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Connecting
September 07, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 7th day of September 2020 – and Happy Labor Day!

The Nebraska Cornhuskers are members of the Big Ten – and like all the other teams in the conference, they will not take the field for the 2020 college football season because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Big Ten and Pac-12 conferences each voted to postpone college football and all other fall sports seasons.

Our colleague **Barry Bedlan**, AP's Dallas-based director of Vertical Products, is a Husker fan through and through and shared what is our lead story in letting friends know how he will cope this fall. (Ye Olde Connecting Editor knows the feeling: plans for an Iowa game this month in Iowa City were also sidelined because of the virus.)

Goes without saying that curbing the pandemic and saving lives trump sports and other activities that have been put on hold because of the virus. Still, you miss the

enjoyments of life...

I look forward to your Labor Day submissions as we enter the new week.

Hope you have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

A message to his fellow Husker fans



Barry Bedlan ([Email](#)) – To all my fellow Husker fans,

I am going through severe withdrawals too and expect the night sweats and stuttering will only get worse in the weeks ahead as the Big 12, SEC and ACC start playing. Hang in there. Look at this way: At least Nebraska will be undefeated this fall.

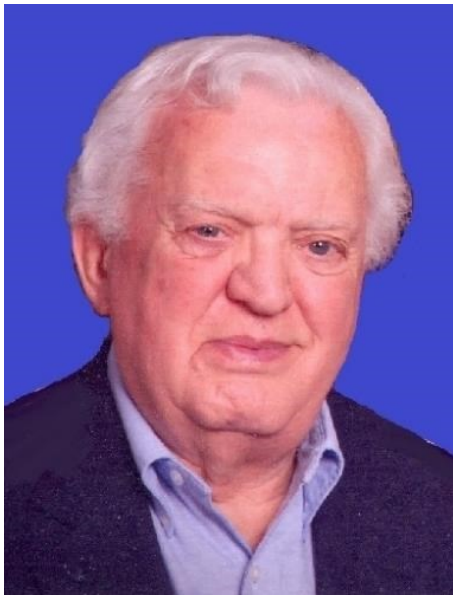
Here's other ways I plan to cope:

- 1) Wear black every Saturday, probably a Blackshirts shirt.
- 2) Force my children to wear black on Saturdays too but don't explain why because they don't get it. If they fail to do so, no dessert for the week.
- 3) Make sure my dog, named Herbie Husker, is sporting a Huskers collar, as he usually does each game day. If he bites me when I attempt to put on the collar, no dog treats for the week.
- 4) Yell "Go Big Red!" any time I see someone wearing another team's colors in public and then stare at them awkwardly long with that look of "You're the crazy one here, not me. I'm perfectly fine."
- 5) Yell "Goooooo Biiiiiiig Reeeeeed!" any time I see someone wearing Husker paraphernalia in public, join them in the response, and then obviously ask them where in Nebraska they're from. We will follow that with commiserating over how this lack of a Husker fall season sucks and how we miss Runzas, Valentino's and Amigo's.
- 6) Continue to have my alarm clock set to play Hail Varsity each morning. I see every day as a touchdown and it needs to be celebrated as such. Wave my hands in the air to the cadence of the song as I emerge from bed.
- 7) Eat corn on the cob with most meals, corn flakes for breakfast, and pour Dorothy Lynch on my salads. When I do eat hot dogs, they will only be solid red, like Red Dye No. 40 stain-your-fingers-and-clothes red, not the garbage-colored dogs sold mostly elsewhere.
- 8) Cheer on the underdogs in all college football games being played except if it's Missouri, Kansas State or any team from Texas. In those cases, I will cheer obnoxiously loud for their opponents, even if they are heavily favored. This has always been the rule in our house and it will not change this fall. (Colorado also is included on that list but they're also are not playing this fall.)
- 9) Dust off the EA Sports College Football 14 from 2013 and fire up the old Xbox. Reconfigure the non-conference schedule to play Alabama, Clemson and LSU instead of South Alabama, Old Dominion and Ball State, and then proceed to demolish every team by at least 72 and rush for at least 750 yards. In the off chance I lose, claim the game system glitched out because it is old and not save the game, instead replaying it until I win.
- 10) Release a helium-filled red balloon from my backyard each Saturday afternoon.

Mourning the deaths of...

Bill Williams, AP Harrisburg and Philadelphia bureaus

Rich Kirkpatrick ([Email](#)) – I am sorry to let colleagues know of the death of Bill Williams, former AP Harrisburg correspondent and day supervisor in the AP Philadelphia bureau in the 1970s.



I worked under him and he was a phenomenal writer and mentor. After he left AP, he wrote six books, his first about civilians in Gettysburg during the Battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War (Days of Darkness, The Gettysburg Civilians) and other novels based on his experience in the Navy and his father's experience as a coal miner.

As noted in [the obituary](#) in the Harrisburg Patriot-News, Bill died on September 2 after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He was 85.

In the obituary: He worked in the Scranton Tribune newsroom as a night copyboy during his last two years of high school. Later he was a reporter for The Reading Times in 1959, news editor of The Clearfield Progress from 1960 to 1971, a five-state editor for The Associated Press in Philadelphia from 1971 to 1974, and bureau chief for The Associated Press in Harrisburg from 1974 to 1978, and retired in 1996 after 18 years as the director of the Republican Caucus Communications Department for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Roy Hewitt, retired Plain Dealer sports editor active in APSE

Paul Bowker ([Email](#)) – sharing news of [the death](#) of Roy Hewitt, retired sports editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Paul writes:

The day that AP Sports Editors approved Cleveland as its choice to host the 1996 APSE Convention, you could hear the groans all the way to the back of the room.

Cleveland? Really?

Well, Roy Hewitt, then the sports editor of The Plain Dealer turned those groans into cheers a couple of years later when he and The Plain Dealer hosted the APSE annual summer conference. As incoming president of APSE in 1996, I planned and put together that convention. I had huge amounts of help from Roy as the host editor. For months, we talked through details on a daily basis.



The convention rocked.

In those months, and long afterward, I got to know Roy closely. His death this past week hits hard. Roy was a friend to many and a mentor to sports journalists nationwide. He championed diversity at its earliest stages. He helped so many women establish their places in sports journalism, and move on from there. He chased perfection at his own newspaper and proudly rubbed elbows with Indy race car driving legend Mario Andretti and others at the APSE convention in Cleveland.

In the years before he retired, he was chair of the APSE Olympics Committee, reaching out in a number of areas including credentialing for all U.S. newspaper outlets.

Personally, my wife Barb and I enjoyed the dinner company of Roy and his wife, Linda, in Cleveland. The thing about Cleveland, it's snowy in April and bad sunburns in June, which is why in his retirement years Roy and Linda shuffled down to Biloxi, Mississippi, during the winter months.

He is gone way too young at age 73.

I celebrate him now with a glass of wine. He would have enjoyed that.

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Comment from former AP sports editor Terry Taylor, “Two things about Roy: He was passionate about his work and his writers. He set a high bar for his staff - and he held the AP to it, as well. And this wasn’t just Olympic coverage. It was all sports.”

Ah, those fickle CRTs

Jim Carrier (Email) - Tom Kent’s mention of Hartford’s huge fickle CRTs (in last Friday’s Connecting) unearthed a memory of how our tech, Bill, initially dealt with them.

Those new computers were mysterious black boxes to our great techs who, day-to-day, kept Connecticut's ancient, mechanical teletypes running.

One day, after office hours, an electronic glitch froze the CRT screen, probably in mid story. I called Bill at home, and he said, "Did you hit it?"

Like any male gorilla I knew that a sharp blow can fix things. But really? Strike this precious, expensive, magical box? Thinking about it now, I realize that the glitch would not have been in the CRT, but in the chest-sized processor on the floor. But who knew what was where inside those beige crates?

I did as he said, and struck the side of the CRT with the palm of my hand. I don't remember the result. Probably nothing. I probably turned it off and on and lost the piece.

But the next day, I put my hand on a blank sheet of paper and using a pen, outlined the fingers, like we did in kindergarten. I taped the "hand" to the side of the CRT in the proper position for the next glitch, with a scrawl that said, in effect, "Trouble? Strike Here."

Jim Carrier - Hartford News Editor and Chief Electronic Gorilla in the Time of Tom Kent

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Joe Galloway (Email) - When I was LA bureau chief for UPI I would occasionally witness an unfolding newsroom drama. Hollywood reporter Vernon Scott would be nearing the end of a two-hour slog writing his daily Hollywood column. Radio reporter Bob Fuss, who walked with help of two metal canes, would come out of his tiny office and wander by. Fuss would tap the corner of Scott's metal desk with one cane and ZAP there went Vernon Scott's column. We would be treated to an outburst of imaginative cursing and vile epithets from Scott. Then he would begin writing it all over again.

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Mary Lou Howey (Email) - Under Jack Howey's editorship, the Peru, Ind., Tribune was one of the first small newspapers to have the Hendrix computer system. Our press time was 1 p.m., and on our first day up on the system, we went to press at 4. The good old days.

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Dale Leach (Email) - The piece about the vanishing stories in earlier iterations of our newsroom computing and editing programs reminded me of one of my own. (Actually, I'll never forget it.)

As Ohio news editor, I had taken dictation from Sue Cross, then the Toledo correspondent, about a dig that the sheriff said would unearth the remains of dozens of victims of a satanic cult. As it turned out, the effort produced a few animal skeletons and little else.

The bizarre nature of the story made it an A-wire digest item, so I was under the gun to get the story to the General Desk early in the AMs cycle. All was humming along until I issued the command for a story word count, which registered 666. Before I could yell to the newsroom about the irony, the story vanished from the screen.

In those days before cell phones, there was no way I could reach Sue immediately, so I reconstructed it as best I could and waited for her to check in to confirm quotes. Needless to say, it was a little late getting to New York.

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Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - Tom Kent's Hendrix CRT story reminded me of my first terrible experience at the AP.

It was the summer of '73. I was a newly hired vacation relief staffer in the Denver bureau.

Broadcast editor Jim Spehar was off, and I was assigned to the broadcast desk day shift on only about my second week on the job.

News editor Rob Dalton told me I'd have to write the broadcast summaries without anyone editing them. Furthermore, at many radio stations the AP broadcast summaries are "ripped and read" without the broadcaster reading them in advance.

"So don't screw up – you can embarrass a lot of people," was the essence of Rob's guidance.

I was terrified.

I labored over every word, phrase and sentence. I didn't take lunch or bathroom breaks. Even so, I barely met the split deadlines.

Somehow, I made it through most of the shift, but the biggest news summary of the day was prepared for the afternoon drive-time. As I remember, it was supposed to start moving on the state broadcast wire at 4:20 p.m.

My shift ended at 4, and I was 95 percent finished with the drive-time summary, when the janitor showed up.

He had a push broom.

Sweep, sweep, sweep.

Bang, bang, bang.

He banged his broom against the Hendrix box.

Oh, no!

My carefully crafted summary disappeared before my eyes into the upper right-hand corner.

No drive-time news summary.

I was in shock, certain that I'd be fired.

Jim Hood, the night broadcast editor, had just arrived, and had witnessed the janitor and the banging broom.

He sat down at the CRT, and in only about 10 minutes, wrote up a long and elegant drive-time broadcast summary.

He made it look so easy.

I was certain he'd saved my job, my AP career.

Connecting mailbox

Drop this idiom quickly

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Following last week's discussion of silly or meaningless phrases let me offer a two-word idiom that seems to have crept into daily language but should be dropped in a New York minute: real quick.

Asked whether he has my favorite packaged salad, the grocery stocker unloading boxes responds, "Let me check real quick." My son, riding along on an errand, dashes back into his apartment "Real quick, let me go get my billfold." The soccer player, fumbling through his pockets as the referee checks the match roster, says "Yo, let me go back to my truck real quick and get my ID out of the glove compartment."

You hear it just about everywhere: at work, in the store, among friends, on the radio or television.

Where'd "real quick" come from? What does it mean? Merriam-Webster Dictionary, what used to be the standard of English language, has no entry. Quora, the online question-and-answer site, says it is "a commonly used colloquial expression meaning 'very quickly,' which is the grammatically correct and more formal phrasing." The Urban Dictionary defines "real quick" as "something to add onto (sic) any sentence that makes it boss."

"Real Quick" even is in popular culture, becoming the title of songs by artists Waka Flocka and Eminem. It's unlikely any Connecting readers have those tunes in their iTunes folders or on their smartphones. Don't bother Googling the lyrics.

In daily conversation the idiom seems to be the kind of high-carb, non-nutritional morsel that we could easily drop. Real quick.

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College Football Playoff executive director Bill Hancock recovered from coronavirus

By Heather Dinich
ESPN Senior Writer

College Football Playoff executive director (and Connecting colleague) Bill Hancock ([Email](#)) and his wife, Nicki, both tested positive for COVID-19 last month but did not have to be hospitalized and "are in good health again," Hancock told ESPN on Friday.

Hancock, who said he notified his staff and the 10 FBS commissioners on Friday, said he and his wife took PCR nasal-swab tests in late August at a pharmacy drive-thru and that both positive verdicts came back in two days. The couple, who lives in Prairie Village, Kansas, said a contact tracer from the Johnson County health department called a few days later and helped them through the process, but they hadn't been around many people.

Hancock said his last day of isolation was Thursday, and his wife's was last week.

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

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'Eh, What's Up, Lee?'



Lee Mitgang (Email) - My breach of the no-autograph rule had nothing to do with sports heroes.

As a break from more serious news I took every excuse to write about cartoons, a passion of mine, during my time at the AP. When the "man of a thousand voices," Mel Blanc, wrote his autobiography, I was thrilled to have a sit-down interview. While wrapping it up, I asked if he'd sign an autograph. He did one better. He sent me a

drawing of Bugs Bunny with the inscription, "Eh, What's Up, Lee?" and signed it "Bugs Bunny Mel Blanc."

It hangs proudly on my family room wall.

Best of the Week

AP shocks world with first word of death of 'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman



FILE - In this March 4, 2018 file photo, Chadwick Boseman arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Actor Chadwick Boseman, who played Black icons Jackie Robinson and James Brown before finding fame as the regal Black Panther in the Marvel cinematic universe, has died of cancer. His representative says Boseman died Friday, Aug. 28, 2020 in Los Angeles after a four-year battle with colon cancer. He was 43. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

Years of experience on the entertainment beat make Ryan Pearson and AP the go-to after the Chadwick Boseman's untimely death.

AP's Los Angeles entertainment video manager Ryan Pearson was spending time with his family Friday evening when a publicist reached out with stunning news: "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman was dead. No one else knew yet and she said she wanted a reputable source, The Associated Press, to break the news. Another outlet, she worried, was getting close.

Pearson immediately alerted others in the entertainment vertical and set out to write an obituary that shocked the world.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP investigation: Thousands of environmental waivers granted amid pandemic



A Marathon Petroleum Corp. refinery operates in Detroit, April 21, 2020. After pressure from the oil and gas industry, the Trump administration suspended enforcement of a range of public health and environmental regulations, citing compliance difficulties during the pandemic. Marathon won permission to skip environmental tests at many of its refineries and gas stations in California, Michigan, North Dakota, Texas and Indiana. “We believe that by taking these measures, we can do our part to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus,” Tim Peterkoski, Marathon’s environmental auditing head, told Indiana officials. AP PHOTO / PAUL SANCYA

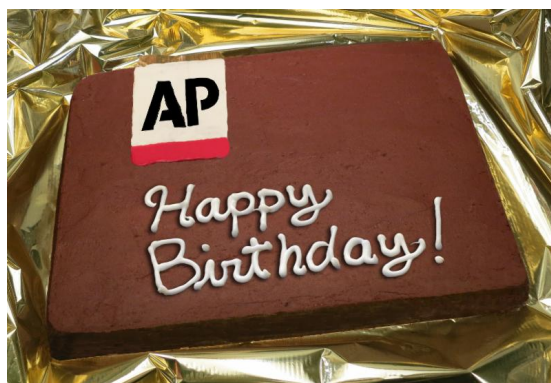
The AP’s two-month, 50-state investigation revealed thousands of instances of regulators granting environmental waivers to oil and gas companies, government facilities and other operations in the middle of the pandemic, a finding that could have nationwide implications for public health.

When the Trump administration announced it was waiving enforcement of environmental protections because of the pandemic, public health officials told AP that it would be difficult to determine the impact. The federal government wasn't keeping a record of the industries and government agencies taking advantage of the rollback. A former administrator with the Environmental Protection Agency called it President Donald Trump's "license to pollute."

Enter five determined, experienced AP reporters from around the country: John Flesher, Ellen Knickmeyer, Cathy Bussewitz, Matthew Brown and Michael Casey. They embarked on a two-month long, brute force effort wresting loose the data from state regulators on the public health and environmental waivers they had approved since the administration announced its clemency on March 26.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Frank Daniels Jr. - fdanielsjr@gmail.com

Doug Tucker - numenator@aol.com

Stories of interest

Here's what the media must do to fend off an election-night disaster (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

I learned about the hazards of election night the hard way. In late 2000, only a year into my job as the Buffalo News's top editor, I had to make the high-anxiety wee-hours

decision about a main headline for the paper's first Wednesday morning print editions. The problem was that no one knew for certain whether it was George W. Bush or Al Gore who had won the presidential race.

But sometime after midnight, a major consortium of news organizations, using exit polls, called Florida for Bush. So we put out a front page with the headline "Bush Apparent Winner."

Thankfully, only a small percentage of our readers would see that edition on their doorsteps. Those early front pages were just tumbling off the presses when new uncertainty about Florida arose. We changed the headline to one that was more accurate, if less satisfying — "Down to the Wire" — with a secondary line stating that Florida was still in contention.

Small comfort, but plenty of newspapers did much worse with headlines that declared Bush a clear winner. A few even gave the race to Gore. And the TV networks? "We don't just have egg on our face," NBC's Tom Brokaw said afterward. "We have an omelet."

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

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Trump won't let Pentagon close Stars and Stripes newspaper

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that he won't allow the Pentagon to cut funding for the military's independent newspaper, Stars and Stripes, effectively halting Defense leaders' plan to shut the paper down this month.

"The United States of America will NOT be cutting funding to @starsandstripes magazine under my watch," Trump tweeted. "It will continue to be a wonderful source of information to our Great Military!"

Trump's tweet came as he fought off new accusations that he called service members killed in World War I "losers" and "suckers" during an event in France in 2018. The comments, first reported by The Atlantic and confirmed by The Associated Press, are shining a fresh light on Trump's previous public disparaging of American troops and military families and they delivered a new campaign issue to his Democratic rival Joe Biden, less than two months from Election Day.

The Defense Department has ordered the paper to halt publication by Sept. 30, and dissolve the organization by the end of January. The order, in a recent memo to

Stripes, follows the Pentagon's move earlier this year to cut the \$15.5 million in funding for the paper from the Defense Department budget. And it is a reflection of the Trump administration's broader animosity for the media and members of the press.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dorothy Abernathy.

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Fox News Analyst Brit Hume Defends Jennifer Griffin For Verifying Atlantic Article (Newsweek)

BY AILA SLISCO

Fox News Senior Political Analyst Brit Hume offered a fiery defense of his colleague Jennifer Griffin after she came under fire for confirming much of a report from The Atlantic that alleges President Donald Trump made disparaging remarks about U.S. military service members.

Hume leapt to the defense of his colleague in response to a Saturday tweet from Steve Milloy, a Fox contributor who bills himself as "perhaps the most influential climate science contrarian," which suggested that Griffin was suffering from "Stockholm Syndrome" or had been reporting "as instructed" out of a sense of fear.

"This is bullshit," Hume tweeted in response to Milloy. "Jen plays it straight and always has."

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

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China Freezes Credentials for Journalists at U.S. Outlets, Hinting at Expulsions (New York Times)

By Edward Wong

WASHINGTON — The Chinese government has stopped renewing press credentials for foreign journalists working for American news organizations in China and has implied it will proceed with expulsions if the Trump administration takes further action against Chinese media employees in the United States, according to six people with knowledge of the events.

The actions and threats raise the stakes in the continuing cycles of retribution between Washington and Beijing over news media organizations. Those rounds of retaliation are a prominent element of a much broader downward spiral in U.S.-China relations, one that involves mutually hostile policies and actions over trade, technology, education, diplomatic missions, Taiwan and military presence in Asia.

American news organizations immediately affected by China's latest actions include CNN, The Wall Street Journal and Getty Images. Journalists from all three organizations tried to renew press cards with the Foreign Ministry last week, but were told the cards, which are usually good for one year, could not be renewed. In total, at least five journalists in four organizations have been affected, several reporters said.

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

The Final Word

Labor Day weekend in Michigan





Hank Ackerman ([Email](#)) - Lake Day weekend volleyball is in the air Sunday, as children practice on the banks and others swim in the pristine waters of the St. Mary's River where the 690-foot bulk carrier "Herbert" C. Jackson" plies northward on the river. It connects Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair, the sixth Great Lake, and separates the U.S. from Canada in the background.

In second photo, three walleye fishermen prepare for the carrier's wake. Canada's shoreline in the background. The bulk carrier carries iron ore, grains, coal, salt and, in 1970) even Christmas trees that were loaded at a Lake Superior port destined for the White House. (Photos by Hank Ackerman)

Today in History - September 7, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 7, the 251st day of 2020. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

On this date:

In 1892, James J. Corbett knocked out John L. Sullivan to win the world heavyweight crown in New Orleans in a fight conducted under the Marquess of Queensberry rules.

In 1907, the British liner RMS Lusitania set out from Liverpool, England, on its maiden voyage, arriving six days later in New York.

In 1963, the National Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

In 1972, the International Olympic Committee banned Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett of the U.S. from further competition for talking to each other on the victory stand in Munich during the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" after winning the gold and silver medals in the 400-meter run.

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-hohs).

In 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) made its cable TV debut.

In 1986, Desmond Tutu was installed as the first Black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

In 2005, police and soldiers went house to house in New Orleans to try to coax the last stubborn holdouts into leaving the city shattered by Hurricane Katrina. President George W. Bush led the nation in a final tribute to William H. Rehnquist, remembering the late chief justice as the Supreme Court's steady leader and a man of lifetime integrity.

In 2007, Osama bin Laden appeared in a video for the first time in three years, telling Americans they should convert to Islam if they wanted the war in Iraq to end.

In 2008, troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed in government conservatorship.

In 2014, Serena Williams won her third consecutive U.S. Open championship and 18th major title overall, taking 75 minutes to beat good friend Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 6-3.

Ten years ago: A Chinese fishing trawler and two Japanese patrol boats collided near disputed islands in the East China Sea, further straining relations between Beijing and Tokyo. Lucius Walker, 80, who'd led an annual pilgrimage of aid volunteers to Cuba in defiance of the nearly half century U.S. trade embargo, died in New York.

Five years ago: Hillary Clinton, interviewed by The Associated Press during a campaign swing through Iowa, said she did not need to apologize for using a private email account and server while at the State Department because "what I did was allowed." Courting unions on Labor Day, President Barack Obama denounced Republicans for a "constant attack on working Americans," telling a rally in Boston that he was using his executive power to force federal contractors to give paid sick leave to their employees. Former child star Dickie Moore, 89, died in Connecticut.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he had canceled a secret weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban and Afghan leaders, just days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, after a bombing in the past week in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier. India's lunar lander crashed on the surface of the moon, where it was supposed to deploy a rover to search for signs of water; a successful landing would have made India just the fourth country to land a vessel on the lunar surface. Nineteen-year-old Bianca Andreescu won her first Grand Slam title, beating Serena Williams 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the U.S. Open. After being released by the Oakland Raiders without playing a regular season game, wide receiver Antonio Brown was signed by the New England Patriots. (The Patriots would release Brown two weeks later after a second woman accused him of sexual misconduct.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 90. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 77. Singer Alfa Anderson (Chic) is 74. Actor Susan Blakely is 72. Rock musician Dennis Thompson (MC5) is 72. Actor Julie Kavner is 70. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 69. Rock musician Benmont Tench (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 67. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 66. Actor Michael Emerson is 66. Pianist Michael Feinstein is 64. Singer/songwriter Diane Warren is 64. Singer Margot Chapman is 63. Actor J. Smith-Cameron is 63. Actor W. Earl Brown is 57. Actor Toby Jones is 54. Actor-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 53. Model-actor Angie Everhart is 51. Actor Diane Farr is 51. Country singer Butter (Trailer Choir) is 50. Actor Monique Gabriela Curnen is 50. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 50. Rock musician Chad Sexton (311) is 50. Actor Shannon Elizabeth is 47. Actor Oliver Hudson is 44. Actor Devon Sawa (SAH'-wuh) is 42. Actor JD Pardo is 41. Actor Benjamin Hollingsworth (TV: "Code Black") is 36. Actor Alyssa Diaz (TV: "Ray Donovan"; "Zoo") is 35. Singer-musician Wes Willis (Rush of Fools) is 34. Actor Evan Rachel Wood is 33. Actor Ian Chen (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 14.

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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