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# Connecting

November 11, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020,

It is Veterans Day 2020 – and this issue of Connecting salutes our colleagues who have served our country in a branch of the military.

We bring you the thoughts of those who responded to Connecting's call for their memories of their military service and what it meant to their lives. Hope you get a chance to read through their stories – you'll enjoy. Promise.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

# A salute to Connecting veterans



**Dennis Anderson while embedded in Iraq where Baghdad Airport under attack on first anniversary of invasion, April 9, 2004.**

**Dennis Anderson** ([Email](#)) - I joined the Army as Vietnam War Era was ending, in first year of "VolAr" - 1972. Ground assignments to Vietnam ended, so we mostly went to FRG (West Germany), Korea, Alaska, or CONUS (Stateside). I went to Germany with 3/8 Armor Cav, and 8th Infantry jump school (Airborne). Border Legion reconnaissance along East German border was my land grant university, watching a totalitarian regime at close range. Traveled through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin for more of the same. It was formative and made me relish democracy and freedom. Experience always informed my wire service journalism on military. In 2003 and 2004 I embedded in Iraq as newspaper editor covering first California Guard unit in Iraq. Prior service was invaluable to understanding troops, and the catastrophe of the war.

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**Harry Atkins** ([Email](#)) - I spent four years in the Air Force, from early 1959 until early 1963. I spent all four years at Hunter Air Force Base, a SAC base just outside Savannah, Ga. We flew B-47s. But I did not. I spent my entire tour at the base gym where I was a judo instructor and also helped administer a fairly tough physical fitness test the troops had to pass every six weeks. I was part of Operations Squadron which handled all the base training facilities, including flight simulators. OPS also ran the

flight tower, the communications center and the base newspaper, the Hunter Guardian. I got my first bylines writing stories about the base judo team and about the importance of passing that PFR test. Those few clips landed me my first job at a weekly newspaper when I got back to Michigan. A few years later, in 1971, I joined AP and stayed until I retired as Michigan sports editor in 2000. But my military service mostly affected my personal life. Shortly after my 21st birthday I met a girl at the beach on Tybee Island who since 1966 has been my wife, known and loved far and wide as the Lovely Lynn. All in all a mighty fine life.

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**Jim Bagby** ([Email](#)) - Spec. 5<sup>th</sup> Class James R. Bagby, U.S. Army, Jan. 1967-Feb. 1969.

I was a newlywed, only a few months from being beyond draft age when Uncle Sam welcomed me to scenic Fort Polk, La. I guess no basic training posts are scenic, but once those memorable nine weeks were over, the Army was an overall great experience. The luck of the draw sent me back to my then-hometown, Lawton, Okla., site of the U.S. Army Field Artillery and Missile School. I already had a great deal of respect for men and women in uniform. Both of my grandfathers served in WWI; in WWII my Dad survived landing at Utah Beach on D-plus 1 and eventually entered Paris with Patton. At Fort Sill I initially trained in telling the 155-milimeter howitzers where to aim; later I transferred to the 97<sup>th</sup> Army Band. My trombone and I appeared in parades and honor ceremonies across Oklahoma and regularly at Fort Sill headquarters, in 100-plus temperatures and below-zero wind chills.

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**Malcolm Barr Sr.** ([Email](#)) - Served in the Royal Air Force in England, six years following the end of World War II (1951-54). Currently, I am the lead organizer of our town's Memorial Day ceremony, assisted by a U.S. Marine Corps Reservist. Uniquely (in our area of the Shenandoah Valley - Front Royal, VA) we also salute the "dogs of war" at the annual event. Our son is an Iraq war veteran, a 10-year member of the U.S. Air Force involved in counter intelligence.

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**Bob Beardsley** ([Email](#)) – Captain, USAF. I served in the Air Force for six years from 1968 to 1974. I was stationed in Little Rock AFB as a communications officer and then as a recruiter in Harrisburg, Pa. In addition to learning real-life communications (along with your Connecting editor), I met my wife (a USAF nurse) and had two children courtesy of Uncle Sam. I consider the experience an amazing positive on my life and encourage any young person looking for a great start to investigate the opportunities the service offers.

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**Hal Bock (Email)** - BR12613433 This was my serial number in the U.S. Army Reserves. I signed up in 1961 for six months active duty and 5 1/2 years of weekly meetings and two weeks of active duty summer camp. Stationed first at Fort Dix, NJ then at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Summer Camp was at Fort Drum in Watertown, NY and in those days, the AP did not give time for that so I used my vacation. The Army teaches you to accept things. Food's not so good? Put ketchup on it. Lots of ketchup. One morning at Fort Sam, we were bussed to a local high school to set up bleachers for Friday Night Lights high school football. In basic training, they put us in a building and delivered tear gas to see how well we dealt with gas masks. Those of us wearing glasses struggled mightily. I thought they were trying to kill us, especially when they had us crawl along an obstacle course at night while tracer bullets flew overhead. There were other adventures some funny, some not so funny. At the time, I was not terribly happy but after discharge I looked back and saw the humor. There was the time I had KP and the mess sergeant had cooked up stewed tomatoes for the troops. This was field mess so the food had to be transported from the kitchen to the mess tent. I was ordered to carry put the stewed tomatoes right out of the oven. "Let me put on gloves, Sarge," I said. "Get it out there now," he responded cheerfully, Predictably, I dropped the creation on the kitchen floor and then spent the next 10 hours cleaning the kitchen.

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**Paul Bowker (Email)** - US Army, December 1973 -- December 1976, Assigned to: Fort Riley, Kansas, Two temp assignments: Germany. For six months following high school graduation in Massachusetts in 1973, I wandered aimlessly like any other 18-year-old. Oh, I worked at a drug store on dreamy Cape Cod (and the dreamy part goes away once summer ends). The state had lowered the drinking age to 18, so a legal Budweiser or two or three were never far away. Army life changed all that. I grew into an actual person through my adventures from basic camp at Fort Dix in New Jersey to my trip west to Kansas (I had never been out of New England) and then two temporary assignments in Germany as a part of the NATO REFORGER annual war exercise. The world opened my eyes. Participating on a military tour to the Cold War border along a river separating East and West Germany was life changing in 1975. After a three-tour tour that produced an Army Commendation Medal, I went home to civilian life in Massachusetts, but then returned to Kansas to become a journalism student at KU, followed by my first job at the Kansas City Star. Without Fort Riley, I never would have discovered the Sunflower State or a passion for journalism I grew into a career at KU.

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**Charles Bruce (Email)** – I was assigned to the Army Security Agency 1956-59 and spent time in Ft Jackson, SC; Ft Devens, Ma; Ft Gordon, Ga. and Ft. Dix, NJ. Then off to Rothwesten, Germany where the base had been a pilot training school during WWII complete with steel mesh on the disguised grass runways and underground hangars. My experience with military communications equipment fit right in with a career in the AP.

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**Jim Carlson (Email)** - Served in Vietnam from June 1969 to July 1970 with the 2nd of the 8th Mechanized Infantry, part of the 4th Army Division. I had extended my time in Vietnam by one extra month so that I could leave active duty on my return instead of facing six months of stateside duty. Like many military vets, I wanted nothing to do with the military and didn't even react much when a friend of my father offered his "thanks for your service." It took a long time to adjust and eventually get the job that led to my AP career. One step in the right direction: when my dad and stepmom (who is native American) went with Ellen and I to a tribal pow-wow. One of the dances was for everyone who served in the military, and I joined in. What a calm, sharing, meaningful tribute.

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**Darrell Condon (Email)** - Staff Sergeant, USMC 1965 to 1971. I became a Marine because I wanted to challenge myself. I got engaged while in AE A school in Jacksonville Fl. The deal was if I was sent to Vietnam right out of school we would wait to get married. If I got a stateside assignment we would be married right away. I wanted to get married and graduating 1st in my class got me my choice of orders. I went to Washington DC from A school. I was in Vietnam in 1968-1969. Went back to A school as an instructor when I came back stateside. The Marines changed me a lot. They gave me confidence and leadership experience. I went back to college as a 26 year old with a wife and two kids. Got a Computer Science degree and a job as a Programmer Trainee at age 28. I was made a manager at 31. Semper Fi, Marines!

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**Joe Frazier (Email)** - Marine Corps, 1967-1969. Served for a brief time at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Then 13 months in Quang Nam province in Vietnam most of it in a 155mm artillery battery. I didn't like them and they didn't much like me and I quickly discovered a career I wanted nothing to do with and a lot of people for whom I had no use although I made several friends I remain in contact with to this day. I returned home, finished my degree at the University of Oregon, worked two years for The Oregonian and joined AP in 1972, retiring in the Big Buyout of 2009 after a great career that included 16 years in Mexico and Central America. I live now in the tiny town of Yachats on the central Oregon coast.

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**Steve Graham (Email)** - USMC 1957-1961. The Marine Corps (by means of the U.S. Navy) trained me as an aircraft mechanic, but all it got me was the Cold War GI Bill, which helped me finish college. Since it was a relatively peaceful time in the world, the closest I came to combat was in Yokosuka, Japan when I had a hard time getting my buddies back to base from a night on the town.

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**Jerry Harkavy (Email)** - I took ROTC at New York University and served as an Army officer from 1965-68, first at Fort Holabird, Md., and later as a public information officer in Vietnam. While leading a detachment assigned to the 173d Airborne Brigade in the Central Highlands, I came in contact with several AP reporters and photographers. As my year in country was drawing shorter and I was pondering my future as a civilian, a photographer who'd been with AP in New England but was then working for Newsweek and Overseas Weekly gave me the name of the Boston bureau chief (Jack Simms) and suggested I contact him. I had an interview and took the test in NY, then took off for Boston. Simms offered me a choice between Providence and Portland, and I wisely chose the latter. I fell in love with Maine and spent more than 40 years in the bureau before taking AP's big buyout in 2009. I thought I would also include [this story](#) from our local daily that appeared in its Veterans Day supplement last November. I'm an enthusiastic volunteer in Maine's Vet2Vet program and can't say enough about it.

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**Mike Harris (Email)** - After finishing my degree at the University of Wisconsin, I joined the U.S. Army Reserve in January of 1967 and was on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., from February to August 1967. In basic training, I was one of only two enlisted men in the company with a college education, so I was given a lot of responsibility (acting corporal). It was the first time in my life that I was a leader and I found I enjoyed it and did well with it. That helped me mature, and it came at a really good time, since I was engaged to be married and about to start my career in journalism. After post-basic schooling (engineer MOS) at Leonard Wood, I started my first full-time reporting job at the Rockford, Ill., Newspapers (in September, 1967) and attended weekend meetings and two-week summer training camps for the next five years. I was an E6 by that time and I would have liked to continue in the Reserve, but working in sports - weekends and nights - made it almost impossible. All of this took place during the Vietnam War and our unit was on call to active duty several times. But it never happened.

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**Mike Holmes (Email)** - U.S. Navy, 1970-1972. Served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany, flagship of the Tonkin Gulf commander, for two tours in Vietnam. Impacts? At least two. First, my service as a Navy journalist - handling print, broadcast and photos - set me on a career path that only lasted 46 years. Second, as I've gotten older, I've developed a profound appreciation for the young men and women who volunteer to serve in our military. Too many Americans have no idea of the sacrifices they make for the rest of us.

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**Repps Hudson (Email)** - I dropped out of the University of Missouri in early 1966, did basic and advanced infantry training and then Officer Candidate School and spent 37 months in the Army. Infantry platoon leader and executive officer in Vietnam with the First Infantry Division, Delta Co., 1st of the 16th. I was an infantry officer and loved almost every minute of it. The Army taught me to be responsible, most of the time, and to appreciate education. Back to college, then grad school on the GI Bill. Then 34 years in newspapers. The Army shaped me and being a veteran is a very special role in American society today.

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**Lindel Hutson (Email)** - I spent two years active duty in the Army, 1970-71. I graduated from college in 1969 and let myself be drafted, taking the advice of the city editor of the daily paper I worked for who had been down that road. He suggested that with a college degree and three years daily newspaper experience I probably would not be sent into the combat ranks. He was right. After basic training at Fort Polk, LA I was given a military journalist specialty and sent to Fort Dix, NJ with no additional military training. I spent nearly a year Dix, including a summer at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, and wrote sports for the Fort Dix Post newspaper. The next year, I was shipped to SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Belgium. There, I created a newspaper for U.S. personnel in Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland. I also wrote occasionally for European Stars and Stripes. I met a many really good people in those two years and learned valuable lessons I carried back into civilian life.

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**Bill Kaczor (Email)** – I spent 3 years, 11 months in the Air Force, Jan. 1969-Dec. 1972. After training at Lackland AFB, Texas, and Chanute AFB, Illinois, I was stationed at Eglin AFB, Florida, as an F-4E flight simulator specialist with the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing. The military had a huge influence on my life by bringing me to the Florida Panhandle and eventually the AP. While at Eglin I moonlighted with the Playground (now Northwest Florida) Daily News and Pensacola News Journal. After grad school at Medill on the G.I. Bill, I returned to the News Journal full time and from there to Gannett News Service in Tallahassee and then 33 years with the AP in Tallahassee and Pensacola.

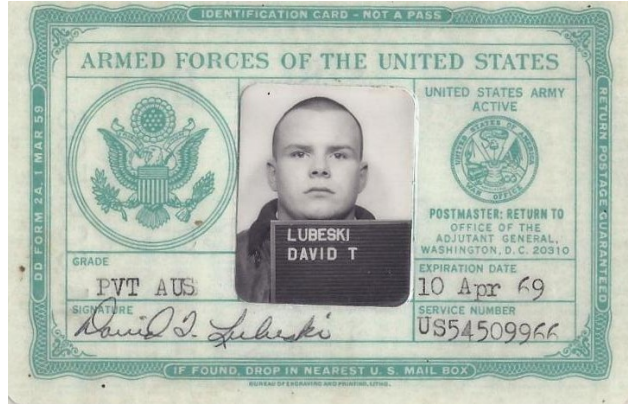
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**Brent Kallestad (Email)** - U.S. Navy (4-11-66 through 5-25-70), Boot camp (11 weeks) in San Diego, U.S.S. Charles Berry (DE -1035) based at Pearl Harbor(July 1966-January 1968), Department of Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison (Indianapolis) February '68-July '68, Public Affairs Office at NAS Jacksonville, FL (August 1968-May 1970. Wouldn't trade my military time for anything. Created a new world and many opportunities for me. DINFOS was particularly beneficial. Also met the mother of my children in Jacksonville. We were divorced in '99 but she was a very supportive AP wife (six transfers, etc). BTW, my two oldest sons are veterans as well. One Navy (Russian linguist), one Army (airborne).



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**Dave Lubeski (Email)** – Army, 1967-1968, Sandhofen, Germany. I was drafted into service and took basic training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and medical training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. I was assigned to the 2nd Battalion 13th Infantry as a medic stationed at Coleman Barracks near the Mannheim-Heidelberg area. After my induction I surrendered all freedom for the next two years of my life. I couldn't get mad and quit. I couldn't talk back to the boss. I couldn't call in sick and stay in bed. I had no say where I slept, no say where I was going to live. no say about what I was told to do. I had to follow and respect the chain of command. The experience gave me an edge in the civilian world. It made me tougher, confident and disciplined. I'm proud to have served.



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Larry Margasak at the Air and Space Museum in front of the same plane they flew - a C-121 (in civilian life a Super Constellation, flown by TWA and others; known for its unique three tails)

**Larry Margasak** ([Email](#)) - I was in the PIO section of my Pennsylvania Air National Guard unit from 1965 to 1971, during the Vietnam War, based at the former Olmsted Air Force base - now Harrisburg International Airport. We were an airlift unit during my first several years, and I got on a flight delivery to Saigon. For summer camp, I was on flights to Europe and the Pacific by telling the brass the magic words: "I'll do a story for everyone's hometown paper." I worked in the Philly and Harrisburg AP bureaus during those years. The fun stopped my last few years when we became an electronic warfare unit and the planes were outfitted with classified gear that required a clearance I didn't have. I can't say it changed my life today, except for the memories, the military discount from Lowe's, the eligibility for cheaper USAA insurance and my free veterans beach tag from Cape May, N.J.

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**Joe McGowan** ([Email](#)) - I joined US Navy Reserve while a U. Wyo. student and drove to Cheyenne Tuesday nights for meetings. Also had army uniform in my closet because ROTC was mandatory first two years at UW. After graduation served Feb. '53-Feb. '55 on training ship based in Milwaukee. Later was commissioned and had total 19 years. I resigned while based in India with AP. Military service taught me importance of our military worldwide, proper personal behavior including neat dress. It also taught me team behavior.

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**Robert O'Meara** ([Email](#)) - When I joined the Army in World War II I was sent to Fort Sheridan, Ill. where a doctor examined me on my first day in service. When he was done he wrote UCD at the top of my exam form. I asked if that meant Usual Childhood Diseases. He said It meant Unlimited Combat Duty. Well, things turned out somewhat differently. I was sent to Fort Riley in Kansas where I took my basic training in tanks and other armored vehicles. Then I was transferred to the Army Air Force for training as a radio operator and technician (or as a mechanic as they were called then). I was sent to Europe and to Mauritania and Morocco, communicating with planes coming and going to the war zone. When the war ended I was completing three years of service.

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**Lawrence Paladino** ([Email](#)) – When I was hired by the AP in Detroit in December 1967 it was a year after I got out of the Army, having served a three-year enlistment that included a year in Vietnam (May 1965-May 1966) as a paratrooper in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. I was an infantryman and also company clerk. Of the 187 of us who were with the brigade on Okinawa who went to Vietnam, only 27 weren't killed or wounded. I returned home to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., where, on my first jump there, I had a parachute malfunction and wound up with a broken back and was in the hospital for three months. I think my military experiences made me a better reporter – and I may have owed my job to the news editor, ex-Marine Sandy Schwartz, who recommended Bureau Chief Clem Brossier hire

me. They said I was the only one they ever hired without a college degree. I was at Wayne State University at the time but I had a lot of clips from a summer internship at the Grand Rapids Press and columns on Vietnam in the student newspaper.

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**Lyle Price (Email)** – It was my fortunate fate to serve in the Army in peacetime between mid-1954 and mid-1957. My service was mostly with an artillery field observation battalion north of the 38th parallel (three years after the end of the Korean War) and with a Nike missile site in Rhode Island and its headquarters in Boston. I worked mainly as a personnel clerk. What I wish to get across here is my belief that a nationwide participation that once involved a large percentage of young persons in a focus on national goals served to instill a shared identity with other Americans that to my mind isn't equaled today. Knowing so many people from so many places also gave me a firsthand insight into various cultures and human nature. I think and hope the following gets things across much better: Were it not for wars or terrorist attacks, to my mind there'd be no downside to military service. In my case, my later years in college (financed by the GI Bill) may have made me more of a scholar, but the military made me more keenly aware of different points of view as well as how to overcome obstacles and get things done for my own and the common good. I salute veterans and all of those who died for our country.

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**Robert Reid (Email)** – Army, 1970-1973, Fort Knox, KY; Fort Devens, MA; Augsburg, West Germany. I'd been working for AP for a year when the Army came calling. ROTC had kept me out of the draft for the last four years. Now it was payback time. The experience changed my life – for the better. I did things I would never have expected – tank commander school, mountain climbing in the Alps, parachute training, intelligence work in Cold War Germany. At age 25, I supervised about 200 people scattered from Italy to West Berlin. The Army taught me more about leadership than anyone else. We also fell in love with living overseas. Before the Army I aspired for Newsfeatures. Afterward, my goals changed. Four years after leaving the Army, we were back abroad for AP. Except for about three years at the UN, we stayed abroad until the end of my AP career.

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**Mike Rouse (Email)** – I think you'd have to say my military career was successful. Back in the early '60s, I was working for the AP in Charlotte. One day I got a letter from Jack Kennedy, or maybe it was someone else on his behalf. They wanted me to get on over to South Korea to help make sure that the Communists in North Korea stayed on their own side of a DMZ. I got there in the fall of 1963. The North Koreans didn't try any funny business so I came on home after a little over a year and the AP let me come back to work.

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**Jeff Rowe** ([Email](#)) – USAF 1971-1975. Last base: March AFB, California, where I got my start in journalism writing a few pieces for the base newspaper. Air Force ideal that resonates more than ever: "Not to lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate those who do."

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**Bill Schiffmann** ([Email](#)) - I joined the USAF in December of 1965 and was discharged as a Sgt. in November of 1969. I served at a number of posts, including the Defense Language Institute in Monterey and Dover AFB in Delaware before 18 months at Howard AFB in Panama. I met my first wife at our graduation party at the DLI. I learned to ride a motorcycle, a pleasure I gave up two years ago after riding for 50 years. And I think it made me grow up, understanding that responsibility came with military service and marriage. It let me learn a foreign language, introduced me to a new culture and provided me the honor of serving with some of the best men and women our country had to offer.

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**Mike Short** ([Email](#)) - Infantry officer, USMC, 1961-64. Deployed to the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962. Never met anyone so gung ho that he was eager to hit the beach. In a casual conversation a major told me nervously that he'd survived Korea without a scratch. The military draft forced choices and was extremely valuable in exposing young Americans to a broader view of the world. But one of many lessons I absorbed turned out to be wrong: Sixty years ago I had a Black drill instructor while in a basic training platoon that was all white and disproportionately Southern. I thought the Marine Corps had integrated successfully. In the top ranks the record is still abysmal.

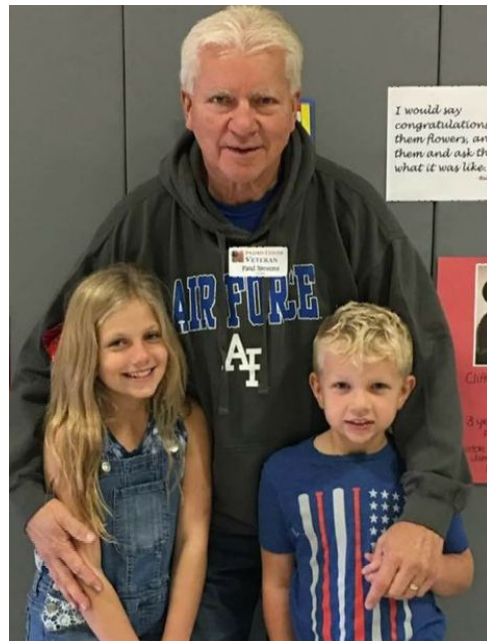
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**Hal Spencer** ([Email](#)) - Served in the United States Marine Corp. 1966-1968. Quang Tri Province, Vietnam, Camp Pendleton, Cal. For two years this middle-class kid from rural Utah lived as close as you can get with Americans of every hue, religion, station, and geographic location. Texas and Alabama farm boys and guys from East LA and the Bronx. 18-year-old men looking forward to making cars in Detroit, or wheat in Kansas, guys planning to use the GI Bill for college, guys just being the kids they were. What an education I got. And in my reporting career to come, it served me well. It also served me in life. If you must, you can get along with everybody.

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**Paul Stevens** ([Email](#)) – I served in the Air Force from 1968 to 1972, the first three years at a Strategic Air Command base, Little Rock

AFB, where I was editor of the base newspaper, the Air Scoop, and the final year at Tactical Air Command headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia, where I was editor of the TAC News Service distributed to 20 or so base newspapers within the command. My first experience in news service work – but no Teletype delivery, just the U.S. mail. Linda and I were married five weeks before I went into basic training and she worked as a hospital nurse in both my assignments. Oh, how the horizons of two 21-year-old Midwest-raised, small-town kids were broadened by the experience. Friendships – we were “yankees” to our native Little Rock friends - were forged that have lasted a lifetime. We’re godparents to daughters of close friends in Little Rock. I worked with Bob Zimmer in Little Rock, who rejoined AP after his service ended; Bob tragically passed away while Champaign correspondent but his wife Lynda, a newspaper reporter, remains a Connecting reader. Among those I remember fondly was Lt. Col. Elizabeth Buckley (rare in those days for a woman to achieve that rank), who wrote a letter of recommendation for me to enter grad school at Kansas after my Air Force days ended. The GI Bill helped pay for grad school and our first home. As the years go by, those USAF memories grow fonder. I am proud to have served my country.



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**John Terino (Email)** - The Air Force totally reshaped my life. I left as a news clerk (with sportswriter aspirations) at the New York Times in July 1963 to fulfill my Air Force ROTC commitment. In October 1983, after service that included Vietnam twice, Luke AFB, AZ, Langley AFB, VA, and the Pentagon, I retired as Chief, Editorial Services Branch, American Forces Information Service, where I edited Defense Magazine under Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Five years as Product Information Manager, General Electric Space Systems Division followed, and freelancing aerospace and military articles for numerous publications. In 1993, I was one of the founders of the 500 + member Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association (AFPAAA) veterans organization. I have edited AFPAAA’s News & Notes Newsletter for more than 20 years. My wife Barbara was my very supportive “camp follower” all these years; our son John is a retired Lt. Colonel, and two grandsons now wear Air Force Blue. The Air Force put a kid who shined shoes in New York City on the fringe of history – a memorial service at Wright-Patterson AFB when President Kennedy was assassinated, taking cover in a drainage ditch at Bien Hoa Air Base during the Tet Offensive, being a public affairs escort for three flights of POWs returning from Vietnam, at the White House when President Reagan welcomed home the hostages from Iran. And, it honed the skills for my career in industry and writing that followed while enabling me to raise the family I’m so proud of.

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**Mike Tharp (Email)** - I was a draftee enlisted soldier in the U.S. Army Jan. 13, 1969, to Aug. 16, 1970. I served at II Field Force Vietnam July 23, 1969 to Aug. 16, 1970. I wrote for the monthly Army magazine Hurricane. I received an honorable discharge and a Bronze Star, leaving the Army as an E-5. The experiences and friends I made for life while I was a soldier in Vietnam could not be duplicated any other way. I saw the best of men. I saw the worst of men.

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**Roger Wallace (Email)** - I went in the Army in 1963, I was in the Army Security Agency for four years. The Army Security Agency was disbanded in the 70s and absorbed by Military Intelligence. I was in Okinawa from 1964-65. I then went to Warrenton, VA., from 1965-67. Being in the military worked well for me. It allowed four years of maturing and offered some great opportunities. I worked in communication centers for the enlistment period. One of the benefits of the military was getting a no down payment home loan.

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**Kendal Weaver (Email)** - I served in the Navy Reserve as an enlisted man for six years, including two on active duty — basically all of 1968 at Pearl Harbor, as a kind of secretary to a Navy captain — with shorter assignments at naval training centers in Great Lakes, Ill., and Bainbridge, Md., and never in Vietnam or a real war zone. Most important life experience from military service: I grew up (white) in totally segregated Birmingham, Ala., during the 1950s and 1960s, and the Navy thankfully gave me for the first time in my life an opportunity to live with African-Americans 24 hours a day at close quarters. A life-changing experience for me.

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**Lew Wheaton (Email)** – I enlisted in the Navy in spring 1965, when job recruiters were asking everyone's draft status. I went to OCS and became the supply officer (think Ensign Pulver) on a rusty LST in the Pacific and South China Sea, in and out of Danang and Subic Bay. After various unpleasantness with the captain (think Caine Mutiny), I extended on active duty to get shore duty in the states, which led indirectly to the AP and my future wife. I landed at the Navy Purchasing Office in Brooklyn. One of my roommates was working on the World Desk at 50 Rock, which piqued my interest. After active duty and a stint as a copy editor for a trade publication, I married Kathy and went to Columbia J School. Bob Gallimore hired me over the phone from Richmond, which is where I started my 32 years with AP.

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**Jeff Williams (Email)** – I was drafted into the Army in June 1960, a few weeks after graduating in journalism from U of Oregon. I did Basic and Advanced Infantry Training

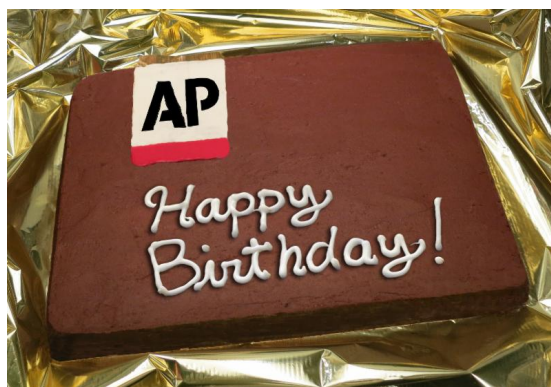
at Fort Riley, Kansas and then in May 1961 was shipped to a small outpost below the DMZ in South Korea. The Battle Group wanted a base newspaper and so I was relieved of my job as a gunner on a Jeep-mounted 106mm recoilless rifle to launch the paper. All well and good until Park Chung Hee, the young general who had just overthrown the government in a military coup, visited the base. A huge parade was staged for Park, who was seated on a reviewing stage. Seeing him sitting alone, I decided to interview him and walked past ranking officers on the stage to introduce myself. A translator appeared and Park gave me a welcoming smile. At that moment a major appeared at my side, his red face about to explode, and told me to remove myself forthwith. Protesting slightly, I did so. The next day, Private First Class Williams was back on the Jeep with my trusty 106.

## The Final Word



A U.S. Army soldier of the Third Infantry Division has a white glove inspection from officer of the guard, left, prior to the soldier's guard shift at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. The officer examines the weapon the guard will carry, looking inside and out for perfect mechanical function and spotless cleaning. (Photo by John Epperson)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Dorothy Downton – [ddownton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddownton@sbcglobal.net)

## Today in History - Nov. 11, 2020



### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 11, the 316th day of 2020. There are 50 days left in the year.  
Today is Veterans Day.

#### Today's highlight

On Nov. 11, 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice in the Forest of Compiegne.

#### On this date

In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politick."

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a slave uprising, was executed in Jerusalem, Va.



In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1929, the Ambassador Bridge spanning the Detroit River between Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, Canada, was dedicated.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1965, Rhodesia proclaimed its independence from Britain.

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off on a four-day mission with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard; it was the tenth and final flight of NASA's Gemini program.

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1987, following the failure of two Supreme Court nominations, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Judge Anthony M. Kennedy, who went on to win confirmation.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

In 1998, President Clinton ordered warships, planes and troops to the Persian Gulf as he laid out his case for a possible attack on Iraq. Iraq, meanwhile, showed no sign of backing down from its refusal to deal with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Ten years ago: A disabled Carnival Splendor cruise liner inched into San Diego Bay after three nightmarish days adrift on the Pacific, bringing cheers from passengers who described trying to pass the time with limited food, backed-up toilets and dark cabins. A dispute between the U.S. and China over currency values overshadowed a meeting of Group of 20 nations in Seoul, South Korea. Marie Osborne Yeats, a silent film child star who was known as Baby Marie Osborne, died in San Clemente, California, six days after turning 99.

Five years ago: The world's two biggest beer makers, AB InBev and SABMiller, announced they would join forces in a \$107 billion merger to create a company that would produce almost a third of the world's beer. Phil Taylor, 61, a former drummer with the heavy metal band Motorhead nicknamed "Philthy Animal," died in London.

One year ago: A day after stepping down amid election fraud allegations, former Bolivian President Evo Morales said he was headed for Mexico; his supporters and foes clashed on the streets of the Bolivian capital following his resignation. (Morales would settle in Argentina; he said after his party's victory in October elections that he planned to return to Bolivia.) SpaceX launched 60 mini satellites from a Falcon rocket; they joined 60 others that had been launched in May. Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, declared a state of emergency because of unprecedented wildfire danger.

### Notable birthdays

Country singer Narvel Felts is 82. Former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 80. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 76. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 75. The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 75. Rock singer Jim Peterik (Ides of March, Survivor) is 70. Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller is 69. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 69. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 67. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 67. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 65. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 64. Actor Stanley Tucci is 60. Actor Demi Moore is 58. Actor Calista Flockhart is 56. Actor Frank John Hughes is 53. TV personality Carson Kressley is 51. Actor David DeLuise is 49. Actor Adam Beach is 48. Actor Tyler Christopher is 48. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 46. Actor Scoot McNairy is 43. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (formerly with Cowboy Mouth) is 39. Actor Frankie Shaw is 39. Musician Jon Batiste is 34. Actor Christa B. Allen is 29. Actor Tye Sheridan is 24. Actor Ian Patrick is 18.

## 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.

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