice Paul, suffragists learned about public relations, figured out what male reporters might want to cover. Learned, in short, to feed the media maw. Starting in the early 1900s, they staged a series of parades, giant spectacles with gorgeous women on horseback (looks were important), marching bands, colorful banners. Of course the press bit. As it did when they took to picketing in front of Woodrow Wilson’s White House with giant signs that quoted his own words back to him: “How long must we wait?” And as it did when picketers were arrested and sent to jail, then brutally force fed after a hunger strike.

We don’t suggest that such moments were the only tipping points in the battle for the ballot. But they surely helped. Even in the face of continued journalistic intransigence.

Consider The New York *Times*. The paper widely viewed today as a bastion of progressiveness dragged its feet for more than seventy years as women sought their rights in our democracy. Editorial after editorial smacked down the demand, treating suffragists as mere annoyances to the ruling white male elite. As late as 1915, the *Times* reminded readers that its position had not changed, that the paper remained adamantly against enfranchisement: “It is

totally opposed to the extension of the suffrage on the grounds that it would not benefit the women in any single way and would tend to disorganize society.”

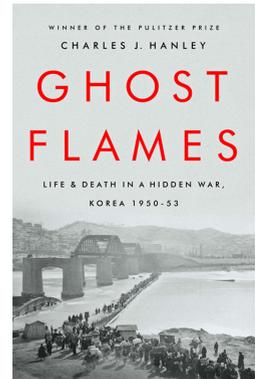
Lots more on our occasionally wayward press in She Votes!

<https://www.shevotespodcast.com/> Come celebrate the Suffrage Centennial with us.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Hanley book on Korean War being published today*

**Charlie Hanley** ([Email](#)) - Just a line noting my book [Ghost Flames](#) is being published today by PublicAffairs/Hachette. As reported in the June 18 Connecting, it's a narrative history of the Korean War told through the experiences of 20 participants, including AP's Bill Shinn. If [Kirkus](#) and [other early reviewers](#) weren't enough to persuade Connecting colleagues to part with a bit of stimulus money to stimulate the publishing industry, they can check out the *NY Times Book Review* on Sept. 6, when we're told they'll cast their critical eye upon *Ghost Flames*. (Excerpts are [here](#).)



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### *Newvine's answers really sparkled*

**John Brewer** ([Email](#)) - Great interview with Colleen Newvine in Monday's Connecting. Her answers really sparkled. Loved the way it ended -- "It was a moment when I realized not everyone knows what I do, but those who care REALLY care."

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## ***Fannin's covid account resonated with his family***

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - Thank you for sharing Mike Fannin's gripping piece of his family dealing with COVID-19 following the visit of his 83-year-old mother. (Monday Connecting.)

It resonated directly in Tucson as our son, his wife, our grandson, Mary and I consider visiting my 89-year-old mother and other family in Iowa this fall. It would be the first time to see everyone in person since the pandemic broke out. I've shared Mike's story with siblings who still live in Iowa.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing this with your readers, and now with your friends on Connecting. Very glad to hear your mother and the rest of your family are recovering.

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## ***A priceless kicker in Wilson's account***

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - Enjoyed Marc Wilson's contribution in Connecting Monday on Gov. Evans getting kicked out of a New York City cafe. I can literally hear the waitress repeatedly tell the governor he had to leave if he was only drinking coffee. Your kicker was priceless!

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## ***Creator of newspaper masks opens new outlet***

**Ronda Churchill (Email)** – Las Vegas freelance photographer (until covid) who has developed a newspaper-themed mask popular with Connecting colleagues – now has an Etsy page up and running (<https://buyronda.etsy.com> – of course, she says, “a newsy pun on “made by Ronda”) and have tracked down a few yards more of this terrific fabric. I plan to post to social again soon, hoping people are not sick of me yet!”

## ***Daily Egyptian says farewell to Eric Fidler, adviser of 16 years***



**By Gus Bode, Staff Reporter**

The Daily Egyptian (of Southern Illinois University) is saying goodbye to its faculty adviser and managing editor of 16 years.

Eric Fidler announced his decision to retire via Twitter on July 31. He plans to stay at the DE until Sept. 1. Fidler is leaving the DE to homeschool and care for his daughter Maddy. “She needs someone to not just juggle all of her medical appointments, but to push her and be there for her all the time,” Fidler said. “I can’t do that and work too.”

Fidler was always there to help a reporter or editor look over a story, think of a quippy headline and he was there to crack a joke to countless editors and reporters on the verge of a mental breakdown.

He always had some kind of instrument in his office and could occasionally be heard blasting super old music or playing his mandolin. He was always quick to judge the staff’s ukulele skills and music taste.

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

(**Fidler** ([Email](#)) earlier worked as a reporter and editor in the Chicago bureau of The Associated Press, where he directed coverage of elections and the Illinois Legislature, and covered the U.S. Senate campaign of Barack Obama, energy issues, the bankruptcy of United Airlines and, as his boss put it, “every major story in the state for 14 years.”)

## Memories of your first or favorite vehicles



**Terry Ganey ([Email](#))** - Throughout my life, I've owned three big Healeys. This 1962 Austin-Healey 3000 was the last one I had. The babe in the car is Judy Ganey. We've been "two for the road" for more than 50 years.

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**Marty Thompson** ([Email](#)) - My first car was for after school commuting. The 1941 Chevrolet coupe, sort of like the one pictured here, set me back \$270 in 1954. The commute happened after classes, across Longview,

Washington, to a job in the Daily News' mailroom. The car was a strange shade of green, perhaps applied unevenly by the hand of an earlier owner.

The Chevy wasn't a favorite, just a first. The following years found me behind the wheels of a '49 Plymouth, a '51 Chevrolet and a '55 Ford. Janet and I bought our first brand new car shortly after we married, a white '63 Buick Skylark convertible. Fast forward through a couple of Fords and a fun-to-drive Mercury Cougar that got us and our two sons from Reno to San Francisco. There were others, but our favorite turned out to be a green 1997 Toyota Celica convertible with a tan top. But for the color, it looked like the one pictured here. It took us from Stamford, Connecticut, to retirement in Santa Rosa, California.

When after 11 years we wrapped up negotiations to buy our first Prius the salesman turned to "What are you going to do with the Celica?" We said we would find a buyer, and he replied, "You can sell it to me." We did; turned out he wanted it for his daughter. Made us feel young at heart.

## 'The Virus Don't care About Nothing'



**Takuma Sato, middle, of Japan, crosses the start/finish line to win the Indianapolis 500 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020, in Indianapolis. Scott Dixon, front, of New Zealand, finished second and Graham Rahal, back, finished third. (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)**

**Gene Herrick (Email)** - The Coronavirus seemingly has upset everybody's schedule, and it's uncaring about illness, death, and the sports world.

Who ever heard of the Indianapolis 500 Race being held on August 23, two days ago, rather than its usual May 30 date? Who ever heard of the race having no fans present? What about the Kentucky Derby being held in September, rather than May?

The Indy 500 is an historical event, with thousands in attendance, as is the Kentucky Derby. I have covered both, as an AP photographer, and as a photo editor. My first Indy race was in 1948, where my post was in the infield on turn one. Those were 4x5 Speed Graphic days. Near the end of the race, I walked to the start-finish line, where I stood on the track, just slightly behind the official who waved the checkered flag as the winning car swished by, and within a very few feet of us. Whew. I also covered the race in 1966 in which Ray Jefferies and I, both Newsphoto editors, left our operating room in the first floor of the historic Pagoda where the time-keepers overlooked the track. Ray and I decided we would go out to the track and watch the first two laps (Until film started coming in from Chicago's Charlie Knoblock, who covered the first turn from overhead.) As we watched the speeding racers enter the first turn, there was a terrible accident (the first ever at the start of the race), in which many car wheels came off and flew into the air. We had never seen anything like it. We quickly returned to the darkroom, and very soon started receiving film. Chief darkroom man, Norm quickly processed, and Ray and I edited. We looked for the neg that had the most wheels in the air. There were over 10. We had never seen anything like it. Of course, we walloped the opposition. The race always reminded me of Christmastime when 3-time Indy winner Wilbur Shaw, and then track owner Tony Hulman, would hold a small party for some 20 newsmen who covered the 500. There were some libations, but the hit was Shaw, dressed in apron and chef's hat, carrying a skillet full of duck-thumbings (filets) and gravy, and we would stab one or two and savor.

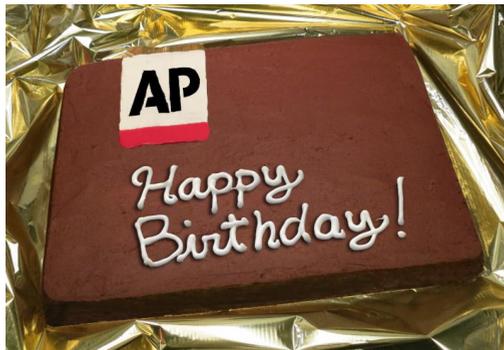
When I covered as a photographer, I spent the whole month of May at the track, and getting to know almost all of the drivers, including Wilbur Shaw (3-time winner), Tony Granitelli, Mauri Rose, the winner, Bill Holland, etc. Winning speed was 119.814. Compare that with recent times.

Shaw related a time when he took a speedster on a few laps around the track (Not during the race), with a close friend. They were coming into the pits and the passenger opened the door to get out. Shaw grabbed him, and said “Whoa, we are still going 70 miles per hour!”

Sunday, Takuma Sato won the 500, his second, under the yellow flag in an exciting race that had many spectacular crashes.

Yes, times have changed, but the virus is having a tough time bringing sports events, like baseball, basketball, and football to their knees.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Reid Miller - [mzeemiller@gmail.com](mailto:mzeemiller@gmail.com)**

## Stories of interest

***Networks' Challenge: Covering a Live Convention When Falsehoods Fly*** (New York Times)

**By Michael M. Grynbaum**

Television's ability to handle a Trump-centric Republican National Convention faced an early test on Monday, when the president delivered a kickoff speech

in Charlotte, N.C., that was filled with false claims about the integrity of mail-in voting and the policy positions of his Democratic opponent, Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Broadcasters were already bracing for a week of tough editorial decisions. Political conventions, at heart, are forms of propaganda, and TV networks typically give a long leash to candidates as they formally make their case to the nation.

But President Trump's well-documented penchant for falsehoods presents a unique challenge, according to network executives.

Producers are trying to balance voters' right to hear directly from their president while preventing misinformation from spreading unchecked on their channels to millions of viewers. The president's allies say that Mr. Trump deserves the same deference as past presidents, and any intervention on the networks' part is a sign of editorial bias.

As the president spoke in Charlotte on Monday shortly after delegates formally renominated him, a hodgepodge of journalistic strategies emerged.

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

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## ***Brazil's Bolsonaro threatens to punch reporter in the mouth*** (AFP)

By **EVARISTO SA**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Sunday threatened to punch a reporter repeatedly in the mouth after being asked about his wife's links to an alleged corruption scheme.

"I so want to pound your mouth with punches," the far-right president said when a reporter from O Globo, posed the question.

The reporter was part of a group that met Bolsonaro after his regular Sunday visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral in Brasilia. The president ignored protests

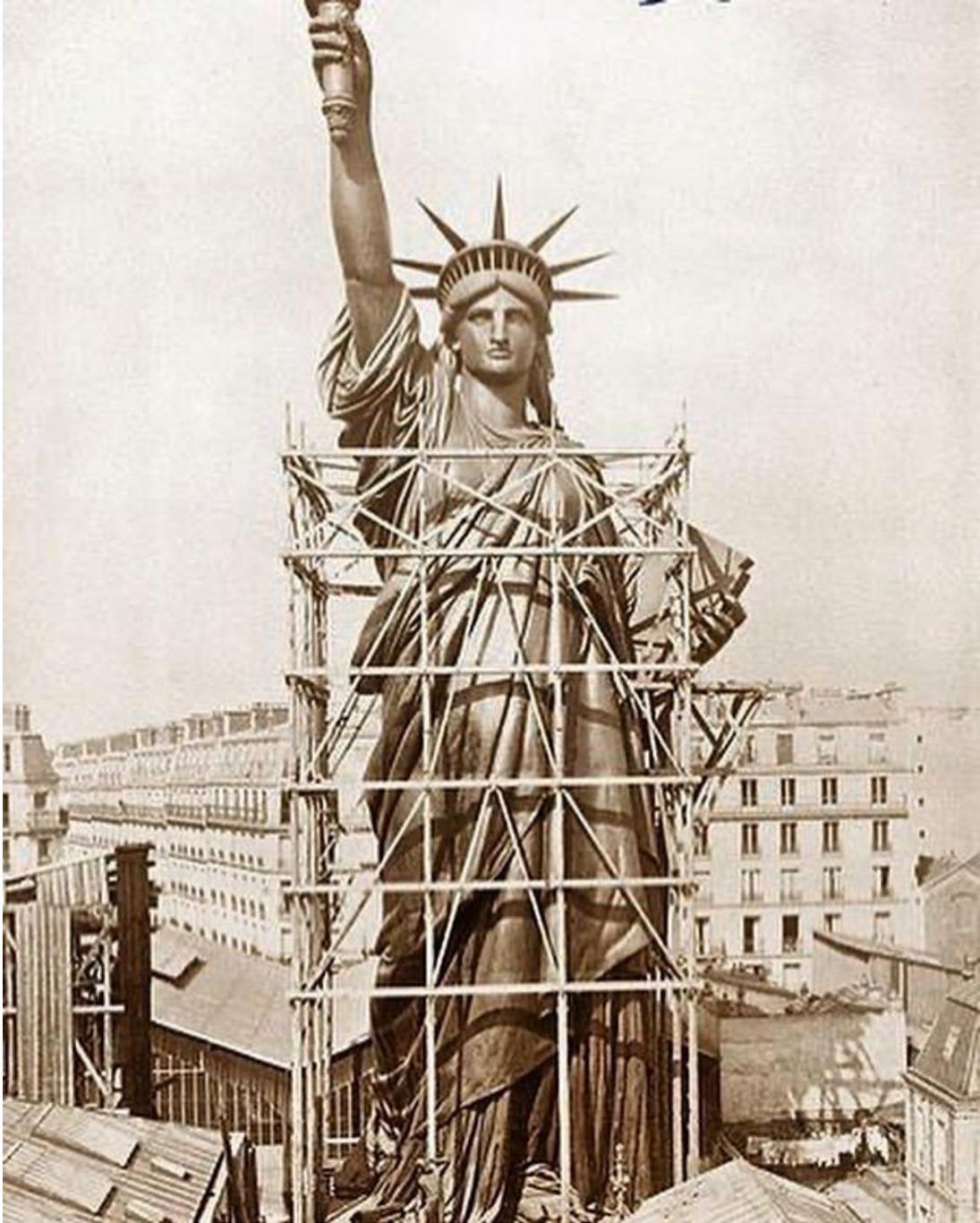
from other journalists after the remarks and left without making further comments.

The O Globo reporter asked about a report in the magazine *Crusoe* linking First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro to Fabrício Queiroz, a retired police officer, friend of the president, and former adviser to her son Flavio Bolsonaro, who is now a senator.

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

## The Final Word

*An enduring monument to what could be*



**Bob Dotson** ([Email](#)) - *story teller extraordinaire, TODAY Show's American Story journalist, author and visiting professor at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University:*

The Statue of Liberty still stands because a young French engineer figured a way to hang each copper section independently so none would weigh on its neighbor. The young man was so successful, folks in Paris asked him to build a tower for them. Mr. Eiffel said he would. Liberty was a gift to America from Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. He fashioned the statue's face in the image of his mother. He modeled the arms after his wife's, and the soul he found in all of us. Liberty raised her torch just as America opened wide its shores. Today eight out of ten of us have ancestors who first saw America beneath that torch. They journeyed a troubled road, dreading the darkness. They passed a gentle mother who held up hope. Not all the immigrants found success, but the wilderness beyond that torch was part of their geography of hope. More than forty-five thousand sunsets have colored New York harbor in the years since the statue was built, yet she still stands - a kind of national conscience - welcoming, sheltering. The Statue of Liberty has become an enduring monument to what could be.

## Today in History - August 25, 2020



By The Associated Press



Today is Tuesday, Aug. 25, the 238th day of 2020. There are 128 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 25, 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation.

### **On this date:**

In 1718, hundreds of French colonists arrived in Louisiana, with some settling in present-day New Orleans.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed an act establishing the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure providing pensions for former U.S. presidents and their widows.

In 1967, George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, was shot to death in the parking lot of a shopping center in Arlington, Virginia; former party member John Patler was later convicted of the killing.

In 1980, the Broadway musical "42nd Street" opened. (Producer David Merrick stunned the cast and audience during the curtain call by announcing that the show's director, Gower Champion, had died earlier that day.)

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 2001, rhythm-and-blues singer Aaliyah (ah-LEE'-yah) was killed with eight others in a plane crash in the Bahamas; she was 22.

In 2012, Neil Armstrong, 82, who commanded the historic Apollo 11 lunar landing and was the first man to set foot on the moon in July 1969, died in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 2009, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the U.S. Senate, died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, after a battle with a brain tumor.

In 2014, a funeral was held in St. Louis for Michael Brown, the Black 18-year-old who was shot to death by a police officer in suburban Ferguson.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey, the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade, made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, with 130 mph sustained winds; the storm would deliver five days of rain totaling close to 52 inches, the heaviest tropical downpour ever recorded in the continental U.S. The hurricane left at least 68 people dead and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage in Texas.

In 2018, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who had spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam before a 35-year political career that took him to the Republican presidential nomination, died at the age of 81 after battling brain cancer for more than a year.

Ten years ago: North Korea welcomed Jimmy Carter back to Pyongyang as the former U.S. president arrived to bring home Aijalon Mahli Gomes (EYE'-

jah-lahn MAH'-lee gohms), an American jailed in the communist country since January 2010 for entering the country illegally from China.

Five years ago: French authorities formally opened a terrorism investigation into a foiled attack four days earlier; a prosecutor said minutes before he slung an assault rifle across his chest and walked through a high-speed train, suspect Ayoub El-Khazzani of Morocco had watched a jihadi video on his cellphone.

One year ago: Thousands turned out for a benefit hosted by comedian Dave Chappelle in Dayton, Ohio, for victims' families and survivors of a shooting rampage earlier in the month that killed nine people and left dozens injured. Joe Walsh, a former Illinois congressman and tea party favorite who'd become a radio talk show host, announced a challenge to President Donald Trump for the Republican nomination in 2020, saying Trump was unfit for office. (Walsh ended his challenge six months later.) Opera star Placido Domingo received a standing ovation as he took to the stage at the Salzburg Festival in Austria, his first performance since nine women accused him of sexual harassment in a report by The Associated Press. A team from suburban New Orleans defeated Curacao 8-0 to claim the Little League World Series title.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sean Connery is 90. Actor Tom Skerritt is 87. Jazz musician Wayne Shorter is 87. Movie director Hugh Hudson is 84. Author Frederick Forsyth is 82. Movie director John Badham is 81. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 81. Rhythm-and-blues singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 77. Actor Anthony Heald (held) is 76. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 71. Actor John Savage is 71. Author Martin Amis (AY'-mihs) is 71. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 71. Rock singer Rob Halford is 69. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 68. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 66. Movie director Tim Burton is 62. Actor Christian LeBlanc is 62. Actor Ashley Crow is 60. Actor Ally Walker is 59. Country singer Cyrus (AKA Billy Ray Cyrus) is 59. Actor Joanne Whalley is 59. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 58. Actor Blair Underwood is 56. Actor Robert Maschio is 54. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 54. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 53. Actor David Alan Basche (BAYSH) is 52. Television chef Rachael Ray is 52. Actor Cameron Mathison is 51. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 50. Model Claudia Schiffer is 50. Country singer Brice Long is 49. Actor-writer-director Ben Falcone (fal-KOHN') is 47. Actor Eric Millegan is 46. Actor Alexander Skarsgard is 44. Actor Jonathan Togo is 43. Actor Kel Mitchell is 42. Actor Rachel Bilson is 39. Actor Blake Lively is 33. Actor Josh Flitter is 26.

# 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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