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## Connecting December 10, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020,

**Happy Hannukah** to our Jewish colleagues. The first night of Hannukah begins tonight and continues until Friday evening, Dec. 18.

We lead today's issue with news of a journalism scholarship launched at the University of Missouri in the name of outstanding AP investigative reporter **Pete Yost**. The story by his friend and colleague **Dave Petro** tells how you can contribute.

**CORRECTION:** As a number of you pointed out, my journo-math was on full display when in Wednesday's edition I wrote a headline that said John Lennon was killed 60 years ago, when it should have been 40. Today's issue does include a great blog from AP Images on Lennon and his life.

You won't find this in today's Today in History, but it is one of the biggest events in my life:

On this date 75 years ago - Dec. 10, 1945 - former Army Capt. **Walter B. Stevens** – a couple months after returning from 33 months of World War II combat in Europe - proposed to **Ruth Marjorie Petersen** at her home in Hartington, Neb. They had met before the war working at the Cedar County News in Hartington. She said Yes, they were married on Valentine's Day 1946 and I made my debut into this world on Dec. 5, 1946, with my sister Jan and brother Dave to follow.



Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Journalism scholarship started at Missouri in name of AP's Pete Yost

By David Petro ([Email](#))

Pete Yost, my friend who passed on Oct. 20 at 73, was an investigative reporter for The Associated Press with a fierce, determined style of interviewing that contrasted with his low-key, modest personality.

He covered many of the biggest stories of his time and was known throughout Washington journalism and political circles as a dogged investigator who didn't put up with spin and shading the truth. A 1969 graduate of the University of Missouri, Pete started reporting at the Jackson Citizen Patriot and The Flint Journal in Michigan, learning how to cover city government and social service agencies. I also was a beginning reporter, assigned to a one-man regional office south of Flint. Pete and I and a few others drank downtown together and shared our aspirations to report the news of our times and tell stories. Pete's future wife, Ann, also was a reporter in Flint.

AP hired Pete in early 1972 and he started in the Detroit bureau, moving to the



Washington, D.C., bureau in 1983, covering legal affairs and other beats until retiring in January 2015 because of the onset of Lewy body dementia. After three years in Flint, I took a reporting job at the Houston Post for three years, then reported and edited for a weekly paper in Los Angeles County for four years and then spent nearly 30 years on the editing side of news at The Orange County Register, retiring in 2011. Pete and Ann and I stayed in touch all those years.

To honor Pete, I've worked with Missouri's School of Journalism to establish the endowed Pete Yost Journalism Scholarship. Criteria for an applicant is that a student be enrolled in the School of Journalism and be pursuing a career in editorial journalism. Students majoring in strategic communication or advertising fields are not eligible. A student also must have a demonstrated financial need as determined by the university's Office of Student Financial Aid. Here's how Pete's friends can help grow the endowment.

**Using credit cards:** Credit-card gifts may be made directly at <https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/support-Pete-Yost-Scholarship>. If you would like to structure a pledge that you can pay over multiple months or years, please check "Make this a recurring gift" on the second screen and follow the instructions to customize your payment plan.

**Sending checks:** Checks made payable to the **University of Missouri**, noting that your gift is for the **Pete Yost Journalism Scholarship**, may be sent to the Missouri School of Journalism, Office of Advancement, 103 Neff Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

**IRA donations:** If you would like to make a "charitable gift distribution" from your IRA account and are eligible to do so:

1. Indicate on the form you submit to your IRA provider that the check be made out to "Curators of the University of Missouri — Columbia Campus." Also indicate on the form that it is for the "Pete Yost Journalism Scholarship."
2. **Email** the University of Missouri Office of Gift Planning & Endowments **or send a letter** to inform the university of the donation, indicating the name of the IRA provider and the amount to expect along with instructions for the use of the donation, i.e., to add to the endowment "corpus" (preferred) or to add to the "distribution fund" (the amount available in a given year for a scholarship).

[giftplanning@missouri.edu](mailto:giftplanning@missouri.edu)  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
302 Reynolds Alumni Center  
Columbia, MO 65211-2100  
Attn: Office of Gift Planning and Endowments

3. Copy your email or letter and send it to:

[kilpatrickc@missouri.edu](mailto:kilpatrickc@missouri.edu)  
Colin Kilpatrick  
Senior Executive Director of Advancement  
Missouri School of Journalism  
103 Neff Hall

Columbia, MO 65211

4. When the IRA donation is received by the University, you will receive a letter of acknowledgement to share with your tax preparer.

**Donating stock or through a donor-advised fund:** If you would like to make your gift using stock or through a donor-advised fund, please contact the J-School's Office of Advancement at (573) 882-0334.

**Questions?** Email Colin Kilpatrick or call his cell number at (573) 268-5668.

## A new blog: THELOWITLOWDOWN.COM

**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - After covering sports for The Associated Press (1970-86), the St. Petersburg Times (1986-2004) and freelancing for the past 16 years and counting, plus three years (1967-69) covering California news and politics for The AP, whence I gained most of my cynicism and appreciation for the absurd, I have launched a blog, **THELOWITLOWDOWN.COM** with which I will offer to pass along my satiric, sarcastic and possibly deranged observations on said subjects.



I invite anyone quarantined or otherwise sequestered within arm's length of the Internet to check out my first two columns and, if amused, to sign up and receive a notice when additional entries are posted. If not amused, the least one can do is advise family members and friends of my endeavor. I mean, would it kill you to help out a fellow semi-retired ink-stained wretch? Click [here](#) for the blog.

NOTE: The accompanying caricature of me was done in 1994, so add some grey and 10 pounds or so and it's a relatively accurate portrayal.

## John Lennon, who imagined a world at peace, was killed 40 years ago in New York

# Ex-Beatle Lennon slain in New York

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — John Lennon, the singer-songwriter who helped make the Beatles musical superstars and pop-culture legends in the 1960s, was killed in a late-night spray of gunfire outside his luxury apartment building.

He was the co-author with Paul McCartney of such famous songs as "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Yesterday" and "Let it Be."

Minutes after the shots rang out, police took a suspect into custody. Early today, they charged Mark David Chapman, 25, of Honolulu, with murder. No motive was known immediately.

Yelling "I'm shot," Lennon staggered and collapsed face down after the shooting at 10:50 p.m. Monday at the Dakota, a century-old building at the corner of 72nd Street and Central Park West. Police rushed the former Beatle to Roosevelt Hospital, a mile away, in a squad car.

"Tell me it isn't true," sobbed his wife, Yoko Ono, when doctors pronounced the 40-



JOHN LENNON

year-old songwriter dead soon after. Lennon had said in an RKO radio network only hours before his death that he hoped to die

## AP Images Blog

John Lennon was killed December 8, 1980 outside his apartment building in New York.

**The following text was filed by AP reporter Rick Hampson in his story, "World Mourns John Lennon; Accused Attacker Is Charged."**

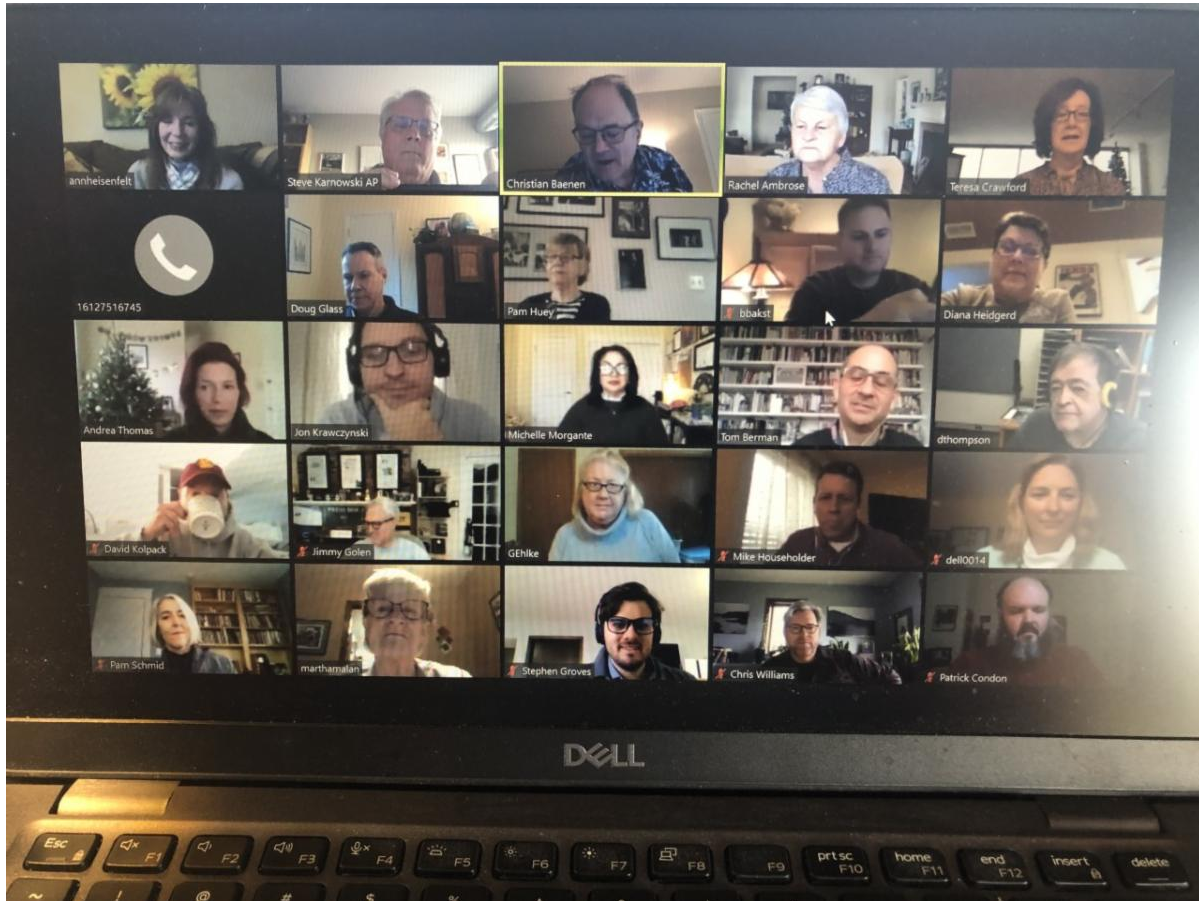
Former Beatle John Lennon, who catapulted to stardom with the long-haired British rock group in the 1960s, was shot to death late Monday as he entered his luxury apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, police said.

Authorities said Lennon, 40, was rushed in a police car to nearby Roosevelt Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving.

Doctors said there was no chance to save Lennon. They said he suffered seven severe wounds in his chest, back and left arm, but they did not know how many bullets had hit Lennon. Dr. Stephen Lynn said, "I am sure he was dead when he was shot."

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

## Zoom retirement party held for 42-year AP veteran Jeff Baenen



*(Jeff Baenen is now retired but Connecting asked him to write a piece on his own retirement party held Wednesday by Zoom.)*

**Jeff Baenen (Email)** - Call went an hour - we extended it a half-hour after the first half-hour because people wanted to keep it going. Good representation from AP's Upper Midwest crew as well as AP Video (Vaughn Morrison, head of US video production), AP Photos (Charles Rex Arbogast) and retired broadcast editors (Rachel Eberle Ambrose of California and Diana Heidgerd of Texas). Former Minnesota COB Michelle Morgante also attended as did several former AP reporters. My wife, former Minneapolis AP reporter Laura Baenen, also was on the first half of the call (she says I get to listen to her all the time, so she did not comment).

I shared stories about some of my favorite interviews (Garrison Keillor, Eric Clapton, 60s pop star Bobby Vee, "Juno" screenwriter Diablo Cody) and events (covering Tiny Tim's wedding for AP Radio, videotaping Newt Gingrich getting glitter-bombed in Minneapolis). Speakers commented on my calm during breaking stories, my courtesy on the phone and always identifying myself as "Jeff Baenen, AP Minneapolis" (former

Minnesota staffer Pat Condon recalled my bumping into him at a cultural event in south Minneapolis after he had left AP and saying to him "Hey, Pat, it's Jeff Baenen" \_ even though we had worked together for 10 years).

Here is what Doug Glass posted to the staff after I announced my retirement in August 2020:

Folks,

I really never thought this day would come, but if you haven't seen the news on Twitter, Jeff is retiring.

It's been a long run for the pride of Jamestown, who started as a part-timer in Bismarck in 1978 and then worked in the Statehouse there before transferring to Minneapolis in 1981.

42 years.

You don't last that long without being adaptable, and like all AP journalists, Jeff is. He spent 24 years as the Minnesota broadcast editor, during a different era when we manually produced what seemed an endless array of fixtures for our members. The broadcast editor was often the front line on breaking news, and Jeff could always be counted on to handle those with the same aplomb he showed whenever he got the mic to emcee the state broadcast banquet. (It could be hard to get Jeff to surrender that mic.)

Jeff also made a name for himself within AP as a preeminent arts and entertainment reporter, with a light touch that made him a three-time winner of our award for best writing by a Minnesota AP journalist. He carved out a special niche with Garrison Keillor, often the first reporter Keillor would turn to for whatever his next project would be. That paid off when Jeff broke the biggest scoop of his career – Minnesota Public Radio cutting ties with Keillor over an alleged improper relationship with a staffer.

Jeff helped cover the Hormel meatpackers strike in Austin in 1985-86, nabbed Eric Clapton's only mainstream media interview on a 2006 North American tour and interviewed pop star Bobby Vee not long before Vee's death. He was one of the first reporters at the scene of Prince's death in 2016.

In later years, Jeff embraced a new role as a hybrid videojournalist with a vengeance. He was among AP's many talented journalists on the streets this summer helping cover protests after George Floyd's death.

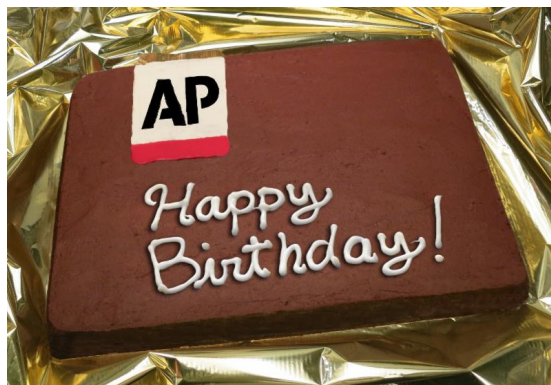
## Winter comes to the Northeast



Marc Humbert ([Email](#)) - Tsatsawassa Lake, near Albany, NY.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





To

Rachel Ambrose – [rambrose@rocketmail.com](mailto:rambrose@rocketmail.com)

Ted Warren - [twarren@ap.org](mailto:twarren@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### *Journalists federation says 42 media workers killed in 2020* (AP)

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Forty-two journalists and media workers have been killed while doing their jobs this year, according to the International Federation of Journalists' annual tally released Wednesday. At least 235 are currently in prison in cases related to their work.

The death toll is around the same level as when the global journalists' union began its grim annual count of deaths 30 years ago and is part of a recent downward trend.

But the federation warned against complacency in a report that will be officially released Thursday to mark the International Day for Human Rights. The release also coincides with an online conference on press freedom organized by the Dutch government and the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, that opened Wednesday.

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

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## ***The Biden Honeymoon Won't Last*** (Politico)

By JACK SHAFER

One sure thing about honeymoons—of both the matrimonial and presidential varieties—is that they end. A marital honeymoon can last for months, sometimes years, but the political rule of thumb states an upper limit of 100 days of harmony and happiness between an incoming president and the press before reporters open a document on their computers titled “writ of divorce.”

Donald Trump pulled this rule of thumb out of its socket immediately after his 2017 inauguration, picking a hellacious fight with the White House press corps over the inauguration-crowd size. Thanks to Trump’s and press secretary Sean Spicer’s unbelievable claims about audience size, the Trump honeymoon was terminated and the reservation on the bridal suite refunded.

As Joe Biden files his change of address for 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., he can expect to enjoy a cushy honeymoon of the sort that once came automatically with the keys to the White House in the pre-Jimmy Carter days. Even Richard Nixon got one. As a caretaker president likely to limit himself to one term, Biden won’t get the fawning acceptance that was bestowed on the charismatic Barack Obama. But neither will he be bedeviled by the press the way George W. Bush was after the 2000 election controversy or like Bill Clinton, painted by the press as a loser for failing to implement the politically risky initiatives (health care, national service, gays in the military) he campaigned on. Oh, and there was the Waco travesty.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***U.S. and States Say Facebook Illegally Crushed Competition*** (New York Times)

By Cecilia Kang and Mike Isaac

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission and more than 40 states accused Facebook on Wednesday of buying up its rivals to illegally squash competition, and they called for the deals to be unwound, escalating regulators’ battle against the biggest tech companies in a way that could remake the social media industry.

Federal and state regulators of both parties, who have investigated the company for over 18 months, said in separate lawsuits that Facebook’s purchases, especially Instagram for \$1 billion in 2012 and WhatsApp for \$19 billion two years later, eliminated competition that could have one day challenged the company’s dominance.

Since those deals, Instagram and WhatsApp have skyrocketed in popularity, giving Facebook control over three of the world's most popular social media and messaging apps. The applications have helped catapult Facebook from a company started in a college dorm room 16 years ago to an internet powerhouse valued at more than \$800 billion.

The lawsuits, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, underscore the growing bipartisan and international tsunami against Big Tech. Lawmakers and regulators have zeroed in on the grip that Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple maintain on commerce, electronics, social networking, search and online advertising, remaking the nation's economy.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Neo-Nazi group member who threatened journalist gets prison*** (AP)

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

An Arizona man who joined other members of a neo-Nazi group in a coordinated campaign to threaten and harass journalists, activists and other targets on both U.S. coasts was sentenced Wednesday to 16 months in federal prison.

Johnny Roman Garza, 21, expressed remorse before a federal judge in Seattle handed down the sentence, which was roughly half the length of the term recommended by prosecutors and a probation officer.

Garza pleaded guilty in September to conspiring with other members of the neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division to deliver threatening messages to journalists' homes and other places in the U.S. On a Jewish journalist's bedroom window, Garza affixed a poster that depicted a man in a skull mask holding a Molotov cocktail in front of a burning home. The poster included the journalist's name and home address.

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

## **Today in History - Dec. 10, 2020**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 10, the 345th day of 2020. There are 21 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 10, 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."

### On this date:

In 1861, the Confederacy admitted Kentucky as it recognized a pro-Southern shadow state government that was acting without the authority of the pro-Union government in Frankfort.

In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory.

In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American War.

In 1946, newspaperman Damon Runyon, known for his short stories featuring colorful Broadway denizens, died at a New York hospital at age 66.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first Black American to receive the award.

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona; trumpeter Ben Cauley, a member of the group the Bar-Kays, was the only survivor.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev concluded three days of summit talks in Washington. Violinist Jascha Heifetz died in Los Angeles at age 86.

In 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, pledging to pursue their mission of healing the anguished Middle East.

In 1996, South African President Nelson Mandela signed the country's new constitution into law during a ceremony in Sharpeville.

In 2007, suspended NFL star Michael Vick was sentenced by a federal judge in Richmond, Virginia, to 23 months in prison for bankrolling a dogfighting operation and killing dogs that underperformed (Vick served 19 months at Leavenworth). Former Vice President Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a call for humanity to rise up against a looming climate crisis and stop waging war on the environment.

In 2009, President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a humble acknowledgment of his scant accomplishments and a robust defense of the U.S. at war. James Cameron's 3-D film epic "Avatar" had its world premiere in London.

In 2013, South Africa held a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, during which U.S. President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state with a plea for the world to emulate "the last great liberator of the 20th century." (The ceremony was marred by the presence of a sign-language interpreter who deaf advocates said was an impostor waving his arms around meaninglessly.) General Motors named product chief Mary Barra its new CEO, making her the first woman to run a U.S. car company.

Ten years ago: The Norwegian Nobel Committee honored Chinese literary critic Liu Xiaobo (lee-OO' show-BOH'), imprisoned for urging political reform, by presenting his \$1.4 million Nobel Peace Prize diploma and medal to an empty chair. A federal jury in Salt Lake City convicted street preacher Brian David Mitchell of kidnapping and raping Elizabeth Smart. (Mitchell was later sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: The Senate Judiciary Committee rebuked Donald Trump by endorsing a nonbinding amendment, 16-4, that said barring individuals from entering the United States based on religion would be un-American (the Republican presidential front-runner had called for blocking Muslims from entering the country in the aftermath of attacks in the United States and abroad.)

One year ago: House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, declaring that he "betrayed the nation" with his actions toward Ukraine and an obstruction of Congress' investigation; Trump responded with a tweet of "WITCH HUNT!" At an evening rally in Pennsylvania, Trump mocked the impeachment effort and predicted it would lead to his reelection in 2020. House Democrats and the White House announced agreement on a modified North American trade pact to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement. A man and a woman burst into a kosher market in Jersey City, N.J., with assault weapons, killing three people in the store after earlier killing a police officer at a nearby cemetery; they then died in an hours-long exchange of gunfire with police. (Authorities said the

pair acted out of hatred for Jews and law enforcement.) A Pennsylvania appeals court rejected Bill Cosby's bid to overturn his sexual assault conviction.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tommy Kirk is 79. Actor Fionnula Flanagan is 79. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tavares is 79. Actor-singer Gloria Loring is 74. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 74. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 69. Actor Susan Dey is 68. Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is 64. Jazz musician Paul Hardcastle is 63. Actor John York (TV: "General Hospital") is 62. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh (BRAH'-nah) is 60. Actor Nia Peeples is 59. TV chef Bobby Flay is 56. Rock singer-musician J Mascis is 55. Rock musician Scot Alexander (Dishwalla) is 49. Actor-comedian Arden Myrin is 47. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 46. Actor Emmanuelle Chriqui is 45. Rapper Kuniva (D12) is 45. Actor Gavin Houston is 43. Actor Alano Miller is 41. Violinist Sarah Chang is 40. Actor Patrick John Flueger is 37. Country singer Meghan Linsey is 35. Actor Raven-Symone is 35. Actor/singer Teyana Taylor is 30. Actor Kiki Layne is 29.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a



while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

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