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## Connecting September 17, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of 2020,

We're sorry to report from Bogota the death of **César García**, a veteran AP reporter who ventured across Colombia to tell the story of the nation's armed conflict. He was 61.

The AP story below said he suffered a heart attack and after three weeks at a hospital tested positive for coronavirus, though what role the virus may have played in his death on Tuesday remains unclear.

In the story, it was noted that on one of his final assignments, Garcia collaborated with AP writer **Christopher Torchia** (a Connecting colleague) for a story on the tensions that remain over the country's historic 2016 peace deal ending the conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Having worked together in the

1990s, García began to reminisce about his early days with AP, telling him, “To remember is to live.”

Our first responses are in on Connecting’s call for your stories of working the overnight shift.

We lead with a delightful piece by **Merrill Hartson**, the last overnight editor in the Washington bureau, on his experiences - including a sudden change in routine when early morning tweets from the White House commanded his attention.

Our colleague **Henry Bradsher** asked when this subject came up several years ago “whether other overnight workers continued on their days off to sleep during the day, or did they also try to convert to what other people consider fairly normal daylight activity and night sleeping. I’m still curious.”

**Wes Cook** was the longtime overnight editor in the Kansas City bureau when I worked there – and a memory I’ll never forget came when he was honored by the Masonic lodge where he had been active for decades, including holding top statewide offices. Several of his longtime fellow Masons told me that they didn’t realize Wes had another job working for the AP. In effect, he lived two separate lives. How and when he slept, a mystery.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## César García, AP Colombia reporter, dies after illness at 61



**Associated Press reporter Cesar Garcia poses for a photo on his 20-year anniversary with the AP at his office in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, May 31, 2019. Garcia, a veteran reporter who ventured across Colombia to tell the story of the nation's armed conflict, has died at age 61. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)**

**By CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — César García, a veteran reporter for The Associated Press who ventured across Colombia to tell the story of the nation's armed conflict, has died. He was 61.

He suffered a heart attack and after three weeks at a hospital tested positive for the new coronavirus, though what role the virus may have played in his death on Tuesday remains unclear.

With a voice recorder in hand, García became a fixture at many major events of the last three decades in Colombia, whether peace talks with leftist guerrillas or breaking news from the halls of the presidential palace.

Along the way, his dogged reporting and disarming personality won him the trust of a wide range of dignitaries, an unusual feat in a country where division runs high and wounds from decades of violence are deep.

“Lacking formal training and writing skills, he managed to parlay remarkable grit, persistence and charisma into full-time work with a major news organization,” said Frank Bajak, who worked closely with García as AP's former chief of Andean news. “He did it by making himself indispensable by sheer force of will.”

Bajak added: "And, of course, he was a teddy bear on the inside."

García was born in Colombia's capital city and grew up wanting to be a doctor but for economic reasons could not pursue the training. As a young adult, he helped his mother make ends meet in part by selling bonsai trees. Later he got his break in journalism while working as a messenger for United Press International.

While at UPI, he caught the eye of a journalist who, noting his affable demeanor, encouraged him to pursue reporting, said his daughter, Amelia García. He quickly discovered he had a knack for chasing breaking news and getting soundbites from high-ranking officials, many of whom were initially reluctant to talk.

Javier Baena, a former AP correspondent, said he was impressed by García's steadfast presence and tactful reporting from the Casa de Nariño, the official presidential residence and a hub for political and military leaders. Wanting to hire him for AP, he gave him his phone number and said, "Call when you have important news."

Read more [here](#).

## Your memories of working the overnight

**Merrill Hartson ([Email](#))** – What about that dubiously named 'overnight' shift in the AP's Washington bureau, arguably the busiest in the domestic U.S.?

I closed out the last three years of my 44-year career in this journalistic hole that some might liken to life in a cistern. While it is true that this is work is done in the dark of night, there is illumination everywhere.

On what other shift in this newsroom would the lone wolf saddled with responsibility for the operation have a major story strafe the desk a little after 7 a.m., just as day-side editors are arriving - a brass ring like the one that burst into view on a Thursday morning early in the 2016 Republican Party primary campaign season.

Coverage of morning interviews - ours and others - was a major part of the overnight routine - the hanging chad, if you will. Until the tweet-firing Donald Trump descended that elevator at Trump Tower in Manhattan to announce he was running for president. In the first months, he was a heavy presence on television interview shows, but later, and in his time of presidency since, there was the fusillade of declarations, and often rants, from his Twitter feed. Keeping up with Trump's cyber-bursts became a critical part of my job, as these missives typically began appearing before day-break.

But a well-established overnight routine - keeping apace of all those morning interview show - ran headlong into conflict with the tweet storms. The responsibility for morning interviews was dramatized on an otherwise quiet Thursday morning in the spring of 2015.

"We've had enough Bushes," Barbara Bush, the white-haired former first lady who many considered the matriarch of the GOP, declared on NBC's "Today." This was a quote that, in a less tribal political climate, could have been expected mostly come from a Democratic critic laying siege to the line-up of Republican White House aspirants.

But these were the brash words that streamed from Mrs. Bush's mouth as she was being interviewed live shortly after 7 a.m. Eastern time. It happened when she was asked to assess the presidential prospects of her son, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Protecting the wire on these news-making early shows was a major part of the overnight editor's responsibility. Fortunately, I had a recorder going.

One of the duties of the overnight editor was to call the networks' morning news shows to obtain the list of interview guests. But they didn't always give out that information. So I saw Mrs. Bush pop up the air on NBC without any advance notice. Tough! Agility is part of the job, another source of stress, but also a journalistic challenge.

Rumors about the general staidness and solitude of life on the overnight shift have been greatly exaggerated over the years, although it would be inaccurate to say no one ever nodded a bit. But in an era of increasing global communications connectivity and the Internet, there was a greater involvement by Washington in international news than in earlier times.

The position of overnight editor in the WDC Bureau had been a bit of a euphemism for the man or woman who worked alone for at least five hours of the shift with a staff of one to supervise. But the job description was not to merely see to that the news got to the wire. Phones must be answered, requests met and problems solved. In an interconnected world, that often meant involvement in stories breaking overseas. The staffer had to be most attentive, as well, to stories broken by competitors, and the Internet, and television networks and cables and, to some extent, radio had to be closely monitored.

When I heard Mrs. Bush's incredibly candid and somewhat cryptic rejoinder to the tough political question about her son, I checked to make sure the recorder I'd started was still running and wrote an urgent APNewsNow with the partial quote - "enough Bushes" - in the lead.

In the many stories I wrote in connection with morning TV monitoring, it was one of the flashiest. The item spread across the spectrum of news providers and went viral on the Internet, and editors who came in to work in daylight hours updated it throughout the day.

The Washington, D.C., AP overnight shift, to the extent it meant a staff presence at the news desk in all overnight hours, was retired with me. This was something The Associated Press was able to do because of its many human resources and news bureaus and offices around the world. Our White House, diplomatic and military reporters traveling around the world in those hours here could call the nearest AP bureau and file in that manner.

We've had deaths of famous people break in the night, wars start and end, bombings, tsunamis, assassinations, coups, late night legislative deals in Congress, pushing-midnight Supreme Court decisions and orders - and the 24-hour news cycle spin cycle is here to stay.

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**Henry Bradsher (Email)** - When the subject of overnights came up in Connecting three years ago, I reported on my experience for 18 months on the foreign desk in New York in 1957-8 before being posted to New Delhi. I asked then how others handled their days (or nights) off, but never saw any replies. So now I'll ask again.

I worked for Harris Jackson from 11:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Tuesday through Friday mornings. Then when he went off for the weekend at Fire Island, I ran the Saturday early shift.

When I got off Saturday morning, I would go sleep for fewer hours than during the week and get up to begin the weekend. Ed Butler, who was working the day foreign desk, and I double-dated a couple of sisters on Saturday night. Then I'd go back to my Park Avenue basement room to sleep late Sunday morning, have a fairly normal day Sunday, sleep that night, get up Monday morning and go to work that night -- being awake close to 24 hours by the time I finished the early Tuesday shift and returned to my weekday day-sleeping schedule.

So I wondered three years ago whether other overnight workers continued on their days off to sleep during the day, or did they also try to convert to what other people consider fairly normal daylight activity and night sleeping. I'm still curious.

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**Jim Carrier (Email)** - Working the overnight in Hartford as an AP newcomer, I had time to scan the "exchanges," Connecticut's dailies that arrived by mail a day or two after publication. You could usually find a bright or two that had not been called in, but what caught my eye were stories in different cities that had something in common. If I found three alike, I decided I had a "trend," and would cobble a story from those three clips for the state wire. It was quick and dirty, and borderline shallow, but the powers to be noticed and complimented my "enterprise." I was soon off the overnight.

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**Bill Kole** ([Email](#)) - When I was an editor on the International Desk at HQ in the early 1990s, AP was experimenting with a four-day, 10-hour shift overnight. Surprisingly, I discovered I loved it, because it meant some great fly fishing after work.

I'd report for work at 10 p.m. Sunday, work 'til 8 a.m., and rinse/repeat until my week was done Thursday morning. On many mornings, too jacked from caffeine to head straight to bed, I'd hit a trout stream up in Westchester County where we lived, and I'd have the water all to myself. Occasionally I even tied a few flies during my 2 a.m. meal break at 50 Rock, where I got some pretty strange looks.

I could never do it at this age, but in my early 30s, it was a pretty nifty life-work balance.

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**Wes Cook** (Gleaned from the obituary for Lewis C. "Wes" Cook, longtime overnight supervisor for The Associated Press in Kansas City, who died in 1999 at the age of 70:

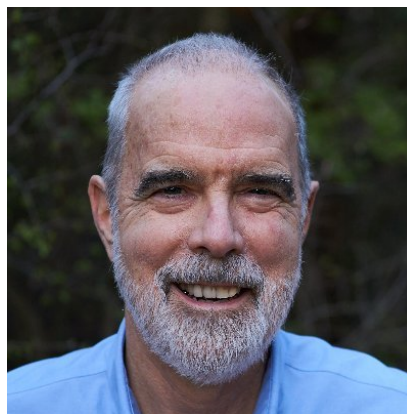
He joined the AP in Kansas City in October 1953 and spent much of his AP career on the overnight shift, compiling the state news report for afternoon newspapers along with early morning broadcast reports for radio and television stations in Missouri and Kansas. Asked once about the appeal of his job and of working the hours when most people are asleep, Cook wrote: "It is during these hours between midnight and 8 a.m. that the bulk of the general news and sports report for afternoon newspapers is written, rewritten, edited and distributed . . . I still have the romantic notion that I am being of service to my fellow man by being part of this great communication system." In addition to his supervisory assignment, Cook wrote extensively about Harry S Truman after the former president's return to Independence, MO, and about his other interests, aviation and music. One of his final stories for the AP before he retired on December 31, 1997, was a retrospective on Truman's up-and-down year as president 50 years earlier. Cook was active in Masonic organizations, serving as Grand High Priest, Missouri Royal Arch Masons 1973-74, Grand Master of Missouri's 110,000 Free Masons in 1975-76 and Potentate of the Ararat Shrine Temple in Kansas City in 1992. He was educated at the Julliard School of Music and the Chicago and Kansas City conservatories, performed professionally and arranged music for big dance bands, did some professional acting in California and worked in broadcast for ABC and Mutual.

## Connecting mailbox

### *George Garties honored by Illinois AP Media Editors*

Our Connecting colleague **George Garties** ([Email](#)) was honored Wednesday with the Lincoln League Award.

Garties, AP groups director now based in Austin after earlier serving as Chicago chief of bureau, was named by the Illinois AP Media Editors board to the Lincoln League of Journalists. The honor is bestowed on professionals whose careers have greatly advanced the cause of newspaper journalism in Illinois.



Winners also were announced in the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors 2019 newspaper contest. The awards were announced on Wednesday during a virtual event held by the IAPME during the annual convention of the Illinois Press Association.

Click [here](#) for the story. Shared by Andy Lippman.

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## ***Wish I had known Bob Kuesterman***

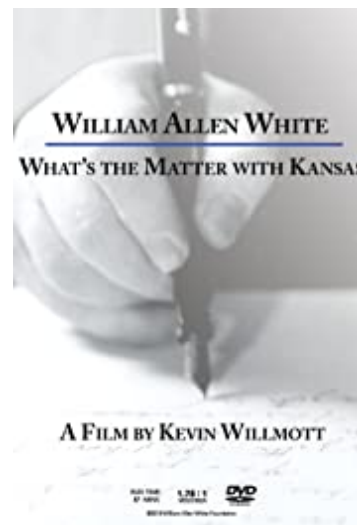
**Craig Klugman (Email)** - Having read the stories about Bob Kuesterman, I am sure that, for all his introverted self and his preference for the overnight shift, he's someone I would like to have known.

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## ***Tune in to PBS documentary on Kansas' William Allen White***

**Steve Hendren (Email)** - If you haven't seen the PBS documentary about William Allen White, I highly recommend it. It's called What's the Matter With Kansas based on his famous editorial condemning populism. The parallels to today are striking. He referred to the gullible as the Organized Moronic Minority. It is really well done.

Note: Directed by renowned independent filmmaker Kevin Willmott and narrated by acclaimed broadcast journalist Bill Kurtis, the film: William Allen White: What's the Matter with Kansas offers a modern perspective about one of America's most illustrious figures. A journalistic giant who advised presidents and





world leaders and was never shy about tackling the most controversial and complex issues. Click [here](#) to view.

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## *AP on the job*



Photographer Rahmat Gul captures the aftermath of a bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 9, 2020. (Photo by Zainullah Mahbobi)

## **Memories of the Milwaukee Journal – and how newspapering has changed in last seven decades**



**Robert O'Meara (Email)** - When I heard last week that the Journal Co. had sold the last of its printing presses in its former building I couldn't help but recall how newspapering had changed in more than 70 years.

The Milwaukee Journal, now owned by Gannett, continues as the Journal Sentinel. There are lots of similarities between today's paper and the one that existed on Aug. 1, 1948, but the differences are huge.

On that date I joined the Associated Press. Our bureau was next to the Journal city room, very close to the sports desk, the picture desk and the city desk.

It was apparent that the Journal staff had great pride in the paper. Many considered it the best paper in the country. Over the years it won eight Pulitzer Prizes.

The Journal had a staffer in New York City and one, sometimes more, in Washington.

Money from advertising and distribution poured in. Harry Grant, the publisher, had started a stock purchase plan for employees in 1937. Ninety-eight percent of the Journal stock was owned by the Journal staff.

Sunday circulation was around 600,000. Every Sunday the Journal listed at the top of the first page its current circulation as compared with the last week. The new total was always higher.

The employee stock paid off well. Gus, the night copy boy, who was really a grown man, got so rich he loaned money at low rates to new employees so they could buy homes and cars. There were stories about the Journal's millionaire pressmen and millionaire janitors.

Advertising was ample. Milwaukee had three big department stores and they ran full-page ads almost daily.

The editors and reporters, of course, did well. But they were known, not for their money but for their great stories. That included the paper's most famous writer, Richard S. Davis, whose duties included drama critic. His story about singer Marian Anderson drew wide attention. The singer, who was Black, drew a mostly Black audience to the downtown Milwaukee Auditorium. The story by Davis told of how the souls of her listeners soared with her singing. Then he wrote that, sadly, her followers had to return to their squalid homes in the inner core.

The Journal had many other outstanding writers, including Bob Wells who could find humor in the history of Milwaukee and in the hard and dangerous lives of Wisconsin's lumberjacks.

The paper's art department covered most of one floor.

The Green Sheet was the most popular section of the paper. Printed daily on four pages of green paper it included celebrity news, entertainment reviews, comics and puzzles. In World War II, it was the most popular section mailed to Milwaukee servicemen. Jerry Kloss wrote a humor column and composed lots of funny poems.

But that wasn't the only special section. There was the Peach Sheet. As an afternoon paper the Journal had an afternoon deadline. So in order to beat the morning Hearst-owned Sentinel on late-breaking news it published the single sheet on peach-colored paper and distributed it free downtown.

The Journal took great pride in its accuracy. A misspelling drew the wrath of the feared city editor, Harvey Schwandner. Nothing was more scary than the words, "Harvey wants to talk to you."

Schwandner was relentless in his pursuit of accuracy and clarity. One deskman said he was bawled out for being late one day and said to Schwandner, "But, Harvey, I was only five minutes late," and Harvey replied, "How would you like to hang for five minutes?"

The Journal sent its reporters across the country and around the world. Harry Pease covered all the major launchings at Cape Canaveral. Others went to Asia and Antarctica and Alicia Armstrong went to Israel for a series of stories.

The Journal made only one big mistake. In disclosing the name of a local man who wrote a best-selling book, anonymously, about his sex life, the newspaper had the wrong man.

But as newspapers decline, the Journal, now the Journal Sentinel, appears strong.

Long combined with the Sentinel, the paper is now produced out of smaller quarters. Its old Art Deco building will be converted into apartments.

## Escaping the Bobcat Wildfire



Deer escape from the Bobcat Wildfire at a neighborhood in Monrovia, California, on Wednesday. Photo/Nick Ut

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Rod Richardson – [rodrichardson@att.net](mailto:rodrichardson@att.net)

## Stories of interest

***Column: When I almost died: My days battling the coronavirus and what I remember the most*** (Chicago Tribune)



Tribune writer Rick Kogan at Stan's Donuts & Coffee in Chicago in April, reporting on a story not long after his return to health. (Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

By RICK KOGAN  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Last week, when I read my own obituary, I remembered the first time I almost died. It was a cold December morning in 1963 when I fell through and under the ice covering the south edge of the Lincoln Park lagoon and was rescued by my younger brother Mark and our friend Ty Bauler, and we made it home and life went on.

The next time I almost died was when I was reporting a story for the Sun-Times and had a pistol shoved in my chest by a drug dealer on the West Side on an April night in

1981. His finger moved against the trigger. The gun clicked but did not fire. I turned and ran east on Madison Street, and life went on.

Life comes with certain danger, risks, surprises. It always ends in death, of course, but along the way, as we confront its joys and pains and love and terror, we are on a rare and precious and sometimes frightening ride.

And so, the last time I almost died was on March 30 when I walked into Northwestern Memorial Hospital and after a few minutes was told by a pleasant nurse that I had a temperature of 103, was suffering from pneumonia (she showed me the X-rays) and likely had COVID-19, a diagnosis confirmed later that day, when another nurse said, "Now that's a nasty one-two punch."

Read more [here](#).

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## *The Media Learned Nothing From 2016* (The Atlantic)

By JAMES FALLOWS

We're seeing a huge error, and a potential tragedy, unfold in real time.

That's a sentence that could apply to countless aspects of economic, medical, governmental, and environmental life at the moment. What I have in mind, though, is the almost unbelievable failure of much of the press to respond to the realities of the Trump age.

Many of our most influential editors and reporters are acting as if the rules that prevailed under previous American presidents are still in effect. But this president is different; the rules are different; and if it doesn't adapt, fast, the press will stand as yet another institution that failed in a moment of crucial pressure.

In some important ways, media outlets are repeating the mistake made by former Special Counsel Robert Mueller. In his book about the Mueller investigation, *True Crimes and Misdemeanors* (and in a *New Yorker* article), Jeffrey Toobin argues that Mueller's tragic flaw was a kind of anachronistic idealism—which had the same effect as naivete. Mueller knew the ethical standards he would maintain for himself and insist on from his team. He didn't understand that the people he was dealing with thought standards were for chumps. Mueller didn't imagine that a sitting attorney general would intentionally misrepresent his report, which is of course what Bill Barr did. Mueller wanted to avoid an unseemly showdown, or the appearance of a "fishing expedition" inquiry, that would come from seeking a grand-jury subpoena for Donald Trump's testimony, so he never spoke with Trump under oath, or at all. Trump, Barr,

and their team viewed this decorousness as a sign of weakness, which they could exploit.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***RTDNA Guidelines: Civil Unrest***

Whether to protest a police shooting, to express outrage over a verdict or to express passion on any political issue, taking to the streets is as American as the First Amendment. The Constitution protects “the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

But things get trickier when peaceful protest is accompanied or replaced by violent disturbance. From Baltimore to Berkeley, things can spin quickly out of control -- for participants, for police and for journalists, whose job is to report on such events and the issues that surround them.

Here are some things to keep in mind in planning and carrying out coverage of civil unrest:

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

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## ***Top-ranking state senator sues journalists over records cost***

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The top-ranking Republican in the Pennsylvania Senate wants journalists who wrote about his campaign spending to pay thousands in costs to produce those records.

Spotlight PA and The Caucus reported Wednesday that a hearing is scheduled for next month in the litigation brought against The Caucus and two reporters by Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati’s campaign committee.

Scarnati’s committee filed the lawsuit last month, seeking more than \$6,000 from The Caucus, a publication of Lancaster-based LNP Media Group, Caucus reporter Brad Bumsted and Spotlight PA reporter Angela Couloumbis.

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

# Today in History - September 17, 2020



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 17, the 261st day of 2020. There are 105 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

### On this date:

In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam (an-TEE'-tum) in Maryland.

In 1908, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge of the U.S. Army Signal Corps became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer, at Fort Myer, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C.

In 1937, the likeness of President Abraham Lincoln's head was dedicated at Mount Rushmore.

In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland during World War II, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany had launched its assault.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands. (After initial success, the Allies were beaten back by the Germans.)

In 1947, James V. Forrestal was sworn in as the first U.S. Secretary of Defense.



In 1971, citing health reasons, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, 85, retired. (Black, who was succeeded by Lewis F. Powell Jr., died eight days after making his announcement.)

In 1978, after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty.

In 1987, the city of Philadelphia, birthplace of the U.S. Constitution, threw a big party to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic document; in a speech at Independence Hall, President Ronald Reagan acclaimed the framing of the Constitution as a milestone "that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

In 1997, Comedian Red Skelton died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 84.

In 2001, six days after 9/11, stock prices nosedived but stopped short of collapse in an emotional, flag-waving reopening of Wall Street; the Dow Jones industrial average ended the day down 684.81 at 8,920.70.

In 2011, a demonstration calling itself Occupy Wall Street began in New York, prompting similar protests around the U.S. and the world.

Ten years ago: Thousands of cheering Catholic schoolchildren feted Pope Benedict XVI on his second day in Britain, offering a boisterous welcome, as the pontiff urged their teachers to make sure to provide a trusting, safe environment. A scientist and his wife who once worked at a top-secret U.S. nuclear laboratory were arrested after an FBI sting operation and charged with conspiring to help develop a nuclear weapon for Venezuela. (After pleading guilty, Pedro Leonardo Mascheroni was sentenced to five years in federal prison while his wife, Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni, received a year and a day; the U.S. government never alleged that Venezuela or anyone actually working for it had sought U.S. secrets.)

Five years ago: General Motors agreed to pay \$900 million to fend off criminal prosecution over the deadly ignition-switch scandal, striking a deal that brought criticism down on the Justice Department for not bringing charges against individual employees; GM also announced it would spend \$575 million to settle the majority of the civil lawsuits filed over the scandal. The Federal Reserve kept U.S. interest rates at record lows in the face of threats from a weak global economy, persistently low inflation and unstable financial markets.

One year ago: New York became the first state to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes; the move came as federal health officials investigated a surge of severe breathing illnesses linked to vaping. Broadcast journalist Cokie Roberts, who had chronicled Washington for NPR and ABC News, died of complications from breast cancer at the age of 75. Israeli elections left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu well short of the parliamentary majority he had sought.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, is 87. Retired Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter (SOO'-tur) is 81. Singer LaMonte McLemore (The Fifth Dimension) is 85. Retired U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni is 77. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson is 75. Singer Fee Waybill is 72. Actor Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira, Mistress of the Dark") is 69. Comedian Rita Rudner is 67. Muppeteer Kevin Clash (former voice of Elmo on "Sesame Street") is 60. Director-actor Paul Feig is 58. Movie director Baz Luhrmann is 58. Singer BeBe Winans is 58. TV personality/businessman Robert Herjavec (TV: "Shark Tank") is 57. Actor Kyle Chandler is 55. Director-producer Bryan Singer is 55. Rapper Doug E. Fresh is 54. Actor Malik Yoba is 53. Rock singer Anastacia is 52. Actor Matthew Settle is 51. Rapper Vinnie (Naughty By Nature) is 50. Actor-comedian Bobby Lee is 49. Actor Felix Solis is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marcus Sanders (Hi-Five) is 47. Actor-singer Nona Gaye is 46. Singer-actor Constantine Maroulis is 45. NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson is 45. Pop singer Maile (MY'-lee) Misajon (Eden's Crush) is 44. Country singer-songwriter Stephen Cochran is 41. Rock musician Chuck Comeau (Simple Plan) is 41. Actor Billy Miller is 41. Rock musician Jon Walker is 35. NHL forward Alex Ovechkin (oh-VECH'-kin) is 35. Actor Danielle Brooks is 31. Gospel singer Jonathan McReynolds is 31. Actor-singer Denyse Tontz is 26. NHL center Auston Matthews is 23.

## 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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