

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting November 18, 2021

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Nov. 18, 2021,

We lead today's Connecting with memories of **Paul Webster** shared by his colleagues who worked with him during his 39-year career with The Associated Press. Webster died Nov. 10, two days after reaching 90.

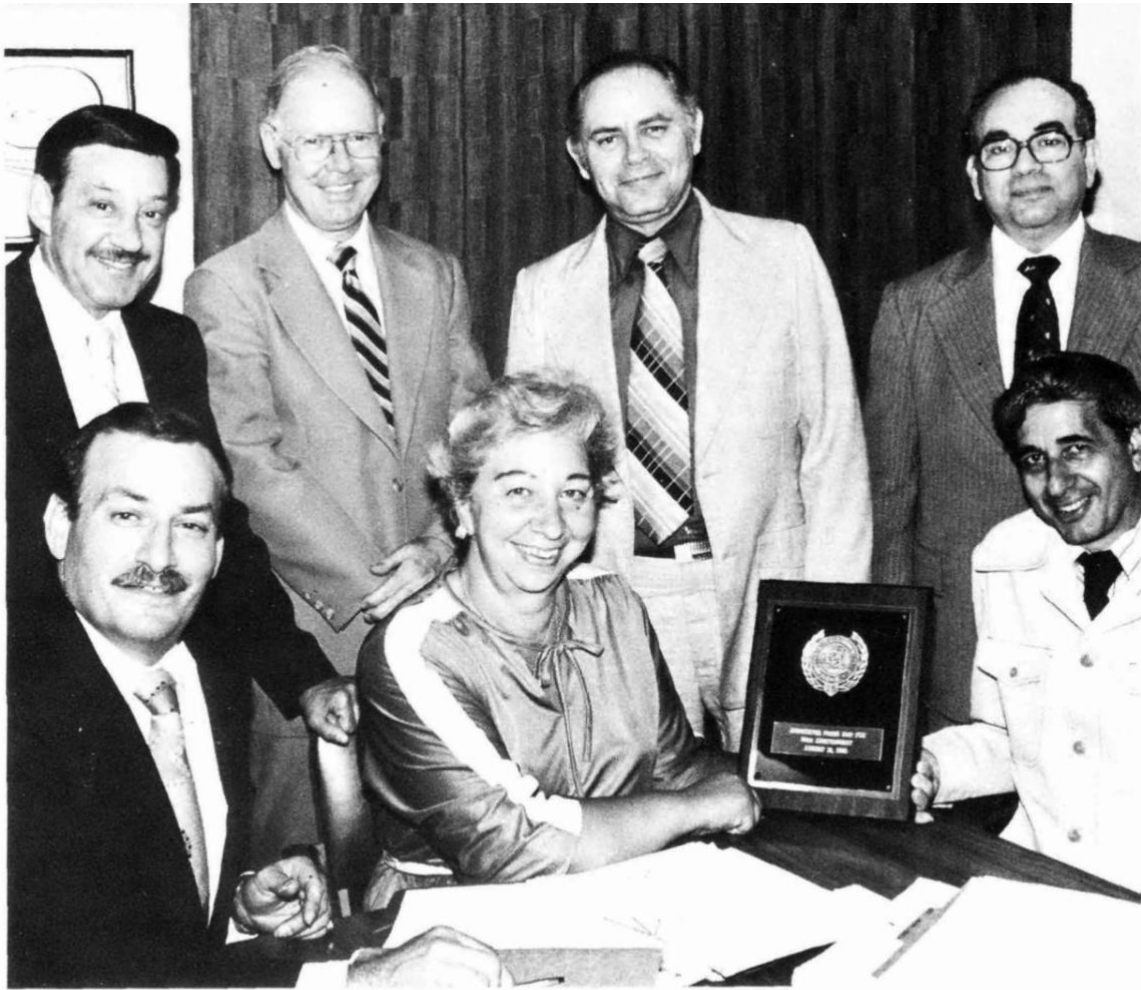
His wife Doris said "we had 65 happy years together with children and grandchildren and two great grandchildren. We all were a happy group. He always said he had an exciting career in the AP. Enjoyed going to work every day, for the next 'challenge.'"

If you have your own memories to share, please send along. And if you would like to drop a note to Doris and his family, you can do so through granddaughter **Stephanie Kroll** at - krollsteph@gmail.com

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Remembering Paul Webster



The AP Employees Credit Union board displays a new plaque, gift of the New York State Credit Union League, Inc., noting the AP group's 25th anniversary. Seated, from left, are Philip J. Balsamo, Mildred Morabito and Paul Mammino; standing, from left, are Ray Krell, Charles Monzella, Paul Webster and Lou Felice.

1980 photo/AP Corporate Archives



1966 photo/AP Corporate Archives

Hal Buell (Email) - Paul Webster retired from AP after career in Communications but I saw him as much a part of the photo service as a photographer or photo editor. He was there during those changeover years that marked the transfer from analog to digital photography.

That was a curious time, a mixture of squealing wirephoto transmitters and receivers, wet chemistry to develop film of transmitted pictures and at the same time nurture the gradual mix as digital moved in. First the electronic darkroom, then Leafax transmitters then Leaf desks and PhotoStream with pictures moving in 10 seconds instead of 10 minutes.

It was a huge team that stretched across the full AP world. Paul and his crew worked in the middle of the action where the step-by-step, picture-by-picture challenge was minute to minute.

Gruff of voice and straight forward was his style. Not mean, but honest. Those who recently recalled Paul's reputation struck it right. Give an assignment or a problem to Webster and count on the assignment done and the problem fixed. In a word, he was old fashioned reliable.

He had a wonderful sense of humor that helped a lot in those days. We exchanged Army vs Navy barbs since we were in the service at about the same time. We shared a whiskey or two over the years and I like to think we likewise shared a delight in the process that carried a picture from camera click to front page.

-0-

Charlie Bruce (Email) - We are saddened to learn of the passing of our longtime friend and colleague Paul Webster. We first met Paul at the 10th Avenue shop in New York 1962 and attended many meetings and training sessions with him over the years. Webster worked at Miami as a technician for about two years after I arrived there as CoC in 1970. He was promoted to ACoC in Atlanta.

Paul and I exchanged greetings for our birthdays for many years. Last year he proudly mentioned that he would be 90 on his next birthday. I am glad he made it. I greeted him again on Nov. 8 this year but this time did not hear back. RIP, Friend.

-0-

Larry Blasko (Email) - If you picture Photos at that time as a bureau, Hal (Buell) was the COB and Paul was the COC. He was the interface between photos and Virgil Bradshaw's East Brunswick (later Cranbury) crew and the Communications staff that worked in photos.

During those years, photos was a tangle of technologies that spanned decades and needed expertise ranging from mechanical and chemical to physics and digital. The thing I remember is when a need or issue would reach me as deputy Communications director or VP Dave Bowen and we learned that "Webster's on it," the matter went to our mental "under control" slots.

-0-

Dan Hansen (Email) - Just to say in remembrance of Paul Webster from my days as a photo editor at NY bureau - a great guy, a solid AP professional and leader in his field, always kept the AP Photo network up and running.

More thoughts on Bosnia, Herzegovina

Terrence Petty (Email) - My gratitude to Jim Reindl for his update in Wednesday's Connecting on Bosnia and Herzegovina. I've been following the situation there with alarm.

About 100,000 people died in the 1992-1995 civil war, 80 percent of them Muslims. More than 2.2 million people were forced from their homes. More than 10,000 Bosnian Muslim women were raped by Serb forces.

Will horrors such as these once again be inflicted on this beautiful but beleaguered land?

Also, I'd like to use this space to pay homage to all of the journalists who put their lives on the line during the 1992-95 civil war, enduring shelling, sniper fire, and front-line combat to tell the world about the horrors that were occurring in Bosnia. About

25 of them lost their lives. During my Bosnia tours, I faced limited risks. The guns of the warring sides had been silenced, and I was traveling with the protection of the U.S. Army.

Finally, a chance to voice my opinions

cincinnati.com | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021 | 9A

OPINION

WRITING LETTERS OR OP-EDS: Letters of up to 200 words may be submitted by filling out the form at static.cincinnati.com/letter/ or emailing letters@enquirer.com. Include name, address, community and daytime phone number. Op-eds are submitted the same way except they should be 500-600 words and also include a one-sentence bio and head shot. Submissions may be edited for space and clarity.

There's nothing new about woke mobs, cancel culture

Your Turn
Dan Sewell
Guest columnist



Watch out for the "woke" people. Their culture might "cancel" you.

Veteran political strategist James Carville warned Democrats that "stupid wokeness" is costing them elections, as in Virginia this month. Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, for deception about vaccination, and former Cincinnati Reds TV broadcaster Thom Brennaman, for a gay slur on TV, are among those who say they've been victimized by the cancel culture.

We can agree these are hot buzz terms. What isn't clear to all is what they started out meaning and what they've come to mean to different people.

Woke seems to be used to describe people who are hyper-vigilant for any trace of racist, misogynistic, homophobic or other bias. Sort of political correctness on steroids.

Cancel culture, which can result from wokeness, withdraws support or even boycotts and protests those who say or do offending things. That sounds very, very familiar, except not with that term.

Democratic New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a subject of endless fascination for conservative politicians and commentators, has already pointed out that "older people," like Carville and "Fox News pundits," are the main people using the term woke these days.

Not-so-old Rodgers, though, complained about the "woke mob" coming after him after his lack of vaccinations was exposed when he tested positive for COVID-19 after claiming he had been "immunized."

That prompted Michael Harriot of theroot.com to write an open letter to Rodgers from "the WOKEMOB."

He complained that Rodgers and other white people have commandeered the woke term from Black people.

"Staying woke" has long meant to Black people being alert to injustice, especially from police and the legal system.

One of the first recorded usages is by the blues music legend Lead Belly in 1938, at the end of his song about the "Scottsboro Boys," nine Black teens falsely accused in Alabama of raping two white women.

"Stay woke," the singer warns. "Keep your eyes open."

Harriot suggests today's woke mob isn't all that powerful.

"If the WOKEMOB could actually control an entire culture, we would have canceled climate change, underfunded schools, criminal justice disparities, the racial wealth gap, and Tucker Carlson's show," Harriot wrote.

Meanwhile, I have to wonder if right-wing voices railing about "cancel culture" have looked in the mirror lately.

Ask the Dixie Chicks (now called the Chicks), a popular all-female country band until March 2003, when singer Natalie Maines decided to voice opposition to the Iraq War during a concert in London. "We do not want this war, this violence, and we're ashamed that the president (George W. Bush) of the United States is from Texas," she said.

The reaction was fast and furious. And not from "woke" people.

Dixie Chicks CDs disappeared, or in one case, were run over with a tractor. They were called communists, traitors and terrorists and more.

Country music radio stations stopped playing them. One notable exception was WUBE-FM in Cincinnati.

"We believe in the Constitution. We believe in freedom of speech," the station's operations manager, Tim Closson,

Colin Kaepernick – with former San Francisco 49ers teammates Eli Harold, left, and Eric Reid, right, in 2016 – became an NFL outcast for taking a knee during the national anthem in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. AP FILE



The Chicks, known as the Dixie Chicks in this 2007 photo, was a popular all-female country band until March 2003, when singer Natalie Maines decided to voice opposition to the Iraq War during a concert in London. AP FILE



told Enquirer media critic John Kiese-wetter at the time.

Colin Kaepernick could tell Aaron Rodgers a thing or two about getting canceled. The star quarterback for a San Francisco 49ers team that reached the Super Bowl became an NFL outcast for taking a knee during the national anthem in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Since Kaepernick last played in a game in 2016, Nick Mullens has served as 49ers QB, and a partial list of quarterbacks who have started for other teams includes A.J. McCarron, Matt Barkley, Chase Daniel and Josh Johnson.

If you think any of those are better than Kaepernick, I want you in my Fantasy Football league.

Rodgers got a slap on the wrist for endangering and letting down his teammates. Kaepernick, for protesting deadly injustice, was the one who got "canceled," like the Dixie Chicks, by those on the right.

Stay woke, my friends.

Dan Sewell retired recently from daily journalism after 44 years, 39 with The Associated Press and five with The Enquirer. He is a member of the Enquirer Board of Contributors.

Dan Sewell (Email) - After four decades with The AP, where objectivity and neutrality are integral to the mission, one of the first things I wanted to do was voice my opinions. So I erased AP from my Twitter profile and started firing away.

Targets: Donald Trump, who made me feel under threat covering his 2016 rallies with "enemy of the people" attacks that encouraged supporters to insult us in our pen. Even worse was when my AP colleague and friend John Minchillo got assaulted by the pro-Trump Jan. 6 mob.

Also, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his press secretary for spurring social media attacks and threats against AP's guy in Tallahassee, and locally, a longtime conservative radio talk show host for spreading COVID misinformation along with his usual race-baiting hot air.

As with others before me, I soon realized you're just going to end up arguing with strangers on social media who have entrenched opinions.

So I looked for a more constructive outlet and began writing op-ed columns for The Cincinnati Enquirer. I'm now on the "board of contributors," which means writing one or two columns a month, in most cases on topics of my choice.

I try to make my points with facts and evidence, so that it's more reporting than opining.

Former AP colleague Chris Tomlinson showed up in a recent column warning Ohio that Texas shows how politics are screwing up education.

My latest is on wokeness and cancel culture as things that aren't new, just with new names or interpretations.

Interested in others' thoughts on dabbling in opinion writing post-AP.

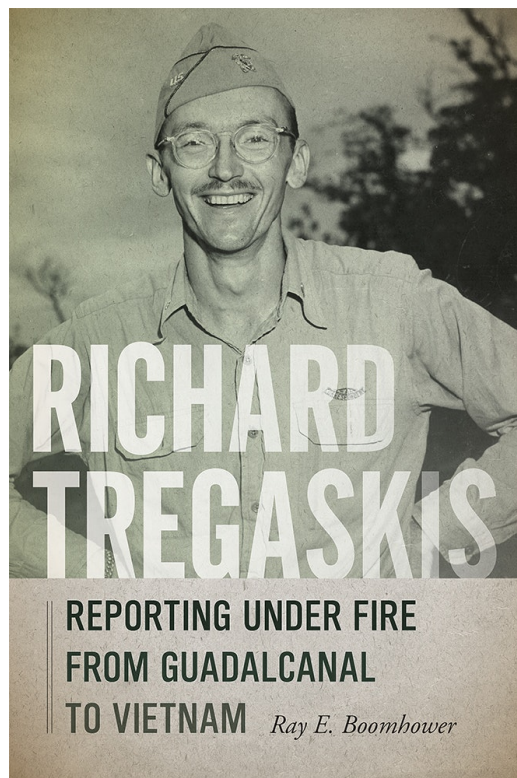
-- Dan Sewell, retired July 1 as AP Cincinnati correspondent.

Richard Tregaskis: A new biography of the legendary war correspondent

Marc Lancaster
WW II On Deadline

We're changing things up a bit today as we take a look at one of the most celebrated correspondents of World War II. Ray E. Boomhower's latest book, *Richard Tregaskis: Reporting Under Fire from Guadalcanal to Vietnam*, is now available from the University of New Mexico Press. We spoke with Ray to get his insights on one of the truly legendary journalists of the era and learn a bit about what led him to write the first biography of Tregaskis.

Ray E. Boomhower became interested in journalism as a teenager and attended Indiana University's high school journalism institute while serving as editor of his school newspaper. He went on to study journalism at IU and work on the *Indiana Daily Student* while taking numerous classes at Ernie Pyle Hall. After graduation, Boomhower worked for newspapers in Rensselaer and Anderson, Indiana before moving on to the Indiana Historical Society in 1987. He has served in a variety of roles there ever since, taking over as editor of



the society's quarterly magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* in 1999 and also working as a senior editor for the Indiana Historical Society Press.

The author of more than a dozen books, Boomhower has previously written biographies of World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle and Robert Sherrod, which served as a jumping-off point when he was looking around for his next book project back in 2017. He soon settled on Tregaskis, the war correspondent for the International News Service and later the *Saturday Evening Post* who achieved international fame with the publication of his book *Guadalcanal Diary* in January 1943.

Read more [here](#).

The AP Interview: Meng Hongwei's wife slams 'monster' China



Grace Meng, the wife of former Interpol president Meng Hongwei, poses for a photo after an interview with the Associated Press in Lyon, central France, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021. In the exclusive interview, Meng chose to show her face for the first time since her husband disappeared in China in 2018, agreeing to be filmed and photographed without the dark lighting and from-the-back camera angles that she had previously insisted on. She did so to be able to speak openly and in unprecedented detail about her husband's imprisonment, herself and the cataclysm that tore them apart. (AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

By JOHN LEICESTER

LYON, France (AP) — In China, she enjoyed the privileges that flowed from being married to a senior member of the governing elite. Her husband was a top police official in the security apparatus that keeps the Communist Party in power, so trusted that China sent him to France to take up a prestigious role at Interpol.

But Meng Hongwei, the former Interpol president, has now vanished into China's sprawling penal system, purged in a stunning fall from grace. And his wife is alone with their twin boys in France, a political refugee under round-the-clock French police protection following what she suspects was an attempt by Chinese agents to kidnap and deliver them to an uncertain fate.

From being an insider, Grace Meng has become an outsider looking in — and says she is horrified by what she sees.

So much so that she is now shedding her anonymity, potentially putting herself and her family at additional risk, to speak out against China's authoritarian government that her husband — a vice minister of public security — served before disappearing in 2018. He was later tried and imprisoned.

"The monster" is how Meng now speaks of the government he worked for. "Because they eat their children."

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Meng chose for the first time to show her face, agreeing to be filmed and photographed without the dark lighting and from-the-back camera angles that she previously insisted on, so she could speak openly and in unprecedented detail about her husband, herself and the cataclysm that tore them apart.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

Google agrees 5-year deal to pay AFP for online content: executives (AFP)

Patrice NOVOTNY, Jules BONNARD

Google and Agence France-Presse on Wednesday said they had signed a "pioneering" five-year deal under which the world's biggest internet search company will pay an undisclosed sum for content in Europe.

The agreement following 18 months of negotiations is the first by a news agency under the 2019 European directive on so-called neighbouring rights, which are at the heart of multiple disputes globally between web giants and the media over payment for use of online news and other content.

"This is an agreement that covers the whole of the EU, in all of AFP's languages, including in countries that have not enacted the directive," said AFP CEO Fabrice Fries, describing the deal as "pioneering" and the "culmination of a long struggle".

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

-0-

Journalist returns home to Detroit area after Myanmar ordeal (AP)

HUNTINGTON WOODS, Mich. (AP) — American journalist Danny Fenster, freed after nearly six months in jail in military-ruled Myanmar, said he feels “incredibly fortunate” to be back home in suburban Detroit after his uncertain time behind bars.

Fenster, 37, was greeted by family and friends Tuesday night as he returned to Huntington Woods. He was sentenced last week to 11 years of hard labor in Myanmar, but was handed over Monday to former U.S. diplomat Bill Richardson, who helped negotiate his release.

He had been in detention since his arrest at Yangon International Airport on May 24.

“I feel incredibly fortunate to be home, I can’t believe the amount of effort that went into it that was necessary to make this happen – overwhelming gratitude,” said Fenster, who returned to the U.S. earlier Tuesday on a flight that landed in New York.

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

-0-

Biden bill would give local news outlets ‘shot in the arm’ (AP)

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and TALI ARBEL

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden’s \$1.85 trillion social spending bill includes a provision that, if it becomes law, would mark the first time the federal government has offered targeted support in response to the decline of local news.

The help would come in the form of a payroll tax credit for companies that employ eligible local journalists. The measure would allow newspapers, digital news outlets and radio and television stations to claim a tax credit of \$25,000 the first year and \$15,000 the next four years for up to 1,500 journalists.

It’s a response to growing alarm that the elimination of newsroom jobs is leaving communities without access to critical information. The concern has grown since a hedge fund with a reputation of ruthless cost-cutting acquired Tribune, one of the nation’s largest newspaper chains, in May. Already, about one-fourth of the country’s newspapers have closed and half of local journalism jobs have evaporated in the past 15 years, according to research from the University of North Carolina.

That leaves about 1,800 communities with no local newspaper.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Egyptian ex-lawmaker and journalists get prison sentences (AP)

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court on Wednesday sentenced a prominent human rights lawyer to five years in prison for his conviction on charges that rights advocates have decried as baseless and politically motivated.

The Misdemeanors State Security Emergency Court in Cairo found Zyad el-Elaimy, a former lawmaker, guilty of conspiring to commit crimes with an outlawed group. That's a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, which Egypt has banned as a terrorist organization.

The court also sentenced journalists Hossam Monis and Hisham Fouad to four years in prison on the same charges. Two other defendants got three-year sentences. All were fined 500 Egyptian pounds (around \$32).

Defense lawyer Khalid Ali said Wednesday's verdict is not subject to appeal before civilian courts because it was issued by an emergency court. He said the defense would file an appeal to a military court.

The global rights watchdog Amnesty International condemned the charges against the defendants, saying they stemmed from "their peaceful political activities." It called for President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi to quash the sentences and release them.

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



Celebrating AP's 175th

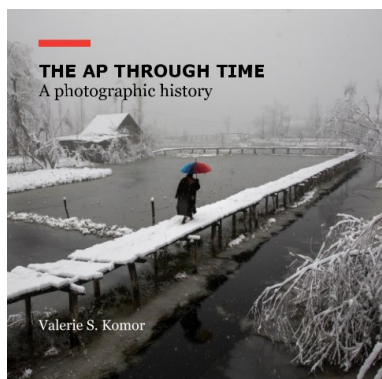
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.

Today in History - Nov. 18, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 18, the 322nd day of 2021. There are 43 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 18, 1991, Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon freed Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland, the American dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.

On this date:

In 1883, the United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones.

In 1963, the Bell System introduced the first commercial touch-tone telephone system in Carnegie and Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1966, U.S. Roman Catholic bishops did away with the rule against eating meat on Fridays outside of Lent.

In 1976, Spain's parliament approved a bill to establish a democracy after 37 years of dictatorship.

In 1978, U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide by more than 900 cult members.

In 1987, the congressional Iran-Contra committees issued their final report, saying President Ronald Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides. A fire at London King's Cross railway station claimed 31 lives.

In 1999, 12 people were killed when a bonfire under construction at Texas A-and-M University collapsed. A jury in Jasper, Texas, convicted Shawn Allen Berry of murder for his role in the dragging death of James Byrd Jr., but spared him the death penalty.

In 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled 4-to-3 that the state constitution guaranteed gay couples the right to marry.

In 2004, Former President Bill Clinton's library opened in Little Rock, Arkansas; in attendance were President George W. Bush, former President George H.W. Bush and former President Jimmy Carter. Former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry, convicted of killing four black girls in the racially motivated bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama, church in 1963, died in prison at age 74.

In 2005, eight months after Robert Blake was acquitted at a criminal trial of murdering his wife, a civil jury decided the actor was behind the slaying and ordered him to pay Bonny Lee Bakley's children \$30 million.

In 2009, two days before turning 92, Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., set a record for longest-serving lawmaker in congressional history at 56 years, 320 days. (That record was broken in 2013 by U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich.)

In 2013, Toronto's city council voted to strip scandal-plagued Mayor Rob Ford of many of his powers following a heated debate in which he knocked over a city councilor.

Ten years ago: In an incident that prompted national outrage, campus police at the University of California, Davis used pepper spray on nonviolent Occupy protesters. (The school later agreed to pay \$1 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the demonstrators.) Self-help author James Arthur Ray was sentenced to two years in prison for leading an Arizona sweat lodge ceremony that was supposed to offer spiritual enlightenment but instead resulted in three deaths.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump signaled a sharp policy shift to the right by picking Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general, Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo to head the CIA and Michael Flynn as his national security adviser.

One year ago: President Donald Trump filed for a recount of Wisconsin's two largest Democratic counties, paying the required \$3 million cost and alleging that they were the sites of the "worst irregularities" although no evidence of illegal activity had been presented. (The recounts resulted in a slightly larger lead for Democrat Joe Biden.) House Democrats nominated Nancy Pelosi to be the speaker who would guide them in the new Congress with Joe Biden in the White House. Pfizer said new test results showed its coronavirus vaccine was safe and 95% effective, and that it protected older people most at risk of dying. The Federal Aviation Administration cleared Boeing's 737 Max for flight; regulators around the world had grounded the Max in March 2019 after a pair of deadly crashes. The Minnesota Timberwolves selected Georgia freshman guard Anthony Edwards with the No. 1 pick in the delayed NBA draft.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Brenda Vaccaro is 82. Author-poet Margaret Atwood is 82. Actor Linda Evans is 79. Actor Susan Sullivan is 79. Country singer Jacky Ward is 75. Actor Jameson Parker is 74. Actor-singer Andrea Marcovacci is 73. Rock musician Herman Rarebell is 72. Singer Graham Parker is 71. Actor Delroy Lindo is 69. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 68. Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon is 65. Actor Oscar Nunez is 63. Actor Elizabeth Perkins is 61. Singer Kim Wilde is 61. Actor Tim Guinee is 59. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 59. Rock singer Tim DeLaughter (dee-LAW'-ter) is 56. Actor Romany Malco is 53. Actor Owen Wilson is 53. Actor Dan Bakkedahl is 53. Singer Duncan Sheik is 52. Actor Mike Epps is 51. Actor Peta Wilson is 51. Actor Chloe Sevigny (SEH'-ven-ee) is 47. Country singer Jessi

Alexander is 45. Actor Steven Pasquale is 45. Rock musician Alberto Bof (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 44. Rapper Fabolous is 44. Actor-director Nate Parker is 42. Rapper Mike Jones is 41. Actor Mekia Cox is 40. Actor-comedian Nasim Pedrad (nah-SEEM' peh-DRAHD') is 40. Actor Allison Tolman is 40. Actor Christina Vidal is 40. Actor Damon Wayans Jr. is 39. Country singer TJ Osborne (Brothers Osborne) is 37. U.S. Olympic track star Allyson Felix is 36. Fashion designer Christian Siriano is 36. Actor Nathan Kress 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

