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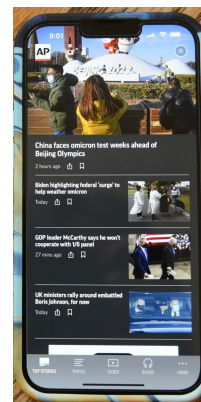
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Connecting

March 7, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this March 7, 2022,

We bring you what I label a **Connecting Memorial Issue** that shares your stories of colleagues who have recently passed away.

To me, while news of deaths is sad, recording it is one of the most important functions of our newsletter. Connecting is a forum to remember them and share favorite stories of their lives – something I know from hearing directly from their friends and families that they appreciate greatly. And, since AP’s New York Archives preserves each issue into the AP database, these stories are recorded for posterity.

The recently departed include Chicago photojournalist **Fred Jewell**, Northern California technical specialist **Earl Pavao** and Washington political writer **Walter Mears**.

The Associated Press [moved a story](#) Friday on the death of Mears, one of the greatest political reporters in history, and Connecting followed on Saturday morning with [a](#)

[special edition](#) on his death. [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#) followed with their own stories. New Connecting member **Mike Allen** shared how his [Axios](#) site displayed the news.

Never has Connecting received so many letters as it did for Walter Mears. More will be shared in Tuesday's edition. If you would like to share your own, please send along.

Many of you have asked how AP staff is doing in Ukraine, covering the Russian invasion. Those brave journalists are recognized in the latest AP Best of the Week blog, and we lead with that.

Finally, a needed bit of levity to begin the week, thanks to this blog by **John McIntyre** which includes this alarming news about our AP Stylebook editor: "Their goons got Paula Froke."

And there's more:

I gave him a look of disbelief that would credit a managing editor looking over a foreign correspondent's expense report. "What in the name of Henry Watson Fowler do they think they're going to do with the editor of the Associated Press Stylebook?"

"They're going to slap her up in a secure facility at the University of Austin and make her revoke all the changes she's made since becoming editor, and then they're going to start dictating new rules to her."

"Where are they holding her now?"

"They got her in a ballroom at the Hotel Pedantry."

Click [here](#) to resolve this mystery. McIntyre, by the way, is called by James Wolcott "the Dave Brubeck of the art and craft of copy editing" who writes on language, editing, journalism, and random topics. Thanks to **Peg Coughlin** for sharing.

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

Paul

AP's team in Ukraine delivers unparalleled coverage of Russian invasion



Natali Sevriukova reacts outside her building following a Russian rocket attack on the capital city of Kyiv, Feb. 25, 2022, one day into the Russian invasion of Ukraine. AP PHOTO / EMILIO MORENATTI



Snow collects on the body of a serviceman beside a Russian military multiple rocket launcher vehicle on the outskirts of Kharhiv, Ukraine, Feb. 25, 2022, one day into the Russian invasion. AP Photo/VADIM GHIRDA

From images of a young girl killed by shelling to an eyewitness account of a makeshift maternity ward inside a bomb shelter, AP's team of more than two dozen journalists

across Ukraine documented for the world in vivid detail how the Russian invasion is playing out on the ground.

The all-formats coverage began as Russian troops massed at Ukraine's borders and has not let up since the assault began more than a week ago.

In the coastal city of Mariupol, one of AP's standout packages told of a new mother struggling to control her emotions while holding her baby in a bomb shelter. Medical professionals were also using the space in the hospital basement to receive casualties, including the body of a young man brought in on a stretcher.

"Do I need to say more? This is just a boy," a doctor told an AP video journalist, lifting the sheet that covered the deceased.

A similar scene played out 260 miles north in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city close by the border with Russia, where mothers and their newborns were protected by mattresses piled against the windows of a bomb shelter.

A series of photo galleries showcased the hundreds of images captured by AP photographers. One gallery showed citizen soldiers training to repel Russian troops. Another showed families sheltering in subway stations and basements. Yet another showed children caught up in the war, including a baby swaddled in bright pink in a crush of people waiting to board a train to Poland.

AP staffers across the world have been vital in explaining the economic, political and social repercussions of the war, from editors and writers in Moscow, Washington and New York tracking government responses and diplomacy in a slew of global capitals, to those covering the expanding refugee crisis along the Polish and Hungarian borders. But the journalists on the ground in Ukraine have been the anchor — setting AP's coverage apart by producing memorable images and authoritative text as the story develops by the hour.

Included on the all-formats Ukraine team: Andy Drake, Francesca Ebel, Emilio Morenatti, Vadim Ghirda, Sasha Stashevskiy, Efrem Lukatsky, Inna Varenysia, Bernat Armangue, Andrea Rosa, Susie Blann, Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Nicolae Dumitrache, Yuras Karmanau, Hakan Kaplan and Sergei Grits, as well as some journalists who are not named for their safety.

For tenacity and bravery in chronicling the Russian invasion, the team in Ukraine earns the respect and gratitude of their colleagues worldwide and is AP's Best of the Week — First Winner.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

Your memories of Fred Jewell

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred Jewell died last Thursday at the age of 85. He worked as a photojournalist for the AP's Chicago bureau for 34 years, joining in 1968 just before the tumultuous Democratic National Convention. His obituary can be found [here.](#))

H Rick Bamman - I was a wet-behind-the-ears photo editor working at the Chicago Bureau in the late 80's. Fred would come back from Chicago Blackhawks games with several rolls of film and write on the assignment envelopes "frame 6 on roll one... frame 28 on roll 2," which made my job a lot easier because those indeed would be the frames for the AMs and PMs, plus several extras I would find throughout the rolls. I will always appreciate his kindness and his encouragement.



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Rob Kozloff - Fred Jewell was so welcoming to me when I first arrived in Chicago as ACOB-Newsphotos in 1989. He took me on tours of all the stadiums and arenas and gave me the lay of the land. He and his wife Anne had Laura and me over for dinner and they really made us feel welcome in this new city. As most of you know, getting settled in quickly is always a big help when transferring in or starting anew.

Fred was a great help as a senior member of our team. When it came to helping orchestrate bigger events...he'd make sure the extra shooters were in position and would solve any issues that might arise. The timing of messenger pickups was critical in the old film days, and he managed that beautifully. Meticulous, clear caption bags always made it easier for the editors inside.

As our regular night guy he was always up to speed on all the latest news of our sports teams. He knew when to get to the ballpark extra early for features and was like a little kid when he knew he had the goods on his film. He just wanted the AP to have a great report. And we regularly did.

Fred was such a dear friend to all of us and you rarely ever saw him down or angry. He was the consummate professional. Calm in his daily routines, he was a comfort and a delight to work with for all those years. R.I.P. dear friend.

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Marc Wilson - My assignment was terrible. Fred Jewell's assignment worse.

I was the AP reporter and Fred the AP photographer on the site of the American Airlines DC-10 that crashed on May 25, 1979, killing 273 people.

The crash scene just a mile or so from O'Hare was a giant black, smoldering scar. It could have been the site of a major forest fire, or the remnants of a bomb blast, or No Man's Land between trenches in World War I.

Except someplace in the rubble were hundreds of bodies burned beyond recognition.

So bad was the devastation that there wasn't much to see.

The crash, explosion and ensuing fireball had incinerated everything – the jumbo jet, the 272 passengers aboard, two persons on the ground, and all the luggage and cargo.

Fred and I were among only a few journalists able to access to the crash site.

Compared to Fred's challenge, my job was relatively easy. I could talk to the priest who tried to administer last rites only to have the bodies disintegrate into ashes when he touched them. I could talk to the cop who vomited when he walked the scene. Fire and police officials talked to me.

I got plenty of help from throughout the AP, starting with Chicago desk supervisor Paul Driscoll and all hands in the bureau and at the General Desk.

They got quotes from passengers on incoming flights who said they saw an engine fall off the DC-10. Others told of seeing the jet cartwheel toward the ground. The Washington bureau contributed quotes from the National Transportation Safety Administration. Dallas AP provided reaction from American Airlines headquarters. LA AP helped with interviews with family members expecting the doomed flight's arrival.

But Fred was on his own.

How do you photograph oblivion?

From one end to the other, the crash scene was little more than smoking scorched earth.

Fred, as always, was up to the task.

He made photos of firefighters pouring water on ashes.

And he found a chunk of the almost unrecognizable fuselage that could have been mistaken for just a metal junk pile.

His photo of the wreckage included two workers combing the wreckage. They carried red and white metal flags that were being used to mark the location of bodies when they were found.

The metal flags were numbered. 1 body here. 3 bodies here. 5 bodies here.

When they were finished, it looked like a great, black golf putting green with metal flags marking the holes.

Except they weren't holes. They were bodies. And the red and white flags marked the chaos of death. Where had all the people gone?

Fred did what seemed impossible – making historic photos out of the bleakest scenes. Over time, his photos have been the standard artwork for stories about the 1979 Memorial Day weekend crash – still the worst civil aviation disaster in U.S. history.

Fred had a 38-year career with the AP. Much of his work centered around sports, covering the Chicago Cubs, White Sox, Bears, Bulls, and Blackhawks, in addition to shooting games at Northwestern, Illinois and Notre Dame. He captured iconic photos of Michael Jordan, Walter Payton, Julius Irving, Bobby Hull, Tony Esposito, Magic Johnson, Larry Byrd, and many others.

On the news side, highlights of his career included Wounded Knee, the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the 1970 Grant Park riots, and many other major news events.

AP photographers are a special breed – always flexible and ready to go anywhere to cover the biggest stories. Fred was among the best of the best.

A pro who could see details in the void. A pro who could photograph oblivion.

Your memories of Earl Pavao

Walt Rastetter - I had the privilege of working with Earl at several special events. He had such a talent for bringing folks together with his personality and his technical skills.

In Vancouver we were all away from home for 5 weeks and he had an open invite to all on the team to come by his room and join in on the sing-a-longs after work.



His favorites were the Beatles but thanks to the internet we could all call up the cords and words for any song that anyone threw out there and he would play it on his guitar. On our daily stroll through town from the hotel to the press center we came across a lot full of vintage cars. I took this picture of him to represent him and his band, the Edsels. The other picture is from behind the scenes at the hockey rink.

I'll always remember you buddy !

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Dave Lubeski - So sorry to hear of the passing of Earl Pavao. We became friends in Beijing during the 2008 Olympics. Most notable was a trip into the Silk District where bargaining with the local merchants can become either a losing effort, or a triumph. I was having little success negotiating when Earl happened to be passing by and stepped in to be my wingman. He

helped me purchase a set of knockoff luggage for the trip home. He knew what to say, when to say it and when to pretend to walk away. The merchant was annoyed that Earl had joined the effort and at one point tried to push Earl away. Earl didn't budge and his terse "don't touch me!" startled the merchant who quickly softened his stance. That trip to the Silk District was an experience and an education. When we hailed a taxi to return to the Press Center, an elderly woman selling baseball caps with Olympic logos stopped us at the taxi stand. For this one Earl insisted we pay the asking price, which was very reasonable. I bought a dozen to give away when I got home.



The photo is of Earl (at left) and me having lunch after conducting our Silk District business. My new set of luggage was right next to me during the meal and more than once passersby stopped to ask what kind of deal I got. Earl and I were glad to share our negotiating tips.

Your memories of Walter Mears

Paul Albright - I met Walter Mears only once, but in a snapshot moment I witnessed the pronounced esteem (and clout) that he had earned from his journalistic colleagues. It was in 1974 when the nation's governors convened in Seattle for their annual meeting. After one of the general discussions by the governors, journalists shifted to the conference press room, which I was supervising in my first gig after departing the AP.

As Mears sat at one of the manual typewriters, I saw at least three other journalists approach him to ask what he (and the AP) was leading with. He provided a brief response to each colleague and then returned to his copy. I assumed the others followed his lead.

Incidentally, the governors at that conference, which included two future presidents (Carter and Reagan), adopted a resolution of appreciation: "To the journalists that attended our sessions, we commend their excellent coverage and attention to the deliberations of our 66th Annual Meeting."

Does that ever happen anymore in the toxic media-political environment of 2022?

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Karen Ball - While Walter was well known as a featured character in Timothy Crouse's book *The Boys on the Bus*, he was an early and ardent supporter of putting "Girls on the Bus," too. When I got a chance to cover the 1992 campaign, he always made a point to stop by my desk on the rare days I was back in the bureau. Walter did not strut, but when he came through the room, he projected strength and a quiet confidence, and everyone noticed. Of course, plebes like me viewed him with something akin to hero worship.

He usually complimented me on a story I had written or broken, I think to help me stay bucked up through the grind of the campaign trail. I don't remember him giving unsolicited advice -- he was so humble -- although one piece of wisdom always stuck with me. Before heading off to my first candidates' debate, I remember him complaining about the spin doctors sure to swarm the filling center afterwards to try to convince reporters their candidate had won. "I always figured that if I didn't know better than they did, I shouldn't be writing about it," he wrote in *Deadlines Past*, Walter's memoir of his 40 years covering presidential campaigns.

Our friendship grew after I left the AP to cover the White House for the New York Daily News, in part because he began seeing the late Fran Richardson, a sweet and wicked-smart newswoman I knew through my Kansas City ties. Fran put joy in his heart and lightened his step, for despite his kindness and his energy, Walter had seemed to carry a weight on his shoulders, a burden of sadness—the loss of his first wife and two children in a house fire that left him injured as he had tried to save them.

I feel a bit sheepish about sharing a wedding photo with so many strangers, but this one captures the new happiness that buoyed him by the time the photo was taken in

late 1995. He was equally happy for me, starting my life with Washington Post political reporter David Von Drehle—yet another in Walter’s army of admirers.

Walter married Fran a year or so later.

One last story: when I was at the Daily News, a top editor called and informed me one of the paper’s senior executives really ... REALLY ... wanted to attend the Gridiron Dinner, the ultimate white tie affair of DC’s journalism elite. Was there anyone I could call to make it happen? I stewed for a long time, then reluctantly called Walter. The old pro immediately understood my fix and cheerfully agreed to help.

Of course, he came through. He was Walter Mears, after all. What a blessing to have known him.

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Ann Blackman - In 1968, I was a senior at the University of Connecticut working as an intern for my journalism professor, who was writing a piece on the New Hampshire primary for the New York Times magazine. One February weekend, I was assigned to the press bus carrying Republican candidate George Romney. When we stopped at King Ridge, a small ski resort in New London, Romney put on skis and Walter, dean of the boys on the bus, designated me, the kid, as pool. I was wearing a skirt and long wool coat, but sensing my big break, quickly put on boots and skis and proudly followed Romney down the hill. My notes, lost to history, were hardly memorable. But I was in heaven. And a picture of Romney on skis, with a girl holding a notebook and skiing closely behind, ran in Time magazine.

A toast to Walter...

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Bobbi Bowman - Such sad news. Walter was my “Dutch Uncle” when I worked as a copy aide for the UPI bureau in the U.S. Senate.

As you probably know, the UPI and AP bureaus were across from each other in the Senate press room.

I was a college student. Walter had to explain to me what a Dutch Uncle was. He was great!!

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Hal Buell - Careers of Walter Mears and I covered the same general period. He was always a helpful colleague, ether as Washington COB or Executive Editor in New York. But I believe – and will stand corrected if wrong - I was the only APer who collaborated with Walter on a book. We were by that time both retired.

Title: The Kennedy Brothers: A Legacy in Photographs. Published in 2009.

After selling the idea to my publisher I called Walter at his home in the Carolinas. "How about doing a book with me... you know more about the subject than I do. You do the words, I'll do the pictures." Need an introduction, I said, and 1,000 words on each brother. I'll find the pictures and do the captions. Sounds feasible, Walter said. He turned out the copy in less than two weeks. I collected 120 photographs.

Many have commented on Walter's magical insight into the essence of a story. His words for the book were just that...complete though spare. Every 1,000-word story captured the essence of each brother, every story separate and specific but connected to the Kennedy mystic. The book was well designed, the hardcover republished in soft cover and several languages, including Chinese. I sent Walter a copy of the Chinese version. We wondered whether the Taiwan translation was as insightful in Chinese. It was a question never answered.

The publisher, Black Dog and Leventhal, was delighted to have a marquee by-line on the book. It still turns up from time to time on a bookstore shelf.

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Margaret Callahan - I am sharing this photo of Walter Mears and the AP Washington front office from 1977 to 1983 which was taken in the mid 1990's at the bureau. It shows, from left: Mary Pennybacker, Walter Mears, yours truly and Reid Miller. Posted this photo on Facebook in June 2021 when we lost Mary. Unfortunately have to post again learning of the passing of Walter Mears, bureau chief and extraordinary journalist. Through teary eyes remembering the highs and lows of the front office, first-rate journalistic coverage of the day's events, and Walter's winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for outstanding political coverage. Walter's talent was also

written about in the book "Boys on the Bus" and the following was taken from his AP-issued obit:

" Crouse recounted how, immediately after a political debate, a reporter from The Boston Globe called out to the man from AP: "Walter, what's our lead? What's the lead, Walter?" The question became a catchphrase among political reporters to describe the search for the most newsworthy aspect of an event — the lead."

Sad to say Walter's passing is the lead ... rest in peace boss.

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Darrell Christian - After winning his Pulitzer for coverage of the 1976 presidential campaign, Walter sent a note to all bureaus saying the award represented the collective work of the staff and thanking them for all their efforts.

Ever the wise guy, I asked if that applied to splitting the prize money.

"No," Walter answered. "You couldn't have done it without me." No argument there. Walter kept all the money.

Walter was never full of himself, despite his accolades.

Take the time when I, by then a Washington desk supervisor, had the nerve to spike a Mears column on the sale of AWAC planes to Saudi Arabia.

When I came in the next day, Walter was standing outside his office door, waiting for me.

"Christian," he bellowed. "Did you spike my column?"

"Yes, I did," I said, with some trepidation. "There was nothing new in it."

"Damn," Walter said, turning back to his office. "I was hoping I could get that one past you."

Walter was my mentor, trusted adviser and delightful golf buddy, but most importantly he was my friend.

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Chris Connell - One thing left out of the Mears obituaries is that it was his question about the Nixon pardon during the first-ever vice presidential debate in 1976 that elicited Sen. Bob Dole's description of WWII, the Korean war and Vietnam as "Democrat wars."

Walter Mondale's famous rejoinder was: "Senator Dole has richly earned his reputation as a hatchet man."

Click [here](#) for the video.

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Al Cross – Many thanks for the special edition. Walter sure deserves it. I never met him, but from the time I read “Boys on the Bus” in college he was my beaux ideal of a deadline political writer, someone who could see the essence of an event and communicate it quickly. In my 15-plus years as Courier-Journal political writer, whenever I had to write on deadline, I am sure I drew on many years of reading Walter’s stories. He set the example for the craft.

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Bob Daugherty - It was a sad Saturday reading of Walter Mears’ passing. He followed me from Boston to WX. Walter was particular about his portrait. He asked me to shoot a head shot for a book jacket. Finally got a pix that won his approval. That earned me the post as his official head shot photographer. I was honored.

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Dan Day - Correspondent Kim Price having moved on to Seattle and successor Pat Arnold not yet arrived from Las Vegas, I found myself working alone as Omaha news editor one Friday afternoon in fall 1983. The bureau was across the hall from the Omaha World-Herald newsroom, and I was surprised to look up and see Executive Editor G. Woodson Howe striding my way.

"I want you to send a telegram to Walter Mears," said Howe, who directed his staff year-round to drain countless barrels of ink covering the University of Nebraska football team. Howe expressed his displeasure at a member pickup story on the sports wire that he believed impugned the reputation of running back Mike Rozier, who was on his way to winning the Heisman Trophy for the top-ranked Cornhuskers.

I told Howe that I couldn't send a telegram but that I'd do my best to reach Walter.

I called for Chief of Bureau Ed Nicholls, who was working on the roof at his home in Des Moines (Iowa and Nebraska were paired in those days). Ed climbed down a ladder to tell me to call Walter. He wasn't in the office, but I managed to reach him at home.

That's when my hero worship for Walter kicked in.

After I relayed Howe's concerns, Walter said drolly, "We didn't get this excited about football at Middlebury. I'll give Woody a call."

Rest in peace, Walter.

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Bob Dobkin - I am honored to have worked for and with Walter Mears. He truly was an inspiration.

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Ron Edmonds - I was saddened to hear that my old friend, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Walter Mears had passed. Walter was AP's Washington bureau chief and hired me in 1981. It was an honor to know and work with him. He had a great sense of humor, never letting me forget that the president of the Associated Press told him to give me a fifty-dollar-a-week raise when I won the Pulitzer, while he only got a twenty-five dollar-a-week raise for winning his. Walter helped illuminate the world with facts. We've lost a wonderful man who was one of the greatest political journalists of his time. Grace and I send our condolences to his daughters Susan and Stephanie.

"Walter, what's our lead? What's the lead, Walter?" I'm sure could be heard at the pearly gates.

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David Egner - Fascinating C-SPAN interview from 2013:

Walter Mears Interview - C-SPAN.org

Journalist Walter Mears talked about his time covering the campaign, administration, and assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He spoke about his time on Kennedy's campaign and his personal ...

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Claude Erbsen - Walter did not just write. He made words sing and dance, conducting and choreographing as he pounded the keyboard.

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Connie Farrow - In addition to being a legendary journalist, Walter Mears was a kind man. Walter was in St. Louis to cover the final 2000 US Presidential Debate, which was held the day after Gov. Mel Carnahan's fatal plane crash that also killed my dear friend Chris Sifford. I had held it together throughout an endless work stretch that started the night before with reporting on the crash, picked up after a few hours of restless sleep with covering debate host Washington University's prep after then First Lady Jean Carnahan's call for the debate to go forward and culminated with assisting with debate coverage.

The AP had a large block of tables in the press area. I was pounding out a story on my laptop when Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore said he had called the Sifford family to extend his condolences and called for a moment of silence for the Carnahan and Sifford families. I couldn't control my emotions any longer. Tears flooded down my face as I attempted to finish my story before deadline.

Walter was suddenly standing over me, motioning for me to stand up. My first thought was, "I'm sitting in Walter's work space!" I started apologizing. He had noticed me sobbing and softly said, "I heard about your personal relationship with the Sifford family. I'm sorry." He gave me a hug and shared a few words of encouragement. It was what I needed to gather myself and push through the night. I was just a newswoman, but he noticed my grief and took time out to offer comfort.
#RIP Walter

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Mike Holmes - When George W. Bush was governor of Texas and being mentioned as a possible candidate for president, I got a call from Walter Mears. Walter wanted to let the Austin correspondent know that he was coming down to interview the younger Bush, who he'd known since W.'s stint on his father's 1988 campaign.

Now if there was ever an AP reporter qualified to "bigfoot" the local yokel, it was Walter. But that wasn't his way. I picked him up at the airport and we headed to lunch. He picked my brain about Bush's gubernatorial campaign and his tenure as governor. I filled him in on all the GOP big shots who'd been visiting Austin.

When it was time to head to the Capitol for his interview, he looked at me and said, "Let's go," insisting that I sit in on his interview.

I doubt my presence did much for Walter that day, but his respect for a local AP staffer was greatly appreciated.

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Terry Hunt - Walter was a brilliant writer but he was also pretty funny. We teamed up a number of times to cover G-7 summits and presidential trips. Once in London, Walter and I both had packed tuxedos because we were told we might be invited to the state dinner. We weren't. But we were invited by AP London bureau chief Myron Belkind to join him for dinner at his tony club. Walter mischievously suggested we wear the tuxedos because Myron was known as a sharp dresser and we would outshine him. When we showed up, Myron didn't say anything about our outfits for 10 minutes or so but finally had to ask why we were formally dressed. Walter said, "Well, we knew this was your club and we didn't want to embarrass you." Myron took the joke well.

Walter's fondness for Jack Daniels was well known. When Bill Clinton was running for re-election, his press secretary rushed from the campaign bus and came back with a bottle of Walter's favorite drink. More than a few political reporters switched to Jack Daniels when they learned that's what Mears drank, and he was what they wanted to be.

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Rich Kirkpatrick - In response to your call in Saturday's special edition for any photos of Walter, attached is a photo of a session at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in 1996.

Walter and Marty Thompson were visiting the AP's state Capitol staffs and asked for a session with each Governor.

Governor Tom Ridge, who later became the nation's first Homeland Security Secretary, is prominent in the foreground. Going clockwise from him around the table in his office is staffer Pam Sampson, staffer Hunter George, Marty, me, staffer Jim Strader, and Walter. (Pam went on to a great AP career that included stints on the Foreign Desk and o seas work. Hunter later was named AP Capitol Correspondent in Olympia, Washington.)

Of course, I still have my autographed copy of Walter's book, "The New News Business," which he signed for me during this visit.

So sad at his passing. He was a huge inspiration for all of us who aspired to be accomplished political reporters.

(The photo was taken by Walter's fellow Pulitzer Prize-winner, Paul Vathis. Many years after Paul's passing, his byline and photos continue to receive wide play. Last week was the 60th anniversary of the still-record performance of legendary NBA basketball star Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game during a Philadelphia Warriors game in Hershey, Pa. Paul's photo shows Wilt in the locker room holding up a piece of paper with "100" written on it. The New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer and The Patriot-News in Harrisburg all ran photos with Paul's byline last week.

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Dennis Kois - Wanted to thank you for the Walter Mears obit ... a great piece of writing that tells his incredible story very, very well.

I spent a few years working in the AP's Milwaukee bureau in the late 1960s and early 1970s. My groundwork for a career in corporate communications and PR. Not sure if I ever got to meet Walter, but I definitely followed his career and read many of his stories.

Proud to be associated with an organization that valued his skills and gave him a forum for writing news.

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Doug Kranz - Walter left the AP for a position with the Detroit Press. Walter was walking with his head down while passing the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue when Phil Emanuel and I decided to offer him a ride to the National Press Bldg. We asked Walter .. "Why you look so sad?" Walter responded, "I'm really not happy with this new position at the Detroit News." Phil said., "Come back to the AP Walter!! Your always welcome there!" Several weeks passed when Walter did return to the AP. Walter later became Vice President and Washington Bureau Chief and Special Political Correspondent.

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Jill Lawrence – Walter was very supportive when I first came to "this town" as a Pennsylvania regional reporter for AP, working in the DC bureau when he was bureau chief. He brought me onto the national staff in 1986 and I covered my first presidential campaign in 1988. It probably was Election Night 1986 when we had dinner at The Prime Rib, on K Street across from the AP office, and the evening writing went swimmingly. (See tweet)

@JillDLawrence - Great journalist and champion of journalists, including a young woman determined to cover national politics when hardly any women did. RIP Walter Mears, who taught me that a steak dinner with wine was the perfect prep for writing PM copy on election night.

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Larry Margasak - Walter was my favorite bureau chief, because of his great respect for the staff. He let us do our work without needing to intervene unless there was a problem. I was a Guild negotiator in 1980, when we got bogged down on whether managers could do union-covered work to avoid paying overtime. A company negotiator said, "What about Walter Mears!" a reference to a manager who was a Pulitzer winner, someone who set the gold standard for campaign coverage. The union, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, proposed that managers not be permitted to regularly perform union-covered work—except for Walter Mears. The idea was rejected, but the Guild folks had a good laugh.

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Bill McCloskey - Two recollections of Walter:

The National Association of Broadcasters had donated to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation of Washington the use of their suite at a Washington Capitals hockey game as a scholarship fund raiser some years back. Many of the guests lingered around the food and bev table, but Walter had a ticket and was sitting in the box's front row of seats. I joined him. Walter had played hockey at Middlebury College and understood better than I the intricacies of the game. It was like sitting with the play-by-play guy, only being able to ask questions.

Another was a discussion of where to draw the line when accepting hospitality, like ice cream cones back when the White House grounds were open to press card holders and their families to watch fireworks on the Fourth of July, and more particularly when there was a more opulent spread or a gift arrived at Christmas. Walter's rule was simple, "if you can consume it in one sitting, it's OK."

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Bob Moen – My thoughts on Walter come from when we lived in KC where the GOP national convention was held in 1976.

At the time I was a sophomore in high school learning how to drive. My dad (Fred Moen), who was bureau chief there, would have me drive him around town to get

supervised experience at the wheel.

I recall going with my dad to pick up Walter and take him to his hotel in the downtown area. I don't remember if I actually drove them (if I did I'm absolutely appalled now), but I remember Walter as just another unpretentious AP guy (like my dad if I might add). He was among a number of AP guys I met and even played golf with while my dad was bureau chief.

I don't remember any of the conversation in the car (so maybe I was driving after all), but we did go up with him to his hotel room where he unpacked his typewriter and other things while he and my dad talked about convention logistics before we left.

My dad hired me during the convention at what was then Kemper Arena to watch the AP section overnight. I was able to obtain autographs from Mike Wallace and other "famous" TV news guys. But much to my regret now I never thought of asking Walter for one since he was just another AP guy to me. But I guess that's what happens when your around great newsmen like Walter and my dad.

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Ray Newton - Great tribute to Walter Mears. I came to know him when I was a member of the APME group many years ago. Back in the 80s, I did a lot with the Telecommunications and Technology Committee. You recall that transition period well, I venture. What we were doing then--primitive, huh. And now?

Anyway, we'd run into Mears occasionally at the meetings. He was a hoot. I recall one we had in Albuquerque. Took a couple of days to recover.

And some of the then-technology. Remember VDTs and CRTs? and then "portable" computers that weighed about 30 pounds? And all that Radio Shack equipment? And the first attempts at creating electronic libraries? I recall chatting with Walter Mears and Howard Graves about all that kind of stuff.

Not many of us left from that era. But great job on sharing the influence Mears had.

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Joyce Rosenberg – When I saw "Connecting" in my Inbox on a Saturday morning, I knew it had to be something transcendent. And so it was. News of the passing of a great journalist I admired since I was a teenager, and who was a good friend and colleague to so many people, was devastating.

I did not work directly with Walter, and I wish I had. He was my boss when he was executive editor, and I remember talking with him a few times, letting him know what was going on with a metro New York story. I didn't have a close relationship with him but I treasure those moments.

I have much gratitude toward and lovely memories about Walter for other reasons. For one, he set an example for journalists in my generation including me. For another, he was one of the AP executives who persuaded my husband, Marty Sutphin, to

return to the company in 1984. Marty had left two years earlier while he began his recovery from alcoholism, and I don't think he ever thought he'd be welcome again. But Walter told him, "Marty, you have to come back. I need someone to talk to."

Walter gave Marty a lot of credit for helping him win his 1976 Pulitzer; the great reporter and the great editor were quite a team.

Marty and I had dinner with Walter and Fran during one of our trips to Washington in the late 1990s. I looked at these two men, long-time friends and colleagues, both of whom had gone through great personal trials, and it was rewarding to see both of them happy. And Walter was very happy with Fran. Marty was very glad to see that.

After Marty died in 2000, Walter was very kind and comforting when we'd run into each other. He always wanted to know how I was doing.

I'm still trying to get my mind around Walter's passing. He was a presence in my life for nearly 50 years. I am so sad, and so grateful.

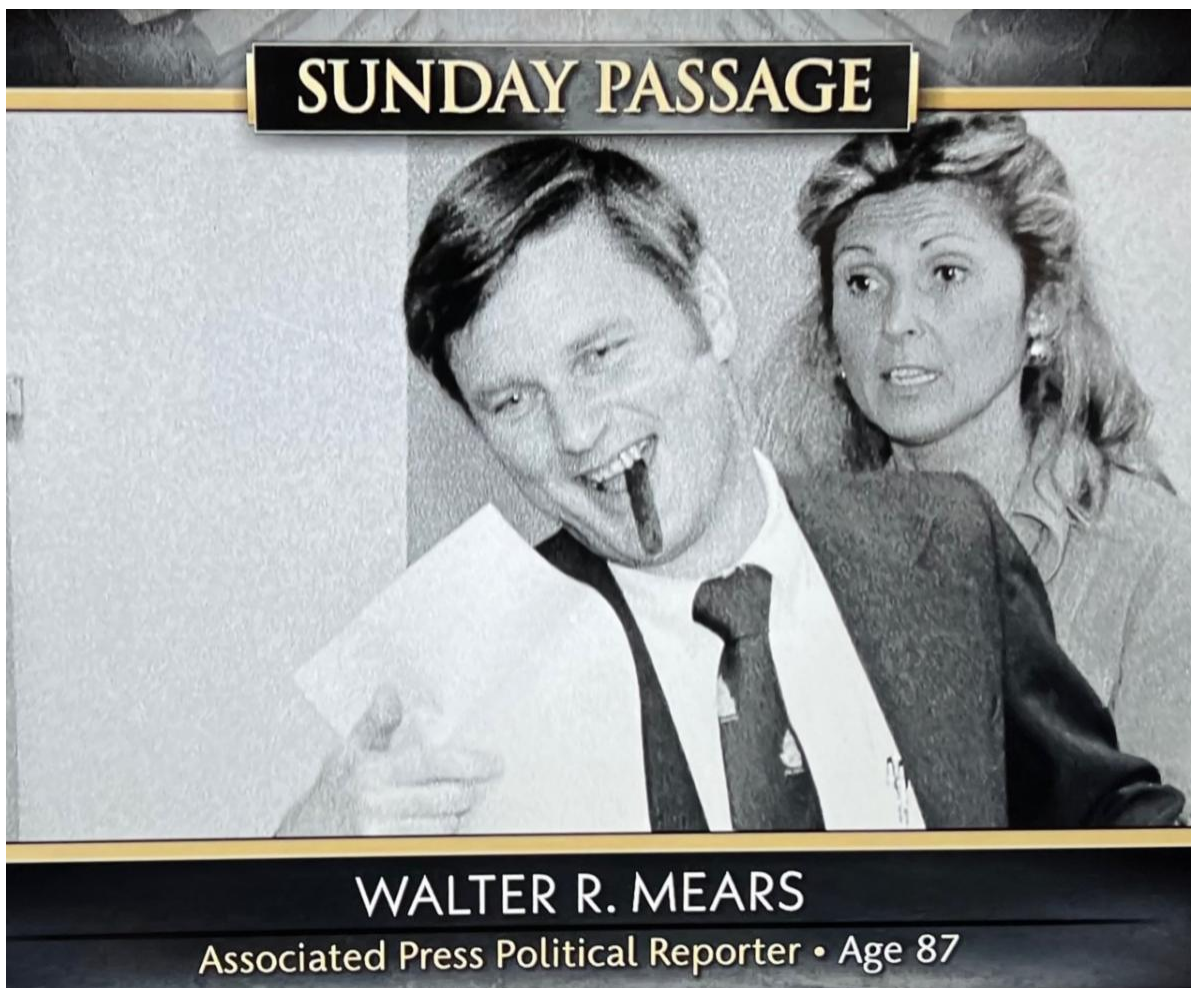
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Ginny Pitt Sherlock - I was saddened to learn of the death of Walter Mears. I have so many fond memories of Walter's legendary journalistic career, but I have repeated his name many times over the years in recalling a conversation we had when he won his Pulitzer Prize. As a General Desk editor in the mid-1970s, I frequently edited stories written by reporters in the Washington Bureau before sending them out on the national wire. Unlike some of his colleagues, Walter was very gracious about my tinkering with his copy. When I called to congratulate him on his Pulitzer, Walter told me he wanted to share the award with me because of my editing. "You can have the plaque," he said. "I'll keep the \$10,000.00." That's the closest I ever came to a Pulitzer Prize.

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Hal Spencer - The clear-eyed Walter Mears was my role model as, I suspect, he was for countless reporters. I have one personal memory that stands out. I was among news people involved in a struggle with Washington State government officials over how much to pay for our press office at the State Capitol. From the other Washington, Walter got involved. In effect we had the lede all wrong, he said. You can't put a price on space for the press because it's priceless. The correct lede is that it's the government's First Amendment duty to provide press access. And in our case, that proved the winning argument. So simple and so true.

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This screen grab from CBS Sunday Morning shows Walter looking at the print-out of an AAA story in 1977 about his Pulitzer win. Washington newswoman Jurate Kazickas (a Connecting colleague) is shown in the background.

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Walter's photo and a short description of his AP career was among the "notable deaths" on CBS Sunday Morning today.

I met Walter when I first joined AP as a probationary staffer in Atlanta in 1975. As he covered the campaign of Georgia's Jimmy Carter, I learned so much from "Mr. Mears," as I called him until he told me to just call him Walter. His guidance resulted in my first big AP opportunity, the Southeast roundup when Carter won.

Our paths crossed many times in subsequent years, the last when I was bureau chief in San Francisco. He was one of a kind.

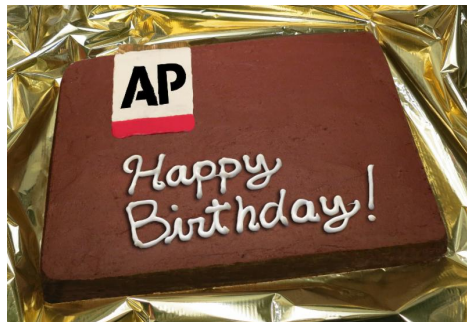
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[John Willis](#) - If ever a special edition of Connecting was warranted, Walter's passing is "it."

He wrote history as it happened and became a historic model for modern political journalism.

RIP Mr. Mears.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Gary Clark

Michael Giarrusso

Myron Belkind

Debbie Rusolo

Stories of interest

Russia's independent media, long under siege, teeters under new Putin crackdown (Washington Post)

By Elahe Izadi and Sarah Ellison

Ivan Kolpakov, editor in chief of Meduza, one of Russia's most popular independent media outlets, had been expecting the government to block the public's access to his website every day since the war with Ukraine began.

On Friday morning it finally happened. But then Russia's parliament went further, passing a law banning what it considers "fake" news about the military, including any rhetoric that calls the invasion of Ukraine an "invasion" — the preferred language is "special military operation" — with a potential 15-year prison sentence. Putin signed it into law hours later.

"Our sources say they are likely to use this against journalists," said Kolpakov, speaking from a location he would not disclose. "They can use it against journalists, and why wouldn't they? They decided to destroy the industry entirely."

Read more [here](#).

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How the Ukraine war exposed Western media bias

(CNN)

By Abbas Al Lawati and Nadeen Ebrahim

The Middle East found itself dragged into coverage of the conflict in Ukraine over the past week as journalists descended on the country to cover the biggest European war in decades.

Western war reporters, more used to being deployed in Middle East conflict zones, were quick to make comparisons. Some of those comparisons went overboard, causing outrage in the Arab world.

"This isn't a place, with all due respect, you know, like Iraq or Afghanistan that has seen conflict raging for decades," said CBS News foreign correspondent Charlie D'Agata, referring to Ukraine. "You know, this is a relatively civilized, relatively European... city." He later apologized.

Other news outlets poured sympathy on Ukrainian victims, with interviewees and correspondents pointing out that, unlike Middle Eastern refugees, Ukrainian victims were "white," "Christian," "middle class," "blonde" and "blue eyed."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

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Putin's full-scale information war got a key assist from Donald Trump and right-wing media (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN
Columnist

The former presidential adviser and Russia expert Fiona Hill made headlines last week when she stated bluntly in a Politico interview that Vladimir Putin would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons.

But it was another part of that long interview that I found almost as arresting. Hill described how Putin, as he reaches for domination, relies heavily on his skills at the influence-and-information game.

"What happens in a Russian 'all-of-society' war, you soften up the enemy," she told her interviewer, Maura Reynolds. Hill named some names: "You get the Tucker Carlsons and Donald Trumps doing your job for you."

And now, after a few years of their apologetic rhetoric on behalf of Russia, Putin "has got swaths of the Republican Party" and "masses of the U.S. public saying, 'Good on

you, Vladimir Putin,' or blaming NATO, or blaming the U.S.'" for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, she added.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Acclaimed foreign correspondent Hugh O'Shaughnessy dies aged 87 (The Guardian)

By MARK TOWNSEND

Hugh O'Shaughnessy, the admired journalist known for his reporting on Latin America, has died aged 87.

The former Observer correspondent won a series of awards during an illustrious career largely spent covering the rapidly changing social and political landscape of South America.

He was perhaps best known for his courageous coverage of the coup by Augusto Pinochet, when the military dictator seized power in Chile in 1973. Choosing to stay on in Santiago to cover the fallout of the coup, O'Shaughnessy went on to document Pinochet's authoritarian rule, during which tens of thousands of opponents were tortured.

The Irish journalist also wrote a number of books and, in 1977, founded the Latin America Bureau, an online and print publisher of independent news about the region's struggles for social and environmental justice. In total, O'Shaughnessy covered events on the continent for more than 40 years.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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How and why Congress needs to get big tech to start paying for news (Seattle Times)

By Brier Dudley
Seattle Times Free Press editor

Congress will try once again to save local journalism this year.

A key bill to stabilize the news industry, prevent further layoffs and position it for long-term survival is being revised and prepared for reintroduction by U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and others.

The bipartisan Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (S 673) would “give these news outlets a fighting chance,” Klobuchar said at a Feb. 2 hearing the Minnesota Democrat hosted on the journalism crisis.

The JCPA would allow publishers to jointly negotiate with Google and Facebook, to secure fair compensation for news content the tech giants are profiting from.

Expect a bruising fight. When a similar policy was debated last year in Australia, a much smaller market, the platforms went ballistic. Google threatened to cut services across the nation and Facebook temporarily blocked all news on its platform.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer.

Today in History - March 7, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 7, the 66th day of 2022. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what came to be known as “Bloody Sunday.”

On this date:

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a U.S. patent for his telephone.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft ordered 20,000 troops to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the Mexican Revolution.

In 1916, Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) had its beginnings in Munich, Germany, as an airplane engine manufacturer.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use." (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

In 1999, movie director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70, having just finished editing "Eyes Wide Shut."

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated John Bolton to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, an appointment that ran into Democratic opposition, prompting Bush to make a recess appointment.

In 2016, Peyton Manning announced his retirement after 18 seasons in the National Football League.

In 2020, health officials in Florida said two people who had tested positive for the new coronavirus had died; the deaths were the first on the East Coast attributed to the outbreak.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, speaking at a Daimler truck plant in Mount Holly, North Carolina, made his most urgent appeal to date for the nation to wean itself from oil, calling it a "fuel of the past" and demanding that the United States broaden its approach to energy. The Indianapolis Colts released injured quarterback Peyton Manning, who went on to play for the Denver Broncos.

Five years ago: WikiLeaks published thousands of documents described as secret files about CIA hacking tools the government employed to break into users' computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs from companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung. The Commerce Department reported the U.S. trade deficit jumped in January 2017 by 9.6 percent to \$48.5 billion, the highest level in nearly five years as a flood of mobile phones and other consumer products widened America's trade gap with China. A freight train smashed into a charter bus at a rail crossing in Biloxi, Mississippi, leaving four people dead.

One year ago: In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, their first since they stepped aside from royal duties, Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, spoke of racism and mistreatment from within the royal family; Meghan, who is biracial, said the palace had failed to help her when she had suicidal thoughts, and that a member of the royal family had raised "concerns" about the color of her baby's skin when she

was pregnant with her son, Archie. Pope Francis wrapped up a historic whirlwind tour of Iraq that sought to bring hope to the country's marginalized Christian minority. Team LeBron romped to a 170-150 win over Team Durant in the NBA's 70th All-Star Game.

Today's Birthdays: International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 84. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 82. Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 80. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 79. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 76. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 76. Pro Football Hall of Famer Franco Harris is 72. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann is 70. R&B singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 70. Rock musician Kenny Aronoff (BoDeans, John Mellencamp) is 69. Actor Bryan Cranston is 66. Actor Donna Murphy is 63. Actor Nick Searcy is 63. Golfer Tom Lehman is 63. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl is 62. Actor Mary Beth Evans is 61. Singer-actor Taylor Dayne is 60. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 59. Author E.L. James is 59. Author Bret Easton Ellis is 58. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 58. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 58. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 56. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 55. Actor Rachel Weisz (vys) is 52. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 51. Actor Jay Duplass is 49. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 49. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 48. Actor Jenna Fischer is 48. Actor Tobias Menzies is 48. Actor Sarayu Blue is 47. Actor Audrey Marie Anderson is 47. Actor TJ Thyne is 47. Bluegrass singer-musician Frank Solivan is 45. Actor Laura Prepon is 42. Actor Bel Powley is 30. Poet and activist Amanda Gorman is 24. Actor Giselle Eisenberg (TV: "Life in Pieces") is 15.

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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