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Connecting

January 17, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this January 17, 2022,

Today is Martin Luther King Jr. Day – and we bring you a remembrance from one of our colleagues who covered him closely during the Civil Rights Movement, retired photojournalist **Gene Herrick**.

We include two of the most famous photos Herrick took from that time – one of Rosa Parks being fingerprinted in Montgomery, Ala., after refusing to give up her seat on a bus for a white passenger on Dec. 1, 1955., and a photo of King welcomed with a kiss by his wife Coretta after leaving court in Montgomery, Ala., on March 22, 1956.

The AP has welcomed a new director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She is **Wendy Williams** who will design, develop and implement Diversity and Inclusion strategies, programs and initiatives across the AP. She will also lead the effort to integrate Diversity and Inclusion into AP's business strategy. We bring you the announcement. Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Times Have Changed



AP Photos/Gene Herrick

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Father Time never stops his march through history – some things are remembered, some things just seem to fade.

For years and years in this country, Black people who were forcibly brought to this country and sold as slaves have suffered tremendous personal indignities. It wasn't until the 1960s that those human slaves attained even an iota of freedom and a smidgen of recognition as human beings.

Why then? There were, in 1955, and 1956, four events that led to a worldwide discussion and debate over Black people in this country. Remember, these people were not called Black.

What were they? First, in 1955, was the Emmitt Till slaughter and trial in Money, Mississippi.

He was a 14-year-old Black teenager from Chicago, who visited relatives, supposedly made some unacceptable remarks to two white southern women, and then slaughtered by white people. Only two white men, husbands of the two women who claim to have been insulted, were arrested, and tried in the case. However, to the surprise of no one, the two were found innocent.

Next came the discharge of Autherine Lucy, a Black student from the University of Alabama. In 1956.

A Black woman, Rose Parks, in early 1956, was arrested, and charged for being in the wrong place on a Montgomery, Alabama, public bus. I was the one who took the now-famous picture of her being fingerprinted.



Finally, also in early 1956, a young black preacher from Atlanta took over the pastorship of the Dexter, Avenue Baptist Church, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Put all of this together, and one has the beginning of the national Civil Rights Movement, which was led by the great orator Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose voice was powerful, and demanding. I took the picture of King being kissed on the cheek by his wife after being released from jail.

King turned out to not only be an orator, but one who created many powerful phrases, and used words like they were intelligent tools.

King became known worldwide. His speeches stirred the souls – and guilt – of most of his listeners. However, King knew – felt – there was a threat. Not everyone loved him.

His last speech, "I Have a Dream," given in Memphis, on the evening of April 3, 1968, was not only his last speech, but the last minutes of his life.

During the speech, King said, "Then I got into Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers?"

"Well, I don't know what will happen now, because I've been to the mountain top."

"And I don't mind."

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that - I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised land!

"And so I'm happy, tonight.

"I'm not worried about anything."

"I'm not fearing any man!

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!!" he said in closing.

However, the dreams of Dr. Rev. King ended the next day. His "Dreams" were instantly brought to the end by a single bullet to his head. His dreams, which he had instilled, and excited many people in this country, both Black and white, came to an instant end. He probably didn't know that his assassin was just yards away, and leaning his elbows on an old wooden windowsill, and standing in an ancient bathtub, and aiming an old rifle.

The next morning, I also stood in that bathtub, and leaned my elbows on that windowsill, and stared up that alleyway to the landing of the Loraine Motel, just a few yards away.

It was a very strange emotion for me. I still remember the experience.

The scene was in an old flophouse on Main Street in Memphis.

Thus, the end of the great orator, and the man who had a dream.

King's dream, from then until now, has been fading. His enemies won a battle. The public who got into the parade for justice, have been dwindling over the years. His leadership team that survived, were also afraid, and thus, could not carry the torch for their leader.

The Black people, all of these years later, are still looking for the life-line. However, if the white people have opened their minds and looked at today's events, they will find more black people working in leadership roles.

Dr. King may be dead, but his messages have lived on in a more quiet manner, He might even be smiling.

Wendy Williams named AP's Global Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Senior Vice President Jessica Bruce, in an announcement last week to AP Staff:

I am so pleased to announce that Wendy Williams has joined the AP as Global Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

In this important role, Wendy will design, develop and implement Diversity and Inclusion strategies, programs and initiatives across the AP. She will also lead the effort to integrate Diversity and Inclusion into AP's business strategy. Wendy will report to me and will be based in New York.

Wendy joins AP from the MTA Bus Company where she was senior manager of social media and talent branding. There, she developed strategies to meet hiring needs and promote employment opportunities with a focus on attracting diverse talent.

Prior to the MTA, Wendy spent more than two decades at JPMorgan Chase where she provided coaching and guidance on compliance, performance management, hiring, training and retention.

Importantly, Wendy is a champion of diversity, equity and inclusion and is an advocate of growth opportunities for all employees.

Please join me in welcoming Wendy to the AP.

Five questions for Wendy Williams

AP Connections

In this Q&A, get to know Wendy Williams, who last week joined the AP as global director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

What do you hope to achieve in your first year as global director of diversity, equity and inclusion?

During my first year as global director of diversity, equity and inclusion I will design, develop, and implement DEI strategies, programs, and initiatives, focusing on our



culture, training, recruitment and employee engagement.

What have your experiences in your career taught you about the importance of inclusion?

I have so many stories and lessons learned about inclusion. I facilitated classes at JPMorgan for over 10 years and learned the importance and value of incorporating various learning styles (visual, auditory and kinesthetic) during my classes. Doing so leveled the playing field and set everyone up for success.

Diversity is being invited to the party, inclusion is being asked to dance, and belonging is being asked for your input about the playlist.

What drives you in terms of your role as a leader of equity and inclusion?

I enjoy speaking with people, lifelong learning, and I am a champion of diversity, equity and inclusion. I believe that together we can make this world a better place when we open our hearts and minds to see that the beauty in our differences is truly remarkable. I see people and meet them where they are because everyone should have a voice, and equal access to the essentials of life, the pursuit of happiness, and equal opportunities to pursue and achieve their dreams.

What excites you most about joining the AP?

I am excited and so happy to be a part of the AP family because of the stellar, dedicated, committed and talented workforce. I am also very proud of our standards, ethics, dedication and commitment to advancing the power of facts around the world.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I enjoy traveling, spending time with my family, reading for enjoyment and personal development, and laughing – because it's good for the heart.

After 48 years, nine months, Marty Crutsinger bids farewell to AP

Marty Crutsinger ([Email](#)) - My last day with the AP after 48 years and nine months started off with a bang when the Friday edition of Morning Money, a Politico newsletter rolled into my inbox at 8 a.m. My colleague Chris Rugaber had tipped the editor, Kate Davidson, to the fact I was retiring from the AP. She wrote up a very nice announcement of my pending departure.



It read: *Martin Crutsinger, who covers the U.S. economy and Fed for the Associated Press, is retiring after nearly 50 years. Marty joined the AP in 1973 when Richard Nixon was president, and covered five Fed chairs — Paul Volcker, Alan Greenspan, Ben Bernanke, Janet Yellen and Powell. He also covered economic indicators for 29 years and never missed a lockup, his colleague Chris Rugaber tells MM. (Here's Marty in his own words in [this fantastic video](#).) Today is his last day. Congrats, Marty!*

Since Morning Money is must-reading for people who work and cover the financial services industry, her story triggered a flood of emails from folks I have known for years, since I started in the Treasury press room in 1984. I was on my third Treasury press room when they shut us down in 2020 because of the pandemic. (My wife Christine took the above photo of me at my card-table desk, where I've worked for the past 22 months.)

Reading the best wishes was a fun way to start my last day. The day kept getting better after I sent out a thank you note to my colleagues in Business News and the Washington Bureau. I got to spend the rest of the day reading their good wishes including a very nice note from executive editor Julie Pace.

Of course, the news doesn't stop so I did my final AP story, the monthly industrial production report from the Federal Reserve, which was edited with his usual care by Charles Sheehan. Sheehan along with Dorothea Degan and Richard Jacobsen (Jake) have been catching my mistakes and polishing my copy for the 14 years I have been in Business News.

I also forwarded a few emails to my successor at Treasury, Fatima Hussein, to make sure AP stays in the loop even though I am leaving. Fatima is going to be a terrific replacement.

Luckily, the rest of my day was not too busy, especially since I had an appointment with my eye doctor in the afternoon. He delivered the unwelcome news that I will need cataract surgery soon. This getting older is something else.

But at least now, I have the promise of seeing better. Those numbers in the government reports I handle kept getting smaller and smaller. In addition to the surgery, I will be spending a lot of time playing with the world's most adorable granddaughter, 17-month-old Lydia.

Remembering Mike Cochran

Denne Freeman ([Email](#)) - For more than a half-century I knew and worked sports event alongside Mike Cochran.

Cotton Bowls, golf tournaments and Southwest Conference games, Dallas Cowboys, and an occasional plane crash were on our menu. Mike could write and added some colorful stories to go along with my leads as Texas Sports Editor.

Sometimes at Cotton Bowl games I would try to hurry him, reminding that we had deadlines every minute. With a gleam in his eye he would say "hold on den-den this

one is going to be really good.” It was and swept the play!

He knew everyone and entertained them with story after story. Name the subject and he gave his colorful spin on it. He had a wry smile like he knew something you didn't know.

Mike always told me that he helped Bob Johnson to make the decision to hire me when I defected from UPI in the late 60s. Said he didn't want to compete against a friend and competitor.

Everyone admired the stories he told and the books he wrote. I did too and particularly the one about anhydrous ammonia swindler Billie Sol Estes.

I think his greatest accomplishment was his wife Sondra, who was a first-round pick and one of the nicest persons you will meet.

I will always think about the good times having a cold one with the legend of West Texas who spilled coffee over my notes before a Cotton Bowl game and quipped “we didn't need them anyway.”

I'll end my stories there although I have many more but I've discovered Mike was an Okie from Muskogee and not Stamford. The fun we could have had with that one.

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Stamford High grad, famed Texas journalist Mike Cochran, 85, was a character, too

Greg Jaklewicz
Abilene Reporter-News

Some giants have come out of Jones County, particularly Stamford.

Charles Coody. Bob Harrison. Current Pittsburgh Steelers receiver James Washington.

Retired longtime U.S. Congressman Charlie Stenholm.

Legendary high school coach Gordon Wood, who led the Bulldogs to back-to-back state football titles in the 1950s.

And Mike Cochran.

Read more [here](#).

Drowned out

Jim Carlson (Email) - I just got a reminder of how our public policy discussions can get sidetracked so easily these days.

When I heard some TV commentary about Justice Neal Gorsuch failing to wear a mask during Supreme Court arguments, I did some Googling about it. I found that Washington Post deputy editorial page editor Ruth Marcus had done a column critical of Gorsuch's decision to forgo masking even as everyone else in the room (lawyers, reporters) must mask up to prevent Covid spread. Two justices with extra vulnerability to the virus chose to take part virtually after Gorsuch went maskless.

I thought the column raised well-reasoned issues, but when I checked for various coverage I saw how the story was being taken over.

A search for "Gorsuch no mask Washington Post" revealed headlines that slammed the column's author with the belittling label as a "Covid Karen." A number of outlets relayed the initial item on their pages.

So anyone relying on these sources got the twisted version and likely became that much less likely to look at the matter objectively -- or to consider whether a Supreme Court justice should show more respect for his peers.

Thanks for WORDLE

Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) – Surely I'm not the only one thanking Cliff Schiappa for his fun tip about WORDLE in Friday's Connecting. Simple yet deliciously satisfying, and yes, I just had to begin one morning with BACON. The game's best feature? The once-a-day limit, which meant I actually got some other stuff done this weekend.

Best of the Week

'You had me at AP': Sweeping coverage of Jan. 6 anniversary showcases AP's depth and range



In Scotty we trust. At left, police hold guns on protesters trying to break into the chamber of the House of Representatives at the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 6, 2021. At right, AP photographer Scott Applewhite keeps his camera trained on the scene from the chamber's press gallery. AP PHOTOS / J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE (LEFT); ANDREW HARNIK

From a coffeehouse in rural Virginia to the marbled halls of Congress, the AP's first-anniversary coverage of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol stood out for its depth and powerful presentation, with exclusive content across text, photos and video, including an AP interview with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Washington writer Cal Woodward took readers to a tightly knit town in Virginia, where illustrating the nation's polarization has become as easy as a walk down the street. The assignment also demonstrated AP's trusted reputation when both Trump and Biden supporters quickly agreed to speak with Cal. "You had me at AP," said one strong Trump supporter, instantly warming to Woodward's interview request.

Michael Biesecker, national investigative reporter, delivered a deeply reported profile of protester Ashli Babbitt that was No. 1 on apnews.com and had several million impressions on Twitter, while congressional reporter Mary Clare Jalonick used her years of source development to deliver a mobile-friendly account of Jan. 6 from the perspective of 10 House Democrats.

Showcasing the AP's national reach and range, a story by Kansas-based reporter Heather Hollingsworth explained that teachers may approach instruction about the event differently depending on whether they're in a red or blue state, and a piece by arts and entertainment writer Jake Coyle explained how memories can evolve — and why some recall the riot as a peaceful protest. Reporter David Klepper examined how various conspiracy theories have warped many people's views of Jan. 6. The reporting was reinforced by an AP Poll that showed four in 10 Republicans do not consider the day particularly violent.

Read more [here](#).

The loss of the Sullivan brothers



Joe, Frank, Al, Matt and George Sullivan, left to right, board the USS Juneau on Feb. 14, 1942 (National Archives)

Marc Lancaster World War II on Deadline

At least a week before three Navy officers showed up at their front door in Waterloo, Iowa, Alleta and Thomas Sullivan had a feeling something horrible had happened.

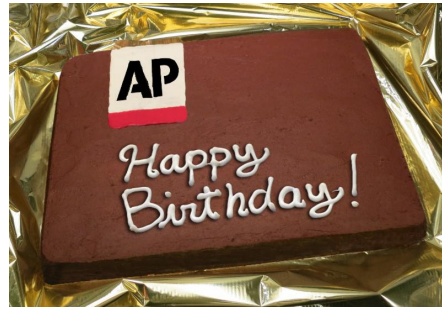
As the calendar turned to 1943, they continued to hope each day for a letter from one of their boys serving in the Pacific. The last had been dated Nov. 8, 1942. Of course, who even knew how any mail made its way across the ocean during wartime, so there could be any number of reasons for the delay.

On Jan. 5, though, came a foreboding sign. A fellow Navy mother told Alleta she had received a letter from her son that mentioned in passing, "Wasn't it too bad about the Sullivan boys?"

A week later, Alleta and her husband received the unimaginable news: All five of their sons were officially missing in action after their ship, the USS Juneau, had been sunk near the Solomon Islands nearly two months earlier.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Salter

Stories of interest

GUEST COLUMN: Carrying on Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy (The Courier)



Martin Luther King, Jr. and his civil rights marchers cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., on March 21, 1965, heading for capitol, Montgomery, during a five day, 50 mile walk to protest voting laws. AP FILE PHOTO

MICHAEL BLACKWELL

After finishing his residency requirements for his doctoral degree in systematic theology at Boston University, Martin Luther King Jr., along with his wife, Coretta, had to decide where they would begin their careers. She had finished her studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. He had been offered jobs to teach at a few elite universities, but looked forward to pursuing a pastorate at a Baptist church instead. They discussed where to relocate for their ministerial vocation: Coretta did not wish to return to the South; however, Martin wanted to find their first home together somewhere below the Mason-Dixon line. He won out, and he accepted the call to become senior pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

King considered himself to be “just a country preacher,” despite his superlative academic achievements and proven oratorical skills. Needless to say, the members of Dexter, a distinguished congregation in the city, were elated to have someone fill their pulpit who was well educated at a prestigious university in the North. In spite of the challenges of racial segregation in the city of Montgomery as opposed to the less stringent racial policies and insensitivities in the Boston collegiate environment, Martin believed he could serve his parishioners well both spiritually and socio-culturally.

He and Coretta arrived in Montgomery shortly after the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, which ruled the 1896 “separate, but equal” decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson* unconstitutional. Then, on Aug. 28, 1955, a young teenager from Chicago, Emmett Till, who was visiting his cousins in Money, Mississippi, was brutally murdered for allegedly flirting with a store clerk who happened to be a white woman. This tragic homicide motivated by racial bigotry became national news as Till’s mother, Mamie, ensured that the disfigurement of her son was depicted around the world.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Daryl Beall.

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How NPR’s Steve Inskeep cracked the code for interviewing Trump (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

How can journalists interview Donald Trump — or other politicians who consistently spread misinformation — without magnifying their lies? It’s been a challenge, and a problem, for years.

One answer arrived Wednesday when NPR aired its long-sought chat with the former president, conducted a day earlier by Steve Inskeep, a host of “Morning Edition.” The interview has drawn plenty of attention, because Trump abruptly ended the call after nine minutes, cutting short what was planned as a 15-minute chat.

“So Steve, thank you very much,” Trump said, mid-conversation and without warning, after attempting to deflect or ignore some of Inskeep’s questions. “I appreciate it.”

With that, he hung up.

But to me, the interview was less notable for its sudden ending than for what it accomplished. Although noncombative in tone, it still managed to give listeners an accurate picture of the subject matter: Trump's insistence on promoting an evidence-free and thoroughly debunked argument that the 2020 election was rigged and that he should have been granted a second term as the rightful winner.

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

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These mass shooting survivors were called journalism heroes. Then the buyouts came. (Washington Post)

By Emily Davies and Elahe Izadi

Phil Davis had spent three years trying to avoid being the story.

The former Capital Gazette reporter had witnessed one of the worst attacks on a newspaper in American history. He had hidden under a desk in his newsroom as the gunman reloaded. He was there when five of his colleagues took their last broken breaths. And then he had returned to his job covering crime in Maryland as an observer, not a victim.

But on a sweltering Friday in July, Davis, by then a reporter with the Baltimore Sun, had no choice but to be the story. Standing in a courtroom just feet away from the man who almost killed him, he told a jury about that harrowing day.

"I had put it together that it was probably a shotgun, due to the type of noise that it was," he said, speaking clinically, precisely, like a journalist trained to cover the type of violence that suddenly besieged him. "So it sounded like, to me, that he was reloading two shotgun shells within feet of my desk."

Read more [here](#).

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You caught me: Pope congratulates reporter who saw him at record shop (Reuters)

By Philip Pulella

VATICAN CITY, Jan 14 (Reuters) - Pope Francis has congratulated the reporter who caught him visiting old friends who run a Rome record shop this week, joking that it was his "bad luck" that the news got out.

The visit on Tuesday night was to have remained secret but Javier Martinez-Brocal of the Rome Reports television news agency was in the area in central Rome by chance. He filmed it with his smart phone, posted it on Twitter, and it went viral.

In a letter sent to Martinez-Brocal on Thursday, Francis, 85, congratulated him on his work and lamented his own misfortune.

"You can't deny that it was a case of bad luck ... that after taking all the precautions, there was a reporter there at the taxi rank," Francis said in the letter Martinez-Brocal shared with colleagues on Friday.

"One should not lose one's sense of humour," Francis said. "Thanks for doing your job, even if it did put the pope in difficulty."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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The bold Joan Didion story you probably never read

(Nieman)

By STEVE WEINBERG

In 1990, Joan Didion received an assignment from Bob Silvers, editor at the New York Review of Books, to write about a highly publicized, emotionally fraught crime almost nobody wanted to read about after it was, in theory, solved. Nor did the resulting story, published January 17, 1991, receive much mention amidst the tributes to the many novels, screenplays, memoirs, and magazine narratives produced by Didion, the acclaimed "new journalist" who died last month at 87.

For me, though, "Sentimental Journeys," constituted her most memorable and outstanding accomplishment as a reporter — one that helped shape my own journalism and whose lessons I carry to this day. Among them:

How factual evidence gathered through painstaking sourcing, bolstered by a writer's informed opinions, allowed the shattering of conventional wisdom about the criminal justice system (never her specialty before 1991);

How an entire metropolis (New York City, no less) can serve as an effective central character in a nonfiction narrative, especially if that central character is beset with multiple personalities;

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Jan. 17, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2022. There are 348 days left in the year.
This is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 17, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

On this date:

In 1917, Denmark ceded the Virgin Islands to the United States for \$25 million.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces launched the first of four battles for Monte Cassino in Italy; the Allies were ultimately successful.

In 1950, the Great Brink's Robbery took place as seven masked men held up a Brink's garage in Boston, stealing \$1.2 million in cash and \$1.5 million in checks and money orders. (Although the entire gang was caught, only part of the loot was recovered.)

In 1955, the submarine USS Nautilus made its first nuclear-powered test run from its berth in Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Connecticut.

In 1966, the Simon & Garfunkel album "Sounds of Silence" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

In 1996, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine followers were handed long prison sentences for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks.

In 1997, a court in Ireland granted the first divorce in the Roman Catholic country's history.

In 2016, Iran released three Americans, former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati, Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian and pastor Saeed Abedini, as part of a prisoner swap that also netted Tehran some \$100 billion in sanctions relief.

In 2020, U.S. health officials announced that they would begin screening airline passengers from central China for the new coronavirus; people traveling from Wuhan, China, would have their temperature checked and be asked about symptoms. President Donald Trump added to his legal team for his impeachment trial retired law professor Alan Dershowitz and Ken Starr, the independent counsel who investigated President Bill Clinton.

Ten years ago: Italian officials released a recording of a furious Coast Guard officer demanding that Capt. Francesco Schettino (frah-n-CHEHS'-koh sheh-TEE'-noh), commander of the grounded Costa Concordia, re-board the ship to direct its evacuation after the vessel rammed into a reef on Jan. 13. Johnny Otis, the "godfather of rhythm and blues" who wrote and recorded the R&B classic "Willie and the Hand Jive," died in Los Angeles at age 90.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama granted clemency to Chelsea Manning, allowing the transgender Army intelligence officer convicted of leaking more than 700,000 U.S. documents to go free nearly three decades early. Donald Trump's choice to head the Interior Department, Rep. Ryan Zinke, rejected the president-elect's claim that climate change was a hoax, telling his Senate confirmation hearing it was indisputable that environmental changes were affecting the world's temperature and that human activity was a major reason.

One year ago: An Associated Press review found that veterans of President Donald Trump's unsuccessful campaign had key roles in the Washington rally that spawned a deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol. U.S. defense officials said they were worried about an insider attack or other threat from service members involved in securing President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration; the concerns prompted the FBI to vet all 25,000 National Guard troops coming into Washington for the event. Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was arrested at a Moscow airport as he returned from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin.

Today's Birthdays: Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 96. Actor James Earl Jones is 91. Talk show host Maury Povich is 83. Pop singer Chris Montez is 80. R&B singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 77. Actor Joanna David is 75. Actor Jane Elliot is 75. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 74. R&B singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 69. Singer Steve Earle is 67. Singer Paul Young is 66. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 65. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 63. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 61. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 60. Actor Denis O'Hare is 60. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 58. Actor Joshua Malina is 56. Singer Shabba Ranks is 56. Actor Naveen Andrews is 53. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 53. Rapper Kid Rock is 51.

Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 47. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 45. Actor-singer Zooey Deschanel is 42. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 42. Singer Ray J is 41. Actor Diogo Morgado is 41. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 40. Former NBA player Dwyane Wade is 40. Actor Ryan Gage is 39. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 38. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 36. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 34. Actor Kelly Marie Tran (Film: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") is 33. Actor Kathrine Herzer is 25.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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:

- **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.
- **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?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

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