

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#)

Connecting

March 23, 2021

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 23rd day of March 2021,

Today's Connecting profile shines on our colleague **Sandy Hamm**, who for the past 36 years has operated AP Newsfinder, a service that brings Associated Press news to weekly publications throughout the United States.

In his profile, Sandy relates how he made the career change from commercial beekeeping to a company that provides AP news to the country's weeklies and specialty publications. African American and Native American publications comprise 20 percent of his business.

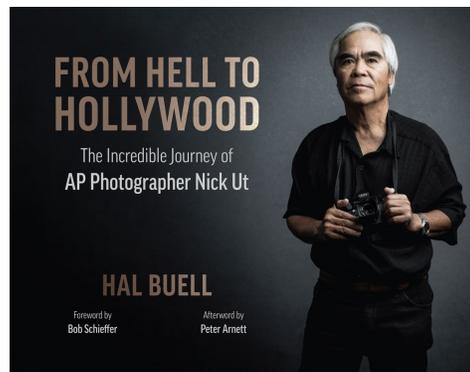
The name "Hamm" is well-known in Olympic gymnastic circles. Sandy's twin sons were once Olympic medalists. Paul Hamm was the 2004 Olympic all-around champion, a three-time Olympic medalist, and the 2003 World all-around champion. Morgan Hamm was an Olympic silver medalist in the team competition at the 2004 Olympics and a two-time Olympian (2000, 2004).

Today's issue brings you more memories of our colleague **Chuck Lewis**, former Washington bureau chief for the AP and Hearst Newspapers, who died Saturday.

On Tuesday, March 30, Connecting will be hosting a virtual panel event in recognition of the release of AP's illustrated biography about Nick Ut called, "From Hell to Hollywood: The Incredible Journey of AP Photographer Nick Ut," written by Hal Buell, which has been #1 in Photojournalism on Amazon since its release on March 16.

The virtual panel will include Nick, Hal, and Peter Arnett, who contributed an Afterword to the project. There may be one or two special guests participating as well.

Chuck Zoeller, Special Projects Manager for the AP, will be moderating the panel along with Peter Costanzo, AP Productions' Director of Programming, who manages the books program for The Associated Press.



Starting at **3pm EST**, the panel will last approximately 30 minutes, followed by a Q&A session. All are welcome to join the virtual discussion, which can be accessed via ZOOM on any desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Here is the link for logging in:

<https://AP.zoom.us/j/4317900349>

ID: 431-790-0349

For more details about the book, visit AP.org: <http://bit.ly/3raO3YT>.

We hope to see you there!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Connecting profile
Sandy Hamm



What are you doing these days?

As I have since 1985, I manage the AP Newsfinder service. My career has always been Newsfinder and only Newsfinder. Newsfinder distributes AP content to non-daily newspapers. Nearly 50% of our members are specialty/niche papers of one type or another. Together African American and Native American newspapers comprise 20% of our membership.

How did you get involved with Newsfinder?

After a stint at commercial beekeeping and having our three children, and discovering the school district we were in would not provide the educational opportunities we wanted for our kids, we moved back to civilization and I got a "real" job.

I read in the Milwaukee Journal about a company called AgriData Resources in Milwaukee. It was a cutting-edge technology company serving American farmers with print and online resources. It was 1985 and every customer had their own (internal) email. The service was called StarGram. The company visionary was well ahead widespread internet adoption.

I submitted a resume and a detailed proposal for them to implement an Integrated Pest Management service for their clientele. Since lots of their revenue came from the likes of Dow, Bayer & Dupont, there were a bit reticent about promoting a lower use of pesticides. During the interview they took great notice of my background with our family newspaper, The (Waukesha) Freeman. The interview shifted into the project they were trying to get off the ground with AP and I was hired.

You might ask, "What background with the Waukesha Freeman?" Over a number of years my grandfather, Henry Augustus Youmans and his wife Josephine Hughes Youmans, gained sole ownership of the newspaper from various family members and one outside investor. My grandfather died very young while his children were still in college. My grandmother Josephine became publisher and ran the newspaper alone for nearly a decade.

She brought on her son and two sons-in-law and turned the paper over to them when she remarried in her 60s. The three families sold The Freeman to the Des Moines Register in 1979. So my newspaper background came from family ownership of more than 100 years. Yes, we all had tasks at the paper from time to time, proofreading, running tearsheets out to advertisers, helping dummy up the paper on Saturdays, etc. But mostly we just lived and breathed the newspaper.

In 2002 the Newsfinder service left the umbrella of ARI Network Services and was transferred to me as SCH information Services, Inc.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

David Skoloda was the man that hired me. He had been recruited to come to AgriData from the Milwaukee Journal. He was a man of compassion, journalism integrity and ethics. His example was his best teacher and I soaked it up. The lure of ARI soon faded for him. He left and bought a very small paper in Onalaska, WI.

Tom Brettingen was the point man for AP when Newsfinder was started. He was recruited (lured) away from AP in the latter part of the 1980s. His tenure was relative short, just a few years before he went back to AP in New York. Tom was a businessman to me. I learned a lot from Tom, as I am sure many readers of this profile did. I kept a messy desk. Tom helped me learned how to be more organized and move things along. I marveled at his tidy office. Looking at his in-basket, his secretary once told me, "Tom never handles a piece of paper twice." Tom also taught me to be more kind and understanding of my co-workers. But my favorite anecdote about Brettingen as my boss came one day when he "requested" I implement a new commission structure for the Newsfinder sales team (he already had one for me).

I said, "We already have a commission structure and the team is happy with the deal they have." And Tom quietly, and in a pleasant but firm tone, with great inflection said, "New deal." I can't say how many words or how much conversation was condensed into those two words. But I'll never forget it.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

I would do it all over again. One of the reasons I left commercial beekeeping was that in order to be financially viable you had to migrate between northern and southern

regions to keep your "factory" working all 12 months of the year. I didn't want to do it for myself nor for my young family.

I have always marveled at folks whose careers require frequent geographical moves. Certainly many AP staff do it. For me it was important to be firmly planted in one place. Other than college at UW-Madison and a brief stint of commercial beekeeping, I have lived in Waukesha, WI my entire life. The Newsfinder opportunity gave me that and I will always be grateful for it.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?



"Favorite" is singular. I'll give two that are related, beekeeping & gardening. With my master's degree in Entomology and having worked at the USDA Bee Culture Lab in Madison, WI, I have been keeping bees since 1975. I have never been without my Troy-Bilt rototiller.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

Wow! Australia? Greece? Sweden? Most of my travel has been gymnastics related. The best true vacations I have ever had have been to Laguna Beach, CA. We were first

there in 2004; well, the motel was in Anaheim. We were there for the U.S. Gymnastics Championships at the Staples Center. The competitions were at night. We made day trips to Laguna. When I have to set up web security questions, and one of them is, 'what is your favorite vacation spot,' I answer 'Laguna Beach.'



Gymnastics: I can't really offer a profile without mentioning gymnastics. We had our kids try everything, T-ball, soccer, piano...and they latched onto gymnastics. They progressed at a surprising rate. At 12 years old Paul travelled to Guatemala, beginning his international travels. We were at a for-profit gym and they were not interested in pursuing elite-level gymnastics. Many in the sport said we would have to send the boys away to train at a facility that was equipped. Many parents do it.

The last thing we were going to do was have our sons grow up somewhere else without us all being together. We moved to Swiss Turners, a non-profit gym, where in a few years I became vice president and president of the Wisconsin Gymnastics Association. I hired a private coach as well, along with recruiting coaches from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus to help train my three at Swiss Turners.

My daughter Betsy made the Senior National Team and went on to a NCAA full scholarship at the University of Florida - Go Gators! The twins took things one step further. While still in high school they competed at the Sydney Olympics. Then transferred to Ohio State to train with their collegiate team and finish their bachelor's degrees, but they never competed as Buckeyes. They just trained with them. This is a common Olympic arrangement at a number of universities, like UCLA. UCLA is known for its many non-NCAA athletes that train there, particularly swimmers.

In August 2004 the entire family, including Betsy's future husband and Morgan's future wife, all flew together to Athens. We were late making the decision to attend the Olympics and accommodations had become scarce, and we needed a lot of space for the five of us.

AP's Susan Clark to the rescue... She connected us with Derek Gatopoulos, who still writes for AP out of Athens. Miraculously, Derek's mother had a "Villa in Voula" she was reluctant to rent during the Games, not wanting "foreigners." But with the AP connection she was comfortable to rent us one of her properties along the coast in Voula - three bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, and full rooftop balcony overlooking the Mediterranean. It was wonderful.

Both boys won medals. Paul won the Gold Medal in the All-Around, the first U.S male to ever do that. But the joy was short-lived. Within a few days the North Korean Olympic Committee (KOC) filed a dispute with the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS), claiming their gymnast was underscored. This took months and a couple hundred thousands of (government) dollars. Thank you, Rep. James Sensenbrenner. It was a frivolous claim, but in November 2004 CAS ruled Paul the rightful winner. So, for 15 years, the whole family lived gymnastics.

Names of your family members and what they do?

"Family" is an interesting term at my age. There's the family I was born into and the family I now live in. But with my seven siblings, the family I was born into is still very active.



Sandy with family, from left: Colleen, Morgan, Tristan, Sandy and Paul. Circa 2013

As for the family I am now the head of, I am at least in weekly contact with my three older children. Elizabeth is an optometrist in Port Orange, FL. She has given me three grandchildren. My eldest twin son, Morgan, is a pharmacist at the VA in Milwaukee. So he is very close by. He just got married in November, so no grandchildren from him yet. The younger twin, Paul, is a gymnastics instructor in Illinois. He lives in Oak Park. His degree from The Ohio State is in finance and he has worked as a professional investor & trader. He is still active with his own investments and advises me as well.

I have as well a second wife of 10 years. Her name is Colleen. She is a dental hygienist and helps with Newsfinder if I ask. We went together to the NNA tradeshow recently in Milwaukee and a few years back in Phoenix. She keeps me in line. I adopted her, now 16-year-old, son Tristan. It has been rejuvenating to have such a young person in the house again and to parent again. This time with a bit more experience. It helps to keep my thinking young and to stay exposed to young folks in general.

Young folks, old folks... I think it is good to stay in touch with a wide range. My mother's sister, Miriam Youmans Wellford, the last member alive from that generation, turned 100 years old this past January. She lives independently in a wonderful retirement place that sits on the very piece of land that The Freeman occupied before they built new facilities across the street. I visit her regularly as I did my father, who lived in the same place for a few years before passing away in 2020. There doesn't seem to be a lot of wanderlust in the family.

Sandy Hamm's email - shamm@newsfinder.com

Your memories of Chuck Lewis



STATING THE RULES--Chuck Lewis, AP chief of bureau in Washington, speaks on anonymous sources at the Kentucky APME meeting in Lexington. Lewis explained that AP rules allow for anonymity only when three conditions are met: the information is not available from a named source, the anonymous source insists on remaining anonymous and the information is factual, not opinion.

1986 photo, courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Frank A. Bennack, Jr., Executive Vice Chairman & Former CEO, Hearst - Chuck Lewis served the Hearst newspapers with distinction for 24 years as chief of Hearst's Washington bureau. His prior experience at AP made him an ideal candidate who brought not only his reporting skills but his extensive contacts with him when he joined Hearst.

Additionally, Lewis became an important player in the Hearst Foundations' Senate Youth program that annually brings 100 extraordinary high school seniors interested in public service to Washington, D.C. Chuck made indispensable assists in arranging elements of the week-long program by virtue of his contacts and relationships in the nation's capitol. Through the years the program was attended by numerous young men and women who later went into public service, including Senator Susan Collins and former Senator Corey Gardner.

On a personal note, Chuck's long service to the Gridiron Club led to his presidency of that storied Washington institution. He took particular pride, along with the late Marianne Means, in arranging the annual post Gridiron cocktail party Hearst sponsored for many years. He also took pride in the fact that I occupied the chair of honor on the dais alongside President Barack Obama during the year of Lewis' gridiron club presidency.

-0-

Chris Connell (Email) - When my transfer from New Jersey to Washington came through in Spring 1976, almost immediately I found myself on the graveyard shift, working under the close eye (at least until 2 or 3 a.m.) of PM Supervisor Chuck Lewis and his righthand man, Dave Riley. They were a formidable team who took pride in dominating the PMs Digest, sometimes with stories we matched from the Post and Times – ruthless about rousing our reporters and government spokespersons from bed – but also adding heft and panache to stories from the AMs cycle. I never took a single journalism class, but it was an education working for those two.

Chuck and I had both been educated by the Jesuits and, unless memory fails, he even had briefly considered the priesthood. To me it seemed he had found his mission in the empty newsroom. He stayed late many nights, sometimes waiting for me to complete a budget story from scratch, but mostly because he loved what we were crafting. I wondered afterwards if he didn't prefer the solitude of those late nights with the three of us to the hurly burly of the AMs cycle and later, to management in WX and at 50 Rock. He was a good friend and great mentor.

-0-

Charles Hill (Email) – I was greatly saddened to hear about the passing of Chuck Lewis, who I remember fondly as an excellent journalist and a terrific person to be around, whether at work, on the tennis court or at a cookout at my home.

I was news editor in Hartford when Chuck was appointed COB there, succeeding Ambrose Dudley. Remembering Chuck's time as a bureau chief in Connecticut makes me smile.

That's because Chuck so often had a broad, happy smile on his face and it often gave way to infectious laughter. He was charming, in an authentic way, never taking himself too seriously. Yes, he was a very talented and serious journalist and demanded good work from others, but he made the work fun and rewarding and was a very positive leader. He was passionate about news and the news business, and brought a sense of excitement and enthusiasm to the job.

One small memory: I remember Chuck coming in to the Hartford bureau in the mornings with his orange juice and sitting at a desk in the newsroom instead of in his office. I don't recall making much of it at the time, but now it strikes me as a smart way to get to know his staff more quickly – including his inherited news editor - and to learn the rhythms of his newsroom, which of course was so much smaller than the Los Angeles bureau, where he was coming from after his stint as assistant bureau chief, or Washington, where he started in the AP.

Another note: He was a good tennis player. He and I enjoyed success as a doubles team in a tournament in Connecticut.

We crossed paths from a distance as we both moved to different jobs in the AP. And when he was the Hearst Washington bureau chief, a Hearst editor and I conspired to bring Chuck to Michigan as a speaker at one of our AP meetings. As always, a day spent with Chuck was a very good day. He just made life better for those around him.

-0-

George Irish, *eastern director, Hearst Foundations, and former president of Hearst Newspapers* - Journalists are only as good as their sources and Chuck Lewis was one of the best sourced in D.C. Chuck had broad access to news in Washington because of the high trust placed in him by a wide array of sources, friends and colleagues. He fiercely pursued stories always with the highest standards for himself and his staff.

Chuck was multi-faceted ... an intellectual lawyer, a Marine, a shoe leather-burning reporter and a loyal colleague to legions of journalists who spoke so fondly of him. I was honored to call him a friend.

-0-

Doug Richardson ([Email](#)) - I was very sad to read about the passing of Chuck Lewis. What a great guy.

I saw him a couple of years ago at a funeral for the mother of a mutual friend who worked with Chuck at Hearst. Chuck was as sharp as a tack. Remembered stories I had filed about Dan Quayle at the 1988 Republican convention. Remembered me asking for a cash advance so I could get a cab back to my hotel at 2 in the morning. It was a joy to see him again after so many years. He hadn't missed a beat. We talked as though that New Orleans convention had been three days ago, not three decades. I will miss him.

-0-

Jim Rowley ([Email](#)) - Chuck nurtured my career as a Washington legal journalist, putting me on the courthouse beat just as Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh was launching the criminal investigation of the Iran-Contra affair. Later, he made me the AP's Justice Department beat reporter. I will be forever grateful to Chuck for those exciting years of my career.

Chuck used the Socratic method when he wanted to make a point about something you had written. The questions he asked always made you think fast, but they could also serve as a way for him to make his point with a light touch.

Once he asked me if it were true that Judge Gerhard Gesell, assigned to try Iran-Contra charges against Oliver North, was described accurately by an unnamed source in a profile I had written as saying the judge was sometimes wrong, but never in doubt. Chuck was concerned, that the story, already on the wire, might have run afoul of the very commendable AP rule that unnamed sources must only be quoted

asserting fact, not opinion. I said the source's description of Gesell comported with my own observations of the judge. Chuck concluded our conversation by saying "if anyone asks, your source was asserting fact."

To the best of my knowledge, I never blurred that distinction again.

I won't forget drawing Chuck as my first – and only – opponent in the Washington bureau tennis tournament one year when he wiped me off the court. A formidable opponent, Chuck was a gracious winner and generous with his praise for the few winners I managed to hit off his massively powerful serve and forehand.

Gene Grabowski eventually won the tournament that year, presumably beating Chuck for the title. To celebrate his victory, Gene invited the contestants to his house for a party. Gene had the "Meyer Tuzel Trophy" (so named for the mangled pronunciation of Mike Putzel's name by a taekwondo instructor who, as the story goes, had presented Mike with the urn for martial arts performance) displayed on his mantel. As Chuck was eyeing the trophy enviously Gene said: "Eat your heart out, Chuck." To his credit, Chuck joined what was initially nervous laughter.

Connecting mailbox

Life before the pandemic



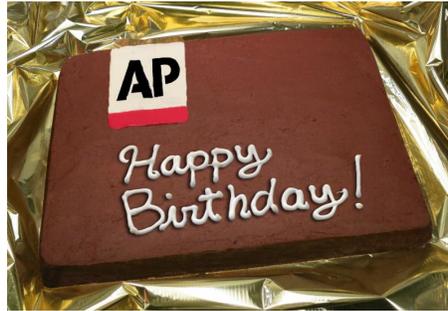
Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) - March 7 2020, from left: Cara Roberts Clarke, Vickii Sewell, former AP sports and news reporter Norm Clarke and Cincinnati correspondent Dan Sewell in Las Vegas at a Cubs-Reds exhibition game — which turned out to be the only MLB game we went to in 2020

-0-

Another AP/CNN connection

One more name: Jeff Adkinson, an engineer who worked both for CNN and AP.
(Shared by Kevin Bohn)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bill Gillen – wpatgillen@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Top Fox producer dies from coronavirus (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business

New York (CNN Business) - Eric Spinato, the head booker and senior story editor for the Fox Business Network, died over the weekend, the network said Monday.

Spinato's brother, Dean, wrote on social media that the cause of death had been the coronavirus.

"COVID took my brother today," he wrote. "He was a gem and one of a kind. I'm so broken and lost for words."

Spinato worked at Fox for nearly 20 years. He joined the network in 1998, before briefly leaving in 2004 to work at CNN and MSNBC. He returned to Fox in 2007 and worked at the company ever since, working primarily with Maria Bartiromo.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Tiny News Collective Will Provide Resources for Local Publishers (Editor & Publisher)

By Evelyn Mateos

As more local news organizations close their doors and news deserts pop-up throughout the country, LION Publishers and News Catalysts want to create a solution. Together, they have launched the Tiny News Collective, an initiative that will provide the tools and resources to help people build sustainable news organizations.

According to Aron Pilhofer, director of News Catalyst, the idea for the collective developed organically between conversations among media professionals on the organization's board and its advisors. In speaking to founders of very small news organizations, they found that the industry's definition of small was not small enough. While there is support for small newsrooms of about 10 people, there is none available for newsrooms of one or two, which the initiative wants to offer.

"It's about equity and renewal," Pilhofer said. "It's about seeding news organizations where they are desperately, desperately needed, and providing all the support and protection they need to grow and succeed."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Trump predicted news ratings would 'tank if I'm not there.' He wasn't wrong. (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Of all Donald Trump's prophecies and predictions — that Mexico would pay for a border wall, that the coronavirus would spontaneously disappear, that he would be easily reelected — at least one wasn't entirely wrong.

"Newspapers, television, all forms of media will tank if I'm not there," he augured in 2017, "because without me, their ratings are going down the tubes."

Barely two months into the post-Trump era, news outlets are indeed losing much of the audience and readership they gained during his chaotic presidency. In other words, journalism's Trump bump may be giving way to a slump.

After a record-setting January, traffic to the nation's most popular mainstream news sites, including The Washington Post, plummeted in February, according to the audience tracking firm ComScore. The top sites were also generally doing worse than in February of last year, when the pandemic became a major international news story.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

-0-

He Redefined 'Racist.' Now He's Trying to Build a Newsroom. (New York Times)

By Ben Smith

BOSTON — Ibram X. Kendi and Bina Venkataraman met last summer when their big Boston institutions, Boston University and The Boston Globe, were grappling with protests over racial justice.

Ms. Venkataraman, the editor of The Globe's editorial page, asked Dr. Kendi, the author of a book called "How to Be an Antiracist," why he decided to found the Center for Antiracist Research in a city known for the backlash to busing and "where sports fans boo athletes of color," she recalled in an interview. They started talking about their shared obsession with a different Boston history, 19th-century abolitionist newspapers. Then they wondered what it would mean to found, in 2021, a newspaper in the spirit of William Lloyd Garrison's legendary The Liberator.

In particular, they wondered, what would it mean to bring to American racism the sense of urgency with which Garrison, in 1831, started the newspaper, abandoning a more gradualist approach to slavery. "On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write with moderation. No! no!" he famously began, saying that would be like telling "a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm."

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

-0-

Media stumbles: Its bias shows in covering Biden v. Trump (The Hill)

By Bernard Goldberg, opinion contributor

President Biden was on his way to Atlanta when he tripped three times ascending the stairs of Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. The White House blamed it on "wind" and said he "left the plane with ease" when he arrived in Atlanta.

The Daily Mail reports that, "As of Friday afternoon, the homepages of MSNBC, CBS News, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and New York Times had no mention of Biden's stumbling incident earlier in the day at Joint Base Andrews."

According to various organizations that monitor the media, CNN devoted 15 seconds to the incident and MSNBC about a minute. NBC's Chuck Todd on MSNBC said, "We've all run up stairs and had that moment ourselves. And if you haven't, you aren't a human being."

Fair enough. The fall appeared to be no big deal and the coverage reflected the insignificance of what happened.

But compare how the media covered Biden's fall with how they covered Donald Trump's slow walk down a ramp after he delivered a graduation address at West Point in June of 2020: According to the Media Research Center, CNN devoted 22 minutes and 13 seconds to Trump's walk down the ramp, and MSNBC devoted 28 minutes and 42 seconds to the story.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Today in History - March 23, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 23, the 82nd day of 2021. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry delivered an address to the Virginia Provincial Convention in which he is said to have declared, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

On this date:

In 1792, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G Major (the "Surprise" symphony) had its first public performance in London.

In 1806, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.

In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.

In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers.

In 1942, the first Japanese-Americans evacuated by the U.S. Army during World War II arrived at the internment camp in Manzanar, California.

In 1965, America's first two-person space mission took place as Gemini 3 blasted off with astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and John W. Young aboard for a nearly 5-hour flight.

In 1973, before sentencing a group of Watergate break-in defendants, Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica read aloud a letter he'd received from James W. McCord Jr. which said there was "political pressure" to "plead guilty and remain silent."

In 1993, scientists announced they'd found the renegade gene that causes Huntington's disease.

In 2001, Russia's orbiting Mir space station ended its 15-year odyssey with a planned fiery plunge into the South Pacific.

In 2003, during the Iraq War, a U.S. Army maintenance convoy was ambushed in Nasiriyah (nah-sih-REE'-uh); 11 soldiers were killed, including Pfc. Lori Ann Piestewa (py-ES'-tuh-wah); six were captured, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who was rescued on April 1, 2003.

In 2004, a federal commission concluded that Clinton and Bush administration officials had engaged in lengthy, ultimately fruitless diplomatic efforts instead of military action to try to get Osama bin Laden before the 9/11 attacks; top Bush officials countered that the terror attacks would have occurred even if the United States had killed the al-Qaida leader.

In 2010, claiming a historic triumph, President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, a \$938 billion health care overhaul.

Ten years ago: Academy Award-winning actor Elizabeth Taylor died in Los Angeles at age 79. NATO ships began patrolling off Libya's coast as airstrikes, missiles and energized rebels forced Moammar Gadhafi's tanks to roll back from two key western cities. A blast blamed on Palestinian militants ripped through a bus stop in Jerusalem, killing Mary Jean Gardner, a 59-year-old British tourist, and wounding two dozen other people, including five Americans. Army Spc. Jeremy Morlock pleaded guilty at his court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state to the murders of three unarmed Afghan civilians (he was sentenced to 24 years in prison).

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, on a fence-mending state visit to Buenos Aires, held up Argentina as an emerging world leader worthy of U.S. support, as he and President Mauricio Macri broke with years of tensions between their countries. Death claimed former baseball player-turned-broadcaster Joe Garagiola at age 90 and actor Ken Howard at age 71.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he wanted to reopen the country for business in weeks, not months; he asserted that continued closures could result in more deaths than the coronavirus itself. Britain became the latest European country to go into effective lockdown, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered the closure of most retail stores and banned public gatherings. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo

announced plans to convert a New York City convention center into a hospital with 1,000 beds. The Federal Reserve unleashed its boldest effort yet to protect the U.S. economy from the coronavirus; the Fed would buy both government-backed and corporate debt. An Arizona health system said a Phoenix-area man had died, and his wife was in critical condition, after the couple took chloroquine phosphate, an additive used to clean fish tanks; President Donald Trump had falsely stated days earlier that the Food and Drug Administration had approved the use of the anti-malaria medication chloroquine to treat coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Mark Rydell is 92. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Craig Breedlove is 84. Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is 69. Singer Chaka Khan is 68. Actor Amanda Plummer is 64. Actor Catherine Keener is 62. Actor Hope Davis is 57. Actor Richard Grieco is 56. Actor Marin Hinkle is 55. Rock singer-musician Damon Albarn (Blur) is 53. Actor Kelly Perine is 52. Actor-singer Melissa Errico is 51. Rock musician John Humphrey (The Nixons) is 51. Bandleader Reggie Watts (TV: "The Late Late Show With James Corden") is 49. Actor Randall Park is 47. Actor Michelle Monaghan is 45. Actor Keri Russell is 45. Actor Anastasia Griffith is 43. Gossip columnist-blogger Perez Hilton is 43. Actor Nicholle Tom is 43. Actor Brandon Dirden is 43. Country singer Brett Young is 40. Actor Nicolas Wright is 39. Actor Ben Rappaport is 35. NBA point guard Kyrie Irving 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
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

[Visit our website](#)