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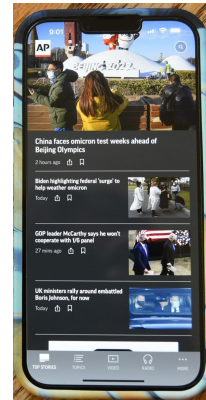
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Connecting

March 8, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 8, 2022,

Congratulations to our colleague [Noreen Gillespie](#) on her appointment to direct the AP's business news coverage worldwide.

She transitions from her position as Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News to the new job in early June.

In her 19 years with AP, she has covered politics and education in Hartford, worked as a National Desk editor in New York, Assistant South Editor in Atlanta, Deputy Central Editor in Chicago and Deputy Sports Editor in New York before moving to her present position in 2017.

Today's issue brings more of your wonderful memories of **Walter Mears** – who impacted many lives and careers during his 45-year AP career. In the compilation, you'll learn why **Merrill Hartson** gained the nickname "Hamlet Editor" from Walter. I

told Merrill, you can borrow on the Shakespearean version of that nickname with this appropriate verse:

*"Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."*

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Noreen Gillespie named AP's global business editor



AP Photo

Deputy Head of News Gathering Michael Giarrusso announced on Monday that Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie will take on a new role leading AP's business news coverage.

Here is his memo to news staff: We are excited to announce that Noreen Gillespie is the new Global Business Editor.

Noreen has a long history of being involved in transformative projects at the AP. For the past five years, she's been constantly innovating U.S. news, including developing our state government collaboration with Report for America and securing a grant to deepen education coverage.

She has always worked hand-in-hand with our revenue and product teams to make sure AP is producing content that customers want and will need in the future. Now, she's bringing that leadership and collaboration to another crucial part of AP's operation.

We have ambitious plans already underway to analyze customer and reader needs to remake our approach to business news. We're going to take those findings and work to better position our journalists to do the most crucial coverage of money, work and corporations.

Noreen, Deputy Business Editor Cara Rubinsky and I have worked together several times at AP, and I can't imagine a better team to help move us forward in Business News.

Noreen will immediately join our customer feedback and long-term planning. However, for the first few months, she will still be working closely with the U.S. News team on important projects. She will take over day-to-day oversight of Business News in early June.

Please join me in congratulating Noreen.

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

Connecting mailbox

Ken on Ken

[Ken Kusmer](#) - It was great to read up on Ken Klein (March 4 Connecting). At the Ohio U Post, he was called Ken-boy, an apparent derivation of John-boy (Walton) and a moniker I inherited when I arrived at The Post shortly after he graduated. I also succeeded him as an AP-Tel Aviv intern.

When I returned stateside and covered teenage AIDS victim Ryan White for AP in Indiana, Ken sent me a clip of one of my stories that ran in The Washington Post.

Ken's a great guy.

-0-

Visualizing what Fred Jewell and Marc Wilson saw

[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - Many excellent tributes and remembrances have been shared by colleagues in recent days following the extinguishing of several of AP's bright lights. I was particularly taken by Marc Wilson's recounting (Monday Connecting) of covering with photographer Fred Jewell the 1979 crash of an American Airlines flight 191.

His detail painted a grim picture of what they found on rushing to the crash site a mile or so from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. And how they managed to do their jobs of informing the country and the world of a horrible and devastating tragedy amid overwhelming challenges. The scene was "little more than smoking scorched earth." As Marc asked, "How do you photograph oblivion?"

Fred was up to the task and managed to get the shot -- many, actually -- as he did during a distinguished 38-year career with the AP.

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Charles Tasnadi and Cuba



Prime Minister Fidel Castro presented this informal portrait, during a reception in Havana, for the visiting delegates of the US Mayor's Conference on June 28, 1978. Prior the reception, Castro met individually all 100 members of the group, including 18 Mayors, Councilmen, wives, staff, and press, in the Palace of Protocol. (AP Photo/Charles Tasnadi)

Robert Meyers - Sorry to get behind the topic, but missing from the recent discussion of AP coverage in Cuba was any mention of the late, great Charles Tasnadi. Charlie was a bridge between the world and the Cuban revolutionary leadership. I have heard many stories from Charlie, and others about his interactions. Bringing big prints to flatter the Castro brothers, learning about baseball photography etiquette by running out to second base to cover a play after fleeing the Soviet invasion of Hungary, working his way through South America through Cuba to the United States eventually becoming a dean of the White House photo corps.

Others know a lot more than my scant knowledge, but he can't be left out of the story of the AP in Cuba.

My wife and I visited Cuba in the Obama years and I reviewed Charlie's pictures in the AP archives before going. I found my way to some of the places he photographed, awed to stand in his footsteps so many years later.

There are nearly 300 pictures in the [AP images archive](#) from Cuba bylined Charles Tasnadi.

New-member profile: Lolita Baldor

Lolita Baldor - Lolita Baldor is the military/national security reporter for The Associated Press. She has covered military, counterterrorism and national security issues for the Associated Press since 2005, including travel with top defense, military and national leaders all over the world.

She was assigned to cover the Pentagon for The AP from 2005 to 2009. During that time, she traveled abroad extensively with the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including trips to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East and Asia, as well as with military service leaders and the vice president of the United States.



During 2009-2010, she covered counterterrorism and cybersecurity as part of the effort to launch AP's new terrorism team, focusing on terrorist groups, threats, and investigations into a number of planned and executed attacks against the United States.

In January 2011, she returned to the Pentagon beat to focus on national security, counterterrorism and Defense Department issues. She has continued to travel with military and defense leaders, and has covered an array of national security issues, ranging from extremist groups around the world and cybersecurity threats, to international defense policies involving the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, military operations and planning, terror financing and defense budgeting and programs.

She joined the Associated Press in Washington in April 2003, and covered Congress, politics, defense spending, and other issues for Southern New England AP bureaus.

Prior to joining AP, Baldor was the Washington Correspondent for the New Haven Register and the Connecticut Post, covering a wide range of political, Congressional and defense issues.

Baldor was born and raised in Laconia, N.H., and is a graduate of Michigan State University.

More of your memories of Walter Mears



Here is a photo taken at the AP Springfield bureau during Walter's visit. From left: Marty Thompson, Springfield Correspondent Sandra Skowron, Walter Mears, Dennis Conrad and, sitting, newsman Ray Long.

Dennis Conrad - One of the highlights of my time at the Illinois Statehouse as a newsman there for 14 years was a visit made by Walter Mears in 1996 to our Associated Press bureau then located in what was the press room of the State Capitol. I got to be with Walter when he interviewed Secretary of State George Ryan, the official custodian of the building, a future governor of the Land of Lincoln and, of course, federal prison inmate. I recall it was a rather cringe-worthy experience as King George came across as pompous as can be - not just to me but undoubtedly to Walter as well. I also recall that hot summer day when we decided on a place to go for lunch - per the correspondent's idea - we went to a Japanese steakhouse across from the Governor's Mansion. It felt like we were eating in a sauna. For me, Walter's visit completed a chapter in a book of wonderful memories. A few years earlier, I got to talk over the phone with John Chancellor, then the featured commentator on NBC Nightly News, who had called me about a story I did that had made the A-wire. Walter and John were close friends and had co-authored a book together that I still have. They also shared a common fate, along with that of my parents and so many millions of others: cancer. RIP Walter Mears.

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Kevin Costelloe - Walter inscribed my copy of his book "The News Business" (co-authored with John Chancellor) with the following words: "For Kevin – a fine reporter, Walter R. Mears." I've always tried to live up to those kind words. He was my first bureau chief.

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Mike Doan - After managing the Washington news desk the night of the famous "Saturday Night Massacre," Walter told me I had to handle the desk again the next day as reaction to Nixon's shakeup poured in. I should have been flattered, but I complained that I would miss my Oakland A's play the seventh game of the World Series on TV. To placate me, Walter sold me his tickets to the Washington Redskins game the next week. That may not sound like a concession, but tickets were impossible to come by then. I took him up on it and watched a thrilling game against the lowly New York Giants in which injured Billy Kilmer and Sonny Jurgensen kept substituting for each other at quarterback. It was worth it!

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Mike Feinsilber - I may be the only Connector who was hired directly from UPI to AP by Walter Mears.

Walter, who led the AP's Senate staff before he became the Washington COB, was familiar with my work because I, one of UPI's Senate staff, was able to outwrite AP regularly and it showed in the play. Some time later, as I was walking to work, the late, great Harry Rosenthal came zipping down the street. He honked and offered a ride.

Harry often covered courts. In the car, he said he had a document filed in a lawsuit which might interest me. An ex-UPI executive was suing UPI because he felt he'd been underpaid. The document listed the salaries of UPI's top brass.

Would you be interested, Harry asked?

I would.

Stares met me when we walked into the AP bureau. Seated in his windowed office, Walter saw me and waved me in.

Walter: "How'd you like to work for AP?"

Me, after maybe 30 seconds: "I'd like to work for AP."

And, a few weeks later, after a bit of negotiating over lunch with Walter and Reid Miller, the ACOB, the deal was struck. Evermore, whenever she saw me, UPI's star, Helen Thomas, hissed, "Traitor."

My first assignment was a profile of congresswoman Bela Abzug, who always wore a hat and an attitude, hidden from none. The profile turned out OK. Walter told me he'd sent a copy to someone in New York with a note: "I told you he could write."

And so started a 25-year AP career, plus 10 more as a parttime Washington bureau writing coach.

Thank you, Walter.

-0-

Merrill Hartson - Walter Mears was a leader in the field, who mentored many in his charge without ever talking as if a mentor.

We learned mostly by watching this magician ply his trade. This irrepressible Red Sox fan became a legend in the news game, a gazelle in the field.

If quiz shows were his thing, he would never lose at "Beat the Clock."

He focused on getting the story first - but even as importantly, the lead.

He had few pet peeves but one was what he considered as such were overused political cliches.

A memorable Mears memo to staff, when he was Washington AP bureau chief, exhorted his staff: "It's time to upstick 'downplay.'"

AH-SHUCKS STAR

Walter not only led by example, soft-spoken but professional in his talent for making sources, getting tips, writing impact news as Superman-fast as that proverbial speeding bullet. And as Washington bureau chief in the early 1980s, he adapted immediately to the need for a different brand of adaptability - a requirement to walk, not run, for resolutions of problems with staff. He quickly mastered the method to the madness, which called for a more methodical profile as the bureau's boss.

He specialized in a soft hands-on style, often even well beyond arms length. And he countenanced many incidents that would have made a lesser leader bellow out something in anger or frustration, or both.

On a Saturday in 1980 while covering Jimmy Carter, more than a year before he would be made Washington COB, he was present for a Carter appearance in Keene, N.H., in the part of the country where Walter grew up. On heavy deadline he dictated a lead and said he had to hang up, and asked me to "throw a little color into it" from the TV or Concord, AP coverage. So I complied, but in the process produced a descriptive of Keene as a hamlet in New Hampshire.

I didn't hear any more about this until Walter came back to the bureau the following Monday. He obviously wasn't happy about this faux pas, but he displayed the same mild-mannered temperament he would show as the bureau chief before long.

He approached me at the political desk and said the editor of an important member newspaper in New Hampshire had called him to complain vehemently about labeling Keene as a hamlet, telling Walter that maybe he was getting too big for his pants.

Hearing the blow-back Mears got about my editing misfire, I feared I was about to get busted as political desk supervisor. But Walter's style was to hector more than hound, and to choose teasing over tormenting, even as he unquestionably led by miles as AP's most-significant-journalist.

My penance was this: Not only did he broach this embarrassing incident within earshot of other editors on that Monday morning, but often during the rest of our time together in Washington. He almost always brought it up in a light-hearted way - once acknowledging my presence at his door with a quintessential Mears deadpan: "Oh, look, here's our Hamlet Editor!"

-0-

Terry Hunt - Many years ago I had to give a speech for AP in Indianapolis. I mentioned it to Walter and asked his advice on what to say. He said he was giving a speech soon to Midwest editors in Chicago and he offered me his text. I declined but he persisted, so I caved in and gave his speech in Indianapolis with a few changes. The crowd loved it. Then Walter gave his speech in Chicago. You can guess where this is going. It turns out some editors from Indianapolis showed up in Chicago and several of them came up afterward and told Walter they had heard practically the same speech from me earlier in Indianapolis. I don't think Walter ratted me out.

And...

The day Walter won the Pulitzer Prize was a day of great jubilation for AP. There were testimonials to his brilliant writing, his extraordinary speed, his incredible insight ... on and on. Years later, at his retirement party, Walter recalled that he went home on Pulitzer night, looked in the mirror and ruefully said, "You're not that f-----g good." He always was always a big dog but also humble.

-0-

Valerie Komor - I got to know Walter during the years 2005-2007 when he led a group of AP journalists in the research and writing of a new history of AP.

Ever kind, ever twinkling, ever ready with a wry look and a quick riposte, he served as chief editor, refining and pruning the text and counseling the nervous writers.

In addition, Walter composed the first modern and concise history of AP, which we appended to the book, *Breaking News: How AP Has Covered War, Peace and Everything Else* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2007). It remains unequalled.

I will miss him greatly. As we all know, he is irreplaceable.

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Carl P. Leubsdorf - I worked closely with Walter for about 10 years in the 1960s and 1970s, first when he ran the AP's Senate staff and later on national politics. He was a good friend and a gracious colleague. In the 1972 campaign, he did the AMs

roundups, and I did the PMs at a time when there still were many afternoon papers. When Walter was promoted to Deputy Chief of Bureau, I got a taste of his reluctance to leave writing for an administrative job, a pattern that was to recur several times during his career. I found an envelope on the desk I inherited as his successor running the Senate staff. It contained the AP's key to the Senate Press Gallery and a note. "Herewith, the last symbol of my authority," it read. "You don't know what this does to me." Three years later, when Walter returned to the AP after his brief, unhappy stint at the Detroit News, the first thing he did was to take me out for a cup of coffee to reassure me that we would continue to work together, as we had before he got promoted upstairs. There was a special Senate election that month in New Hampshire, and we both spent a week there, covering it. As things turned out, I left the AP a few months later to cover politics and the White House at The Baltimore Sun. My move really had nothing to do with Walter's return and more to do with my finding a job that would be a good next step for me professionally, a judgment that proved to be correct. Walter was always gracious to me in my post-AP career, and to my wife, Susan Page. When he became president of the Gridiron Club in 1994, he made Susan the club's first woman Music Chairman. One other note: Walter was very athletic, as well as a fervent fan of all Boston teams. He played hockey for some years in Washington on an adult team but his No. 1 sport was golf. When he covered the Senate, he always took Thursdays off, presumably because the golf courses were less crowded than on Saturday. In recent years, he was frustrated when back trouble sidelined him from golfing, noting he had traded in his golf club for a cane.

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Dave Lubeski - He came in for a tour and to visit with colleagues not long after broadcast and wireside moved into the new building in DC. He even stopped to chat with us in sports. I was in awe. He was a legend in our presence. I was so glad I got to meet him and shake his hand.

-0-

Mark Mittelstadt - As bureau chief in New Jersey in the 1990s I was asked by a member to introduce Washington Post reporter and columnist David Broder at an upcoming editors meeting of the New Jersey Press Association.

I had Broder's biography and other background. But I figured I needed more and called Broder's good friend from the campaign trail, Walter Mears.

Mears shared a couple humorous stories, but then mischievously asked: "How far are you willing to go?" As I recall I laughed, then responded to the effect of what did he have in mind?

Mears and Broder had met in the early 1960s and traveled thousands of miles together on the bus of many presidential campaigns. Recalling that Ed Muskie didn't think he got enough credit for his performance in the 1972 New Hampshire presidential primary, Mears said reporters made up a song that poked fun at themselves and Muskie.

With some regrets (there's a reason music groups don't give drummers a microphone), I ended my NJPA intro with the song, sung to the tune of "Rock of Ages:" "David Broder, write for me, tell me what is victory."

As Broder passed me on stage, he said under his breath "Mears told you that, didn't he?"

Broder died in March 2011. I'm guessing he and his old buddy are together again somewhere enjoying a Jack Daniels, regaling old tales from the trail and having fun at each other's expense.

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Betty Osborne – *wife of the late Burl Osborne, former AP managing editor, AP board chairman and editor/publisher of Dallas Morning News* - My last email from Walter...Jan 3, 2022. Just two months before he died. I feel honored. We had spoken and emailed several times over the past two years since Fran's death. In mid-December, I sent a digital copy of Burl's biography to Walter, as he had requested, before it went to the printer. He was gracious to offer a "quote" or blurb for the book's cover. I knew he was fragile but I didn't know the extent of his illness. I'm now reading that maybe he didn't either. His quote about the biography 'leads' the back of the jacket cover. The print book will be released September 6. The eBook and audiobook will be released by Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP) with the spring releases in late May.

As you can see from Walter's credit request, which we honored, he and Burl had a special bond—their mutual love for the AP.

His request: "Just say I was an AP reporter for 45 years and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977."

Greatly, will I miss him.

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Lyle Price - Walter Mears was well known to the LA bureau at AP staff for many years, beginning to my memory when he came to Los Angeles in his coverage of the California presidential primary of 1968. My job as a news staffer in the LA bureau was to assist him in specifically keeping track of Robert Kennedy--including following his every move and speech for a number of days. I would file stories after every RFK speech which with other presidential campaign items would be run on the state wire in California and be used by Mears as needed for his AAA wire roundups. From time to time, I would be at the same place that Mears was -- including a press center set up for the national news media -- and it was always a treat and a learning experience to be at his side. Mears, of course, stayed in Los Angeles after Kennedy's shooting until after RFK died a day or so after being shot. AP beat UPI by four minutes BTW on the announcement of his death at a hospital about 2 a.m. that Jack Stevenson and I staffed for AP and gave word to send out a prepared bulletin. About daybreak, I believe, Mears picked up the story that Jack and I had been filing (with updates and

sidebars) long into the night and Mears continued to file AAA reports until the body was sent east for burial.

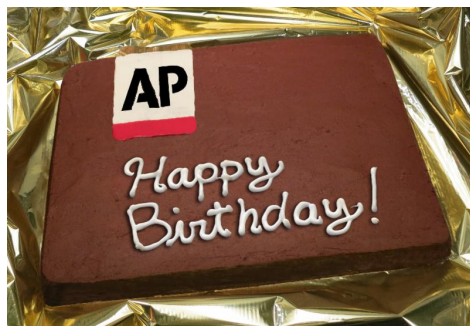
In the 1972 California primary, Mears was back again on the scene and I again assisted him, this time by tracking George McGovern's every move for the final three or four days before the election. Mears had a young assistant with him from the Washington DC bureau that time around (and may have had previously; but if he did, I didn't meet the guy. In 1972 I did meet him.)

Mike Rubin, an AP staffer in LA the same time as me in the 1960s and 1970s, had an apt two-word tribute that he e-mailed a day ago to me and others AP vets knowing of Mears: "Beyond legendary."

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Bob Seavey - I was lucky enough to participate in a brief writing seminar conducted by Walter about 20 years ago for International Desk staffers. He covered ways of improving the top graphs of a story during the informative and enjoyable couple hours. Even though Walter was an AP legend, he came across as a friendly and unassuming colleague.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Heidi Brown

Hoyt Harwell

Stories of interest

Fox News defense reporter challenges war comments on air (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News national security correspondent Jennifer Griffin couldn't hold back when following a retired U.S. Army colonel on the air recently, saying she barely had time to correct all of his "distortions."

She tried, though. And it wasn't for the first time or the last time.

Griffin, who has reported for Fox News Channel since 1996, has attracted attention over the past two weeks as she has publicly corrected or contradicted several Fox analysts and hosts on the air about the crisis in Ukraine. When Tucker Carlson suggested this week that some reporters are acting as flacks for the Pentagon, some interpreted that as a criticism of his colleague.

Meanwhile, former Fox host Bill O'Reilly singled Griffin out as a gutsy reporter unafraid to challenge others.

Read more [here](#).

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“An information dark age”: Russia’s new “fake news” law has outlawed most independent journalism there (Nieman Lab)

By JOSHUA BENTON

A week ago, many of the biggest fronts in the Russia-vs.-the-West information war crossed national borders — Western tech giants restricting Russia's access to money and audience, and Western governments and cable systems kicking Russian propaganda off their screens.

But in recent days, those battles have become more internal, as the Kremlin works hard to limit what independent information reaches its citizens — indicating increasing uneasiness with public opinion on the invasion of Ukraine.

Read more [here](#).

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A southern Oregon newspaper lost its entire reporting staff, creating a 'news desert' (KGW8)

By ASHLEY KOCH

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore — The entire news staff of the Herald and News, a newspaper in Klamath Falls, left their jobs this week, leaving a virtual news desert in the Klamath Basin. The area of southern Oregon is dealing with the state's worst drought (anywhere from "extreme" to "exceptional" drought according to the Oregon Drought Monitor), frequent wildfires and tense conflicts over water use.

The paper's editor, Tim Trainor, and three reporters all resigned this week. One of the reporters, Alex Schwartz, told KGW News that once Trainor announced his departure,

the others knew it was time for them to go as well.

"Tim resigned first and then the rest of us were just sort of like, that's kind of it for us," he said. "I don't want it to seem like it was like a loyalty thing — that we left because he left — but we just knew that it would just get worse after he left."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Betty Pizac.

Today in History - March 8, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 8, the 67th day of 2022. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

On this date:

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In 1817, the New York Stock & Exchange Board, which had its beginnings in 1792, was formally organized; it later became known as the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCullum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 77.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an “evil empire.”

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations with China. (The U.S. and China signed a trade pact in November 2000.)

In 2004, Iraq’s Governing Council signed a landmark interim constitution.

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive and ultimately unsuccessful search.

In 2016, Sir George Martin, the Beatles’ urbane producer who guided the band’s swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, died at age 90.

Ten years ago: Jesse Owens was posthumously made an inaugural member of the IAAF Hall of Fame more than 75 years after he won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. (Owens, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and nine others were the first athletes to be honored by the IAAF in its newly created Hall of Fame.) James T. “Jimmy” Ellis, 74, the frontman for The Trammps who released “Disco Inferno,” died in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Five years ago: Hawaii became the first state to sue to stop President Donald Trump’s revised travel ban (the state had previously sued over Trump’s initial travel ban, but that lawsuit was put on hold while other cases played out across the country). Many American women stayed home from work, joined rallies or wore red to demonstrate how vital they were to the U.S. economy, as International Women’s Day was observed with a multitude of events around the world, including the Day Without a Woman in the U.S. Fire swept through a crowded youth shelter near Guatemala City, killing 40 girls.

One year ago: According to some long-awaited guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fully vaccinated Americans could now gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing. Novak Djokovic surpassed Roger Federer for the most weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings; it was his 311th week in the top spot.

Today’s Birthdays: Jazz musician George Coleman is 87. Actor Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 86. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 84. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 78. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 77. Singer-musician

Randy Meisner is 76. Pop singer Peggy March is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 69. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 65. Singer Gary Numan is 64. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 63. Actor Aidan Quinn is 63. Actor Camryn Manheim is 61. Actor Leon (no last name) is 61. Country-rock singer Shawn Mullins is 54. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 52. Actor Andrea Parker is 52. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 49. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 46. Actor Laura Main is 45. Actor James Van Der Beek is 45. R&B singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 44. Actor Nick Zano is 44. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 43. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 43. Actor Jessica Collins is 39. R&B singer Kristinia (kris-teh-NEE'-ah) DeBarge is 32.

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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