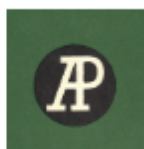


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Connecting

July 29, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this July 29, 2021,

Our colleague **Patrick Casey**, a former AP newsman, has teamed with his wife **Zhang Wanli** for nearly four years in taking pictures of everyday life in China.

Four months ago, they put their work onto a website and we're pleased to share that work with you in today's Connecting. Patrick retired in 2008 and came to Beijing after 22 years with AP, 12 in Oklahoma City and 10 in New York.

You have a photo or words web site that you'd like to share with your colleagues? Why not send it along...

And here's a question for you: In today's Final Word is a story on the death of famed TV pitchman Ron Popeil - inventor of such items as the Veg-O-Matic and The Pocket Fisherman. Ever buy and use one of his inventions? Send along your story.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Zhang-Casey web site:

'When I get a good photo, I cannot describe how happy it makes me'



Zhang Wanli's photo of ducks on a small lake made the cover of a prominent Beijing travel magazine. Zhang Wanli uses a Nikon D810 and a variety of lens.

Patrick Casey (Email) - Our website -- <http://www.zhang-casey.com> -- has been online for just over four months but it's actually been in the works for nearly four years.

That's how long my wife, Zhang Wanli, and I have been studying photography and taking photos on an almost daily basis. Wanli is retired from a career in logistics at the U.S. embassy in Beijing and is a mechanical engineer by education. I retired from the AP and came to Beijing in 2008 after 12 years in Oklahoma City and 10 in New York.



Wanli uses a Nikon D810 and a variety of lenses and prefers working in color. She enjoys landscape and nature photography and has shot a small fishing village in Fujian Province near Taiwan, swans in Henan Province and grasslands near Ba Shang in Hubei Province.

She had hoped to shoot in Africa and at the South Pole by now but like most people, has been stymied by the coronavirus pandemic. Still, she says the outbreak has given her the opportunity to photograph many nearby things that she hadn't noticed before.

I use a Nikon Z6 and .50mm and .85mm S lenses and shoot daily life in our neighborhood. Most people have treated me nicely and let me photograph them without any objections. I work in black and white because the medium and its old-school ambiance is interesting. Some day I would like to shoot in New Zealand.

Our photos have drawn some positive attention in recent months and we are appreciative of that. Street Photography Magazine -- and China Radio International have done features on my work while one of Wanli's shots made the June cover of a prominent Beijing travel magazine.

We are also appreciative of the kindly encouragement, tips and suggestions we have gotten along the way from retired AP photographers J. Pat Carter, Brian Horton, and David Longstreath. Wanli says Longstreath has been especially encouraging, constantly urging her to "keep shooting."

Wanli also studies the gifted Chinese photographers Chu Weimin and Xu Weihua.

We take photos because we love everything about photography and as Wanli puts it "when I get a good photo, I cannot describe how happy it makes me." We appreciate that people enjoy our work and look forward to photographing whatever comes next in our corner of the world.

A Cri du Coeur From a Doctor-Diplomat Who Knows

Mort Rosenblum ([Email](#))

Mort Report

PARIS — Breakfast with Michel Lavollay at Café Flore, pleasant under any circumstance, was beyond joyful this time. He is nearly back to himself after seven weeks in a coma. Several times, doctors told his daughter he was about to die.

As a pioneer in the global fight against AIDS, he knew that unless a cure is found for a deadly new disease, the only option is not to catch it. But global mechanisms he helped build to halt runaway pathogens no longer work. Even he caught Covid-19.

“My God,” he said, looking at a happy snap I made with my phone. “I can’t recognize myself.” He lost 30 kilos – 66 pounds. After months of laborious one-day-at-a-time rehab, he is a lanky shadow of his formerly substantial self.

Lavollay, mellow at 72, is a soft-spoken doctor-diplomat who hobnobs with heads of state and captains of industry. He chooses his words carefully. Here is an unvarnished upshot of our conversation:



Narrow thinking, feckless self-focused leaders, cruel greed, blame-shifting, mixed media messaging, disorganization and sheer stupidity let a pandemic run wild. Despite vaccines, worse is on the way, with other new scourges to follow.

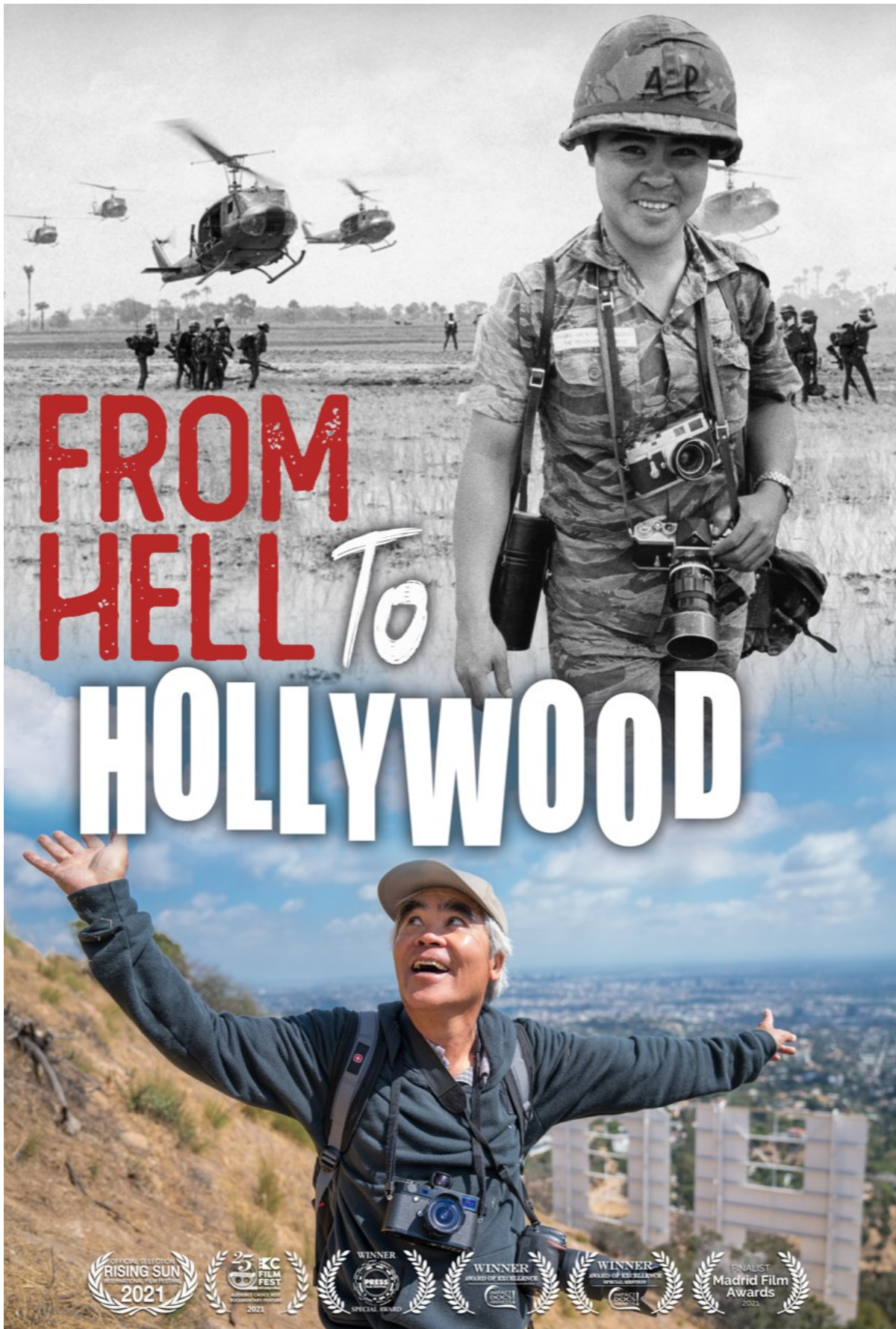
Xi Jinping tried to hide the virus but shared data after noble doctors defied his orders. Rather than work with China, Trump scapegoated Xi to cover his own willful negligence. Michel believes America’s actual death toll surpassed a million by 2021.

The overall lesson is hair-raising: If governments, private enterprise and the rest of us who share an imperiled planet cannot unite against a single preventable threat, we can expect mass die-offs, sooner rather than later, as ecosystems collapse.

Michel sees hope in the science. “There is so much we don’t know, so much uncertainty on the evolution of the virus and the next variants,” he said, “and yet tremendous progress has been made very rapidly on vaccines. It’s a mix.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Tad Bartimus.

Nick Ut’s ‘From Hell To Hollywood’ film to be offered on video on demand



Nick Ut (Email) - My film producer tells me Nick Ut From Hell To Hollywood will be shown in Los Angeles October 28 on all VOD (video on demand) platforms, and in November will be shown in Japan. And worldwide...

Sid Feder, a sportswriter at war

Marc Lancaster
World War II on Deadline

Sid Feder spent a dozen years in the 1930s and '40s covering the most important sporting events in the country for the Associated Press. From the World Series to the Kentucky Derby to every one of Joe Louis' heavyweight championship bouts from 1937 through 1948, Feder was on hand with his typewriter.



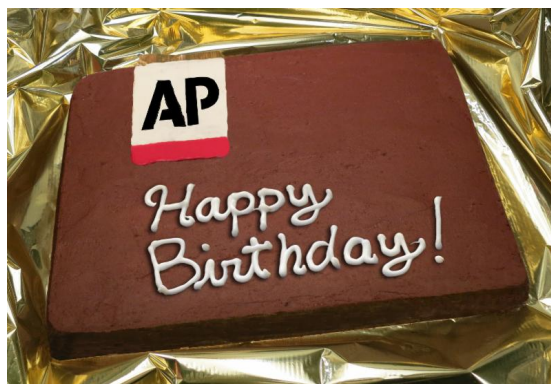
Between his long career as a sportswriter and his groundbreaking books on organized crime in the 1950s, though, Feder spent nearly two years as a war correspondent for the AP, covering the fighting in Italy, Southern France and beyond.

Born July 27, 1909 in New Jersey, Feder studied for three years at New York University before dropping out to work at the AP's New York office in 1931. He handled a variety of assignments for the wire service, working the news desk and helping out as a reporter, often without a byline, before joining the sports department in 1936.

Among his regular stops was Yankee Stadium, where he covered Joe McCarthy's teams that won six World Series in an eight-year span. Among other highlights, Feder was in the press box on July 4, 1939, for one of the most memorable days in the old stadium's history.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jeannie Eblen - jkeblen@sunflower.com

Stories of interest

Our democracy is under attack. Washington journalists must stop covering it like politics as usual.

(Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

Back in the dark ages of 2012, two think-tank scholars, Norman Ornstein and Thomas Mann, wrote a book titled “It’s Even Worse Than It Looks” about the rise of Republican Party extremism and its dire effect on American democracy.

In a related op-ed piece, these writers made a damning statement about Washington press coverage, which treats the two parties as roughly equal and everything they do as deserving of similar coverage.

Ornstein and Mann didn’t use the now-in-vogue terms “both-sidesism” or “false equivalence,” but they laid out the problem with devastating clarity (the italics are mine):

“We understand the values of mainstream journalists, including the effort to report both sides of a story. But a balanced treatment of an unbalanced phenomenon distorts reality. If the political dynamics of Washington are unlikely to change any time soon, at least we should change the way that reality is portrayed to the public.”

Nearly a decade later, this distortion of reality has only grown worse, thanks in part to Donald Trump’s rise to power and his ironclad grip on an increasingly craven Republican Party

Read more [here](#). Shared by Harry Dunphy.

-0-

Newspaper industry icon Max Heath dies at age 75

(The News-Enterprise)

Max Heath, former executive editor for Landmark Community Newspapers and chairman of the National Newspaper Association Postal Committee for 30 years, died Wednesday morning. He was 75.

Heath had been hospitalized in Louisville since suffering a hemorrhagic stroke last Friday, according to the Kentucky Press Association.

Heath was a champion for all newspapers when it came to anything related to postal regulations and had a reputation for knowing the Domestic Mail Manual better than

even most postal officials. He was frequently in Washington, testifying before Congress and working with USPS officials.

Heath, a native of Campbellsville, lived in Shelbyville where he worked in the central office of Landmark, which owned The News-Enterprise and other Kentucky newspapers for decades before selling to Paxton Media Group last month.

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

-0-

Gannett has sold 24 publications back to local owners (Poynter)

By: Kristen Hare

During the pandemic, more than 70 newsrooms in the U.S. closed, leaving the communities they served with merged newsrooms based in other cities or no local newspapers at all.

But a new piece examines the fate of local newsrooms that are moving in a different direction — back into local hands.

Mark Jacob wrote about the trend for Northwestern University's Medill Local News Initiative, in a piece co-published by Poynter:

... Local owners' strong presence in the community may be more important, according to Penny Abernathy, creator of the influential "news deserts" reports and visiting professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications.

"All things being equal," Abernathy said, "local ownership is always best for the community where the newspaper is located. That's because a local owner is going to know that market and know the residents."

Poynter previously reached out to Gannett, which owns more than 100 daily publications in 34 states and many more weeklies, for details about the sales. Gannett shared a list of the publications it has sold back to local owners.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Groups say Myanmar journalists in peril amid crackdown (AP)

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

BANGKOK (AP) — Journalists in Myanmar face extreme peril as the military-controlled government cracks down on independent reporting, human rights and media advocates say.

The government installed by the military in a Feb. 1 takeover has criminalized many aspects of reporting and arrested dozens of journalists, driving many into hiding or exile.

Reports by the Committee to Protect Journalists and by Human Rights Watch, released this week, say dozens of journalists are being held, some without charges. Some of those detained have reported being tortured, and the increasing spread of COVID-19 in prisons has made conditions inside even more dangerous than usual.

The government of Aung San Suu Kyi that was ousted by the military had backpedaled on media freedom after a flowering of independent media when the previous military government began ceding control in 2012.

But now there is almost no leeway for anything but government-controlled reporting, said Shawn Crispin, author of the CPJ report released Wednesday.

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

-0-

France fines Monsanto for illegally acquiring data on journalists, activists (France 24)

France's personal data protection agency on Wednesday fined US firm Monsanto for illegally compiling files of public figures, journalists and activists with the aim of swaying opinion towards support for its controversial pesticides.

The firm, now owned by German chemical giant Bayer, failed to inform the people on the watch lists compiled in the context of a heated public debate about glyphosate, a weed killer, it ruled.

The CNIL agency fined Monsanto 400,000 euros (\$473,000) in the case brought by seven plaintiffs.

Compiling lists of contacts was not in itself illegal, the agency said, but only people who could "reasonably expect" to figure on such lists because of their business sector or their public standing should have been included.

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

The Final Word

Ron Popeil, inventor and king of TV pitchmen, dies at 86 (AP)



FILE - In this Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1982 file photo, Ron Popeil, the man behind those late-night, rapid-fire television commercials that sell everything from the Mr. Microphone to the Pocket Fisherman to the classic Veg-a-Matic, sits surrounded by his wares in his office in Beverly Hills, Calif. Ron Popeil, the quintessential TV pitchman and inventor known to generations of viewers for hawking products including the Veg-O-Matic, the Chop-O-Matic, Mr. Microphone and the Showtime Rotisserie and BBQ, died Wednesday, July 28, 2021 his family said. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File)

By **ANDREW DALTON** and **TED ANTHONY**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ron Popeil, the quintessential TV pitchman and inventor known to generations of viewers for hawking products including the Veg-O-Matic, the Pocket Fisherman, Mr. Microphone and the Showtime Rotisserie and BBQ, has died, his family said.

Popeil died “suddenly and peacefully” Wednesday at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, his family said in a statement. He was 86. No cause of death was given.

Popeil essentially invented the popular image of the American television pitchman, whose novel products solved frustrating problems viewers didn’t know they had. He popularized much of the vernacular of late-night TV ads and infomercials, with lines like “Now how much would you pay?” and “Set it and forget it.”

Popeil, whose father was also an inventor-salesman, built his ability to sell things as a young man in the open-air markets of Chicago, where he moved as a teen in the 1940s after spending his earliest years in New York and Miami.

Building on an invention of his father's, the Chop-o-Matic, he marketed the slicing-and-chopping machine he called the Veg-O-Matic, sold by the company he founded and named after himself — Ronco.

Read more [here](#).



Celebrating AP's 175th

175th anniversary Polo shirts



AP is offering a variety of 175th anniversary merchandise, but one item that isn't available and that many staffers like is a Polo shirt. Adam Yeomans, AP's regional director for the South, has taken care of that. He recently ordered Polos for AP staffers in the South, a few members and retirees, other AP fans. Now you have the opportunity to order one of these limited-edition shirts emblazoned with the AP's 175th anniversary logo. The cost is \$30 per shirt, including shipping. Adult sizes are S, M, L, XL and XXL. The Navy Blue shirts are a 50/50 blend and tend to run a little large. If you'd like to order one, please email Adam Yeomans at adamyemans@yahoo.com with your name, phone number, home address, and the size(s) and quantity by July 30. Adam says he will collect payment once the shirts are ready for shipping. He's trying to cover his cost; if there's anything left, he says he will donate it to the AP Employee Relief Fund.

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [here](#).

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!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - July 29, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 29, the 210th day of 2021. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

On this date:

In 1856, German composer Robert Schumann died in Endenich at age 46.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In 1965, The Beatles' second feature film, "Help!," had its world premiere in London.

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen. (Among the survivors was future Arizona senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who narrowly escaped with his life.)

In 1968, Pope Paul the Sixth reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's stance against artificial methods of birth control.

In 1974, singer Cass Elliot died in a London hotel room at age 32.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Cairo, Egypt, for the deposed Shah of Iran, who had died two days earlier at age 60.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1986, a federal jury in New York found that the National Football League had committed an antitrust violation against the rival United States Football League. But in a hollow victory for the U-S-F-L, the jury ordered the N-F-L to pay token damages of only three dollars.

In 1999, a former day trader, apparently upset over stock losses, opened fire in two Atlanta brokerage offices, killing nine people and wounding 13 before shooting himself to death; authorities said Mark O. Barton had also killed his wife and two children.

Ten years ago: Norway began burying the dead, a week after an anti-Muslim extremist killed 77 people in a bombing and shooting rampage. Delaware carried out its first execution since 2005, putting to death Robert Jackson III, who was convicted of killing a woman, Elizabeth Girardi, with an ax during a burglary.

Five years ago: Pope Francis visited the former Nazi death factory at Auschwitz and Birkenau in southern Poland, meeting with concentration camp survivors as well as aging saviors who helped Jews escape certain doom. Former suburban Chicago police officer Drew Peterson was given an additional 40 years in prison for trying to hire someone to kill the prosecutor who put him behind bars for killing his third wife.

One year ago: The body of the late Democratic congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis arrived in Atlanta; people lined the streets as the hearse carrying Lewis' body moved through downtown before a ceremony at the Capitol rotunda, where Lewis was lauded as a warrior and a hero. Both sides declared victory in a political fight over the deployment of federal agents to guard a U.S. courthouse that was targeted during violent protests in Portland, Oregon, after the governor announced that the officers would start to withdraw. The U.S. Energy Information Administration said energy consumption in the United States plummeted to its lowest level in 30 years in the spring as the economy largely shut down. Connie Culp, the recipient of the first partial face transplant in the United States, died at the age of 57, almost a dozen years after the groundbreaking operation.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 89. Actor Robert Fuller is 88. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 85. Actor David Warner is 80. Actor Roz Kelly is 79. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 75. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 72. Actor Mike Starr is 71. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 68. Style guru Tim Gunn is 68. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 68. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 68. Actor Kevin Chapman is 59. Actor Alexandra Paul is 58. Actor/comedian Dean Haglund is 56. Country singer Martina McBride is 55. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 54. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 53. Actor Tim Omundson is 52. Actor Ato Essandoh is 49. Actor Wil Wheaton is 49. R&B singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 48. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 48. Actor Stephen Dorff is 48. Actor Josh Radnor is 47. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 44. Actor Rachel Miner is 41. Actor Kaitlyn Black is 38. Actor Matt Prokop is 31. Actor Cait Fairbanks is 28.

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

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