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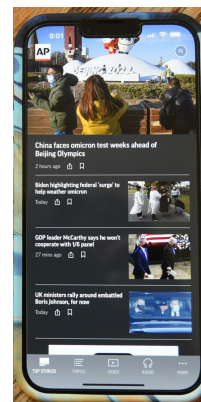
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Connecting

March 14, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this March 14, 2022,

News from the war in Ukraine reverberated through the journalism world Sunday on the death of American journalist **Brent Renaud**, who was shot and killed in the embattled town of Irpin near Kyiv.

While Renaud was not working for the AP, there is a strong AP connection – one of his closest friends and colleagues was **Christof Putzel**, a third-generation journalist - the son of former AP journalists **Ann Blackman** and **Michael Putzel** and the grandson of legendary New York AP general news editor **Sam Blackman**.



Although devastated by his friend's death, Christof shared thoughts with AP journalist **Pamela Sampson** for the wire story she wrote below, as well as other media outlets including CNN. Click [here](#) for his interview with **Brian Stelter**.

Christof's wife **Carolyn Gregoire** shared her own thoughts of Brent in a touching remembrance sent to Connecting that is a lead story today.

Have a good week – be safe, stay healthy, keep those covering the war in your prayers.

Paul

Acclaimed filmmaker Brent Renaud shot, killed in Ukraine



FILE - Brent Renaud attends the 74th Annual Peabody Awards at Cipriani Wall Street on May 31, 2015, in New York. Renaud, an American journalist, was killed in a suburb of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sunday, March 13, 2022, while gathering material for a report about refugees. Ukrainian authorities said he died when Russian forces shelled the vehicle he was traveling in. (Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP, File)

By PAMELA SAMPSON
The Associated Press

Brent Renaud, an acclaimed filmmaker who traveled to some of the darkest and most dangerous corners of the world for documentaries that transported audiences to little-known places of suffering, died Sunday after Russian forces opened fire on his vehicle in Ukraine.

The 50-year-old Little Rock, Arkansas, native was gathering material for a report about refugees when his vehicle was hit at a checkpoint in Irpin, just outside the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. Ukraine's Interior Ministry said the area has sustained intense shelling by Russian forces in recent days.

Renaud was one of the most respected independent producers of his era, said Christof Putzel, a filmmaker and close friend who had received a text from Renaud just three days before his death. Renaud and Putzel won a 2013 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University journalism award for "Arming the Mexican Cartels," a documentary on how guns trafficked from the United States fueled rampant drug gang violence.

"This guy was the absolute best," Putzel told The Associated Press via phone from New York City. "He was just the absolute best war journalist that I know. This is a guy who literally went to every conflict zone."

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

Buddhist Tribute to Brent Renaud



This shows Brent Renaud (right) with Christof Putzel (center) and Brent's brother Craig in Juraz, Mexico on a story about arming Mexican cartels in Mexico. They won a DuPont Award for it. <https://vimeo.com/98293556>

[Carolyn Gregoire](#) - Early this cold March morning, America lost its first journalist to the Russia-Ukraine war, and my husband awoke to the news of his best friend's death at the hands of Russian forces.

Brent Renaud was killed in Ukraine, shot in the neck by Russian troops at a checkpoint in Irpin, just outside the capital city of Kyiv. He was filming refugees fleeing from Kyiv to Poland as part of a project documenting the experiences of refugees and migrants in 10 countries around the world. He'd been working on the film for over a year,

filming refugees and migrants across Africa, Europe and South America fleeing violence, war and climate change.

When Brent left the world, America lost one of its most brilliant and prolific documentary filmmakers, and Christof, my husband, lost a beloved producer and partner-in-crime. For 15 years, they had traveled the world together telling stories, putting a face to global conflicts and disasters, and winning some of the most prestigious awards in the profession for their work.

When speaking of Brent, as he often did, Christof would describe his rare and rather puzzling gift: a chameleon-like ability to blend into any location in any corner of the world, with any kind of person. He could morph into one of the locals, immediately and instinctively being accepted by others as one of their own. He could pass through any checkpoint—in Egypt, Somalia, Jaurez—without so much as a passing glance from guards armed with AK-47s.

In the hours since we received the gut-wrenching news of his death, I've been asking myself what exactly it was in Brent that gave him the ability to do that. Where did this rare gift come from? And I realized that it was because Brent simply had no ego. Because of this, he was permeable. Absent of the obsessive self-focus that preoccupies most of us, most of the time, Brent was free to literally become the other. The depth of his empathy allowed him to become a shape-shifter and a border-crosser. One who sees in the dark and walks between the worlds. He could journey a thousand miles in someone else's shoes, whether that person was a refugee, a terrorist, a heroin addict, a murderer, or a child soldier.

I always appreciated Brent's air of mystery; he seemed to me as if he belonged everywhere and nowhere at the same time. With his mischievous smile and penetrating gaze, he often had a look on his face that suggested that he knew something that you didn't.

As it turns out, he did.

Yesterday I was reading Thich Nhat Hahn's commentary on the Heart Sutra, a classic Buddhist text that describes the Buddha's core teaching on emptiness and compassion.

In Buddhism, emptiness does not mean nothingness, as is commonly misunderstood. Instead, it means emptiness of a separate self. It means that we cannot exist on our own because we inter-exist with every other living thing, flowing as one within the great river of life. This awareness of emptiness is the "insight that brings us to the other shore," awakening us to our interdependence and giving rise to a boundless compassion.

That was Brent's rare gift: his great understanding. He truly embodied the paradox of emptiness and compassion. Because he could become empty of himself, he could become full of the world. That's what made him such a talented journalist—he didn't just look on as an outsider, he went inside, into the conflict, the darkness, the suffering, the beauty, the ugliness, the humanity.

"When we want to understand something, we cannot just stand outside and observe it," Hahn writes. "We have to enter deeply into it and become one with it in order to really understand. If we want to understand a person, we have to feel their feelings, suffer their suffering, and rejoice in their joy."

He adds, "If we want peace and we want to understand another country... We have to be one with the citizens of that country."

Brent not only lived this truth, but shared it with the world. He was, in the language of the dharma, a bodhisattva—one who hears the cries of the world, who dedicates himself to working tirelessly to relieve the suffering of all beings. He spent his life observing the pain of humanity, never once turning away.

But more importantly, he understood. And he helped the rest of us to understand, too.

Lunching with 102 years of AP photo experience



From left: Chuck Robinson, Mike Conroy and Bob Daugherty

Ed Breen - longtime Indiana newspaperman and member of Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame - Just a little chat last week around the lunch table as old codgers who once

eagerly drove into the path of tornadoes now ponder the risk of drizzle becoming ice and threatening the drive home later this afternoon.

Some of them you might know, or at least recall; others, unlikely.

Chuck Robinson is there and he's going to tell you one more time of the harrowing days – 66 hours, actually -- when Tony Kiritsis held Richard Hall captive with a shotgun taped to his throat. That was back in '77 and, yes, that's 45 years ago now and the white-haired guy over in the corner of the booth recalls every frightening and fun moment – and there were both – like it happened last week. He'll tell you about the fall on the ice and commandeering a car to get across town and how the guy who was driving the car was pretty darn nice about it, even though Chuck was really doing a carjacking right there in downtown Indy. And, by the way, he ran into Kiritsis again 30 years later in the checkout line at Target, or some such place.

Bob Daugherty is sitting there beside me and tells me to order lunch for him because he forgot his glasses and can't read the menu. That'll be the pulled pork sandwich plate for both of us. Water for me and iced tea for him.

You should remember Bob. He's a Marion boy, went to Marion High School, worked at the Chronicle-Tribune for a while, then went to Indianapolis and hired on as a photographer at the Indianapolis Star and happened to be at the state fairgrounds coliseum that night back in October 1963, when a propane tank blew up and killed 81 people right there in front of him. He did what he was supposed to do: He took pictures, hustled back to the newspaper and gave the Star great coverage of one of the big events of the century. And it all happened on Halloween night. That night, in a strange way, was Bob's ticket to China and a lot of other places in the next 46 years with the Associated Press. Sort of like Forrest Gump: Showed up in lots of places, like the lawn of the White House that afternoon in 1974 when Richard Nixon was forced out of office and got on that Marine helicopter for the last time, but paused to be Richard Nixon one last time; he whirled around on the steps and flashed the V sign and forced a smile. Bob got that picture. You remember it. It was in all the newspapers.

Mike Conroy is here too and, while he is a little grizzled around the edges, he's the youngster here. Only 26 years of being around the Speedway and the Colts and the Super Bowl and some great photos of Peyton Manning, both healthy and unhealthy. And a lot of other places, like Olympics and most any other big deal event around the world in the last quarter-century.

Somebody does the math and we figure it out: These guys have 102 years of working for the Associated Press, the AP, the world's largest independent news gathering organization. And a few more to come, what with Conroy still working every day. This day he was headed for the NFL Combine, which seems insufferably dull, but, as he points out, all those kids come from someplace and their hometown newspaper wants the AP to give 'em a picture of their man-child destined to be the next NFL superstar.

Conroy explains to his elders that the AP has changed. No more developing film in a darkened closet in a cheap motel or in what they lovingly called the "shack" in the old Hoosier Dome. No more making prints and stuffing them into a transmitter to send to

Chicago or Washington so they could be sent around the world. It's digital, boys, all digital.

He tells him how he can sit on the sideline at Mackey Arena or Wrigley Field or . . . you get the idea. He can be anywhere and send a photograph to anywhere in the world. Sort of like text messaging on steroids.

But you still have to be there. You see them on TV, the photographers clustered at the feet of the President or, as some their brethren are doing right now, working under combat conditions in Ukraine. Yes, there are AP photographers there and the old codgers here pause, remembering the places where, in their time, they might wish they hadn't been.

Daugherty visited Vietnam, but not very often and not very long and never in the jungle. But he went to China and he went first class.

It was 1972. President Nixon was going to the closed and secretive land of Mao and there would be one AP photographer aboard Air Force One to Beijing. And that one photographer who witnessed Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and American President Richard Nixon fumble with their chop sticks was Bob Daugherty. Then it was on to the Great Wall with Nixon.

But it's time to go home now. Farewells all around and assurances that we shall do this again very soon.

An earlier life

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Norm Abelson's story of the fifth grade newspaper (Friday's Connecting) brought back memories of my first career as a teacher.

Although I worked summers at the newspaper and AP, my full-time job for three years before joining AP was teaching third grade in Arizona.

At the time, the students' reading ability ranged from barely able to eighth grade. For a few months I decided to try teaching everything with a goal of having them interview, write, illustrate and distribute their own newspaper.

The result was "Walsh's Gazette." The class chose the name, not me!

It was a multi-page mimeographed (remember those?) edition including interviews with the principal and teachers, stories about what was happening at school, stories that included math, geography, cartoons, a puzzle and an editorial. It even had hand drawn ads and a circulation manager.

It was a great teaching tool. The kids loved it. The only thing worse for the wear was my arm from cranking the mimeograph machine. Wish I still had a copy!

A dreamer

Lelieu Browne - This is a naive poem written to relieve my frustration and emotions watching the slaughtering of Ukrainian civilians.

I am Superwoman.
 I am Walker Ranger.
 I am Robin Hood of the World.
 I fly, I jump, I kick.
 My mission in life is to stop
 Power tyrants, mass murderers,
 Women and children's abusers, and bullies.
 I have no interest in saving the world,
 Nor do I want to mix in dirty politics,
 Or favor any dogmas or religions.
 I need that magical wand
 To go after dictators, power-grasp terrorists,
 Cowards and blood suckers who hide,
 Under pretext of protectors of democracy,
 To wave war, destruction, and to inflict
 Satanic cruelties and miseries all over the world
 Causing death of millions of innocents.
 Ukraine is burning, young children bodies mounting.
 The World helplessly watches.
 Those criminals should be wiped off this earth.
 Where can I find that magical power?

Bury the Lede or Bury the Lead: Which is Right? | Merriam-Webster

Dennis Conrad - In reviewing a number of obits on the great Walter Mears, I learned something about writing a "lede," or "lead," as you may like it.

I hadn't realized before that there are two different ways to look at it. That's how bad my memory is nowadays, I guess.

I had "lede" stamped in my brain, at least starting from the time when I was a student journalist a half-century or so ago.

Then, I saw how The New York Times obit writer recounted Walter's unique talent for writing a "lead." He even cited the famous "lead" quote directed to Walter from a fellow journalist as told in Timothy Crouse's book, "The Boys on the Bus," about the 1972 presidential campaign.

It made me wonder about why I think "lede" and not "lead." So, I Googled Merriam-Webster for an explanation. I got this: (see link at bottom).

And then I reread the quote attributed to Boston Globe reporter Marty Nolan in my copy of "The Boys on the Bus"

“Walter, Walter, what’s our lead?”

Which is how it was used in The Associated Press obituary on Walter.

I can’t argue with that.

Can I?

From Linotype operator to Washington reporter

[Frank Aukofer](#) - As a former compositor who specialized as a Linotype and Intertype operator, I enjoyed the etain shrdlu story. I worked my way through the Marquette University College of Journalism, first as an apprentice compositor, then as a journeyman. That status allowed me to work in any union shop. The International Typographical Union was so powerful (remember bogus type?) a journeyman could hire any other journeyman to take his place and you didn’t have to apply for a job; you simply contacted the chapel chairman, ITU-speak for the shop steward. I went to work in The Milwaukee Journal’s composing room, spent my last Saturday night there in 1960 setting classified ads, graduated from Marquette on a Sunday and started on Monday as a Journal reporter. (My composing room experience helped me get the job). I took a pay cut from \$130 a week as a compositor to \$95 a week as a reporter. Never looked back. Retired in 2000 after 40 years with The Journal, the last 30 in the Washington bureau.

A Mears story with St. Paddy's Day hook

[Dave Tomlin](#) – I held this Walter Mears memory back a week because it’s got a St. Patrick’s Day hook.

About 35 years ago, the Des Moines bureau got a call from a radio member in Emmetsburg, IA, a community with an Irish enclave that really comes alive every March 17. But the caller said the festivities that year would be sadly diminished, because the Emerald Isle supplier of the special dye for their green beer had run out.

What fun. We pumped it out and shipped it to the general desk, where it made the “bright and brief” package. A reporter for the Des Moines Register called a few hours later to ask if the story moved nationally. He seemed pleased to learn that it had. The next day AP members worldwide informed their readers and listeners that Irish eyes were not smiling in far northwest Iowa.

But not the Register. Their story was about how the AP and its hapless members had been hoaxed by a bunch of small-town leprechauns known for spreading blarney on their big day every year.

Executive Editor Mears called of course. Yes, he was mad, but not at us. His beef was with the Register and its editor Jim Gannon. And his anger swelled to fury when he

learned Gannon's staffer had called us, not to warn us we'd been pranked but to see how many other chumps we'd taken down with us. He rang off to call Gannon and ask him what part of "Cooperative" he didn't understand.

As Estes Thompson recalled here last week, Walter stood up for staff.

RIP, Timothy Williams

November 17, 1964 - January 12, 2022

Fairbanks, Alaska - Timothy Martin Williams passed away at his home outside of Fairbanks, Alaska on January 12, 2022. Timothy was preceded in death by his parents, Harold M. Williams, M.D. and Beverly Williams, both of Fresno, California. Timothy was born in Fresno on November 17, 1964. He attended Gibson Elementary, Tenaya Jr High, Edison High and was a 1982 graduate of Bullard High School, where he was an honors student, champion wrestler for the Knights and a member of the Chargers Staff. His bachelor's degree is in political science and French from the University of California, Berkeley and he obtained his Master's degree in Journalism from the



University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Timothy also studied abroad in Ghana while at Berkeley. He was a Times Mirror Fellow after graduating from journalism school. A veteran, Timothy served in the U.S. Army between Bullard and Berkeley, stationed in the former West Germany and being honorably discharged. As a journalist Timothy worked for the San Francisco Chronicle, the Los Angeles Times and the Associated Press. Most recently Timothy was at the New York Times, where he had a byline as an investigative reporter and was part of a Pulitzer - prize winning team that produced a series about prisoners and Covid. He also spent two years as a war correspondent in Iraq.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Pat Milton.

John Steinbeck goes to war

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON


WAR
CORRESPONDENT

This is to identify—
JOHN F. STEINBECK
(Name)
Civilian accompanying Army of the United States,
(Arm or service) (Serial No.)
whose signature, photograph, and fingerprints appear hereon.
Assimilated Officer Rank
2nd Lieut.

John F. Steinbeck
(Signature of bearer)
Major General,
The Adjutant General of the Army.

Countersigned:
Charles H. Martin
(Signature)
Charles H. Martin Captain OMP
(Name printer) (Grade) (Arm or service)

Date of birth 27 Feb 1902
Color eyes Blue Color hair Brown
Weight 199 lbs. Height 6 ft. 0 ins.



DATE ISSUED
8 June 1943.

Loss of this card will be reported to The Adjutant General without delay by the individual named hereon, with the circumstances.

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 65-4
March 21, 1942 GPO 16-20107-1

FINGERPRINTS—RIGHT HAND

THUMB

Marc Lancaster World War II on Deadline

Many are familiar with Ernest Hemingway's foray into war correspondence during World War II, but he was not the only high-profile novelist to cover the fighting for the press.

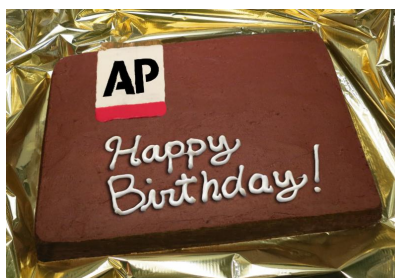
For six months in 1943, the New York Herald Tribune and a handful of other newspapers across the U.S. carried dispatches from John Steinbeck as he traveled through England, North Africa, Sicily and Italy documenting the fighting man's life in the struggle against Nazi Germany.

The Pulitzer-winning *Grapes of Wrath* author was there specifically to focus on the grunt. An introductory sidebar that ran in many newspapers with the first of his stories in late June put his mission this way:

"For days he has been living with and listening to the average American soldiers. He will continue to do so at the war fronts. Things these soldiers see, hear, laugh at, will be what Steinbeck will write. Plain citizen turned plain soldier ... like the kid down the block ... what he is thinking, doing, and saying — that's Steinbeck's story!"

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Larry Blasko

Steve Fox

Pat Milton

Sarah Postle

Welcome to Connecting



Amy Lignitz Harken

Stories of interest

A Russian journalist said she's staying to report as others flee over Putin's new censorship law: 'I'm not a martyr. But I feel like somebody has to do that'

(Business Insider)

Sarah Al-Arshani

A Russian journalist said she's staying and reporting in Russia despite President Vladimir Putin's new censorship law and the potentially severe consequences she could face.

Yevgenia Albats, the editor-in-chief of the New Times, a liberal, independent outlet, told CNN that she's "not afraid" of the new law targeting reporters: "I'm not a martyr. But I feel like somebody has to do that."

Putin introduced a censorship law on March 4 that restricts the ability of the press to disseminate information to the public. The law prohibits calling the Russian invasion of Ukraine a "war" and anyone who uses the term could face 15 years in prison.

The move prompted major news outlets like CNN, the BBC, and The New York Times to suspend their operations in Russia. Some Russian journalists also left the country.

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

-0-

War censorship exposes Putin's leaky internet controls (AP)

By FRANK BAJAK and BARBARA ORTUTAY

BOSTON (AP) — Long before waging war on Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin was working to make Russia's internet a powerful tool of surveillance and social control akin to China's so-called Great Firewall.

So when Western tech companies began cutting ties with Russia following its invasion, Russian investigative journalist Andrei Soldatov was alarmed. He'd spent years exposing Russian censorship and feared that well-intentioned efforts to aid Ukraine would instead help Putin isolate Russians from the free flow of information, aiding the Kremlin's propaganda war.

"Look, guys the only space the Russians have to talk about Ukraine. and what is going on in Russia. is Facebook," Soldatov, now exiled in London. wrote on Facebook in the war's first week. "You cannot just, like, kill our access."

Facebook didn't, although the Kremlin soon picked up that baton, throttling both Facebook and Twitter so badly they are effectively unreachable on the Russian internet. Putin has also blocked access to both Western media and independent news sites in the country, and a new law criminalizes spreading information that contradicts the government's line. On Friday, the Kremlin said it would also restrict access to Instagram.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

In Putin's Russia, 'fake news' now means real news (Washington Post)

By Will Oremus

Last week, Russia passed a law making it a major crime to publish what it deems “fake” news about the country’s military. Violators could face 15 years in prison.

And what is “fake” news, exactly? That’s up to Russian authorities. Reportedly, it will include any references to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine that call it an invasion, which would contradict the Kremlin’s insistence that it’s simply a “special military operation.” The Kremlin has also applied the term “fake news” to reports that a Russian airstrike hit a maternity hospital in Ukraine.

In other words, fake news means real news.

The law is part of a sweeping crackdown on freedom of expression in the country as President Vladimir Putin tries to cover up the indefensible: an unprovoked invasion of a peaceful neighboring country.

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

-0-

What It Was Like to Work for Russian State Television

(New York Times)

By Cecilia Kang

For eight years, Lee Camp hosted a weekly show on RT America that aimed to satirize American politics, finding punchlines in subjects like sanctions against Afghanistan and student debt forgiveness. That ended unceremoniously on March 3, a week after Russian airstrikes began in Ukraine, when the Russian-state-funded network suddenly shut down.

Now, Mr. Camp is fuming about it.

He blamed the “U.S. government war machine” for RT America’s defeat and lamented what he saw as corporate media’s victory in squelching alternative views like his.

More than 100 people lost their jobs at the network, which the Russian state media outlet RT created more than a decade ago to offer a counternarrative to CNN, MSNBC and Fox News. It had headquarters in Washington and bureaus in New York, Los Angeles and Miami, and produced a full slate of news, comedy and political commentary programs available on cable and satellite television and online.

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

The Final Word

What's the greatest newspaper crime movie ever made? (Crime Reads)



BY KEITH ROYSDON

There's a reason Clark Kent went to work for a major metropolitan newspaper. Newsrooms are where the action is. Clark knew that Superman had to be close to the heartbeat of Metropolis and that was the Daily Planet. When crime broke out, the newsroom knew it.

Plus, newspaper break rooms are the best places to find day-old pizza and that last half of a donut that someone carefully cut off with a plastic knife because a whole donut was just too much.

Newspapers and crime are a natural fit, as anyone who's watched a newspaper movie will tell you. Has there ever been a newspaper movie without a crime plot? If so, I don't want to hear about it.

So here's a look at newspaper crime movies, filtered through the perspective of someone who worked in newsrooms for decades.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

Today in History - March 14, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 14, the 73rd day of 2022. There are 292 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 14, 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

On this date:

In 1879, physicist Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany.

In 1939, the republic of Czechoslovakia was dissolved, opening the way for Nazi occupation of Czech areas and the separation of Slovakia.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul.

In 1962, Democrat Edward M. Kennedy officially launched in Boston his successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat from Massachusetts once held by his brother, President John F. Kennedy. (Edward Kennedy served in the Senate for nearly 47 years.)

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, and sentenced him to death. (Both the conviction and death sentence were overturned, but Ruby died before he could be retried.)

In 1967, the body of President John F. Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In 1980, a LOT (laht) Polish Airlines jet crashed while attempting to land in Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team.

In 1990, the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies held a secret ballot that elected Mikhail S. Gorbachev to a new, powerful presidency.

In 1995, American astronaut Norman Thagard became the first American to enter space aboard a Russian rocket as he and two cosmonauts blasted off aboard a Soyuz spacecraft, headed for the Mir space station.

In 2011, Neil Diamond, Alice Cooper, Tom Waits, Darlene Love, Dr. John and Leon Russell were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

In 2015, Robert Durst, a wealthy eccentric linked to two killings and his wife's disappearance, was arrested by the FBI in New Orleans on a murder warrant a day before HBO aired the final episode of a serial documentary about his life. (Durst would be convicted in the shooting death of his friend, Susan Berman; he died in January 2022 while serving a life sentence in California.)

In 2018, Stephen Hawking, the best-known theoretical physicist of his time, died at his home in Cambridge, England, at the age of 76; he had stunned doctors by living with the normally fatal illness ALS for more than 50 years.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, hosted a White House state dinner for British Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife, Samantha. Earlier, the two leaders announced that NATO forces would hand over the lead combat role in Afghanistan to Afghan forces in 2013 as the U.S. and its allies aimed to get out by the end of 2014.

Five years ago: A blustery late-season storm plastered the Northeast with sleet and snow, paralyzing much of the Washington-to-Boston corridor but falling well short of predicted snow totals in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Declaring "enough is enough," Gen. Robert Neller, the Marine Corps commandant, told senators that he intended to fix the problem that led to current and former Corps members sharing nude photos of female Marines online and making lewd or threatening comments about them. Mitch Seavey won his third Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, becoming the fastest and oldest champion at age 57.

One year ago: U.S. authorities arrested and charged two men with assaulting U.S. Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick with bear spray during the Jan. 6 riot. (Sicknick collapsed and died at a hospital the next day; a medical examiner determined that he suffered a stroke and died from natural causes.) Myanmar's ruling junta declared martial law in parts of the country's largest city as security forces killed dozens of protesters in an increasingly lethal crackdown on resistance to the previous month's military coup. Female performers including Beyoncé and Taylor Swift swept the top honors at the Grammy Awards; Beyoncé's 28th win made her the most decorated woman in Grammy history. Record-setting New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees announced his retirement after 20 NFL seasons.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Frank Borman is 94. Actor Michael Caine is 89. Composer-conductor Quincy Jones is 89. Actor Raymond J. Barry is 83. Movie director Wolfgang Petersen is 81. Country singer Michael Martin Murphey is 77. Rock musician Walt Parazaidier (payr-ah-ZAY'-dur) (formerly with Chicago) is 77. Actor Steve Kanaly is 76. Comedian Billy Crystal is 74. Actor-writer-comedian-radio personality Rick Dees is 71. Country singer Jann Browne is 68. Actor Adrian Zmed is 68. Prince Albert II, the ruler of Monaco, is 64. Actor Laila Robins is 63. Actor Tamara Tunie (tuh-MAH'-ruh TOO'-nee) is 63. Actor Penny Johnson Jerald is 62. Producer-director-writer Kevin

Williamson is 57. Actor Elise Neal is 56. Actor Gary Anthony Williams is 56. Actor Megan Follows is 54. Rock musician Michael Bland is 53. Country singer Kristian Bush is 52. Actor Betsy Brandt is 49. Actor Grace Park is 48. Actor Daniel Gillies is 46. Actor Corey Stoll is 46. Actor Jake Fogelnest is 43. Actor Chris Klein is 43. Actor Ryan Cartwright (TV: "Kevin Can Wait") is 41. Actor Kate Maberly is 40. Singer-musician Taylor Hanson (Hanson) is 39. Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, is 38. Actor Jamie Bell is 36. Rock musician Este Haim (HY'-uhm) (Haim) is 36. NBA star Stephen Curry is 34. Actor Ansel Elgort is 28. Olympic gold medal gymnast Simone Biles is 25. Actor James Freedson-Jackson (Film: "The Strange Ones") is 20.

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.

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