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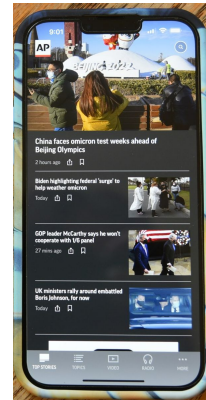
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Connecting

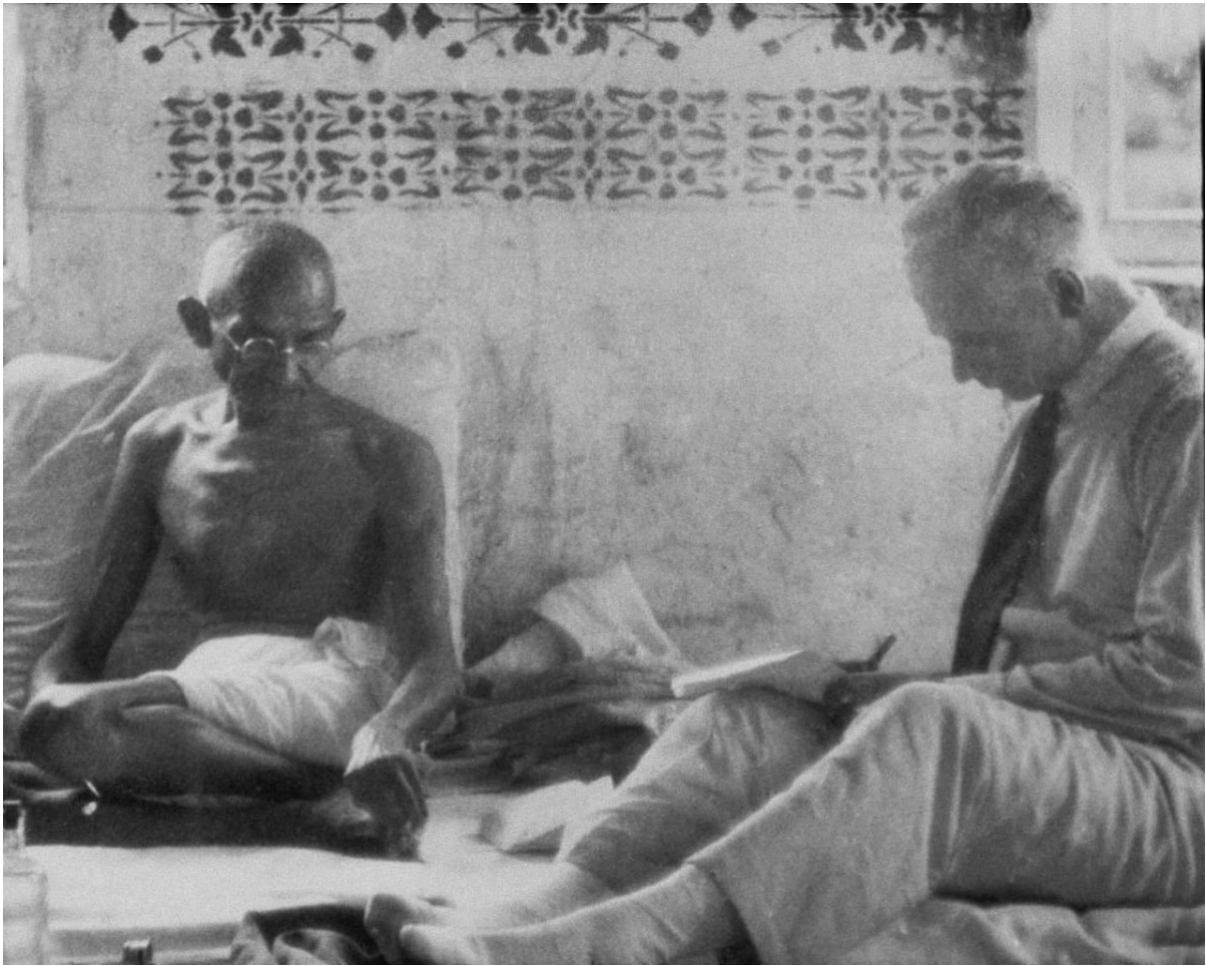
January 24, 2022

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JIM MILLS WAS THERE!

PUT your finger on any spot on the globe, and the chances are pretty good that The A.P.'s Jim Mills has been there, covering a story for The Associated Press.

Jim Mills is a veteran of The Associated Press Foreign Service—Moscow to Addis Ababa, London to Bombay, Berlin to Shanghai—the world has been his beat. The golden names, the brass hats, the humble people and the proud—Jim Mills has known them all, in peace and in terror. Crowned heads and premiers have confided state secrets to him, and that humblest of men, Mahatma Gandhi, trusts him as a friend.

Wherever big news breaks, there you may find Jim Mills, gentle in manner, quiet spoken, but patiently and endlessly inquisitive.

Jim Mills never wrote a book, he never made a lecture tour, never was a radio star, never did anything to make a big and glamorous name for Jim Mills. He just asks questions because he wants to know and write the answers.

That is why James A. Mills, of The Associated Press Foreign Service, is one of the world's greatest reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
REPORTS THE NEWS OF THE WORLD DAILY FOR

The Greensboro Record

Images/AP Corporate Archives

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 24, 2022,

Many of us enjoyed Mick Boroughs' post in Friday's Connecting on James A. Mills, an AP star foreign correspondent in the 1920s and 1930s who interviewed Mahatma Gandhi many times and was the first to interview him on film.

Francesca Pitaro ([Email](#)) of AP Corporate Archives wrote to say that Connecting readers can learn more about Mills in the 2016 Corporate Archives documentary "Scoop-Hunting with Mr. Mills." Click [here](#) to view. Clipping at right from 1942.

We've welcomed nice offerings of reporting experiences in the weekend mail and bring those to you as we begin a new week.

Ye Olde Editor extends his thanks to colleagues who have pitched in to my every-few-years asker for help to cover expenses for the Connecting newsletter. The notes that have arrived with checks mean as much or more than the financial help. And as mentioned earlier, any money received in excess of current expenses will be rolled over to coming years.

Here's to a great week ahead - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP staff rally around reporters after Tennessee lawmaker rebuke

By: Ben Gilliam
WJHL, Johnson City, TN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WJHL) – After a Tennessee representative filed to “reprimand” The Associated Press (AP) over an article published in 2021, AP executives and journalistic figures took to Twitter to express their support for the reporters behind the piece.

“A career first,” Kat Stafford, one of several authors of the piece said Saturday. “A Republican state legislator in Tennessee introduced a resolution Thursday in response to our AP investigation of racism in the U.S. military. He accused us of ‘incendiary journalism’ & wants the legislature to ‘reprimand the AP.’ We stand by our reporting.”

Gandhi Pays Tribute To Late A. P. Writer

By the Associated Press.

NEW DELHI, India, March 31.— Mohandas K. Gandhi paid tribute today to the memory of James A. Mills, veteran Associated Press foreign correspondent who died last Friday in California.

"I have pleasant recollections of James Mills' numerous interviews with me," he said.

"I remember his keeping awake the whole night, when, in January, 1932, I was arrested in Bombay.

"I can never forget the brave American breaking down as I was descending the staircase in custody of guardians of the law just after my morning prayer."

Tennessee Representative Bud Hulseley (R – Kingsport) listed multiple concerns throughout the resolution, stating that the article’s investigation resulted in “an insult to the brave men and women who combat racism and discrimination at home and around the globe.”

The accusation of “yellow journalism” was met by defense from the reporters alongside AP administration. Stafford said work spanned nearly a year while the team of reporters compiled interviews, reviewed documents and submitted Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

The term “yellow journalism” arose in the late 19th century to describe sensationalized journalism intended to drive sales, and was originally named after comic character “Yellow Kid” published in the competing New York World and New York Journal according to the Department of State’s Office of the Historian. In a modern setting, the term has been used to describe sensational, poorly-researched or false publications.

“Indeed – We stand by our reporting,” AP Executive Editor Julie Pace said in response to Stafford’s thread on Sunday. “And our reporters.”

WJHL staff reached out to AP Media Relations Director Lauren Easton for further comment on the matter, and Easton echoed Pace’s sentiment without further comment. WJHL staff reached out to Rep. Hulseley’s office as well for a statement, but have received no response to date.

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

Unusual venue for reporting

Mark Duncan ([Email](#)) - As for the most unusual places I have reported during my AP career, I would have to say it happened Sept. 2, 2013.

On that day there was a celebration of the 200th anniversary of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

It involved a reenactment of the battle by several tall ships in the western part of the lake. I was aboard a replica of the Lawrence, Perry's flagship.

After sailing from Put-In-Bay for an hour or so, the US fleet met the British and a spirited battle ensued, with fake canon fire being exchange from both sides. When the Lawrence was disabled, Perry transferred the flag, via rowboat, to the Niagara and eventually sent the British back to Detroit in defeat.

It was a fun trip but the long sail back to Put-In-Bay allowed me to edit the digital photos I made. Once we reached cell coverage the photos were sent to the NY Photo desk an hour before we docked.

Contrast this with one of the most famous AP photos, Joe Rosenthal's epic image of the flag raising over Iwo Jima.

Joe's film holders had to be taken by Navy ship and flown eastward, where they were eventually processed, printed and sent by radio to the states.

Ain't technology great.

Connecting series: **Something happening to me while covering a story**

Tom Coyne ([Email](#)) - I once couldn't stop bleeding while covering a Hillary Clinton event in 2008.

The Monday after Easter in South Bend is known as Dyngus Day, where people of Polish descent celebrate the end of Lent. In South Bend, it's when politicians traditionally show up for big lunches. Bobby Kennedy made an appearance in 1968.

The Clintons, along with daughter Chelsea, were scheduled to make two appearances less than a mile apart. I was concerned their motorcade would tie up traffic and I might have trouble making both events. So I parked at the second event and walked to the first.

After the first event, I was calling in a quick short story because there was no Wi-Fi. I had my cell phone in one hand, my tape recorder and notepad in the other and was looking at my notes while walking when I tripped over a broken cement slab in the sidewalk. While trying to keep the cell phone and tape recorder from hitting the ground, I instead hit my head.

I finished calling in the story. I then noticed blood dripping from my forehead. Luckily, I had tissues in my nearby car. I held a tissue to my head for a few minutes, but the bleeding wouldn't stop. I then went to the restroom at the event to clean up. The bleeding wouldn't stop. It then came time for the second event. The bleeding wouldn't stop.

I joined the press corps. Our photo stringer came over and asked me if someone had punched me. A reporter for the South Bend Tribune wrote on his notepad and held it up: "Do you know you are bleeding?" Do I know I am bleeding? I have blood on my shirt, tie, coat and notebook.

Again, no Wi-Fi so I called in an update. But I also had arranged an interview with Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who also had campaigned with her father, Robert, in Indianapolis in 1968. I apologized, telling her I was sorry for looking so disheveled.

The bleeding continued. I finally got back to my office and after an hour or so, the bleeding stopped. After the story was on the wire, I made a stop on my way home at an urgent care facility. I ended up taking six stitches.

-0-

Terry Spencer (Email) - When I was a young reporter at The Desert Sun in Palm Springs in 1989, I had just gone to bed when I got a call from the desk that about a dozen homes under construction at a country club near my apartment were on fire, lighting up the western Coachella Valley. Hustle over there, the editor said, and get some quick material so we could get a story into the morning paper. I threw on some clothes and quickly drove over. I got some color, a quick quote from a witness and, in those pre-cellphone days, ran to the clubhouse to use a payphone to call the desk.

I got an editor and was dictating my stuff when suddenly the country club's owner and son came out of nowhere and tackled me. I don't know what they were thinking - the fire could be seen for miles, so they weren't protecting some secret. We wrestled on the floor while the payphone receiver was swinging away. I could hear the editor yelling, "Terry, what's going on?" So I started yelling back that I was being attacked. The father and son eventually let me go, but told me to leave or they'd have me arrested for trespassing. I learned the next day that hearing my predicament, some of the young guys on the desk decided to rescue me and were running to their cars for the two-mile ride to the club before a senior editor stopped them and avoided a potential bench-clearing brawl.

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Frank Aukofer (Email) - As you know, I'm not AP, though I've worked with many of your fine folks over the years, including being in the first Pentagon press Pool with John King to go into Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield in August, 1990. (Pool members called him Top Gun and he was always looking for a phone so he could "suck out the wires"). But the TV reporter, Tori Yorgey, who was hit by the car, is not AP either so I thought I'd send this along.

I worked for The Milwaukee Journal and its successor, the Journal Sentinel, for 40 years, the last 30 in Washington (1970-2000) before retiring. I had the civil rights beat in Milwaukee and other places from 1964-'69 and covered such stories as the aftermath of the assassination in Memphis of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in April, 1968, and the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, AL, in March, 1965.

I didn't get hit by a car, but in retrospect I think it was a rifle butt. Following is an excerpt about the march from my memoir/autobiography, "Never a Slow Day: Adventures of a 20th Century Newspaper Reporter."

About 20 miles east of Selma, the marchers stopped for the night in an open field, where the SCLC had set up a big circus tent. It had rained most of the day and the field was a vast expanse of mud the consistency of peanut butter. The tent housed a small aid station, where volunteer doctors and nurses treated blisters and other ailments. The marchers tried to get some sleep on blankets and sleeping bags lain on plastic sheeting. But the mud kept oozing through. Women slept in another tent.

Wandering around, soaking up the scene, I ran into a young man sitting alone on a space heater, tending a generator. He was Pernell Roberts, 36, then a big star as Adam

Cartwright on the popular "Bonanza" television show. He told me he was there with his wife, Judy, 30, to support the voting rights effort. They planned to spend the night in the mud with the other marchers.

As a rookie reporter years earlier, I had learned to be as precise as I could. I counted marchers and people in crowds instead of estimating them. By my count, it was exactly 496 steps from the campsite to highway 80, along a narrow, rutted farm road.

Late that night, after I'd finished interviewing people and roaming the campsite, I headed back along that road to the highway, where I had parked my rental car. The only light came from the highway and the lights behind me at the tents. As I walked slowly along, a squad of Alabama National Guardsmen marched toward me, in double file and route step. The Guard had been federalized by President Johnson to protect the marchers, and most of them were not happy about it. The soldiers, all white, carried carbines at the ready, diagonally across their chests. I squeezed as far to the right as I could to let them by.

I don't know what triggered it, but as they marched past me, one of the men in the middle of the line whacked me in the shoulder with his elbow—or maybe his rifle butt—sending me tumbling into the ditch. Fortunately, I caught my balance just before I would have sprawled face down in the mud, so I ended up with mud only up over my ankles and forearms. Heart pounding and scared stiff, I bolted to my car.

Connecting mailbox

On Iowa Senate's move to bar reporters

Tim Harper (Email) - UPI Des Moines 1972-74 and AP MI & NY national writer 1974-78: The Iowa Senate move to bar reporters from their traditional seats on the floor reminds me of an earlier move to inhibit reporters in the same chamber. In the early 1970s the Iowa Senate's GOP majority, upset at stories that they said made some lawmakers look bad, proposed that all reporters take a "citizenship" test on how government operates. If we didn't pass the test, our press credentials would be yanked. Our Des Moines UPI (NW was designation) buro chief Cheryl Arvidson, now a Connecting colleague, told the Senate leadership in effect: "Fine. We'll take the test -- if the state senators take it, too."

We never heard another word about taking a test.

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Bradsher's story a reminder of bravery, wisdom

Marty Thompson (Email) - Reading Henry Bradsher's account of reporting in Tibet in Thursday's Connecting was a fresh reminder of the bravery and wisdom of so many of our colleagues. And of how normal were my 38 years. No bravery, precious little wisdom. Offset by the privilege of working so many who exhibited both qualities every day.

My own expeditions included things like touring a Winnemucca, Nev., legal brothel with members of the state press association. No samples of more than green champagne or beer, just information. Immediately after the tour we all headed to the convention hotel to call our spouses about the tour -- so they would hear it from us.

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From the fun side – mystery in Wisconsin farm fields

Jim Carlson ([Email](#)) - In Wisconsin, I remember the case of the mysterious objects discovered one day in western Wisconsin farm fields. The icy blue materials seemingly appeared out of nowhere and had some of the rural residents collecting the objects, even putting them in their freezers to keep them for investigators.

We ran at least a couple of cycles of stories on the mystery as the suspense grew, with some witnesses describing how the material felt to the touch and how it tasted. Then came the result, as most of you have probably guessed: frozen waste water from an airliner's holding tank.

Our sports writer at the time, Mike O'Brien, quipped that one of the investigators checking it out might have concluded, "Whatever it is, it's diabetic."

Best of the Week

**Sensitive reporting, compelling storytelling
on spike in Zimbabwe teen pregnancy
amid pandemic**



AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi

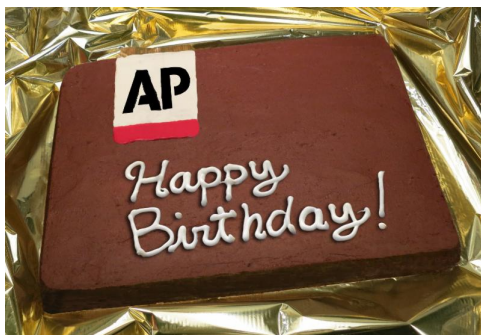
Writing about teen pregnancy is difficult under any circumstances, requiring equal parts thoughtfulness and responsibility. That is how AP's Harare-based team in Zimbabwe, AP photographer Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi and writer Farai Mutsaka, joined by South Africa video journalist Sebatso Mosamo, approached the story of how pandemic lockdowns led to a sharp rise in teen pregnancies and the consequent loss of girls' educational opportunities, a problem affecting many southern African countries.

Zimbabwe has long struggled with such pregnancies and child marriages. Before COVID-19 hit, one of every three girls in the country was wed before age 18, many with unplanned pregnancies, because of lax enforcement of rape laws, widespread poverty, and cultural and religious practices.

The spread of the coronavirus intensified the problem. The country of 15 million people imposed a strict lockdown in March 2020, closing schools for six months and reopening them only intermittently. Girls were shut out from access to contraceptives and clinics; the troubles of impoverished families worsened. Pregnant schoolgirls found themselves unable to return to class when schools resumed, despite changes in rules introduced by the government.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Lisa Greathouse](#)

[Lisa Pane](#)

Stories of interest

If local journalism manages to survive, give Evan Smith some credit for it (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

When Evan Smith co-founded the Texas Tribune back in 2009, digital-first nonprofit newsrooms were something of a rarity. There was ProPublica, only two years old at the time, MinnPost in Minneapolis, the Voice of San Diego, and a few others.

So his move from top editor of the award-winning Texas Monthly magazine, at the urging of venture capitalist John Thornton, was considered slightly bizarre.

“The tone of the coverage was almost mocking,” Smith recalled last week, soon after he announced he would step down as the Tribune’s CEO at the end of this year. “It was, ‘What does this joker think he’s doing?’ ”

As it turns out, Smith and company — he and Thornton recruited Texas Weekly editor Ross Ramsey to join the endeavor — had a good idea of what they were doing, or figured it out along the way.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin, Harry Dunphy, Myron Belkind.

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Is the Media Doomed? (Politico Magazine)

It's almost conventional wisdom right now that the news media is in a fast-moving crisis, with mainstream news sources collapsing and Americans increasingly divided not only in what they read, but even what facts they choose to believe. How much worse will it get? Or is there a way out?

The changes in the media industry make it nearly impossible to guess. When POLITICO was born 15 years ago, a digital-first politics site was considered downright disruptive in Washington, D.C. Today, that sounds almost quaint compared to what was on the way: Facebook was a baby, and Instagram was just a twinkle in a code developer's eye. "Pandemic" meant the Spanish Flu of 1918 — and "Zoom" was a kids' show from the '70s. Information now flows in ways nobody was even considering in 2007, and over the next decade and a half, media is poised to change even more dramatically.

How? We at POLITICO Magazine decided to take advantage of our milestone — our 15th birthday — to press some experts and media thinkers on what media will look like in the next 15 years. What will be the biggest transformations — and how will they affect our public life? Are you optimistic? If so, how do we get to the good part? If you're concerned, what can we do to avoid the worst outcomes?

Here's what they had to say.

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

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In Kashmir, India batters press freedom — and journalists (AP)

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN and SHEIKH SAALIQ

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — For five years, Sajad Gul wrote about conflict wracking his homeland, a disputed Himalayan territory where a violent armed rebellion and India's brutal counterinsurgency have raged for over three decades.

That changed on a snowy Wednesday night in January with a knock at his house. Gul was surrounded by Indian soldiers wielding automatic rifles who bundled him into a vehicle and sped away, plowing through the snow-laden track in Hajin, a quiet village about 20 miles from Srinagar, the region's main city, said his mother, Gulshana, who only uses one name.

Journalists have long contended with various threats in Indian-controlled Kashmir and found themselves caught between warring sides. But their situation has gotten dramatically worse since India revoked the region's semi-autonomy in 2019, throwing Kashmir under a severe security and communication lockdown and the media in a black hole. A year later, the government's new media policy sought to control the press more effectively to censure independent reporting.

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

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Turkish journalist jailed before trial for Erdogan insult

(AP)

ISTANBUL (AP) — A well-known Turkish journalist has been jailed pending a trial for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, her lawyer said.

Sedef Kabas was taken into custody after she cited a proverb on television and social media referring to an ox. Under the insult law, tens of thousands have been prosecuted for targeting Erdogan since he became president in 2014 after more than a decade as prime minister.

Her lawyer, Ugur Poyraz, tweeted that she had been formally arrested during an appearance at court in Istanbul on Saturday. The judge accepted the prosecution argument that she posed a flight risk.

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

Today in History - Jan. 24, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2022. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

On this date:

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1945, Associated Press war correspondent Joseph Morton was among a group of captives executed by the Germans at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria.

In 1965, British statesman Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1984, Apple Computer began selling its first Macintosh model, which boasted a built-in 9-inch monochrome display, a clock rate of 8 megahertz and 128k of RAM.

In 1985, the space shuttle Discovery was launched from Cape Canaveral on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission.

In 1987, gunmen in Lebanon kidnapped educators Alann Steen, Jesse Turner, Robert Polhill and Mitheshwar Singh. (All were eventually released.)

In 2003, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn as the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security.

In 2011, a suicide bomber attacked Moscow's busiest airport, killing 37 people; Chechen separatists claimed responsibility.

In 2013, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the lifting of a ban on women serving in combat.

In 2020, health officials in Chicago said a woman in her 60s had become the second U.S. patient diagnosed with a new virus that had emerged in China; she'd returned from that country in mid-January. Fifteen-year-old Coco Gauff upset defending champ Naomi Osaka in the third round of the Australian Open.

Ten years ago: Declaring the American dream under siege, President Barack Obama used his State of the Union address to deliver a populist challenge to shrink the gap between rich and poor, promising to tax the wealthy more and help jobless Americans get work and hang onto their homes. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney released his 2010 tax returns, showing that his annual income topped \$20 million and that he had paid about \$3 million in federal income taxes.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump moved swiftly to advance the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, signing executive actions to aggressively overhaul America's energy policy and deal a sharp blow to Barack Obama's legacy on climate change. The 89th annual Academy Awards nominations were announced; the retro musical "La La Land" received a record-tying 14 nods; eight went to eventual best picture winner "Moonlight."

One year ago: Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he had tested positive for COVID-19 and that the symptoms were mild; he'd been criticized for his handling of his country's pandemic and for not setting an example of prevention in public. The defending champion Kansas City Chiefs reached the Super Bowl with a 38-24 win over the Buffalo Bills in the AFC championship game; Tom Brady led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to victory over the Green Bay Packers in the NFC title game.

Today's Birthdays: Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 86. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 83. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 81. Singer Aaron Neville is 81. Actor Michael Ontkean is 76. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 72. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 72. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 71. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is 69. Actor William Allen Young is 68. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 64. Actor Nastassja Kinski is 61. R&B singer Theo Peoples is 61. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 59. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 55. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 54. R&B singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 52. Actor Matthew Lillard is 52. Actor Merrilee McCommas is 51. Blues/rock singer Beth Hart is 50. Actor Ed Helms is 48. Actor Mark Hildreth is 44. Actor Christina Moses is 44. Actor Tatyana Ali is 43. Actor Carrie Coon is 41. Actor Daveed Diggs is 40. Actor Justin Baldoni is 38. Actor Mischa Barton is 36.

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.**

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