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Connecting

December 17, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 17th day of December 2020,

And welcome to winter as several feet of snow are predicted to fall in the Northeast - see today's Final Word for how it impacts my daughter **Jenny Volanakis** and husband and their two sons who are no doubt sledding as you read this.

Our colleague **David Marcus** retired in March after nearly 20 years with the AP – but the pandemic forced postponement of any retirement party. Until now. In a socially distanced way, you are invited to celebrate David's career and retirement with a Zoom party on Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 2 p.m. ET. If you'd like information on signing up, drop a note to **David Wilkison** at dwilkison@ap.org

Today's Connecting brings you news of the effort to recognize **Ed Kennedy**, who scooped the world on the first report of Germany's surrender in World War II, for a special Pulitzer Prize.

And we bring you more of your colleagues' thoughts on the use of Dr. in second references for those in the medical and the academic professions.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP's Ed Kennedy again nominated for special Pulitzer Prize



A renewed effort to recognize the late Ed Kennedy's reporting of the World War II armistice has been submitted to the Pulitzer board.

Kennedy, Associated Press' Paris bureau chief, was the first to report Germany's surrender by using a censor-free telephone to London. It was arguably the scoop of the century. But he was vilified, lost his job with AP and in 1963 died in Monterey after being hit by a sports car.

It took an AP apology more than half a century later, on April 20, 2012, with Kennedy long dead, for the definitive validation of his decision to challenge political censorship and report the news. "Kennedy did everything right," said

then-president and CEO Tom Curley. "Once the war is over, you can't hold back information like that. The world needed to know." Failure to support Kennedy in 1945 "was a terrible day for the AP," he said.

"This will be the third time we have asked the Pulitzer committee to recognize Kennedy with a special Pulitzer," said Ray March ([Email](#)), co-chair of the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project, a national coalition of more than 100 journalists. March worked under Kennedy when he was editor of the Monterey Peninsula Herald.

"It's not only a special Pulitzer we are seeking. If Kennedy is awarded one it will mean that journalism history, especially the use and protection of the First Amendment will be corrected and recognized and Kennedy will be vindicated," March said.

Adding strength to the reasoning for special Pulitzer is the First Amendment Coalition of California.

"My organization, a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy group, fights for these values every day," David Snyder, executive Director of FAC, writes in his letter of support. "Kennedy's career and life embody FAC's animating philosophy—that for the American experiment to survive and even thrive, the people must have access to good and true information. Kennedy suffered terrible consequences for his adherence to

this creed. For too long, he has not been properly recognized for his groundbreaking and courageous work.”

Congratulations to David Wilkison, Eva Parziale

Dan Sewell (Email) – *AP Cincinnati correspondent* - The announcement this week of promotions for David Wilkison and Eva Parziale caused me to consider how far Eva has progressed since coming to the Miami bureau in the mid-1980s.

Florida being Florida, she got plenty of experience covering big stories, probably the biggest being an FBI shootout with serial armored car robbers in 1986. The robbers and two agents were killed, with 5 more wounded. There was later a TV movie about the case, "In the Line of Duty: The FBI Murders."

She became Night Supervisor, covering news around the state with usually only one reporter to help at night.

She rose rapidly from there, but even though her recent jobs have been on the membership and revenue sides, she continues to be race-caller for Ohio, working close with Washington AP and the vote-counting team on major election nights.

When she was still in Miami, we in the bureau use to say: "We'll all be working for Eva Parziale some day."

I became the first to fulfill that prophecy when, as Ohio COB, she hired me back into The AP in 2005.

Congrats to Eva and David on their important new roles!

Is there a Dr. in the house...or in the classroom?

Dennis Conrad (Email) - Before there was The Associated Press, and before there was an AP style book, there were dictionaries. Among them, Merriam-Webster has certainly been well-known and well-used for many a decade. Today, I found [this brief essay](#) of theirs on the topic of "Doctor." At a time when there has been so much commentary focused on Dr. Jill Biden and her doctorate in the field of education, Connecting readers may find it of interest.

As an aside, my father (1916-1981) grew up in rural Jackson County, West Virginia, where his maternal grandpa (1840-1930) was a local celebrity known variously as Captain Barber (for having served in the Union Army during the Civil War) and Doctor Barber (for having run the county infirmary, delivering more than 1,000 babies and taking care of all sorts of other health care needs). National Archives records confirm Barber attaining his captain's rank for gallantry at Petersburg. There are no records he had any advanced schooling or medical degree. His letters to his wife from Civil War battlefields did show he was quite literate.



I wonder if we have any Connecting colleagues who can tell us what AP style would have been for "Doctor" Barber a century or more ago. Perhaps they would have written in 1880: "Ripley, WV.- The Jackson County Commission today approved hiring Samuel L. Barber, who led the West Virginia 11th Infantry Regiment in its chase of Confederate General Robert E. Lee to his surrender at Appomattox, to run the county's infirmary. The Union Army veteran, who has no college degree, is nevertheless widely known as "Doctor Barber. "

As a high school youth in the 1960s, my first memory of the media using "Doctor" extensively in newspaper articles and radio and television broadcasts for someone NOT a physician was when President Nixon made Dr. Henry Kissinger his national security adviser in 1969. Today, I did a search of old newspaper stories from that time to refresh my memory of that period. I found examples attributed to The Associated Press where Dr. Henry Kissinger was used on first reference. I found many newspaper columnists routinely referring to Dr. Henry Kissinger. Now I will grant you that maybe it was not AP style to do that back then. Maybe these are all examples of style errors or maybe individual newspapers made their own decisions to edit AP copy to include "Dr." Of course, we all know that Henry was no physician —just a Harvard professor with expertise in government and international relations. The next time I have a clear memory of the media frequently using "Doctor" for a non-physician was when President Carter tapped Columbia University government professor Zbigniew Brzezinski (I am half Polish) to be his national security adviser. There really aren't a lot of examples I can come up with.

When I was an exchange student and high school teacher in Communist Poland in the 1970s, I must say I did encounter an endless number of titles used by academics over there based on how much education they had. Strangely, I got my teacher's contract offered to me by a Polish principal when I was only an undergraduate at the University of Florida, two quarters of credits short of my bachelor's degree in journalism and political science. I had been volunteering as an assistant to a teacher who had a doctorate degree in linguistics. Suddenly, she departed for a better paying job at a university in a different city. My 200 students called me "Mister Conrad." Last August, I was Googling while wondering whatever happened to my best student. It turns out, incredibly, he is a U.S. citizen and lives down the road from me, in Raleigh, NC. And, of course, he has a doctorate degree in physics. And his son, now at a Yale, well, he has a

doctorate in biochemistry from Duke University and a medical degree from the University of Chicago. Now there is a REAL DOCTOR!

Just call me mister, Dennis Conrad.

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Ray Newton (Email) - Those who earned research degrees have a legitimate right to be called by the appropriate title—Ed. D., Ph., D. D.D., whatever. Just as military rank has its protocols, so do the academic titles that have been around for centuries. It is arrogant to demean Jill Biden.

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Lee Siegel (Email) - As a science writer for my entire career, I have always opposed using the courtesy title Dr. for Ph.D.s and other non-medical degrees. I think AP's style is right on. The use of the title by non-medical people hits me as pompous and pretentious.

That said, the Wall Street Journal was sexist and misogynistic to raise the issue in the context of Jill Biden's use of the title Dr.

As a side note, I remember back in 1975-1976 when I spent a year at the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York earning my master's degree, I took a copy editing course from late New York Times copy editor Irv Horowitz. He insisted we use the courtesy title Mr. before every name in any story, and when we failed to do so, he would pound his flat palm repeatedly on a desk while yelling, "Mister mister mister!"

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John Strachan (Email) - When I left AP, I joined the communications staff at New York State United Teachers, a labor federation whose unions represent more than 600,000 public school teachers across the state and faculty members at the State University of New York system. As a writer and copy editor, one of my first tasks was to develop a stylebook for the various statewide publications.

I learned early into the project that the communications department adhered to an unwritten, longstanding NYSUT policy to avoid use of "Dr." before the name of any union member who held a Ph.D. That also applied to published references to NYSUT staff, executives and officers, most of whom were former educators.

In New York state, where all public school teachers are required to have a master's degree, the union was apparently looking to avoid creating a class system between the State University members – most of whom had a doctoral degree – and K-12

teachers, who don't get a courtesy title for their advanced – but not as advanced – degrees.

And because the State University system also contained several medical schools, there was always the potential for confusing a Ph.D. with a medical professional on the faculty.

In the stylebook entry, I noted that we were following AP style and that writers could always mention a member's doctorate if it was germane to the article. We simply eschewed use of "Dr." in front of the name.

Because she was an educator, Jill Biden got many favorable mentions in our publications during the Obama years. And the articles always mentioned that she indeed held a doctoral degree. But to us and our readers, she was never "Dr. Biden" – at least not in print.

And, as long as we're on the subject, she will never be "First Lady Jill Biden," either. Unless AP style has changed since I retired, it's not a formal title so it's lower-case "first lady."

Connecting star shot – Bradgate, Iowa



Tom Tierney - This is our barn star shining out for the holidays - here a shot from a couple of weeks ago. Made with 16-foot 2x4s the star is easily recognized by traffic a quarter mile away on the Bradgate blacktop (C26). This year we re-lamped it back to older C9 bulbs (warmer and brighter than LEDs). We thank neighbor Dave Larson, whose bucket truck lifts the very heavy star into place following periodic rework.

Geezer Rock! It's the future



Jim Reindl (Email) - Connecting has its annual author edition so I'm suggesting a variation adding music. Of course, this is from the Shameless Promotion Department at #OldJoy. I made a record over the covid summer with my musician son while I was exiled from Timor-Leste in Chicago. He released it Wednesday on Bandcamp and all the other major streaming services. He did it as a side project of his music moniker: Old Joy. He and I are really proud of it so I'm sharing it with Connecting colleagues. If anyone buys it, you won't just be gratifying an aging songwriter, you'll be doing good. Half the proceeds are going to two charities, the Never Alone Recovery Network

(<https://neveralonerecovery.com/>) or My Block. My Hood. My City. (<https://www.formyblock.org/>). Half goes to Old Joy. Here's the link: [Monks Aflame, by Old Joy](#). Geezer Rock! It's the future.

AP-masked, covering POTUS at Army-Navy game



AP White House reporter Darlene Superville traveled with President Trump to the Army-Navy football game at West Point last Saturday, won by Army, 15-0. (Photo by Steve Holland of Reuters.)

Darlene is wearing a protective mask made by Holly Ramer of the Concord bureau. Holly has made dozens of AP masks and hundreds more masks of all types that she has donated locally. You can get further information on the masks by dropping her a note. She asks \$4 to cover cost of fabric and shipping or to pay it forward and donate any amount to charity. In the photo at above right, Holly is wearing a mask earlier this month when she covered an outdoor session of the 400-member New Hampshire



House. The House speaker died of Covid exactly one week later. Holly's email – hramer@ap.org

No Way, José! Associated Press Corrects Story About 'Jose' Biden

By Lindsey Ellefson
The Wrap

The Associated Press issued a correction Wednesday for a Tuesday story that referred to the president-elect as "Jose" Biden.

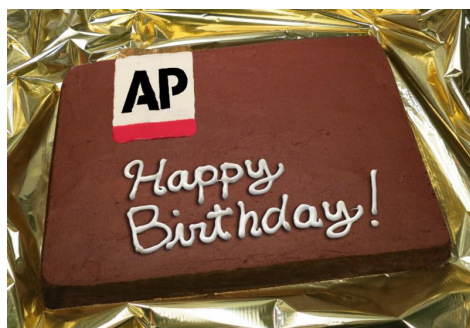
As a result, the correction was reprinted in a number of outlets that syndicate or publish AP stories.

"In a story on December 15, 2020, about the Mexican and Brazilian presidents congratulating U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, The Associated Press erroneously reported that Biden's first name is Jose. His name is Joe," said a standalone statement from the global news organization, which makes its reporting available for members and customers to use.

As a result, the correction also appeared in the Washington Post, the Toronto Star, Yahoo News and many, many more, including dozens of local news outlets.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Susanne Shaw - sshaw@ku.edu

Jane Anderson Vercelli - janevercelli@gmail.com

Stories of interest

A listing of Pictures of the Year

Doug Pizac (Email) - The Year in Pictures galleries are starting to appear. I'm going to post some links below and continue it next week as more trickle in. And as CNN editors said in the intro to theirs, "It may not be a year you want to remember, but 2020 is one you'll never forget."

From our friends at NPPA, below is their Pictures of the Year list from newspapers and agencies -- including AP.

[CNN's Year in Pictures](#) is top-notch

[NYT's Year in Pictures](#) includes some great quotes from many of the photographers

[The Washington Post's Best of 2020](#) radiates light and illuminates the darkness

[Los Angeles Times' photos of the year](#) reveal California's harrowing 2020

[AP's best of](#) features a world in distress

[Getty's Year in Review](#) will wow you

[Reuters Pictures of the Year 2020](#) is definitely solid

[AFP's Pictures of the Year gallery](#) is not elegant, but the work is good

The Atlantic has the first of a three-parter up, showing the [first few months of 2020](#)

[Women Photograph's 2020 Year in Pictures](#) is always amazing

[Natives Photograph Year in Pictures](#) is an important look at the indigenous world

National Geographic has [10 unforgettable images](#) from their year in pics issue

Not to be outdone, National Geographic also published the [Best Photos of the Century](#).

[2020 Northern Lights POY](#) is one I haven't seen before, but sure... why not.

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Journalists, it's time for a cold-turkey breakup with Trump (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

Long before he glided down that golden escalator at Trump Tower in 2015 to announce his presidential candidacy, Donald Trump was an object of media fascination. He could never actually become president, of course — that was unthinkable — but he captivated us all the same.

Once he was elected, the media's fascination turned to utter obsession. Newscasts, front pages, opinion columns — whatever the form, we couldn't seem to tear our gaze away.

The relationship was bumpy, sometimes abusive — “scum,” he called us early on — but Trump commanded attention nearly every hour of every day.

What new insult? What new outrageous policy? What new threat to democracy?

And the paradoxical reality couldn't be denied: Although he trashed us, he also helped us. Cable ratings skyrocketed, newspaper subscriptions soared, and podcasters never had to scrounge for topics. (Media columnists were busy, too.) There was even an inside-the-industry name for this audience increase: the Trump Bump.

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

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What If You Could Do It All Over? (New Yorker)

By Joshua Rothman
The New Yorker

Once, in another life, I was a tech founder. It was the late nineties, when the Web was young, and everyone was trying to cash in on the dot-com boom. In college, two of my dorm mates and I discovered that we'd each started an Internet company in high school, and we merged them to form a single, teen-age megacorp. For around six hundred dollars a month, we rented office space in the basement of a building in town. We made Web sites and software for an early dating service, an insurance-claims-processing firm, and an online store where customers could “bargain” with a cartoon avatar for overstock goods. I lived large, spending the money I made on tuition, food, and a stereo.

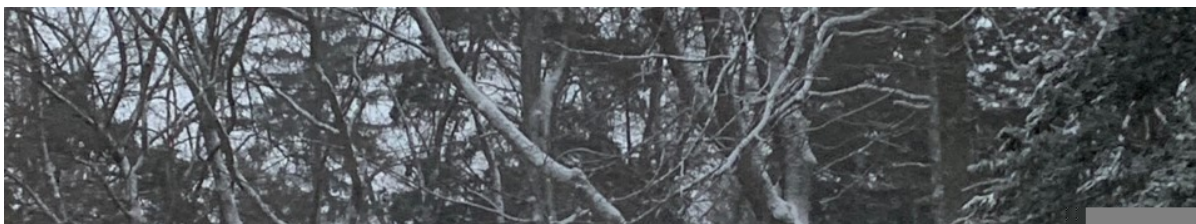
In 1999—our sophomore year—we hit it big. A company that wired mid-tier office buildings with high-speed Internet hired us to build a collaborative work environment for its customers: Slack, avant la lettre. It was a huge project, entrusted to a few

college students through some combination of recklessness and charity. We were terrified that we'd taken on work we couldn't handle but also felt that we were on track to create something innovative. We blew through deadlines and budgets until the C-suite demanded a demo, which we built. Newly confident, we hired our friends, and used our corporate AmEx to expense a "business dinner" at Nobu. Unlike other kids, who were what—socializing?—I had a business card that said "Creative Director." After midnight, in our darkened office, I nestled my Aeron chair into my ikea desk, queued up Nine Inch Nails in Winamp, scrolled code, peeped pixels, and entered the matrix. After my client work was done, I'd write short stories for my creative-writing workshops. Often, I slept on the office futon, waking to plunder the vending machine next to the loading dock, where a homeless man lived with his cart.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Snow day - sleep in, get out your sled...Now, why couldn't I have had a superintendent like him?



**A foot of snow on the ground in New Canaan this morning with much more to come.
Photo/Jenny Volanakis**

**Bryan D. Luizzi, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools, New Canaan (CT) Public Schools, in
a note Wednesday to parents:**

Dear NCPS Community,

This year, the Connecticut State Board of Education revised their policy to permit districts to count snow days as school days if all students and staff participate in remote learning on that day.

We thought about it.

We're not doing that.

We're calling a real Snow Day.

Tomorrow, December 17, 2020 is officially a Snow Day for everyone in the New Canaan Public Schools. It is a day for students, faculty, and staff to sleep in, eat a big breakfast, watch the snow fall, go sledding, drink hot chocolate, read a good book by the fire, and enjoy some of what makes childhood so wonderful and living in New England so special.

We are closing our schools, our offices, and our laptops tomorrow. There will be no buses, no classes, and absolutely no Zooming.

In their place, we hope you have a day full of laughter, fun, excitement, and joy, and time to get outside, build a snowman, go sledding, and celebrate the first snow day of the year.

It has taken enormous effort and resolve to keep our schools safe and our doors open since August 30th, and unless the weather is even worse than expected, we'll be back at it on Friday. But that's a whole day away. Tomorrow, I hope you and your family can relax, enjoy the day together, and make some lifelong family memories filled with love and joy.

Stay safe and warm, and have a wonderful snow day!

(Shared by Jenny Volanakis)

Today in History - Dec. 17, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 17, the 352nd day of 2020. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1933, in the inaugural NFL championship football game, the Chicago Bears defeated the New York Giants, 23-21, at Wrigley Field.

In 1938, German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann discovered nuclear fission by splitting the nuclei of uranium into lighter elements.

In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif. to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (She was paroled in Aug. 2009.)

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a Black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1989, the animated TV series "The Simpsons" premiered on Fox with a Christmas-themed episode.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (sah-LEE'-nuhs deh gohr-TAHR'-ee) signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in separate ceremonies. (After President Donald Trump demanded a new deal, the three countries signed a replacement agreement in 2018.)

In 2001, Marines raised the Stars and Stripes over the long-abandoned American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In 2007, Gov. Jon S. Corzine (KOHR'-zyn) signed a measure making New Jersey the first state to abolish the death penalty in more than 40 years.

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

In 2014, the United States and Cuba restored diplomatic relations, sweeping away one of the last vestiges of the Cold War.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed into law a huge, holiday-season tax bill extending cuts for all Americans, saluting a new spirit of political compromise as Republicans applauded and liberals seethed. Federal prosecutors reached a settlement with the estate of Florida philanthropist Jeffrey Picower in which his widow, Barbara, agreed to return \$7.2 billion that her husband had reaped from Bernard Madoff's giant Ponzi scheme. Don Van Vliet, a musician and artist who'd performed a complex brand of experimental rock under the name Captain Beefheart, died in Arcata, California, at age 69. New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees was voted the 2010 Male Athlete of the Year by members of The Associated Press.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Ash Carter acknowledged that he sometimes used a personal, unsecured email account to conduct official business after he took office, a practice he called "entirely my mistake." Representatives of Libya's two rival factions signed a U.N.-brokered deal to form a unity government.

One year ago: Joe Biden released a doctor's report saying that the 77-year-old former vice president was "healthy, vigorous" and "fit to successfully execute the duties of the Presidency." A federal judge in Washington sentenced former Trump campaign official Rick Gates to 45 days in jail despite what she said was "extraordinary" cooperation with special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe and other Justice Department investigations; Gates had pleaded guilty to charges related to political consulting work he did in Ukraine.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 90. Pope Francis is 84. Singer-actor Tommy Steele is 84. Actor Bernard Hill is 76 Actor Ernie Hudson is 75. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 75. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 74. Actor Marilyn Hasset is 73. Actor Wes Studi is 73. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 72. Actor Joel Brooks is 71. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson Vaughn (The Emotions) is 69. Actor Bill Pullman is 67. Actor Barry Livingston is 67. Country singer Sharon White is 67. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 64. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 62. Pop singer Sarah Dallin (Bananarama) is 59. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 54. Country musician Duane Propes is 54. Actor Laurie Holden is 51. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 50. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 50. Actor Claire Forlani is 49. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 47. Actor Sarah Paulson is 46. Actor Marissa Ribisi is 46. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 46. Actor Milla Jovovich (YO'-vuh-vich) is 45. Singer Bree Sharp is 45. Singer-songwriter Ben Goldwasser (MGMT) is 38. Rock singer Mikky Ekko is 37. Actor Shannon Woodward is 36. Actor Emma Bell is 34. Actor Vanessa Zima is 34. Rock musician Taylor York (Paramore) is 31. Actor Graham Rogers is 30. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

Here are some suggestions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paul Stevens

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