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## Connecting

May 19, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021,**The news doesn't set with the sun. What it's like to be a night-shift journalist.**

That's the headline of a [Poynter.org story](#) on working the night shift. It's a well-done story, but doesn't contain any quotes or references to journalists of The Associated Press who have worked that shift - worked 24/7, actually - to cover the news since the inception of the news cooperative.

Connecting will remedy that by asking colleagues to share their own experiences on the night shift: did you love it or hate it and why, how did it make you a better journalist, how did you adjust your social schedule to working nights, how (if you were a parent of children) did it impact your family dynamics? And any other thoughts that come to mind.

I look forward to your stories.

We lead today's issue with a video released Tuesday that celebrates the role the AP has played for the world in its 175-year history. All of you who now work or once worked for the AP have played a role in that remarkable history. Be proud.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor spots at least three colleagues in the video: **Nick Ut**, **Kathy Gannon** and **Lou Boccardi**. I know there are more. Anyone, anyone? Provide the name and the time stamp of where they appear.

Thanks to my friend and colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** for taking the Connecting reins while I was away and doing a great job in covering news of the Israeli air strike last Saturday that destroyed the building that housed the AP offices in Gaza City. As readers of the newsletter, thanks to long hours Mark put in, you got a complete a picture as possible of what happened. Questions still remain - a chief one, did the AP earlier know that Hamas had a presence in the building?

AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** said Monday that the AP "continues to call for an independent investigation into the destruction of the building housing our Gaza bureau so that the facts are known. As we have said, we have no indication of a Hamas presence in the building, nor were we warned of any such possible presence before the airstrike. This is something we check as best we can. We do not know what the Israeli evidence shows, and we want to know..."

Any developments will continue to be covered in Connecting. But before signing off and moving on, an observation:

Whether the AP knew or did not know it shared the same building with Hamas, I am troubled by some of the commentary I've read while away that extrapolates an act of violence into finding fault with the AP as a whole – headlines like "The Rise and Fall of the AP" or "If AP really didn't know it shared space with Hamas, why trust its reporting?" I know each of us has a right to their opinion. And I think an investigation would be important. But I am reminded of the speech former President Theodore Roosevelt gave in Paris on April 23, 1910, that would become one of the most widely quoted speeches of his career – "The Man in the Arena."

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."*

The AP has been that "man (and woman) in the arena" since its inception. Has it erred? Sure. On my much smaller level of importance during 36 years of AP work, I made more than my share of mistakes. We know criticism comes with the territory. You learn, you move on. Questions still remain, and any developments will continue to be covered in Connecting. Your thoughts welcomed, as always.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Here's to the next 175 years!

**AP**

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Dear AP Staff:

This month AP celebrates 175 years of advancing the power of facts. That is no small feat. And we couldn't have done it without each of you.

Thank you for your continued work to advance AP's mission.

Please enjoy this video celebrating the unique role AP has played since 1846.

# Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Here's to the next 175 years of The Associated Press.



Gary Pruitt

# Thoughts on the Israeli air strike



AP photo/Mahmud Hams

**Harry Cabluck (Email)** - Something's fishy re the overkill of the Israeli air strike. If there was a confirmed Hamas group in the targeted building, why not send in commandos, without warning to anyone, and take out the group. John Gaps III has a point.

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**Dan Perry (Email)** - The Matti Friedman article in question, and other screeds he has produced written and verbal, are filled with nonsense. I say this as his former bureau chief. His claims include that an intrepid AP reporter discovered the Olmert Palestinian statehood offer to Mahmoud Abbas from 2008 (everyone discovered it) but AP refused to run it in order to not make Israel look generous (which it was, then). This "decision" was presumably made by the Israel-hating bureau bigs Gutkin and Federman. You have to be an idiot to believe any of this. The NY Post is now quoting it.

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**Spotted in a Facebook post:** Tom Cotton SLAMS AP: "Why is the Associated Press sharing a building with Hamas?"

And this response from Rick Cooper: He should only know the AP at one point shared space with the Russian news agency TASS at two locations.

(TASS once had offices at New York's 50 Rockefeller Plaza – where AP operated its headquarters from 1938 to 2004.)

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Our colleague **Arnold Zeitlin** shares the following post from his longtime friend Frank Hawkins, "whom," Arnold said, "I succeeded years ago in the Philippines for AP."

**Frank Hawkins (Email)** - *"Once, long ago, in a land far away, the best journalists tried to stand aloof from the stories they reported. The idea was simple and powerful. If journalists tried to be neutral and kept their reporting separate from their opinions, analysis and speculation, the public would believe them. Those days are long gone, along with the media's credibility gone. Journalists and media organizations are now smack in the middle of many stories they cover, in part because they want to be. They want to spin them, to set the narrative ... "*

From 1967-1980, I spent 13 wonderful years with the Associated Press as a foreign correspondent and senior executive. This included two years in Beirut as Chief of Middle East Services, which meant I was in charge of all AP news and business operations in some 20 Arab countries plus Iran and Cyprus. I can say with some authority Charles Lipson has it right, both about journalism and the demise of what I knew as AP standards. Regrettably, the AP standards of reporting and journalism have slipped significantly since my era as spelled out [here](#) by Lipson.

During my time with the AP, the organization was widely regarded as one of the premier news organizations in the world. I was proud to be part of it. But even then, operating out of an Arab environment was not easy. A number of Palestinianians worked for me including Farouk Nassar, a lovely man and one of the finest wire service newsmen I ever knew. During my time in Beirut, the bureau covered the 1973 Middle East War and the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus as well as constant violence and conflict in Beirut itself. (Footnote, one of my successors as head of the Beirut operation, Terry Anderson, was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants and held hostage chained to a wall for seven years)

We worked diligently to report the news in a fair and balanced fashion. I can't recall ever deliberately holding back a story. Sometimes we irritated those around us and paid the penalty. One of my American reporters, Nick Ludington, was at one point detained by Syrian security and they beat the soles of his feet with a cane. So there is good reason to have some sympathy for the AP news people, particularly in Gaza, not to report everything they know or see. Omission of certain material is/was essential to keeping the bureau and its staffers from harm. It was easy, and in fact not uncommon, for the militants to label reporters as spies, a particularly dangerous label to have publicly attached to you in the Arab world. In Gaza, almost certainly, most of the AP employees are Arabs with a built-in bias against Israel, and always looking to protect their families and jobs. There is no way it could be any different.

But that still doesn't explain the AP president in New York, trying to blame the Israelis for what happened to his bureau. There can be no doubt Hamas had operations of some kind in the building, figuring the AP office would act as a shield for their operations from Israeli attack. The Israelis knew they were there. Maybe the AP



people knew it or not. I suspect at least some of them did. It's not the sort of thing that could be hidden in an environment like that.

The German word for news organization is nachrichtendienst. That word can also mean intelligence service. In the minds of many in the Middle East, particularly the Arabs (even in my time), there is little if any difference. Certainly many of the people around us during my time in Beirut assumed, with a shrug of the shoulders, that we were an arm of the CIA. Of course, we knew CIA people and talked to them from time to time. But for us they were just additional sources of information, and candidly, we did at times swap information. But we steered clear of any activity that could have resulted in being accused of actually working for them and being directed by them. And in writing our stories, we always tried to provide an objective account of whatever situation happened to be. I remain proud of our work then. But I've seen in recent years how the AP has been seriously degraded as a premier news organization as outlined in Lipson's excellent article. It's disgraceful. And for me, quite sad. He has done an excellent job of summing it up.

## On past foibles of London tabloids

**Henry Bradsher ([Email](#))** - On the subject of past foibles of London tabloids, particularly the Daily Mail, about which I recently wrote in connection with the Dalai Lama chase and Calcutta riots in 1959, there's another incredible story that year, but I was only peripherally involved.

A women's team planned to climb Nepal's Cho Oyu. The world's sixth-highest peak at 26,864 feet, 18 miles west-northwest of Mount Everest, Cho Oyu was notorious for bad weather, but they hoped to summit it during the autumnal break between the monsoon and winter storms. Among the team's sponsors was London's primary tabloid competitor of the Daily Mail, the Daily Express. It bought exclusive coverage by a correspondent that it sent to Kathmandu with the team, Steve Harper.

I flew in August 1959 from Delhi to Kathmandu to pursue a number of stories, including preparations to open the first U.S. embassy in Nepal and the beginnings of the royal kingdom's first democratically elected government. Despite Harper's efforts to shut me out, some of the women talked to me in the then only hotel for foreigners. So I got some stories about them before they set out on the long trek to Cho Oyu. This being before helicopters operated up in the high Himalayas, they were to send reports on their progress by runners back to Harper at the cable office in Kathmandu.

A week or so later in Calcutta I interviewed a pair of Irish brothers who had been working for a Dallas oilman to seek the legendary Himalayan yeti, known as the abdominal snowman, so far without any success. They told me they were going yeti hunting again. I decided to hold my notes on them for background if they found one.

The Daily Express published periodic reports on the team's progress. Then one morning the Daily Mail fronted: "Disaster on Cho Oyu: Climbers wiped out by blizzard." That morning's Express had nothing. It had been royally scooped.

Turned out the Mail had hired the Irish brothers to follow the women's team, intercepting its runners along the trail down from Cho Oyu with bribes and hot food. After reading the disaster report from the women's survivors, the brothers sent their own runner off on a shorter, quicker route than the one to Kathmandu. He reached a Daily Mail stringer who had been waiting at a tea plantation at the north end of the Indian telephone system. The stringer phoned a nephew in Calcutta, who cabled the story to the Mail.

(This is another of the journalistic adventures related in my 2013 book "[The Dalai Lama's Secret](#)." Lots of other adventures; pardon the plug.)

## Joe Kelley: My friend and mentor

**Norm Abelson** ([Email](#)) - I located it in my trove of old journalism memorabilia, a yellowed, fading obituary announcing the death of Boston AP night editor Joseph B. Kelley. Attached to the frayed September 1964 clip was a copy of a letter I had written to Mrs. Kelley, his widow.

Connecting has asked its associates to recall their mentors, and Joe was mine. I can best tell the story by quoting from the letter:

"I first met Joe as a young and bewildered copy boy coming to work for The Associated Press in 1951. I was thrown into the job with practically no instruction, and with no introduction to the newsmen. They were gruff, busy, under great pressure and showed no desire to help me – with one exception. Joe found the time to talk to me, to show me around, to crack a joke and put me at my ease.

"For the next year and a half, until I got a writing assignment, it was Joe who helped me along, who gave me an opportunity to do some writing, who took the time to criticize me. For the next ten years, whenever I had to call the Boston office, I always hoped that it would be Joe who would answer.

"Joe was a gentleman among few others; he had the courage to fight those in authority when he believed he was right – and I know this cost him greatly. Above all, he was a kind and sensitive man. On more than one occasion, after I had been mercilessly blasted out, he followed me out into the corridor to put a hand of friendship on my shoulder.

"Mrs. Kelley, one doesn't meet many people like Joe in a lifetime. I will never forget his hearty laugh, his salty descriptions of people who didn't measure up to his standards, the great stories he told on some of the long nights we worked together.

"...if there is any way I can be of service to you, I would consider it a small repayment for what I owe Joe for his friendship."

## Connecting profile: Solange De Santis

**Solange De Santis** ([Email](#)) - I worked for AP Broadcast from 1977 to 1981 at 50 Rock, under the Noguchi sculpture and a stone's throw from the ice skating rink and

giant Christmas tree. It was my second job after graduating from Columbia's journalism school. The first was across Rockefeller Plaza at NBC News radio.

I wanted to be a newspaper reporter, so I couldn't see what boiling down a wire stories into a five-minute newscast had to do with "real" journalism. I came to realize that the experience had a lot to do with "real" writing, in particular under the tutelage of the late Bruce Hodgman. It was no small thing to learn how to summarize a Supreme Court news story in four sentences and clear prose that could be understood by someone listening to a radio.



Those four years of writing for broadcast would stand me in good stead for the rest of my career. After AP Radio, I did become a newspaper reporter, at the Palm Beach (Fla.) Post, but also appeared on a weekly radio business show. I spent three years in L.A. as senior financial correspondent with Reuters, and three years in Toronto as Canada bureau chief. Reuters drafted some of its reporters to do standups for its new TV arm – broadcast writing, again.

Five years with the Wall Street Journal in Toronto produced long stories, but Dow Jones Newswires needed short takes. Now, I work in New York in corporate communications, due to a phone call from AP alumnus Andy Katell. A group of AP Broadcast writers from the late 70s, based around New York, stays in touch – Joyce Rosenberg, Jack Stokes, Cammy Bourcier (then Seidel), Warren Levinson, Jan Brandstrader, John Davidson, Charlie Reina, Fred Yager, Mark Meinero, Marianne Pryor. More stay in touch via Facebook and e-mail, such as Jim Hood and Charlie Monzella.

Reading about the veterans of APworld in Connecting brings back fond and sometimes-turbulent memories.

## Stories of interest

***Why Israel's mistreatment of the press in Gaza is a big mistake*** (MSNBC)

By Hayes Brown, MSNBC Opinion Columnist

Israel knows how narratives can shatter under the scrutiny of media willing to investigate its claims. The Israel Defense Forces have one of the most active and responsive press offices among the world's armed services. From off-the-record



briefings to posting memes on Twitter, the Israelis know the power of messaging. Which is why the last several days of Israel's alienating the foreign media covering its latest offensive into Gaza feels both deliberate — and like a mistake on their part.

On Friday, not long after midnight local time, the IDF tweeted that "IDF air and ground troops are currently attacking in the Gaza Strip." It was followed up with on-the-record confirmations from a spokesperson to reporters that "there are ground troops in Gaza." It was only after journalists from The Wall Street Journal and other major outlets reported that the assault had begun that the IDF reversed course — there actually were no ground forces in the Gaza Strip. Instead, the army was still outside the strip, launching artillery into the territory, it said two hours after its first tweet.

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

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## ***Damon Weaver, the kid reporter who interviewed Obama in memorable White House chat, dies at 23***

(Washington Post)

**By Paulina Villegas**

Damon Lazar Weaver Jr., the young reporter who won national acclaim after interviewing President Barack Obama at age 11 from inside the White House, has died, his family said.

The tenacious Florida boy whose big dreams led him to become one of the youngest people to interview a sitting president died May 1 at age 23, his sister, Candace Hardy, confirmed to local media outlets. Weaver died of natural causes, Hardy told the Palm Beach Post.

In a tearful interview with WPTV, Hardy said her brother texted her when she was at work to say he was in a hospital. By the time she got there, he had died, she said, sharing no details about the cause or circumstances.

The funeral for Weaver, who went on to conduct other high-profile interviews after his sit-down with Obama, was held Saturday in Belle Glade, Fla. "He was a light. He was the life of the party; everybody just couldn't wait to be around him," Hardy said in the interview with WPTV.

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

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## ***WNYC Fires Bob Garfield, Co-Host of 'On the Media'***

(New York Times)

**By Katie Robertson and Ben Smith**

Bob Garfield, a longtime co-host of WNYC's popular program "On the Media," has been fired after two separate investigations found he had violated an anti-bullying policy, New York Public Radio, which owns WNYC, said on Monday.

Mr. Garfield's employment was terminated "as a result of a pattern of behavior that violated N.Y.P.R.'s anti-bullying policy," a spokeswoman said in a statement.

"This decision was made following a recent investigation conducted by an outside investigator that found that he had violated the policy," she said. He had been disciplined and warned after an investigation in 2020, "which also found that he had violated the policy," she added.

In an email on Monday, Mr. Garfield said he was not yet able to speak fully about the circumstances surrounding his firing but defended his behavior as yelling.

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

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## ***Alcindor, Hinojosa, Page and Walters honored as SPJ Fellows of the Society*** (SPJ)

INDIANAPOLIS – The Society of Professional Journalists recognizes Yamiche Alcindor, Maria Hinojosa, Clarence Page and Barbara Walters as Fellows of the Society, the highest professional honor awarded by SPJ, for extraordinary contribution to the profession of journalism.

"Each year, SPJ awards fellows who uphold the highest standards of the journalism industry and the society. I'm so proud to celebrate these four amazing journalists this year," SPJ National President Matthew T. Hall said. "In an age when facts seem slippery things and distrust a high hurdle to overcome, these four journalists show why trust in the work — and working on trust — both matter and how the effort and end result can uplift communities. I'd like to thank Yamiche, Maria, Clarence and Barbara for their incredible work and immense passion. They are all pioneers, all role models and all worthy of celebration."

The Fellows will be honored at SPJ's annual conference Sept. 2-4 in New Orleans and online, with more details to come. The fall issue of Quill Magazine will also focus on this year's Fellows.

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

# **A special section celebrating AP's 175th**

**AP**

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Dear AP Staff:

This month AP celebrates 175 years of advancing the power of facts. That is no small feat. And we couldn't have done it without each of you.

Thank you for your continued work to advance AP's mission.

Please enjoy this video celebrating the unique role AP has played since 1846.



Here's to the next 175 years of The Associated Press.



Gary Pruitt

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

To celebrate AP's 175th anniversary, the Corporate Archives has organized "AP at 175: Conversations with History," a series of three webinars.

They are:

**The AP at its beginnings and the development of a national communications system in the 19th century: Prof. Menahem Blondheim in conversation with AP Editor at Large Jerry Schwartz.**

**When: Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).**

**Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/96043360939>**

**This event will feature**

A longtime friend of the Corporate Archives, Menahem Blondheim is the Newhouse Professor of Communication in the department of communication and the department of history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He also serves as the academic director of undergraduate studies at HU's Rothberg International school, and previously as head of the Truman Institute for the advancement of Peace. He received his BA from the Hebrew University and his MA and PhD from Harvard University in American History. An Israeli Americanist interested in things Italian, he has been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, New York University, Ca' Foscari University in Venice, Sapienza University of Rome and Lumsa University, also in Rome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/96043360939>

Meeting ID: 960 4336 0939

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**The only perfect method: Kent Cooper and the birth of AP Wirephoto: Prof. Gene Allen in conversation with Creative Services Special Projects Manager Chuck Zoeller.**

**When: Thursday, June 03, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).**

**Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/99279521949>**

Gene Allen is a Professor in the School of Journalism at Ryerson University (Toronto) and a faculty member in the Ryerson-York Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture. He had an extensive and varied career as a television news and documentary producer – including a position as director of research for the

CBC/Radio-Canada television series *Canada: A People's History* -- and as an editor and reporter for *The Globe and Mail* before joining Ryerson's Journalism faculty in 2001. Gene is the author of *Making National News: A History of Canadian Press*, which was a finalist for the Canada Prize for the Humanities in 2015. He recently completed a biography of Kent Cooper, the general manager and executive director of Associated Press from 1925 to 1951.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/99279521949>

Meeting ID: 992 7952 1949

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**AP correspondents bring home the world: Their history in their own words: Prof. Giovanna Dell'Orto in conversation with Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards John Daniszewski.**

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Giovanna Dell'Orto, Ph.D., is a former newswoman with The Associated Press (in Minneapolis, Rome, Phoenix and Atlanta). Now Associate Professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota, she teaches and researches the interplay of news production, news content and international affairs. She is the author or senior editor of six books on this topic, including an oral history of AP foreign correspondence from the Second World War to the 2010s, published by Cambridge University Press in 2015. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Meeting ID: 942 0998 6199

## Today in History - May 19, 2021





## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 19, the 139th day of 2021. There are 226 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 19, 1967, the Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain, banning nuclear and other weapons from outer space as well as celestial bodies such as the moon. (The treaty entered into force in October 1967.)

### On this date:

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1864, American author Nathaniel Hawthorne, 59, died in Plymouth, New Hampshire.

In 1913, California Gov. Hiram Johnson signed the Webb-Hartley Law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from owning farm land, a measure targeting Asian immigrants, particularly Japanese.

In 1920, ten people were killed in a gun battle between coal miners, who were led by a local police chief, and a group of private security guards hired to evict them for joining a union in Matewan, a small "company town" in West Virginia.

In 1921, Congress passed, and President Warren G. Harding signed, the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England, six days after being injured in a motorcycle crash.

In 1943, in his second wartime address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan; that evening, Churchill met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House, where the two leaders agreed on May 1, 1944 as the date for the D-Day invasion of France (the operation ended up being launched more than a month later).

In 1981, five British soldiers were killed by an Irish Republican Army land mine in County Armagh (AR'-mah), Northern Ireland.

In 1993, the Clinton White House set off a political storm by abruptly firing the entire staff of its travel office; five of the seven staffers were later reinstated and assigned to other duties.

In 1994, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

In 2003, WorldCom Inc. agreed to pay investors \$500 million to settle civil fraud charges.

In 2019, "Game of Thrones" aired its 73rd and final episode on HBO, with a record-setting number of viewers.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama for the first time endorsed the Palestinians' demand that their eventual state be based on borders that existed before the 1967 Middle East war, a position that put him sharply at odds with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Katie Couric, the first regular solo anchorwoman of a network evening newscast, signed off the "CBS Evening News" for the last time after five years.

Five years ago: An EgyptAir jetliner en route from Paris to Cairo with 66 people aboard swerved wildly in flight before crashing into the Mediterranean Sea, killing all on board. Veteran "60 Minutes" correspondent Morley Safer died in New York at age 84. Actor-comedian Alan Young, who played straight man to a talking horse in the 1960s sitcom "Mister Ed," died in Woodland Hills, California, at age 96.

One year ago: A Trump administration policy of quickly expelling most migrants stopped along the border because of the COVID-19 pandemic was indefinitely extended. President Donald Trump attacked the validity of a study of veterans that raised alarms about the malaria drug Trump had been actively promoting as a treatment for the coronavirus. Annie Glenn, widow of astronaut and senator John Glenn and later an advocate for people with speech disorders, died at a Minnesota nursing home at the age of 100.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality David Hartman is 86. Actor James Fox is 82. Actor Nancy Kwan is 82. Rock singer-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 76. Concert pianist David Helfgott is 74. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 72. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Archie Manning is 72. Singer-actor Grace Jones is 70. Rock musician Phil Rudd is 67. Actor Steven Ford is 65. Actor Toni Lewis is 61. Rock musician Iain Harvie (Del Amitri) is 59. Actor Polly Walker is 55. Actor Jason Gray-Stanford is 51. Gospel singer Israel Houghton is 50. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 49. Former race car driver Dario Franchitti is 48. TV personality Kim Zolciak Biermann (TV: "Real Housewives of Atlanta") is 43. Country/rock singer Shooter Jennings is 42. Actor Drew Fuller is 41. Actor-comedian Michael Che (chay) (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 38. Christian rock musician Tim McTague (Underoath) is 38. Actor Eric Lloyd is 35. Pop singer Sam Smith is 29. Actor Nolan Lyons is 20.

## 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**



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