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## Connecting

June 11, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021,

Today is Pulitzer Prize day. The most prestigious awards in journalism will be announced starting at 1 p.m.

We began the week with a profile of AP's Cincinnati Correspondent **Dan Sewell** ([Email](#)) and news that he will retire at the end of June.

So why not end the week with a contribution from Dan on the badly needed lighter side? He explains:

*While beginning the task of cleaning up my Cincinnati AP office on Tuesday, I saw a younger friend of mine who is also an Ohio U. alum in The Enquirer newsroom. I asked graphics artist Mike Nyerges*

*(at right) if he would like to become the new guardian of the Bobcat mascot. He immediately agreed and promised to give it a place of honor in the middle of the newsroom.*

*The Bobcat was bequeathed to me by another Ohio U alum Rick Green, when I left AP to replace him as a suburban editor for The Enquirer. I'm not sure about the chain of custody after I rejoined The AP in Chicago, but the Bobcat was in the new suburban office called Beacon Pointe after I came back to The Enquirer. When I rejoined The AP in Cincinnati, The Bobcat joined The AP! So after 15 years as an AP mascot, he will return to The Enquirer.*



*I would have shipped him to Rick, but he's now in his latest newspaper editorship in Sonoma County, California, and that's far from an Ohio Bobcat's natural home. Rick, who's been editor or publisher at the Des Moines Register, Cincinnati Enquirer, NewJersey.com, the Louisville Courier-Journal and now the Press-Democrat in Sonoma County, California, says he obtained the Bobcat while going to yard sales with his Mom in Coshocton, Ohio (Rick calls it "Rockin' Coshocton"). He kept it with him in Athens as a student and dubbed him "Bob." Bob stayed with him in newsrooms in Chillicothe, Ohio, and then Cincinnati.*

*I know there have been other AP bureau mascots, but I'll let their guardians tell about them!*

**Connecting looks forward to your stories on newsroom mascots. You do remember what a newsroom looks like, right?**

**F. Lee Bailey** – Several colleagues spotted in Thursday's Today in History that F. Lee Bailey was included in the list of birthday celebrants for June 10 when in fact he died a week earlier, on June 3. The AP files Today in History in advance for the planning convenience of the many members that use it. Today in History for June 10 was filed to the wire on Monday, May 31. F. Lee Bailey died on Thursday, June 3. On June 3, at 5:39 pm, the AP filed a writethru of Today in History for June 10 to delete the birthday of F. Lee Bailey. So that writethru was on the wire a week before Bailey's birthday. The newspaper from which Connecting captures Today in History daily did not make the correction.

**German song** – In the German song sung by Adolphe Bernotas at the 25-Year Club Celebration (see Thursday's Connecting), the translation published was incorrect. Colleague Dodi Fromson, a native German speaker since birth, said that in the phrase "Yes, yes, yes, yes, you don't know how good I am to you", it should read, at the end,

FOR you, not TO you (not in caps, but that, just to point it out to you). Makes a big difference in meaning."

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Ken Freed an inspiring, interesting part of her life for half-century

**Shirley Christian (Email)** - Learning of the death of Ken Freed was a painful moment. He was an inspiring and always interesting part of my life for a half-century. We met at the beginning of the Seventies when I was the junior member of the U.N. bureau staff and Ken came up from Washington regularly with the secretary of state. Gradually, we learned we were two Midwesterners with a lot in common.

Over the coming years, during which he left the AP for the LA Times and I for the Miami Herald and NY Times, we shared airplane rides with George Shultz, bumpy jeep trips in search of Central American guerrillas and colonels, dinners under tropical skies with colleagues, and the routine of having adjacent offices in exotic places. On one flight he introduced me to NYT/WSJ crossword puzzles, which I still do with breakfast every morning.

In a conversation about our AP days, he laid claim to having invented the phrase "shuttle diplomacy" when he was hopping around the Middle East with Kissinger. Ken said he was struggling to write a fresh lead for PMS one night, and the phrase just popped into his head. By the next cycle, everybody was using it. I can't swear that Ken was telling the truth, but anyone who might challenge his story is probably gone.



Somehow, he (and Sandy) and I became good friends, always comfortable with each other. While the kitchen in their Coral Gables house was being remodeled into a kosher one, they moved into my vacant South Miami townhouse. When we both eventually landed back in the cities of our hearts -- Omaha and Kansas City -- he and Sandy made several trips to Kansas City, pulling into my driveway one time in a big, not-so-late model Cadillac. Ken took a certain delight in driving down the highway in what he imagined "an old Jew smoking a cigar" -- his words -- ought to be doing. Sadly, some car thief in Omaha liked the idea of driving around in it, too, so Ken lost his prize car sooner than he might have liked.

Part of the reason for his visits to Kansas City in later years -- aside from the symphony and the art museums -- was putting together the family history on his mother's side for the benefit of his kids and granddaughter. His mother was a Kansas City WASP whose father, a structural engineer, helped build some landmark structures around town. Somehow, she fell in love with a traveling Jewish salesman from Omaha.

Like me, Ken's mother was descended from Virginia families that moved to Missouri on the heels of Lewis and Clark. When he first told me this, I asked why she had converted to Judaism, and he gave me a look that suggested I was missing a piece of my brain.

"So my sisters and I could be born Jewish, silly," he said, and took a puff.

Like old cats, Ken was easy to love.

## AP traditionally right wing? Hold on a minute

**Bruce Handler (Email)** - I just signed up for "Connecting." I saw the piece in the May. 27 issue accusing the AP of being traditionally right wing. Hold on a minute.

My first big front-page assignment with AP came in 1970, when I was sent from the Sao Paulo, Brazil, bureau, where I was a reporter, to Santiago, Chile, to help cover the presidential inauguration of Salvador Allende, a democratically elected socialist. Allende, a friend of Fidel Castro's, nationalized large U.S. companies operating in Chile. He lasted until 1973, when he was killed in a right-wing military coup supported by the Nixon administration and the CIA.

During that period I spent a total of perhaps one-and-a-half years of my life in Chile, traveling back and forth from Brazil as the Chilean saga warranted.

The AP's political neutrality during this time was exemplary!

The NY brass wisely removed the Santiago bureau from the right-wing, anti-Allende newspaper El Mercurio, where it had operated for years, to a nondescript office building nearby. There was NEVER any editorial maneuvering regarding our coverage.

We reported from all sides. Yes, Allende set out to help fix the economic inequality between Chile's elite ruling class and the nation's poor people. But his socialist policies ran the Chilean economy into the ground, and we said so. Yes, there was evidence Allende was stockpiling weapons sent from Cuba in the basement of the presidential palace, and we reported on it. But we also had indications the CIA was supporting anti-Allende movements, such as a massive truckers' strike, and we wrote about that too.

In short, I give the AP an A+ for its political handling of this extremely delicate and potentially explosive story.

# On members taking credit for AP stories

**Jeff Barnard (Email)** - Hear him, hear him, to Chris Carola's complaint about members taking off our bylines, inserting a minor graph, then taking credit for the story. It used to really gall me when the UK's Daily Mail took one of my stories, did a minor rewrite, using all my best quotes, then stuck their byline on it. Hard to imagine a British reporter coming to rural Oregon for a story. I guess it was kind of a badge of honor, really. Wonder how the reporters assigned to this task felt.

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**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - Uncredited use of Associated Press material took place most of my 29-year career with the company. I would imagine it was happening well before I walked through the door of the Des Moines AP bureau for the first time in January 1980 and it likely has been taking place ever since, particularly with the explosion of the internet, social media and other news providers.

As a new staffer it was frustrating to see my story used verbatim without credit or, worse, under someone else's byline. While broadcasters often read AP copy directly, the format was different -- there was no effective way to credit the source of each story in a one-minute broadcast. It actually was a bit of an honor to hear what you just wrote being read on a 50,000-watt, clear-channel radio station like Des Moines' WHO, whose signal reached far throughout the Midwest.

But seeing one's prose in print without either a byline or the (AP) logo was disheartening and, at times, maddening. I quickly learned it was a wire service fact of life: the story you worked hard to produce could appear without credit to you or to the company. Get used to it.

It was a truth that went with me upon promotion as a news editor and then a chief of bureau. I never told a complaining staffer to "sit down and shut up," as Adolphe Bernotas related he was told (Wednesday Connecting) by a former chief in the Northeast. I did try to explain that member newspapers were allowed to use the cooperative's content in many ways, and that we always hoped and expected AP would be credited. When we found they didn't, I would call the publisher or editor to point out the uncredited use of our material and to appeal to their sense of fairness and professionalism the next time. Usually they would agree. Often, though, it appeared the credit was being stripped down the line -- by a desk editor at night or even by the reporter themselves who would take the AP story and write it almost verbatim as if it was their own. Difficult to police.

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**Lyle Price (Email)** - In the much-needed humor department these days, I pass along this historical note of my own experience when it comes to the practice of AP members and perhaps non-members to strip an AP logo away and thereby seem to have been themselves responsible for the copy.

During my time in 1964-66 at The AP in the San Francisco bureau before being transferred to Los Angeles, every one of the countless stories within the Chronicle's circulation area that I and others churned out appeared under the byline of "From Our Correspondent" in the Chron. I was informed by the bureau night city editor that newspapers considered it demeaning to give credit to someone other than their own staffers for stories generated within an area that they felt responsible for covering.

Most of my stories as an unofficial Chron correspondent were short items from stringers that I took over the phone and wrote or rewrote based upon the info that I received. To the best of my memory and knowledge, the Chron didn't run any of my bylined enterprise stories or feature, including enterprise on the A wire; nor did those items inspire them to match it that I never saw.

On the other hand, in those days AP got carbon copies from the Chronicle that I and others at the AP San Fran bureau ("FX", in my day) would use in whole or in part. The "part" would be some carbon-copy tidbit or aspect or quote from the Chron having to do with a breaking story or next-day cycle story that I or others might be handling. The city editor would be the one to give the staffer the carbon. But AP policy in those days was never to credit the Chron or any paper except in cases where the newspaper's story had been headed with a note terming it as being copyrighted. BTW, also in those days AP in San Francisco sent carbon copies of all of its bureau-produced stories to the Chronicle. That would be at least in part because in pre-computer days it almost always would take longer for an AP story other than a bulletin to get on any wire faster than sending a copyboy one floor above the AP's office in the Chronicle Building to deliver the carbon to the paper's news desk.

I never saw the Los Angeles Times run AP stories at all (at least on non-sports pages) from its circulation area in my time at the LA bureau from 1966-1976 -- with one notable exception. On the fifth anniversary of the Watts Riot, I was tasked to write a "five years after the riot" story (even though I'd still been in FX at the time of the event, the staffers covering it having moved on). The Times ran my A wire story with a byline on page 18. While I won't downplay the merit of my story, my suspicion was and is that the editor responsible for the p 18 layout at the Times was PO'd that its own paper had paid the anniversary no heed that I ever saw.

## On the Emily Wilder firing

**Tom Fenton** ([Email](#)) - Just a thought on the Emily Wilder firing.

It is possible that she was wronged as so many have pointed out. And that the AP missed a valuable teaching moment for an otherwise promising staffer.

But it also is possible the AP is caught in a no-win situation and that it has justification that it cannot reveal.

Maybe I missed it but I have not seen the AP put forward anything that would justify the termination after she was hired.

AP can't. Legal issues, personnel matters and all that.

I learned this lesson the hard way some years ago as a relatively new publisher for Gannett.

I pulled a reporter off a beat for an outrageous act at a public company board meeting.

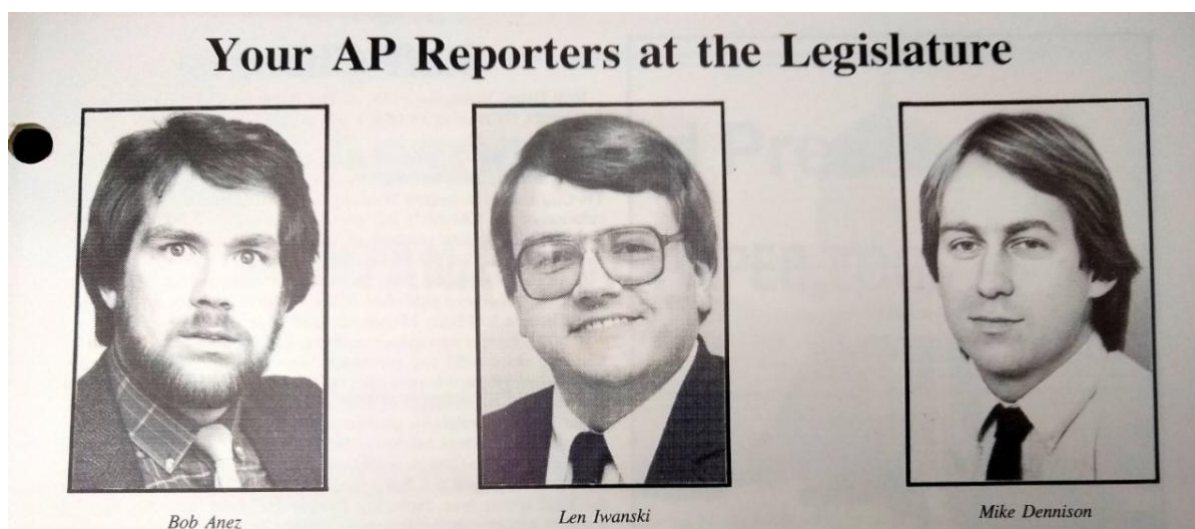
The reporter squawked, and when a metro daily 500 miles away called me to inquire why I would do such a thing, I said, "You wouldn't believe what the reporter did." And I stupidly proceeded to tell them.

It was all true, of course. But the reporter sued me and the paper and the result was a lot of money in legal fees.

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**Ed McCullough (Email)** - Why is the firing of a "news associate," or "young reporter," or "junior staffer," or however Emily Wilder's 17-day employment at AP a journalism or political cause celebre? At heart, if anything at all, it would seem to be that she expressed a personal view in social media. Period. Not what that view was: pro-Palestinian, pro-Israel, pro- or anti-whatever. Nor that it resulted from "conservative" criticism however that is defined. Is outrage real - or faux? Is AP at fault for not having a social media policy - or for enforcing that policy only selectively? Is this incident really a good case for seasoned reporters to inveigh against online harassment? The AP sports reporter who "was in tears daily" over "online abuse she received for coverage of a noose found last year in an Alabama garage stall used by NASCAR's only full-time Black driver," according to AP's media columnist David Bauder, should know that "noose" was determined to be a garage door pull rope. Readers of AP content should know that, too. In fact, they do.

## Montana's Three Amigos





**Len Iwanski** ([Email](#)) - I recently came across a 1987 AP Montana members' newsletter that included the first image. It reminded me of a photo taken 26 years later, when Bob Anez retired from his second career as a state agency spokesman.

I retired from AP in 2009. Mike Dennison is still a working journalist. After a distinguished career with newspapers in Montana, he's the chief political reporter for the Montana Television Network.

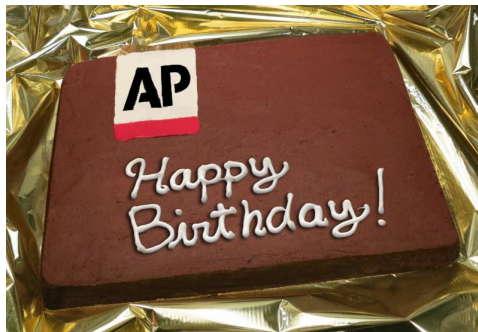
## Connecting sky shot - Newport, Ore.





Lee Siegel shares this photo of Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Newport, Oregon

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



*On Saturday to...*

Scott Charton - [chartonconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:chartonconsulting@yahoo.com)

Mort Rosenblum – [mort.rosenblum@gmail.com](mailto:mort.rosenblum@gmail.com)

Ed Staats – [edstaats@bellsouth.net](mailto:edstaats@bellsouth.net)

Shawn Temple - [s temple@gmail.com](mailto:s temple@gmail.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Jim Limbach – [jlimbach@verizon.net](mailto:jlimbach@verizon.net)

Matt Sedensky – [msedensky@AP.org](mailto:msedensky@AP.org)

Jamie Stengle – [jlstengle@gmail.com](mailto:jlstengle@gmail.com)

Dan Wakin - [wakin@nytimes.com](mailto:wakin@nytimes.com)

Jim Williams - [jim@jrw3.com](mailto:jim@jrw3.com)

## Stories of interest

***Opinion: Myanmar has imprisoned 50 journalists — including two Americans. They should all be freed.***

(Washington Post)

Opinion by the Editorial Board

The Washington Post

June 10, 2021

THE BRAZENNESS of Myanmar’s military in seeking to suppress opposition to its seizure of power crosses international boundaries. Among the approximately 50 journalists it is currently detaining are two U.S. citizens, who have been jailed in the notorious Insein Prison. Demands by senior Biden administration officials for their release have been ignored; at least one of the Americans reportedly has been tortured, while the other has been denied consular access. These gross abuses must be met by a specific and tangible U.S. response.

The first of the journalists to be arrested, Nathan Maung, is the editor in chief of the news outlet Kamayut Media. He was taken along with Hanthar Nyein, a news producer, in a raid on the outlet’s newsroom in Yangon on March 9 — one of a series of actions against independent media in the first weeks after the Feb. 1 coup. According to an account supplied to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Mr. Maung and his colleague were taken to an interrogation center, where they were badly beaten and burned with cigarettes on their bellies, thighs and buttocks. While being questioned, they were made to kneel on ice with their hands cuffed behind them, CPJ was told. They have been charged with spreading “fake news,” an offense that can be punished by up to three years in prison.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The media called the ‘lab leak’ story a ‘conspiracy theory.’ Now it’s prompted corrections — and serious new reporting. (Washington Post)***

By Paul Farhi and Jeremy Barr

Early last year, New York Times science writer Donald G. McNeil Jr. reported on a controversial theory about the coronavirus that had begun to sweep around the planet — that it may have started in a laboratory in Wuhan, China, not as a random and naturally occurring pathogen.

The “lab leak” theory — disputed then as now — challenged the semiofficial thesis that the virus had jumped from an infected animal to a human in a food market in Wuhan. Allies of President Donald Trump had pushed the theory, casting doubt on statements by officials of China’s ruling Communist Party.

Yet the Times never ended up publishing McNeil’s 4,000-word story, after what he called “a good-faith disagreement” over scientific concerns, the complicated nature of the evidence and questions about the political motives of the mostly anonymous sources who were promoting it at the time, he later wrote.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Neigh**

***Horse Photobombs Maternity Shoot, Smiles for the Camera*** (PetaPixel)



By MICHAEL ZHANG

An Ohio wedding photographer recently found herself working the “best maternity session ever” when one of the couple’s horses decided to join in on the shoot, smile for the camera, and crack everyone up.

Cincinnati photographer Kristen Zaffiro was conducting the photo shoot for Phil and Amanda (Zaffiro’s cousin) on the couple’s pasture.

“We tried the photo shoot two other times and got rained out, but on Memorial Day, we finally got together,” Zaffiro tells PetaPixel. “Phil’s 10-year-old daughter, Ava, was supposed to be in the shoot, but that day she wasn’t available. We had to get this shoot in because the doctors kept saying Amanda could deliver any day! The baby is measuring over 10 pounds now so they have a planned C-section for Monday.

“We did pictures with just Phil and Amanda first in the pasture. Then we took the all-terrain vehicle up closer to where the horses roam.”

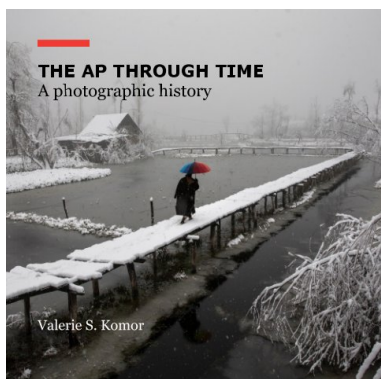
Upon arriving in the shaded area under some trees, the group set up and got ready to continue shooting.

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



## A special section celebrating AP's 175th

### AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

### AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

# Oops!

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

The final one is:

**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 - June 11, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2021. There are 203 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 11, 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit "hate crimes" motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment.

### On this date:

In 1509, England's King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, "discovered" the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

In 1864, German composer Richard (REE'-hard) Strauss was born in Munich.

In 1936, Kansas Gov. Alfred "Alf" Landon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Cleveland.

In 1947, the government announced the end of sugar rationing for households and "institutional users" (e.g., restaurants and hotels) as of midnight.

In 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1986, the John Hughes comedy “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” starring Matthew Broderick, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

Ten years ago: Rejecting calls by Democratic leaders for him to resign in a sexting scandal, Rep. Anthony Weiner instead announced he was seeking professional treatment and asking for a leave of absence from Congress. (Weiner ended up resigning.)

Five years ago: Queen Elizabeth II and her family marked her official 90th birthday with a parade, a colorful military ceremony and an appearance on the Buckingham Palace balcony.

One year ago: Louisville, Kentucky, banned the use of “no-knock” warrants and named the new ordinance for Breonna Taylor, who’d been fatally shot by officers who burst into her home. San Francisco’s mayor said city police officers would stop responding to non-criminal activities such as disputes between neighbors and reports about homeless people; they would be replaced on those calls by trained, unarmed professionals. Army Gen. Mark Milley, the nation’s top military officer, said he’d been wrong to walk in uniform with President Donald Trump past protesters who’d been cleared from Lafayette Park to a photo op outside a church. Two Florida amusement parks, SeaWorld Orlando and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, reopened, but with reservations required to limit crowds amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

Today’s Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., is 91. Comedian Johnny Brown is 84. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 82. Singer Joey Dee is 81. Actor Roscoe Orman is 77. Actor Adrienne Barbeau is 76. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 72. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 72. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 71. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 69. Actor Peter Bergman is 68. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 65. Actor Hugh Laurie is 62. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 61. Singer Gioia (JOY’-ah) Bruno (Expose) is 58. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 55. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 55. Actor Clare Carey is 54. Actor Peter Dinklage is 52. Actor Lenny Jacobson is 47. Actor Joshua Jackson is 43. Americana musician Gabe Witcher (Punch Brothers) is 43. Actor Shia LaBeouf (SHY’-uh luh-BUF’) is 35.

## 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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