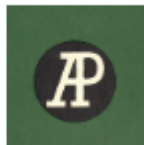


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Connecting

January 7, 2021

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Violent protesters, loyal to President Donald Trump, storm the Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)



Trump supporters gather outside the Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)



Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington. As Congress prepares to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory, thousands of people have gathered to show their support for President Donald Trump and his claims of election fraud. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)



Police with guns drawn watch as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 7th day of January 2021,

The front-page headlines in your newspaper this morning will focus on the storming of the U.S. Capitol by a violent mob loyal to President Trump – an event that puts Jan. 6, 2021, into a category with the Pearl Harbor and 9/11 attacks.

Ironic, isn't it, that Connecting discussion of late has focused on the front pages you've saved of major historical events – and whether to pitch or save them.

We're proud of the journalists who were thrust into coverage of the riot and performed so admirably under most dangerous circumstances and grateful there have been no reports of any journalist seriously injured.

Today's Connecting gives you a snapshot of Wednesday's events – but for the latest AP coverage, click on the Top AP News and Top AP Photos links in the masthead.

Also included in this issue is an on-site account from colleague **Bob Reid**, a 35-year AP veteran who is now senior managing editor of Stars and Stripes, and the observations of two of our most seasoned colleagues – **Gene Herrick**, 94, and **Norm Abelson**, 89.

Your observations as they relate to coverage of the riot will be welcomed.

Be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

An amazing day at the Capitol



Photos by Robert Reid

Robert Reid (Email) - I wandered over there at mid-afternoon from our apartment which is about a mile away. By the time I arrived the advance guard of the pro-Trump crowd had pushed through metal barriers and was massing on the west lawn leading up to the Capitol entrance.

In addition to the crowd in the yard, thousands more were milling about from the base of Capitol Hill, past the equestrian statue of General Ulysses S. Grant and the Reflecting Pool all the way to the western end of the National Mall a couple of hundred meters away.

They were waving Trump banners, American flags, militia flags, a few Confederate flags while they cheered on those who were pressing forward toward the Capitol steps.

Agitators using bullhorns encouraged people to climb over the stone fence around the western Capitol grounds and join the assault. Dozens responded – young men, women of all ages, men whose gait indicated they'd long passed middle age.

Suddenly a pudgy, gray-bearded man strode briskly the gathering shouting: "Check your news feeds people, The Capitol has been breached." A huge cheer arose from the crowd.

There was little doubt about the mob's goal.

"You want Trump to win," shouted one agitator through his bullhorn as he encouraged others to join the attack. "Here's how you do it. You replace the people on the front line. That's how you win a war."

The crowd was predominately but not exclusively white. I saw Latinos, an elderly Vietnamese waving a South Vietnamese flag, anti-Communist Chinese-Americans and a handful of Koreans.



They all appeared determined. From time to time, police defending the Capitol fired "flash-bang" and tear gas grenades. After each bang a huge cheer rose from the crowd. Nobody turned and ran.

As scores of protesters hoisted themselves over the wall, one middle-aged man, wearing a Trump cap and jeans, turned to his companion and said "this is what we came for."

What they came for was to block Congress from certifying Joe Biden's Electoral College victory in the Nov, 3 election – which Trump and millions of his followers believe was stolen.

Most of the world saw their actions as a grave assault against American democracy. Members of the crowd besieging the Capitol, however, saw themselves as heroes trying to save American democracy. And they were firmly convinced that their cause was just.

To them, they weren't illegally breaking into a government building. I heard several make the comment that "it's our Capitol."

Were they angry? Nobody shouted at me, nobody asked why I was there, nobody threatened me. I covered a couple of Ku Klux Klan rallies as a young reporter. Those guys were scary, even to a Southern white. The Capitol Gang was not.

On the other hand, I fit the demographic of most of the crowd. Even better to be a Southerner.

In their minds they were the true American patriots, putting their lives on the line to take back their country from the secular "leftist Democrats," illegal immigrants, "baby-killing" abortionists and greedy "Deep State" elites, whoever they are.

Those seemed to be deeply held convictions that won't go away anytime soon.

How to describe the events at the U.S. Capitol



People shelter in the House gallery as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)



An AP Global Media Services standup location was overrun and trashed by rioters. GMS is an AP group that supports traveling TV correspondents with standup locations

and workspace. Twitter post by William Turton, Bloomberg. (Shared by Doug Pizac)

By John Daniszewski, AP Vice President for Standards

Colleagues,

We are being questioned about the correct language to apply to the protesters backing President Donald Trump in Washington and the dramatic events taking place today at the U.S. Capitol.

AP style in the event of civil disturbances allows editors and journalists to choose the term that in their judgment best applies. So far, our main story has spoken of a “chaotic protest aimed at thwarting a peaceful transfer of power,” a “melee” and a “raucous, out-of-control scene.”

MOB, RIOT OR INSURRECTION OK: Considering that armed protesters broke into the building, overwhelmed Capitol police, interrupted the process of certifying Electoral College votes and forced the evacuation of the vice president of the United States and members of Congress, “protest” may be too mild a word for the action without surrounding it with strong adjectives and context, such as “violent protest” or “rioting protesters.” Calling it a “mob” or a “riot” would also be appropriate, especially when the protesters’ actions were wild, widespread, violent and uncontrolled. The term “insurrection,” meaning the act of rising up against established authority, could also be justified.

NOT A COUP: Some people and broadcasters are calling the protesters’ action a “coup” or a “coup attempt,” meaning a sudden, organized seizure of political power or an attempt by a faction or group to seize political power suddenly outside of the law. We may of course quote others alleging a coup or attempted coup, but so far AP has not seen conclusive evidence that the protesters’ specific aim was to take over the government, so at this stage we are avoiding the term in AP copy unless attributed.

As always, journalists should look at the events with an open and dispassionate mind and decide what language best applies. When in doubt, consult managers and senior news leadership.

Finally, reiterating our recent Standards message: Please refrain from expressions of personal opinion about these political events in your social media or contacts with others. Let’s let the facts in AP’s reporting speak for themselves.

Also, do not tweet details about your colleagues during unrest in a way that might compromise their safety, such as giving details of their locations or of their interactions with the protesters. Again, we let our news report speak for us.

Click [here](#) for a link to this memo.

A dark moment in time

Norm Abelson (Email) - I watched and I wondered as I saw an American man smash a window and plow his way into the United States Capitol. I saw another fellow countryman desecrate the office of the third-ranking member of the government. Still another slouched in the chair of the president of the Senate, recently vacated by the Vice President.

And I remembered the awe in which I held that building nearly 60 years ago when I was an employee of the U.S. Senate. I would whisper in conversation when walking across the Rotunda. Not that I believed everything was as it should be, or that every member of Congress was a perfect representative.

It was more the promise that building held for, as Lincoln said, "a more perfect union." That building represented for me a citadel for the possibilities of a better tomorrow for a democracy certainly incomplete and needing improvement.

Its desecration comes at a difficult time in this democracy, a time of sharp and unrelenting disagreements, where discussion and honorable compromise seem impossible. A nation where nearly half the voters chose a man who fed on division, hatefulness, and words and actions to deliberately fan the fires that led directly into siege of the Capitol.

I wonder how my 70 odd million and their 70 million can or ever will sit down and reason together, and listen to each other, and honor each other's humanity. Will we ever again come together in search for that perfect union? Or will we sink ever deeper into that black hole of divisiveness and autocratic horror that leads straight into hell?

A horrific tragedy

Gene Herrick (Email) - What this nation viewed today was probably the worst political tragedy of our time.

It was a fiasco from the start with the President of the United States addressing his favorite followers, and then turning them into mobsters to attack the Capitol building to interrupt Congressional business in process of authorizing the recent national voting.

President Trump addressed his huge crowd of followers and directed them to march to the Capitol. Trump returned to his White House office, where he did more "Tweeting."

The huge mob of Trump followers jammed the outside of the building, and many broke windows for entry into the Capitol. The Capitol building was jammed with Trump followers.

Police? Where were the troops, or the police. After a long time, even hours, we saw on television, hundreds of police cars arrive, then, finally, some Army troops showed up. However, none showed up where the mob was. We learned that the Virginia State Police had arrived and went in a secret door to started cleaning out the invaders. Congress had gone into hiding.

During my 28-year career as an AP photographer, I covered many riots, union uprisings, various labor strikes, university outbreaks, and you name it. However, I have never witnessed the police handling of this insurrection at the Capitol.

No one has called for the removal of the president for directing this riot. What will be next? Will Congress approve of the recent national election results? Will President-elect Joe Biden ever be approved by Congress?

Our forefathers are turning in their graves, and I wonder what the millions of dead American Soldiers are thinking about their sacrifices?

Analysis: Trump's rage ignites mob assault on democracy



President Donald Trump speaks during a rally protesting the electoral college certification of Joe Biden as President, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By JONATHAN LEMIRE

NEW YORK (AP) — The riotous mob that laid siege to the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday was the product of the destructive forces that President Donald Trump has been stirring for years, culminating in the disruption of a democratic ritual that would formally end his unconstitutional bid to stay in power.

The scene that unfolded — pushing through police barricades, breaking windows, then occupying seats of power — was one that Americans are accustomed to watching in distant lands with authoritarian regimes.

But the violence, which included gunshots fired in the Capitol, one death, and an armed occupation of the Senate floor, was born from the man who swore an oath to protect the very democratic traditions that rioters tried to undo in his name.

The rioters chose to storm the Capitol, a building symbolic as a citadel of democracy, and stirred echoes of the the angst and blood of the Civil War era. Only this time it was instigated by a duly elected president unwilling to honor the foundational creed of a peaceful transfer of power.

“This is an attempted coup d’état incited by the President of the United States,” said presidential historian Michael Beschloss. “We are in an unprecedented moment when a president who is willing to conspire with mobs to bring down his own government. This is totally against the idea of democracy for which the nation has stood for over two centuries.”

The certification of the Electoral College votes that formalizes President-elect Joe Biden’s victory, a Constitutionally-enshrined ceremony typically designed to show American democracy’s strength, was disrupted within hours of Trump’s incendiary demand for action in a speech to his supporters, as he implored them to “fight” to stop the “steal” of the election and march on the Capitol.

Read more [here](#).

A moment in America, unimaginable but perhaps inevitable



Members of the National Guard arrive to secure the area outside the U.S. Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



Supporters of President Donald Trump are confronted by Capitol Police officers outside the Senate Chamber at the Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 in Washington. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

By TED ANTHONY

To see it unspool — to watch the jumbled images ricochet, live, across the world's endless screens — was, as an American, a struggle to believe your eyes. But there it was, in the capital city of the United States in early January 2021: a real-time breaking and entering the likes of which the republic has never seen.

The U.S. Capitol was overrun by violent supporters of Donald Trump, who exhorted them to march on the domed building as lawmakers inside carried out their constitutional duty by certifying his electoral defeat. The proceedings were quickly abandoned as the selfie-snapping mob smashed windows, marched through hallways and rummaged through lawmakers' desks.

Fourteen days before Joe Biden is set to be inaugurated on the very same site, elected officials sheltered in place in their own building. Agents barricaded themselves inside congressional chambers, guns drawn. The stars and stripes — soaring over public property — was lowered, then replaced as a blue Trump flag ascended.

In one of the day's most indelible images, a hoodie-clad trespasser sat in a chair overlooking the Senate floor — minutes after it had been vacated by Trump's own vice president, Mike Pence — waving his fist in front of a thick, ornate curtain designed to summon the trappings of democracy.

This was not “the peaceful transfer of power” so lionized by the American tradition. Not even remotely. “This,” Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania said, “is an absolute disgrace.”

The United States on Wednesday seemed at risk of becoming the very kind of country it has so often insisted it was helping: a fragile democracy.

Read more [here](#).

Congressional reporters became the country's eyes and ears as rioters stormed Capitol Hill



U.S. Capitol Police with guns drawn stand near a barricaded door as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

By Brian Stelter, CNN Business

New York (CNN Business) - When pro-Trump rioters breached the Capitol building on Wednesday, the TV cameras in the House and Senate chambers were abruptly turned off.

Thankfully there were quick-thinking reporters and photographers inside the Capitol who showed the world what happened next.

The tweets and dispatches described unbelievable scenes — an armed standoff, vandalism, terroristic threats — and the photographs and videos made it believable.

Senior congressional correspondent Manu Raju called into CNN while the Capitol was being evacuated. He described "debris, trash, all in the elevators, things knocked down, posts knocked down," saying that it's a sign that rioters had penetrated "all parts of this building."

NBC News' Frank Thorp shared one of the most astonishing videos of rioters roaming around the Senate chamber after it was evacuated. He posted a twenty-second clip to Twitter and spoke with anchor Lester Holt by phone.

"They're just mulling around, looking through desks," Thorp said. "There's a guy sitting there in the gallery above. He asked 'Who are you with? Who are you with?' and that was about time for me to go."

Thorp's video clip was visual confirmation that the halls of Congress were occupied by insurrectionists.

On the House side, photojournalists from the AP, Getty and other news services bore witness to a barricade situation.

Andrew Harnik's (AP) photo set was jaw-dropping, as was the caption: "U.S. Capitol Police with guns drawn stand near a barricaded door as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington."

Read more [here](#).

Twitter, Facebook lock Trump's accounts amid D.C. riots

By Tony Romm, Elizabeth Dwoskin and Drew Harwell

Twitter locked President Trump out of his account for the first time late Wednesday, the most punitive step the social media giant has taken so far against the president on a day of social unrest and violence in Washington.

The lockout, which will last for 12 hours, also included the removal of three tweets and a warning that Trump could be subject to a permanent suspension if he continues tweeting baseless conspiracy theories about the election and inciting violence.

Facebook followed, blocking the president's account for the first time for 24 hours for what it said was two policy violations, although it didn't threaten permanent suspension.

The social media giants' actions were the latest volleys in months of heightened tension between Silicon Valley and Trump, after months of struggling to combat baseless allegations of a stolen election long stoked by Trump and his allies.

Read more [here](#).

To pitch those clips and historic front pages, or to save

Bill Kaczor (Email) - Count me as one of those savers. Over the years I have amassed 30 scrapbooks filled with clippings of my stories from 1972 through 2013. I considered it a hobby as I had no interest in collecting stamps or coins, playing golf, fishing or any other of a multitude of diversions people engage in. My collection initially consisted of clippings from the Pensacola News Journal where I worked until 1975. I then moved to Gannett News Service in Tallahassee, where I also collected clippings from two other Florida Gannett papers: Florida Today and the Fort Myers News-Press. I hit the mother lode when I joined the AP's Tallahassee bureau in 1980 because we had subscriptions to most of Florida's major newspapers. Even after becoming the AP's Pensacola correspondent in 1984, I was called back to Tallahassee to help with legislative, football and other coverage from time to time and was able to sift through the newspapers stacked up in the bureau.

When I retired in 2013, I decided my collection needed an index, so I spent many hours over the next couple years compiling one. I thought the index would be a great tool to research my clippings for writing a book about the Florida Panhandle. Only then did I discover that technology had beaten me to the punch (my apologies to cliché haters). I learned I could subscribe to an online newspaper archive that enabled me to find and print out copies of my articles as well as others that I needed from newspapers across the nation. That was much easier than moving back and forth from one bulky scrapbook to another, to another, etc. So the book is getting written with little help from my clipping collection. I'm not sure what will become of it. I'm going to keep it for now. I may offer it to a local historical society or library someday. I'm not sure, though, that anyone will want it given the fact all the same stuff and so much more is available so easily online.

Thoughts on bribes

Mike Holmes (Email) - I enjoyed Henry Bradsher's account of the bribe he paid while on assignment in Africa. It brought to mind the lone bribe (maybe call it a tip) that I ever paid, in a slightly less exotic locale: Waco, Texas.

It happened early in our coverage of the Branch Davidian standoff in 1993. The AP staff that first few weeks numbered about 20 writers and photographers, with a round-the-clock stakeout at the Davidian compound, plus reporters at the courthouse, hospitals and various law enforcement offices around town.

A couple days into the standoff, Dallas COB John Lumpkin assigned photographer Ron Heflin and me to set up a newsroom at our headquarters — the Waco Holiday Inn. The hotel manager had a vacant former gift shop just off the lobby and was happy to rent it to us. We installed phones, TVs, tables and chairs, some laptops, a photo transmitter, and the new Waco "bureau" was open.

Just outside our door was a one-chair shoeshine stand. Its operator was a friendly guy who enjoyed watching the constant coverage on our newsroom TV, including the FBI press conferences.

Coincidentally, a large contingent of FBI agents was based in the same hotel. Our lobby neighbor was a quick study, and he soon recognized most of the key FBI agents on sight. That included Bob Ricks, the Oklahoma City agent who'd become the FBI's main Waco spokesman.

"AP! Here comes Ricks," our tipster would call out every time the agent entered the hotel. His alerts almost always lead to an exclusive AP interview. After several days of this, Ricks asked me during one lobby ambush, "Are you guys following me around?" I just laughed and said, "Bob, the AP is everywhere."

Around the end of Week 2, I was talking with John, and we decided we should tip our tipster. \$100 found its way into our lobby buddy's pocket. His enthusiastic alerts — and exclusive AP interviews — kept coming.

-0-

Ed McCullough (Email) - Referencing Henry Bradsher's comment on bribe-paying while working for AP overseas, in my case from 1986-2008, mostly on the news side and mostly in Latin America, I, too, almost never paid a bribe, nor was asked to, though tips were always appreciated. Venezuela was an exception.

Arriving in Caracas in 1994 as bureau chief, I resolved never to pay a bribe for a public service and insisted on paying income tax. For months I stood in line like everyone else (who did not pay bribes), harangued public officials by phone, and consequently drove (the AP car) without a license, ran AP business and news without the required residency stamps and seals, and so on.

I thought I was near getting the residency paperwork when finally called to the Information Ministry for a photo. Instructed to stand precisely atop two yellow footprints stenciled on the floor, the photo was taken as I looked down. Which I told them, generating the response: Do you think we're a rich country that can afford film for two photos of everything?

When I returned weeks later ostensibly to pick up my completed paperwork, the official said, sorry, but the photo has to be taken again. We need to show more than the top of your head.

For my driver's license, a policeman eventually was assigned to stand behind me during the multiple question test. He'd nudge my elbow if I was about to answer incorrectly. As I walked out, the person in charge congratulated me for passing - without actually having reviewed my test. "You failed," he informed the person behind me. On the basis of what, one can only guess.

Stories of interest

Washington Post editorial board calls for Trump's removal (Poynter)

By: Tom Jones

In a stunning editorial published Wednesday night, The Washington Post editorial board called for Donald Trump to be removed as president.

The board wrote, "President Trump's refusal to accept his election defeat and his relentless incitement of his supporters led Wednesday to the unthinkable: an assault on the U.S. Capitol by a violent mob that overwhelmed police and drove Congress from its chambers as it was debating the counting of electoral votes. Responsibility for this act of sedition lies squarely with the president, who has shown that his continued tenure in office poses a grave threat to U.S. democracy. He should be removed."

The editorial board also criticized what it called Trump's "two mild tweets" to tell the mob to disperse peacefully.

The editorial board wrote, "The president is unfit to remain in office for the next 14 days." It asked Vice President Mike Pence to gather the cabinet and invoke the 25th Amendment, and declare that Trump is "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office." Pence, the board writes, should be president until Joe Biden is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

"Failing that," the board writes, "senior Republicans must restrain the president."

Read more [here](#).

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Vegas newspapers back in court in joint operations dispute (AP)

By KEN RITTER

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The rival daily newspapers in Nevada's largest city are trading new broadsides in their years-long legal fight over one of the last remaining joint-operating agreements in the U.S.

Attorneys for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and Las Vegas Sun went before a federal magistrate judge Tuesday to argue pretrial motions in an ongoing antitrust lawsuit.

The Review-Journal is accusing Brian Greenspun, publisher of the Las Vegas Sun, of offering to accept a \$20 million buyout and quit publishing his newspaper in 2016, after the Review-Journal was bought in December 2015 by the family of casino mogul Sheldon Adelson.

“When the Adelsons refused to pay,” a Monday court filing alleged, “Mr. Greenspun retaliated by sabotaging the joint Review Journal/Sun newspaper and diverting readers to his separate online news product,” which is not part of the joint-operating pact.

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

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The end of an era: Olympus confirms it's completed the sale of its imaging business to JIP (DPReview)

Olympus has confirmed in an announcement on its website that it's completed the transfer of its imaging division to OM Digital Solutions, the subsidiary of Japan Industrial Partners Inc. (JIP) that now controls the Zuiko and OM brands.

Olympus first agreed to sell its imaging business back in June 2020, when it announced JIP would be the new stewards of its camera brands. Further details were unveiled in September 2020, when Olympus laid out the framework for how the transfer would take place.

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

Today in History - Jan. 7, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2021. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

On this date:

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, Japanese forces began besieging American and Filipino troops in Bataan during World War II. (The fall of Bataan three months later was followed by the notorious Death March.)

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2006, U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, facing corruption charges, stepped down as House majority leader. (DeLay was found guilty in Nov. 2010 of illegally funneling corporate money to Texas candidates; his conviction was eventually overturned.)

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Mohammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.)

In 2019, Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly-traded company in the U.S. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery.

Ten years ago: A package addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano ignited at a Washington postal facility, a day after fiery packages sent to Maryland's governor and state transportation secretary burned the fingers of workers who opened them.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama tore into the National Rifle Association during a televised town hall meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, as he dismissed what he called a "conspiracy" alleging that the federal government — and Obama in particular — wanted to seize all firearms as a precursor to imposing martial law.

One year ago: A magnitude 6.4 earthquake, the strongest to hit Puerto Rico in more than 100 years, killed one person, injured nine others and knocked out power across the U.S. territory. A stampede at the funeral of Gen. Qassem Soleimani in his Iranian hometown of Kerman killed 56 people and injured more than 200. Jury selection began in New York for the rape and sexual assault trial of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein; about a third of the first 120 prospective jurors were sent home after they said they could not be impartial. Neil Peart, the drummer for the influential rock trio Rush, died at the age of 67 at his California home; the band said he had been battling brain cancer.

Today's Birthdays: Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 75. Singer Kenny Loggins is 73. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 72. Actor Erin Gray is 71. Actor Sammo Hung is 69. Actor Jodi Long is 67. Actor David Caruso is 65. Talk show host Katie Couric is 64. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 62. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 62. Actor David Marciano is 61. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 60. Actor Hallie Todd is 59. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 58. Actor Nicolas Cage is 57. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 56. Actor Rex Lee is 52. Actor Doug E. Doug is 51. Actor Kevin Rahm is 50. Actor Jeremy Renner is 50. Country singer-musician John Rich is 47. Actor Dustin Diamond is 44. Actor Reggie Austin is 42. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 42. Actor Lauren Cohan is 39. Actor Brett Dalton is 38. Actor Robert Ri'chard is 38. Actor Lyndsy Fonseca is 34. Actor Liam Aiken is 31. Actor Camryn Grimes is 31. Actor Max Morrow is 30. Actor Marcus Scribner is 21.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye

Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



[Visit our website](#)

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"