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**Connecting**  
December 22, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Dec. 22, 2021,

We extend congratulations to our colleague **Anna Johnson**, who on Tuesday was named Washington chief of bureau for The Associated Press.

Executive Editor **Julie Pace** and Head of Global News Gathering **Paul Haven** announced that Johnson, AP news director for Europe and Africa, was selected to head AP operations in the nation's capital. We lead with their announcement.

**Got a Christmas story to share?** Do so today as Connecting will go on break for a few days after Thursday morning's issue.

**Got a New Year's Resolution to share?** Send it along this week and it will be published next week.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Anna Johnson named Washington bureau chief



### [Memo to AP staff](#) from Executive Editor Julie Pace and Head of Global News Gathering Paul Haven:

We are thrilled to announce that Anna Johnson, one of AP's most dynamic and experienced news leaders, will be our next Washington bureau chief, putting her at the helm of AP's coverage of U.S. elections and politics, and America's foreign and domestic policy at a crucial moment for the U.S. and the world.

Anna brings to this important new role an impressive depth of experience leading news coverage across formats, both in the U.S. and internationally. She most recently served as AP's news director for Europe and Africa, overseeing coverage of Brexit and UK elections, migration from Africa and the Middle East to Europe, the war in Ethiopia, and Russia's fractured relationship with the West. Anna has also led our international coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, an expansive, two years and counting effort that has resulted in some of the best AP journalism from across the globe, including rich character-driven stories, stunning visuals and deep reporting on the inequalities the virus has exposed around the world.

Anna began her AP career in 2004 as a newsperson in Chicago, then transferred to Cairo, where she reported and edited stories from across the Middle East. She returned to the U.S. in 2009 to take a leadership post in the Central region and then moved to Phoenix, where she spent two years as U.S. West regional news director. In both of those roles, she was instrumental in elections coverage and coordination between the U.S. regions and Washington. She moved to London to lead Europe and Africa coverage in 2019.

Anna will relocate from London to Washington and will start her new position on Feb. 1. Washington deputies Mike Tackett and Jack Aresto will continue to lead the WDC bureau until then. We are grateful for their leadership during this transition period.

We'll soon start the search for Anna's successor in Europe and Africa. Until then, Deputy News Director James Jordan will lead Europe and Deputy News Director Andy Drake will lead Africa coverage, and we thank them for taking on those interim assignments.

Please join us in congratulating Anna!

(Shared by Jon Gambrell.)

## AP Washington bureau chiefs

**Lawrence Gobright - 1855-79**

**Walter Phillips - 1879-1882**

**David McKee - 1882-1892**

**Charles Boynton - 1892-1908**

**Edwin Hood 1908-1909**

**John Palmer Gavit - 1909-1911**

**Jackson Elliott - 1911-1912, 1915-1918**

**Charles Thompson - 1912-15**

**Lionel Probert - 1918-1927**

**Byron Price - 1927-1937**

**Milo Thompson - 1937-1939**

**Brian Bell - 1939-1942**

**Paul Miller - 1942-1947**

**Pat Morin - 1947-1949**

**William Beale - 1949-1969**

**Marv Arrowsmith - 1969-1977**

**Walter Mears - 1977-1983**

**Chuck Lewis - 1984-1989**

**Jon Wolman - 1989-1998**

**Sandy Johnson - 1998-2008**

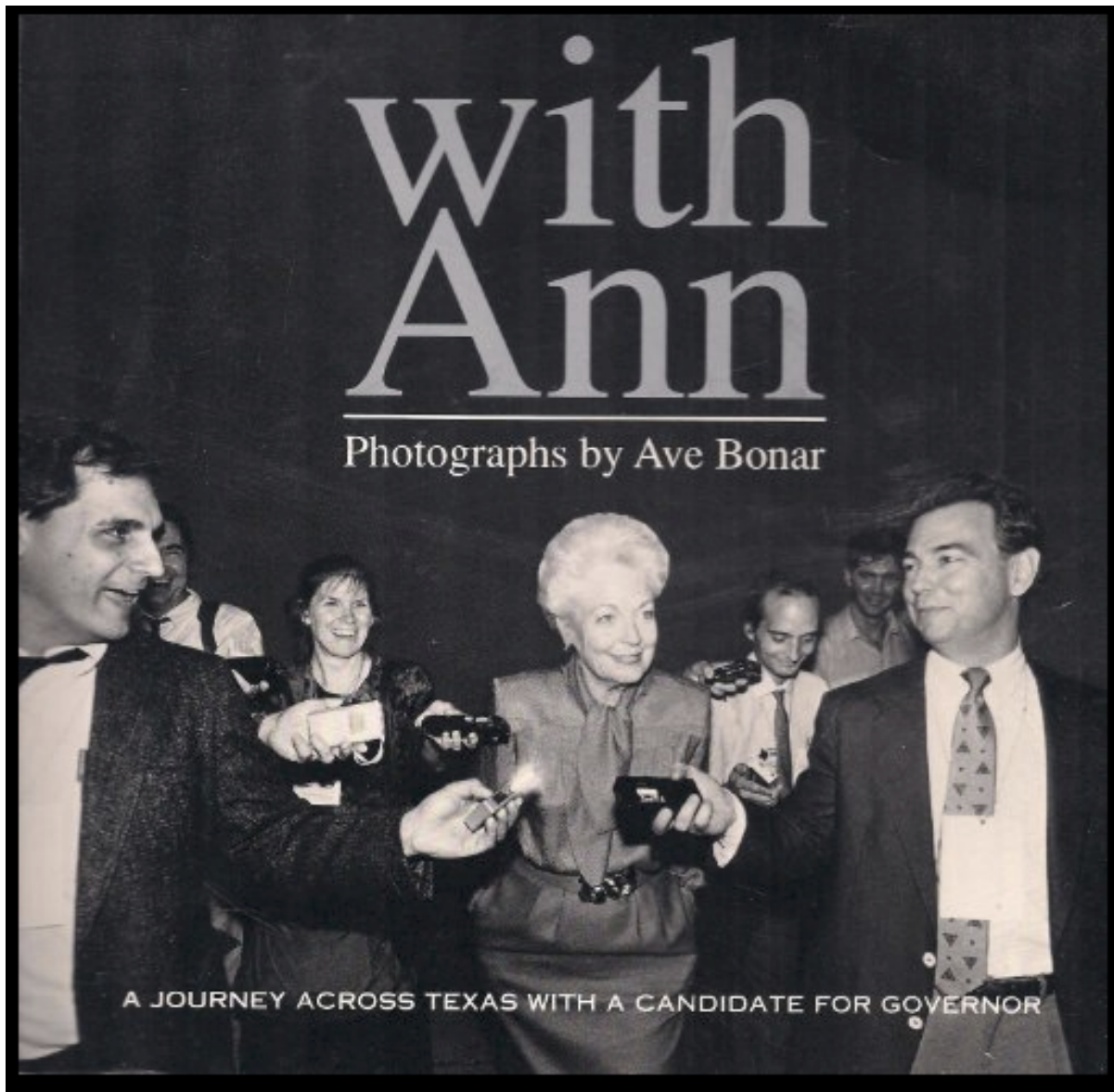
**Ron Fournier - 2008-2010**

**Sally Buzbee, 2010-2017**

**Julie Pace, 2017-2021**

**Anna Johnson, 2021-**

## Remembering Wayne Slater



Wayne Slater and Ken Herman (left) wound up on the cover of Ave Bonar's wonderful book about the Richards 1990 campaign. Herman first got to know Slater when Slater arrived at Dallas Morning News Austin Bureau and he was with the AP Austin bureau until 1988 when he became Austin Bureau Chief for The Houston Post.

**Ken Herman (Email)** - Wayne and I, along with others in what was a very competitive though very collegial Texas press corps, spent many hours on too many campaign trips to remember. I was the Houston Post's Austin Bureau Chief and later with the Austin American-Statesman in an era of high-stakes coverage in a time that included George W. Bush and Ann Richards and countless lesser lights, all of whom thought they were God's gift to the Lone Star State.

Wayne's reporting often showed otherwise. He was a great reporter and a great writer, as well as a great friend to spend so much time with on campaign trails, conventions and the Texas Capitol.

Because we were covering Texas politics and its crop of outsized practitioners, we laughed. A lot. Sometimes at our own foibles, but more often, and sometimes with respect, at those we covered and got to know so well.

He remains a model for the best way to do to the challenging job of objective journalism, a discipline I fear is in diminishing supply these days.

RIP, friend.

## A Christmas story from 1979



**Andrew Selsky (Email)** - I had just turned 24 and was teaching English in Madrid to business executives. Another teacher and friend, Phil Budinger, and I decided to go to Morocco and hitchhike around. Not the best of ideas, right? (The trip wasn't good, though later I hitchhiked around the Algarve, in Portugal, and had a really good time.)

Phil and I took the train to Algeciras and then a ferry to Tangier. From there we stuck out our thumbs, with no destination in mind. We just wanted to roam, and not go to the regular tourist sites.

We wound up in Ksar el-Kebir, some town in the interior. People followed us around, offering to sell us many products, some of them illicit. It was unpleasant. We could not shed them and walk on our own. It was Christmas Eve. We sought shelter from the pestering people in the bus station, and then took an overnight bus to Casablanca. It was crowded. During the night, a suitcase fell on Phil's head from the overhead luggage rack.

We arrived in Casablanca at dawn. A cold wind whipped trash around empty streets. Someone was sitting on the curb, head down between his knees. We didn't know where to go. It was too early to check into a fleabag hotel.

Eventually a truck came by and someone aboard threw a bound stack of newspapers at the feet of the person on the curb. He lifted his head and we saw his face for the first time. It was not a bum but a boy of around 15 -- a paperboy awaiting his newspaper delivery.

He insisted we come to his apartment to rest, inviting two strangers into his home. He introduced us to his parents who showed us to a room where we could sleep. I drifted off while listening to the family speak to each other in Arabic, the unfamiliar dialect sounding soothing and reminding me that I was in a completely different place from ones I was used to.

After a few hours, we woke up, refreshed, thanked the boy and his family - and probably left some money - and ventured into Casablanca, which also had woken up. It was Christmas day.

Thank you, young man. Your kindness was amazing. I realize that now more than ever, this event pulled from dim memory, as we approach Christmas again.

-0-

## On assignment as Santa himself

**Paul Stevens (Email)** – Ye Olde Connecting Editor once again shares his experience as Santa Claus from Christmas 1978 when he was AP's Wichita correspondent and agreed to play the role for a Breakfast with Santa program sponsored by his wife Linda's sorority group, Beta Sigma Phi. He has no idea what became of the two little girls who shared their Christmas gift wishes (they'd be around 50 years old now), but he does know that the little girl watching him swig a Coke afterward is his daughter **Molly** who today is in her 22<sup>nd</sup> year as an elementary school teacher. And the guy behind the camera for both photos? It is then-AP Kansas City photographer **John Paul Filo (Email)** – he of Kent State Pulitzer fame – who is sort of retired from CBS News but continues to work as a photographer for the CBS series, Blue Bloods.



**CHRISTMAS MAGIC** — Two little girls share their secrets and Christmas wishes with Santa Claus during a recent charity event in Wichita. The man behind the beard is Associated Press writer Paul Stevens, who wrote about his experience. (A.P. Wirephoto).

# And What Do You Want for Christmas?

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Associated Press Writer Paul Stevens spent a day as Santa Claus for a charity event. This is his report on the experience and what the kids told him they wanted for Christmas.

By **PAUL STEVENS**  
Associated Press Writer  
HARD ROCK Lanes now open. 1612 E. Laurel. 275-4061.  
—Adv.

**Dr. M. D. Niedens**  
Chiropractic Office  
811 Main Garden City  
Hours  
8:30-5:30  
Thurs.-Sat 8:30-12

**WICHITA, Kan. (AP)** — Dolls that wet, develop diaper rash and walk in circles topped the Christmas lists of dozens of wide-eyed girls who climbed onto my lap. But not little Marcie's.

The 6-year-old, freckle-faced brunette knew exactly what her doll should — or should not — do when I asked her, "What do you want from Santa for Christmas?"

"Santa," she replied, looking earnestly into my eyes, "I want a doll that doesn't pee."

In my first experience at donning the white beard, red suit and hearty "Ho, Ho, Ho" of Santa Claus, I was treated

to a number of revelations by the 250 Wichita-area youngsters who whispered their yuletide desires:

—Most children aren't bashful about meeting Santa Claus.

—Such time-honored gifts as dolls and toy trucks have retained their popularity in spite of the advertising blitz for electronic games and the space mania.

—And when a 4-year-old declares that "I have to go potty," you move him along — quickly.

There were some who balked at the thought of nestling up to my big round

belly, but then there were others like 9-year-old Jason who thought nothing of it.

I asked him the magic words, "What do you want for Christmas?" A frown wrinkled his forehead for a moment, then he replied, "Gosh, there's so many things to choose from, I don't know where to start." And for the next five minutes he didn't know where to stop.

A little doll that wets and develops a diaper rash that disappears when a lotion is applied was the most popular item among the doll set.

With the boys, the hottest

items were trucks, trains and toy guns.

Interest in "Star Wars" memorabilia seems to be diminishing. And "Battlestar Galactica" hasn't caught the kids' buying fancy, maybe — if the few who mentioned it are indicative — because it's too hard for the 5-year-old tongue to pronounce.

Santa's reindeer still intrigue the younger minds. "How's your reindeer?" asked brown-eyed Julie.

Another little girl was fascinated to learn who shines Rudolph's nose. "Santa has a special elf who handles that,"

I told her with a reasonably straight face.

Three hours in the hot disguise did impart some cherished rewards.

"Daddy, take another picture. I'm going to give him a big kiss," was the memorable exclamation of 7-year-old Marsha. My own 20-month-old Molly climbed on my lap and squealed, "Daddy, Daddy," while kids in line frowned in confusion.

And when I asked blonde-haired Jennifer what she wanted for Christmas, she pointed to me and declared, "You!"





# Karl Ritter named Northern Europe news director

In a memo to staff, AP Europe and Africa News Director Anna Johnson announced that Karl Ritter is now AP's Northern Europe news director:

I am excited to announce that Karl Ritter is the AP's new Northern Europe news director. For the past five years, Karl has been the AP's news director for Southern Europe and will be heading up north in early 2022 to start his new role.

Karl is a talented all-formats news leader and journalist who has helped lead our coverage of many top stories from his current base in Rome, including the pandemic, which devastated Italy and Spain in the spring of 2020, and the Vatican and Pope Francis. Earlier this year, Karl and video journalist Renata Brito launched the AP's new migration beat team, helping to coordinate coverage across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The team has already produced tremendous work including impressive Only on AP and visually compelling spot news and enterprise that has held governments accountable and put people and their stories at the center of the coverage. Karl also has played significant roles in the AP's climate coverage over the past several years, including at the most recent COP26 summit in Glasgow.

In addition to his news skills, Karl is a supportive and caring leader who has an amazing ability to remain calm under pressure and consistently advocates for his team and the stories and coverage that matter to them.

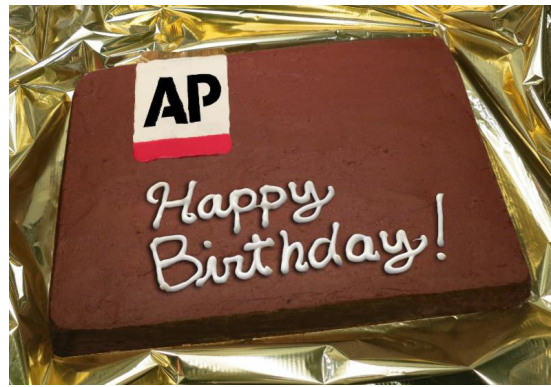
Before Rome, Karl was based in Stockholm where he was AP's bureau chief for the Nordics and Baltics. He started his career in 2001 at the AP as a reporter in Stockholm and also spent some time in London as an editor on the Europe desk.

I am thrilled Karl is re-joining our fantastic Northern Europe team, though I know he also will be missed by our fabulous team in Southern Europe.

Please join me in congratulating Karl!



## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Beth Grace

Tom Throne

## Stories of interest

### *Fauci says Fox's Watters should be fired for comments on him* (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News defended Jesse Watters on Tuesday after he used the phrase “kill shot” in a speech urging young conservatives to confront Dr. Anthony Fauci in public with a hostile interview.

Fauci, asked about it on CNN, said that Watters should be fired “on the spot” but predicted he wouldn’t be held accountable for his language.

Fox said Watters’ words had been “twisted completely out of context.”

Watters, a host on Fox News Channel’s panel show “The Five” who made his initial mark doing aggressive interviews for Bill O’Reilly, spoke Monday to a group of college and high school conservatives. His audience booed at the mention of Fauci’s name.

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the government’s most visible spokesman on the COVID-19 pandemic, has been the subject of frequent criticism by some Fox News commentators who have been seeking to appeal to audience members resistant to vaccinations.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Law prof suggests rewrites of First and Second Amendments that do not mention free press or bearing arms*** (Fox News)

By STEPHEN SORACE

A professor at the University of Miami School of Law has penned a proposal for a "redo" of the First and Second Amendments in a Boston Globe op-ed.

Mary Anne Franks, the Michael R. Klein Distinguished Scholar Chair at the university, wrote that the first two amendments, which include the rights to free speech, religion and bearing arms, "inspire religious-like fervor in many Americans" and that both are "deeply flawed in their respective conceptualizations."

"These two amendments are highly susceptible to being read in isolation from the Constitution as a whole and from its commitments to equality and the collective good," Franks wrote.

The professor claims that the two amendments "tend to be interpreted in aggressively individualistic ways that ignore the reality of conflict among competing rights."

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



## **Celebrating AP's 175th**

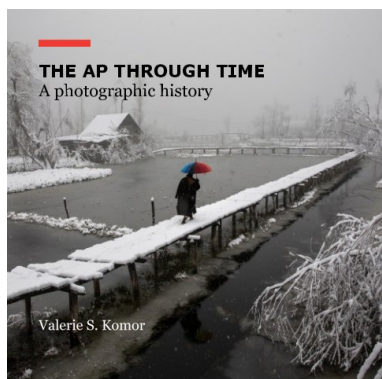
**AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise**



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 - Dec. 22, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2021. There are nine days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 2010, President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

### On this date:

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1937, the first center tube of the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River was opened to traffic. (The second tube opened in 1945, the third in 1957.)

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz (bur-NAHRD' gehts) shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising.

In 1990, Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) took the oath of office as Poland's first popularly elected president.

In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage slain by his terrorist captors, was recovered after it had been dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

In 1992, a Libyan Boeing 727 jetliner crashed after a midair collision with a MiG fighter, killing all 157 aboard the jetliner, and both crew members of the fighter jet.

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

In 2003, a federal judge ruled the Pentagon couldn't enforce mandatory anthrax vaccinations for military personnel.

In 2008, five Muslim immigrants accused of scheming to massacre U.S. soldiers at Fort Dix were convicted of conspiracy in Camden, New Jersey. (Four were later sentenced to life in prison; one received a 33-year sentence.)

Ten years ago: A wave of 16 bombings ripped across Baghdad, killing at least 69 people in the worst violence in Iraq in months days after the last American forces left the country, heightening fears of a new round of sectarian bloodshed.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump named close adviser Kellyanne Conway as his White House counselor and former Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer as press secretary. The Syrian government took full control of the city of Aleppo for the first time in four years after the last opposition fighters and civilians were bused out of war-ravaged eastern districts, ending a brutal chapter in Syria's civil war.

One year ago: President Donald Trump unexpectedly released two videos, one falsely declaring that he had won the election in a "landslide," and the other urging lawmakers to increase direct payments for most individuals to \$2,000 in a COVID relief package, a move opposed by most Republicans. The coronavirus pandemic reached every continent on Earth, as Chile announced that 58 people who were at military bases in Antarctica or on a navy ship that went to the continent had tested positive. President Donald Trump pardoned four former government contractors who were convicted in a 2007 massacre in Baghdad that left more than a dozen Iraqi civilians dead; others pardoned included former Republican Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and Chris Collins of New York. California Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Secretary of State Alex Padilla to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris; Padilla became California's first Latino senator.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Hector Elizondo is 85. Country singer Red Steagall is 83. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 78. Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton is 77. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 76. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 73. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 73. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 73. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 70. Actor BernNadette Stanis is 68. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 61. Actor Ralph Fiennes (rayf fynz) is 59. Actor Lauralee Bell is 53. Country singer Lori McKenna is 53. Actor Dina Meyer is 53. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is 51. Actor Heather Donahue is 48. Actor Chris Carmack is

41. Actor Harry Ford is 39. Actor Greg Finley is 37. Actor Logan Huffman is 32. R&B singer Jordin Sparks is 32. Pop singer Meghan Trainor 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**  
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