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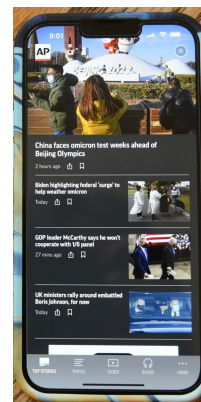
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Connecting

February 18, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Feb. 18, 2022,

We often cite the quality of the lead in news stories – but what about the endings?

Our colleague [Tom Coyne](#) puts out this call: “With all the great writers and editors on Connecting, I wanted to see if anyone has any memorable story endings to news stories? A student asked if I could recall any strong endings to a news story that didn't use a quote. I couldn't immediately think of one. I'm going to have to check through some old stories, but wanted to see if anyone remembers one they wrote, edited or read that they could pass along.”

Got an example to share? Please send it along.

STYLE CHANGE: The email addresses of story contributors have been listed immediately after the contributor’s name (example, **Paul Stevens (Email)** – text...), but from hereon I am including the link in the contributor’s name (example, ([Paul Stevens](#) – text...)). The links are included so you can drop a note to the contributor if you wish.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Deepa Bharath, Giovanna Dell'Orto join AP religion team



Deepa Bharath (left) and Giovanna Dell'Orto

Two experienced journalists, with wide-ranging interests and expertise, have joined AP's global religion team as general assignment text reporters.

Deepa Bharath, of Diamond Bar, California, has covered religion, race and cultures for the Southern California News Group for many years. She has extensive experience covering communities of color and their struggles to find a place in mainstream America, and a deep understanding of the religion beat, including Hinduism and Buddhism.

Giovanna Dell'Orto, of Minneapolis, who has been an associate professor at the University of Minnesota's journalism school since 2014, previously worked for the AP as a reporter and editor in Atlanta, Phoenix, Rome and Minneapolis. She is fluent in Spanish and Italian; her interests range from migration to Native American spirituality.

"We're delighted that Deepa and Giovanna are joining us," said Religion News Director David Crary, "Their versatility, expertise and enthusiasm will be a huge plus as our team strives to broaden AP's religion coverage across the U.S. and also around the world."

Tony Bennett has had quite a run – from singing to fellow AP copy kids, until bowing out of show business

[John Willis](#) - We have had several readers chime in with Tony Bennett/AP stories over the past week, and CBS offered some programs on him in recent months, as his public performing career came to an end.

I recorded 60 Minutes a few weeks ago because I was going to be watching one of the NFL playoff games, and wanted to see the segment updating the segment last fall about Tony Bennett's battle with Alzheimer's Disease. I also recorded the CBS special "One Last Time" last fall, as well.



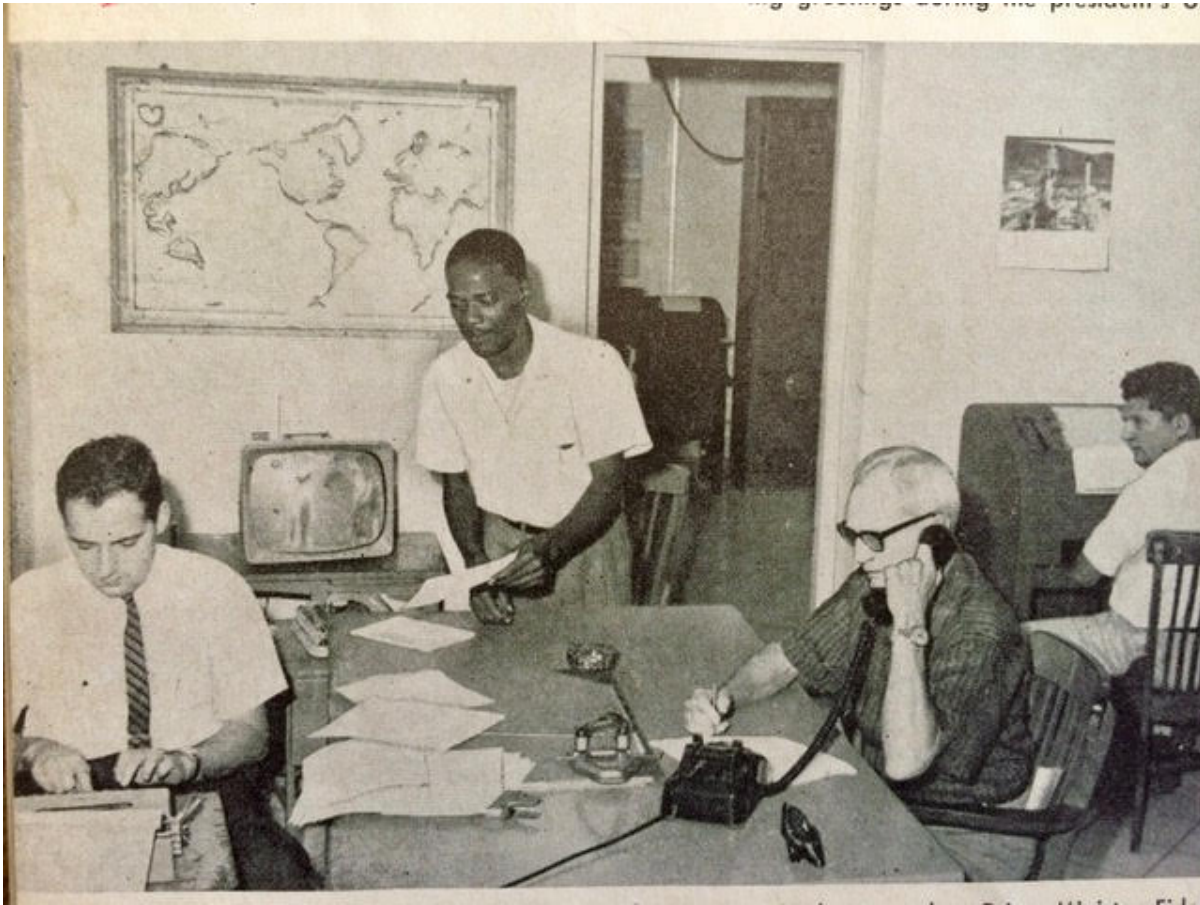
Click [here](#) for a link to the segment, which aired a couple weeks ago. This second [link](#) is for the entire Bennett/Lady Gaga performance at Radio City Music Hall. They did two sold out shows the night of August 21 to celebrate his 95th birthday, which was August 3.

Amazing that with ALZ, he was still able to perform. It wasn't perfection, but considering his dementia, it was remarkable.

And to think that when I interviewed Bennett in Las Vegas in 1977, it was almost half his lifetime ago. My son, Jeff, was six that year. Now he is 50. Bennett was just about 50, 45 years ago when we met for two evenings of interview Q&A in his dressing room between shows at the Sahara Hotel.

Time flies when you're having fun, eh? In case Connecting readers didn't get a chance to see the broadcasts when they were on television, I've found them online and now they can watch at their convenience. Eighty or so years ago he was an AP copy boy in New York City, and in 2021 he bowed out of show business. What a run.

More on the AP in Cuba



George Arfield – For 14 exciting years I worked for The AP in what was at the time known as World Services. In reading the history of the AP in Cuba in Thursday's Connecting, I wanted to update that history with my own role in working for the AP there.

I picked up the title of "Havana Correspondent" when I arrived in Cuba on a KLM Miami-Havana-Curaçao flight in early December 1961 to succeed José María Orlando, previously correspondent in Montevideo, who'd been holding the fort, so to speak, after the documented expulsion of "Heinie" Milks & Co. Orlando's temporary Cuban visa (he was a Uruguayan national) was expiring and he was notified in the Fall of 1961 that it would not be renewed. My then boss in the Buenos Aires bureau, Sam Summerlin, asked me to apply for a resident visa using my Argentine passport (at the time Argentina had not broken off relations with Cuba). Much to everyone's surprise and my delight the visa, renewable on a yearly basis, came through and in a short time I was off to Havana via the U.S.

After briefings at 50 Rock ("Don't keep a diary; they might use it to railroad you" was one of Stan Swinton's parting remarks. Ben Bassett: "Don't try to become a hero, we need you there for the dateline"), Miami and Key West --the latter a listening post for radio broadcasts from the all-official Cuban broadcasting spectrum-- I boarded a KLM DC6 for the short hop to Rancho Boyeros airport in the outskirts of Havana.

I became the first full-time resident U.S. media representative in Cuba since the Bay of Pigs disaster (UPI had a brave Cuban in its office). It was an exciting assignment. The Missile Crisis (a long story by itself), the Bay of Pigs prisoners' exchange, cold war shenanigans galore, arms dealers from the Mideast, diplomatic imbroglios, planted

disinformation and the all-knowing Fidel Castro's hours-long harangues spouting tropical Marxism peppered with constant anti-American clichés. Then there were frustrating issues (censorship, no travel beyond a 30-kilometer radius, constant shadowing by security goons following me in a black 1959 Cadillac with only one working headlight, etc., etc.).

The AP bureau was in a ground level office. Directly across the embassy offices of the Federal Republic of Germany (soon to be closed as Cuba recognized the East German puppet regime) and around the corner from the historic Hotel Nacional which in those days was mostly empty and practically running on fumes. I owe much to a dedicated staff, including one or more moles; except the latter they became marked enemies of the regime as AP was regarded as an appendix of the State Department, or the CIA, depending on who was the source.

One surprising development was the successful sales campaign of the AP's Latin America service to several ministries and government offices. They all paid on time and allowed the bureau to become financially self-sufficient. There was an Orwellian touch to being paid by those who publicly pronounced us as "an enemy of the revolution."

In mid-1963 the government's minder for foreign correspondents, a true never-comment-on anything apparatchik named Lazo, informed me that the visa would not be renewed. Shortly thereafter, as Daniel Harker transitioned from the LPA desk at 50 Rock to become my successor, I was on a plane to Mexico City on my way back to New York.

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Dan Sewell - Enjoyed reading Valerie Komor's AP Cuba history and am looking forward to reading David Powell's book on the 1960s refugees.

Being based in Miami or San Juan from the late 70s to early '90s, I made several reporting trips to Cuba when we had no presence there.

The first was in '78, when marathon swimmer Diana Nyad first attempted to swim from Cuba to Florida. The AP co-chartered with The Miami Herald a pleasure craft to shadow Nyad's swim being carried out inside a protective shark cage. The cage hindered her swim because the wind was blowing her off course and she gave up after two days.

Two memories of that one: we overnighted in Havana before the swim. As we were checking out, a hotel official wanted someone to pay a large bar tab that a Life magazine photographer had run up. I told him I had to catch the bus for the swim, and ran for it. Not sure that ever got paid.

The other was a night at sea when suddenly the sky turned black. A Cuban freighter was coming at us. We yelled, and the captain sleeping below bolted up and steered us out of harm's way.

His boat's name gave me a cool dateline: "Aboard The Best Revenge."

My then-mother-in-law had a brother still in Cuba. On subsequent visits on other assignments, I spent time with his family.

He had two sons, and they took me to the famed Tropicana Club. It was open air, with comedians, singers and dancers performing.

Suddenly, a shot rang out!

My cousins-in-law warned me not to speak because my accented Spanish would attract attention. Turned out a wife had surprised her husband out with another woman and shot her - not her husband! The woman survived.

Plenty of more stories, but that's enough for now.

More of your favorite datelines

Tom Eblen - Like my friend and former Atlanta Journal-Constitution colleague Bill Hendrick, I also went out of my way once to dateline a story from Hell-for-Certain, Kentucky. It's not far from two other colorfully named Leslie County communities, Cutshin and Thousandsticks. Other reporters' favorites in Kentucky include Monkey's Eyebrow in Ballard County and Rabbit Hash in Boone County. Kentucky has four different unincorporated communities named Needmore. A favorite cycling destination is the Woodford County community of Nonesuch. When I worked in the AP's Nashville bureau, we often had stories out of the state prison in the west Tennessee town of Only. Thank goodness some of our ancestors had a sense of humor.

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Kelly Kissel - I don't recall much happening in Toad Suck, Arkansas, during my quarter-century in the Land of Opportunity, but I still remember Chuck Bartels' takeout on the sale of a liquor store that, due to a quirk in geography, had a prime location near several "dry" counties. (The ability to obtain a stiff drink in Arkansas varies by county, city or township. Places are wet, dry or "moist," which means you can buy a drink in a private club. Click [here](#) for Chuck's story from Possum Grape.

Of course, I have my favorite datelines and I'll look at pulling together a list, but the note about Toad Suck immediately brought Possum Grape to mind.

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Ellen Miller - I ran into a couple of offbeat datelines during my years as correspondent in Grand Junction for the Western Slope of Colorado.

One was Egnar, a ghost town following the uranium boom of the Cold War. It's nothing more than Range spelled backward. Ranchers in the area say when a post office was slated for the wide spot in the road in the 1950s, Range was the consensus pick. Evidently, there's another one somewhere so the hastily concocted Plan B was Egnar. I

can recall using it as a dateline only once for a feature about the uranium ghost towns of the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Another was No Name, a tiny spot with perhaps a dozen residents at the western mouth of Glenwood Canyon. Home to an Interstate 70 exit, campground and zip line across the Colorado River, No Name served as a frequent dateline for me above stories about the engineering and construction of I-70 as a four-lane road. With years in the making banked by \$480 million, the resulting roadway is an engineering marvel.

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Steve Wilson - One of my favorite datelines was ABOARD THE CONCORDE, as I reported on Pope John Paul's supersonic Air France flight from the French island of Reunion to Lusaka, Zambia, in 1989. We hit Mach 2 – twice the speed of sound. Click [here](#) for the story.

One of my abiding memories of the flight was seeing flight attendants kneeling in the aisle as they served the pope lunch.

On the same papal trip to Africa, I was able to report from another of one of my all-time favorite exotic datelines: OUGADOUGOU.

Connecting mailbox

A selfie ahead of its time, from the early '80s



Charlie Arbogast - AP Chicago photojournalist - Much credit goes to Amy Sancetta for finding this historic artifact in a box at her home. Brian Horton, left, AP Photo

Editor and Staff Photographer in the Columbus, Ohio Bureau darkroom, with me as I make a never before seen selfie, circa., 1982. Yes, before all you young people think you invented the "selfie", we were doing it with pre-focusing the lens and firing away. Historic, in the background is the famous Leitz V35 color autofocus enlarger. An AP Laserphoto transmitter on the back wall, and a Canon 800mm lens in case on the floor, Senrac film dryer over Mr. Horton's head, Kodak "beehive" safelights and stainless steel trays in the sink. Last but not least, I am clean shaven, a very rare time in history. The bureau, by the way, was in the Columbus Dispatch building across the street from the Capitol.

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Scooped, a half-century later

Michael Putzel - Thanks for spotting the Interstate-naming video. Back in the 1970s, I worked on an investigative story on the crumbling Interstate highway system, the lead of which was that it would cost more to fix the potentially dangerous infrastructure than it did to build it. During my reporting, I got curious about the odd numbering system for the many pieces of Interstates and looked for a document that might explain it. I never found it. Now, thanks to the video you disclosed in Thursday's Connecting, I understand how it works—and there are inconsistencies that defy a uniform naming system. Almost half a century later, I've been scooped. Thanks.

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Interstate 19 sign south of Tucson showing distances in kilometers, not miles.

Mark Mittelstadt - Re "How the Interstate numbering system works" (Thursday Connecting): For every rule there is an exception, and in the case of the interstate

highway system there appear to be many as highlighted in the linked video.

One of the most notable but not mentioned in the eight-minute, 30-second clip is Interstate 19, a significant north-south trade corridor from Tucson to the Mexican border. I-19 begins at an intersection with Interstate 10 in southern Tucson and extends south to Nogales, Az., and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. It travels through the rapidly growing bedroom community Sahuarita, a predominantly retirement community Green Valley, and Rio Rico, an expansive trucking terminal serving international traffic.

At slightly more than 63 miles, I-19 is the seventh-shortest primary, or two-digit, interstate highway in the 48 continental states, according to the Arizona Department of Transportation. Although short by interstate highway standards, it is an important corridor for truck traffic from Phoenix through Tucson via I-10 to the international border. It is a portion of the United States section of the CANAMEX Corridor, which stretches north from Mexico across the United States to the Canadian province of Alberta.

I-19 is unique among US interstates as signed distances are given in meters or kilometers, not miles. The metric signs were originally placed as a result of the push toward the metric system in the United States in the 1970s. The speed limits are in customary US units of 55, 65 and 75 miles per hour.

The metric signs are confusing to most US motorists. Attempts to replace them have largely failed over the years due to lack of financing or local opposition, particularly from businesses that would have to change their directions.

I-19 is part of a proposed new highway corridor, most of which remains on the drawing board. Interstate 11 would connect Henderson, Nev., with Nogales, Az., bypassing the Phoenix metropolitan area, going through Casa Grande between Phoenix and Tucson and extending south, either running adjacent to I-10 in Tucson or possibly bypassing Arizona's second largest city.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Peggy Andersen

Paul Caluori

Dick Carelli

George Hanna

Jurate Kazickas

Michael Rubin

On Saturday to...

Bill Lohmann

Angie Lamoli Silvestry

Mack McClure

Shirley Ragsdale

David Tirrell-Wysocki

On Sunday to...

Margery Beck

John Gaps

Welcome to Connecting



Mary Koch

Matt Rourke

Stories of interest

Ex-NY Times columnist ineligible to run for Oregon governor (AP)

By ANDREW SELSKY

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Supreme Court ruled Thursday that former New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof doesn't meet the state's three-year residency requirement to run for governor, leaving the former candidate with a sizable war chest and no plans for the future.

The justices upheld a decision in January by Oregon election officials that the former journalist did not meet the qualifications, citing in particular that Kristof voted in New York in 2020.

"The choice of where to register (to vote) is a meaningful one, as it provides evidence of the political community to which a person feels the greatest attachment," the court said in its opinion.

Kristof, who moved to a farm near Yamhill, Oregon, with his parents when he was 12 and had kept and expanded the property as an adult, announced his candidacy last October. That same month, The New York Times announced he resigned after a decades-long career that saw him win two Pulitzer Prizes, including one with his wife, former correspondent Sheryl WuDunn.

Read more [here](#).

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Rams and Matthew Stafford to cover medical bills of injured photographer (Los Angeles Times)

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

The Los Angeles Rams and quarterback Matthew Stafford and his wife will cover the medical bills for team photographer Kelly Smiley, who fractured her back after falling from a stage at the Super Bowl victory rally Wednesday, officials said.

Footage shot by Spectrum shows Smiley falling from the stage and the quarterback immediately turning away as his wife, Kelly Stafford, attempts to help.

“We have been in communication with Kelly Smiley since yesterday’s incident, and we are sorry for what happened,” the Staffords and the Rams wrote in a statement emailed to The Times. “As we told Kelly, we will be covering all her hospital bills and replacing her cameras. We wish her a speedy recovery.”

Read more [here](#).

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CNN probe complete, yet mysteries on Cuomo, Zucker remain (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN’s parent company says it has completed its investigation into circumstances surrounding the firing of anchor Chris Cuomo and ouster of network chief Jeff Zucker. But for a news organization, it has chosen to leave questions unanswered.

The internal report, commissioned in September and prepared by the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore, will not be made public, WarnerMedia said on Wednesday.

WarnerMedia CEO Jason Kilar told CNN employees late Tuesday that the report had been finished over the weekend. His memo said that marketing executive Allison Gollust, the woman whose relationship with Zucker led to his downfall, would also be leaving the company.

Kilar said the probe, based on interviews with more than 40 people and a review of over 100,000 texts and emails, “found violations of company policies, including CNN’s news standards and practices, by Jeff Zucker, Allison Gollust and Chris Cuomo.”

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Feb. 18, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2022. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 18, 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

On this date:

In 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time (after being published in Britain and Canada).

In 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

In 1972, the California Supreme Court struck down the state's death penalty.

In 1983, 13 people were shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the Wah Mee Massacre. (Two men were convicted of the killings and were sentenced to life in prison; a third was found guilty of robbery and assault.)

In 1984, Italy and the Vatican signed an accord under which Roman Catholicism ceased to be the state religion of Italy.

In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, at the Winter Olympic Games in Norway, U.S. speedskater Dan Jansen finally won a gold medal, breaking the world record in the 1,000 meters.

In 2001, veteran FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested, accused of spying for Russia. (Hanssen later pleaded guilty to espionage and attempted espionage and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In 2003, an arson attack involving two South Korean subway trains in the city of Daegu claimed 198 lives. (The arsonist was sentenced to life in prison, where he died in 2004.)

In 2016, in what was seen as a criticism of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Pope Francis said that a person who advocated building walls was "not Christian"; Trump quickly

retorted it was “disgraceful” to question a person’s faith. (A Vatican spokesman said the next day that the pope’s comment was not intended as a “personal attack” on Trump.)

In 2020, President Donald Trump commuted the 14-year prison sentence of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich for political corruption; Blagojevich left prison hours later and returned home to Chicago. (Trump also issued pardons or clemency to former New York City police commissioner Bernie Kerik, financier Michael Milken and a long list of others.)

Ten years ago: A star-studded funeral service was held for pop singer Whitney Houston at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey, a week after her death at age 48. Syrian security forces fired live rounds and tear gas at thousands of people marching in a funeral procession that turned into one of the largest protests in Damascus since the 11-month uprising against President Bashar Assad began.

Five years ago: Norma McCorvey, whose legal challenge under the pseudonym “Jane Roe” led to the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision that legalized abortion but who later became an outspoken opponent of the procedure, died in Katy, Texas, at age 69. Omar Abdel-Rahman, the so-called “Blind Sheik” convicted of plotting terror attacks in the United States in the 1990s, died at a federal prison in North Carolina where he was serving a life sentence; he was 78.

One year ago: Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who had flown with his family to a vacation in Mexico as his state dealt with a deadly winter storm that crippled the power grid, returned home a day later and described the trip as “obviously a mistake.” Bob Dole, a 97-year-old former longtime senator and the 1996 Republican presidential nominee, said he’d been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. (Dole died in December 2021.) Health officials reported that life expectancy in the United States had dropped by one year during the first half of 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic caused its first wave of deaths. Naomi Osaka stopped Serena Williams’ latest bid for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title in the Australian Open semifinals.

Today’s Birthdays: Singer Yoko Ono is 89. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 83. Singer Irma Thomas is 81. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 81. Actor Jess Walton is 76. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 75. Actor Sinead Cusack is 74. Actor Cybill Shepherd is 72. Singer Randy Crawford is 70. Rock musician Robbie Bachman is 69. Actor John Travolta is 68. Actor John Pankow is 67. Game show host Vanna White is 65. Actor Jayne Atkinson is 63. Actor Greta Scacchi (SKAH’-kee) is 62. Actor Matt Dillon is 58. Rock musician Tommy Scott (Space) is 58. Rapper Dr. Dre is 57. Actor Molly Ringwald is 54. Actor Sarah Brown is 47. Country musician Trevor Rosen (Old Dominion) is 47. Actor Ike Barinholtz is 45. Actor Kristoffer Polaha is 45. Singer-musician Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 45. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 42. Opera singer Isabel Leonard is 40. Roots rock musician Zac Cockrell (Alabama Shakes) is 34. Actor Shane Lyons is 34. Actor Sarah Sutherland is 34. Actor Maiara Walsh is 34.

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 as a newsman in Albany and

St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in 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

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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