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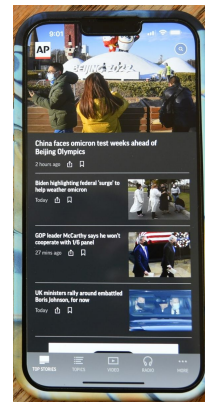
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# Connecting

March 24, 2022

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January  
11  
1935

# Walter R. Mears

## Celebration of Life

March  
3  
2022



Associated Press reporter Walter R. Mears in 1969. (Charles Tasnadi/AP)

### Celebrate Walter's Life, Legacy and Career



July 22, 2022

6:00 – 8:00 pm

National Press Club

529 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Washington, DC

Raise a glass and share memories at a memorial happy hour to celebrate Walter.

“I now know what the first words of my obituary will be.”

- Walter R. Mears after winning the Pulitzer Prize



All are welcome



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this March 24, 2022,

A Celebration of Life for **Walter R. Mears** will be held July 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The daughters of the Associated Press political reporting legend, [Stephanie Stich](#) and [Susan Mears](#), announced the event in a flyer posted above. Please feel free to share it with others who might not be on Connecting but would like to know.

Today, a Memorial Service will be held from 4-5 p.m. in Chapel Hill, N.C., where Walter and his wife Fran made their home until her death in 2019 and his on March 3. The location is the Cedar Grand Ballroom, 100 Cedar Club Circle, Chapel Hill.

Click [here](#) for the obituary for Walter Mears.

We lead today's issue with memories shared of **Kathy Gannon**, AP news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, who will retire from the AP May 15 and was featured in Wednesday's issue.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Kathy Gannon an inspiration to me

[Susan Clark](#) - Kathy was always an inspiration to me. It was my greatest pleasure always helping her when she came to headquarters. She was always so extremely grateful and I always felt it was us that should be grateful to her.

She was hurt but she got right up and kept going and I am sure it was hard and painful.

It was and has been an honor to help Kathy Gannon. She deserves nothing but the best.

## Kathy Gannon - an AP treasure

[Dale Leach](#) - The AP will lose a great treasure with the retirement of Kathy Gannon.

Although I never had the pleasure of working directly with her, I did correspond with her via email a few times and always found her to be gracious and humble.

The editors of some of the largest newspapers in my territory, some of whom could be critical of even the smallest of transgressions, universally praised Kathy's work. Once, during the height of the U.S. involvement in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, I was asked to pose a question to Kathy. I did so, and she responded quickly and with the authority that her many years in that part of the

world enabled. Never mind that she was covering one of the biggest ongoing stories on the planet at the time.

I wish her and her family the best in the years to come.

## Sharing an evening with Madeleine Albright



From left: Linda Deutsch, Madeleine Albright and Edie Lederer.

[Linda Deutsch](#) - How lucky Edie Lederer and I were to be seated with Madeleine Albright at the Gridiron Dinner in 2016 and several other years. Our friend Fran Lewine hosted all of us for this great Washington press event. Madam Secretary was a sparkling conversationalist and we counted her as a friend which was a great honor indeed.

I am sad that she has left us. May her memory be a blessing.

## Never been prouder of AP

[Estes Thompson](#) - I have never been prouder of the AP than during the war in Ukraine. Granted, our company has distinguished itself for a very long time, but this puts our

value and status front and center. I was proud to work on some high-profile stories as well as perform the daily tasks that keeps the news business running. That's the way it is in the AP the world over. I worked nights and days like everyone else and felt the work was very important. Ukraine is proof of that once again.

## Saddened by Greg Small's death

Reed Saxon - I was saddened to hear of Greg Small's passing. He was always very helpful to me, as were COBs Howard Graves and Dave Briscoe. (Aloha, Dave!) Based in Los Angeles, I often parachuted in whenever HULA needed a staff shooter, whether it be Ferdinand Marcos being kicked out of the Philippines, then trying to foment revolution in his homeland from Hawaii, or Imelda Marcos' shenanigans after he died.

Greg helped me spell Philippines consistently – “think Philip Pines.” Gruff? Not to me, but he didn't waste many words. He would often greet me as “Reed, baby!” I do remember many happy times at the Columbia Inn.

There was also golf, Pro Bowls, a few eruptions of Mauna Loa and, of course, Hurricane Iniki on Kauai in 1993. There were good shooters there, but few could manage AP's peculiar needs. Often, we had to be sending photos by noon for East Coast AMs deadlines.

At one time AP considered putting a staff photographer in HNL. I was told I'd be the main candidate. I had a home on Molokai and would have likely mirrored Greg's life and lifestyle – though I don't golf. Of course, the photographer, as do our reporters on occasion, would roam a big chunk of the Pacific.

Sadly, it never happened. If it had, I'd be there today. Greg chose well.

## Q&A with Meg Kinnard, politics reporter for The Associated Press

*This is a place for discussion of writing and editing, with an emphasis on U.S. newspapers, news websites and social media. Anyone who loves words and the news is welcome here. The author, Andy Bechtel, is a copy editor who teaches in the journalism school at UNC-Chapel Hill. The views on this site are his own.*

**Posted on March 22, 2022 by andybechtel**

Meg Kinnard is an Associated Press politics reporter based in Columbia, South Carolina. A native of Tennessee, she is a graduate of Georgetown University and UNC-Chapel Hill, where she earned a master's degree in digital communication. In this interview, conducted by email, Kinnard talks about her work at the AP, discusses



her diagnoses and treatment for a rare form of breast cancer, and offers career advice for student journalists.

**Q. Describe your job at The Associated Press. What is your typical day like?**

A. If only there were a “typical” day! As a wire service reporter, pretty much anything is possible on a day-to-day basis.

Normally, I cover political stories somehow touching on South Carolina, which could be national news made by the governor or a member of the congressional delegation. That means going to a lot of events with those officials, meeting with their staff and talking to “real people” about the ways in which the decisions made affect their lives. I spend just as much time researching the issues playing out in all of these campaigns, ensuring that I bring balance to any reporting and filter out the spin.



Every two years, my sole focus becomes presidential campaigns, which means I spend four or more days a week on the road, crisscrossing the state to cover the dozens of candidates who stump in this first-in-the-South primary state. I spend those days fielding pitches from campaign staff, setting up and conducting interviews with the candidates themselves, and then also being interviewed by other media outlets about my reporting. In any given week, I can put 500+ miles on my car, hop in a motorcade or on a charter flight, traveling with candidates as they spread their messages and interact with voters.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Malcolm Ritter.

## Reinventing Sustainable Business and Revenue Models for Journalism

### The Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy

With Facebook and Google capturing most of the digital advertising revenues, hundreds of local newspapers have closed their doors and eliminated tens of thousands of reporting jobs. Nonprofit news outlets are filling critical gaps in local coverage and philanthropy is playing a key role in helping support leaders find new revenue models to achieve sustainable growth and serve their communities. This panel looks at the innovative approaches from venture philanthropy to social impact investments used to build a sustainable future for journalism.

**Online. Today, March 24, 12:00 p.m. ET**

Moderator: Jennifer Preston is senior fellow at the Shorenstein Center's Technology and Social Change Project. Before joining the center as a fellow last year, Jennifer spent more than six years as vice president for journalism at the John S. and James L. Knight Program, where she oversaw a portfolio with more than \$200 million in investments for journalism, media innovation and the First Amendment. Prior to joining Knight, Jennifer spent almost 20 years at The New York Times as a senior editor, reporter and the newsroom's first social media editor.

Speakers include colleague **Sue Cross**:

Sue Cross is CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN), an innovation network of more than 360 independent, nonpartisan news organizations committed to public service journalism and strengthening the sources of trusted, credible news and information for thousands of communities. INN accelerates the growth of nonprofit news by providing training, coaching and business and philanthropic support services to its members, such as NewsMatch, which helped generate \$42 million in individual donations last year. Sue previously served as senior vice president for the global news agency Associated Press, and founded Cross Strategy to help news companies and causes grow in fast-changing environments.

Click [here](#) for more information including how to register.

## 17 writethrus and counting...on Paris Hilton

**Marty Steinberg** - Speaking about ledes/leads/Lds and writehrus, I found this email from Polly Anderson.

Date: Sun, Aug 29, 2010 at 4:44 AM

Subject: Re: 17 writethrus and counting...on paris hilton...heh heh (1200 words, too)

a0725 dsa 1247 08-28 20:01 L re BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 17th Ld-Write  
a0724 dsa 1247 08-28 20:01 L ra BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 17th Ld-Write  
a0720 dsa 1252 08-28 19:30 L ra BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 16th Ld-Write  
a0719 dsa 1252 08-28 19:30 L re BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 16th Ld-Write  
a0700 dsa 1247 08-28 17:15 L re BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 15th Ld-Write  
a0699 dsa 1247 08-28 17:15 L ra BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 15th Ld-Write  
a0693 dsa 1225 08-28 16:58 L ra BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 14th Ld-Write  
a0692 dsa 1225 08-28 16:57 L re BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 14th Ld-Write  
a0677 dsa 1065 08-28 15:46 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 13th Ld-Write  
a0676 dsa 1065 08-28 15:46 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 13th Ld-Write  
a0668 dsa 1047 08-28 15:37 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 12th Ld-Write  
a0667 dsa 1047 08-28 15:37 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 12th Ld-Write  
a0630 dsa 1041 08-28 13:07 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 11th Ld-Write  
a0629 dsa 1041 08-28 13:07 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 11th Ld-Write  
a0611 dsa 1033 08-28 12:15 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 10th Ld-Write  
a0610 dsa 1033 08-28 12:15 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 10th Ld-Write  
a0581 dsa 855 08-28 10:41 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 9th Ld-Writet

a0580 dsa 855 08-28 10:41 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 9th Ld-Writet  
a0569 dsa 703 08-28 10:09 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 8th Ld-Writet  
a0568 dsa 703 08-28 10:09 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 8th Ld-Writet  
a0565 dsa 637 08-28 09:54 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 7th Ld-Writet  
a0564 dsa 637 08-28 09:54 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 7th Ld-Writet  
a0537 dsa 592 08-28 08:59 L re BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 7th Ld-Writet  
a0536 dsa 592 08-28 08:58 L ra BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 7th Ld-Writet  
a0528 dsa 583 08-28 08:47 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 6th Ld-Writet  
a0527 dsa 583 08-28 08:47 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 6th Ld-Writet  
a0520 dsa 2248 08-28 08:21 X ra BC-World Briefly,2141 AP News in Brief Po  
a0519 dsa 513 08-28 08:12 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 5th Ld-Writet  
a0518 dsa 513 08-28 08:12 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 5th Ld-Writet  
a0515 dsa 239 08-28 08:00 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 4th Ld,0116 U  
a0514 dsa 239 08-28 08:00 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 4th Ld,0116 U  
a0508 dsa 493 08-28 07:40 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 3rd Ld-Writet  
a0507 dsa 493 08-28 07:40 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 3rd Ld-Writet  
a0502 dsa 462 08-28 07:20 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 2nd Ld-Writet  
a0501 dsa 462 08-28 07:20 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 2nd Ld-Writet  
a0496 dsa 453 08-28 07:05 L ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 1st Ld-Writet  
a0495 dsa 453 08-28 07:05 L ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest, 1st Ld-Writet  
a0492 dsa 254 08-28 06:28 X ue BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest,0152 URGENT Po  
a0491 dsa 254 08-28 06:28 X ua BC-US--Paris Hilton Arrest,0152 URGENT Po  
a0489 dsa 88 08-28 06:18 X ba BC-US--APNewsAlert,0014 LAS VEGAS (AP) \_

## Stories of interest

### ***Study Finds “Doomscrolling” is a New, Unique Behavior*** (University of Florida School of Journalism and Communications)

This article, written by Cynthia Roldán Hernández, originally appeared in UF News on Jan. 10, 2022.

A new University of Florida study has found that “doomscrolling” — a term used to describe the concept of binging on negative news — is a new and unique behavior, and not just another trendy, clickbaity phrase.

The study also developed a technique to measure doomscrolling, paving the way for researchers to further investigate the concept and make sense of people’s obsessive focus on negative news.

University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications Advertising Assistant Professor Benjamin Johnson and doctoral students Bhakti Sharma and Susanna Lee set out to determine if doomscrolling was just a new name for an existing issue. The term is thought to have originated in 2018 on Twitter, gaining popularity in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It starts when users of social media want to stay up-to-date with the latest news — specifically negative news. Over time, however, it turns into compulsive online



scrolling for negative information, according to the study's findings.

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

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## ***Appalachian news vets exit the daily newspaper & start a growing non-profit — The Cardinal News.*** (Editor and Publisher)

On February 27th, the Washington Post's Margaret Sullivan published a story entitled, "This rural news start-up has two reporters and an editor with no broadband. Already, it's made an impact," and suddenly, the entire world is made aware of the story of an Appalachian digital-only news site called The Cardinal News.

Founded in July of 2021 and going live a few months later, this online-only, non-profit news operation owes its start to a grant of \$100,000 and now survives on donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. And with this initial seed money, some local key editorial veterans were able to elect to exit the largest daily newspaper in the area, Lee Enterprises' Roanoke (VA) Times, to build this news start-up.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Go Big or Go Home: The Baltimore Banner Readies for Launch*** (Local News Initiative)

by GREG BURNS

While many other local media organizations operate out of basements, spare bedrooms and the stripped-down offices that replaced once-mighty newsrooms, the hottest new nonprofit in local journalism is moving into swanky new digs overlooking Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

The Baltimore Banner's much-anticipated debut is going to be different than those of other nonprofit journalism experiments, not least because it has ample funding from the start. As many as 50 staffers will be on-hand for the office ribbon-cutting in early April, and the space has room for at least 50 more, reflecting ambitious expectations for growth.

The Banner is the brainchild of hotel magnate Stewart W. Bainum Jr., a former Maryland politician determined to boost local journalism in a famously competitive news town. Money has been no object, so far, and in an interview with the Local News Initiative on March 17, Bainum repeated his pledge to donate or raise \$50 million over four years for the project.

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

-0-

## ***Reuters staff raise alarms over partnership with Russian-owned wire service*** (Politico)

By MAX TANI

Employees at one of the most well-known news wire services are privately fuming over their company's ongoing partnership with a Russian state-controlled media organization that has published unverified information about the war in Ukraine.

Multiple journalists at Reuters told POLITICO that staff are frustrated and embarrassed by the company's continued partnership with Tass, the wire service owned by the Russian government. The relationship dates back to 2020, when the news wire first announced a partnership to distribute content from the state-owned news organization. That move raised some eyebrows among staff at Reuters at the time. But it passed largely unnoticed by people outside the company. In the wake of the Ukraine invasion, more scrutiny is being placed on the arrangement, including from Reuters' employees.

"It was an embarrassment when the partnership was signed two years ago," one Reuters reporter told POLITICO. "Now it's just wrong, and the silence from the top is worrying and maybe the worst part."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Robert Meyers.

## **The Final Word**

### ***Language matters: What learners need to know about Ukrainian*** (Duolingo.com)

by Cindy Blanco, Hope Wilson, Mykhaylo Zakryzhevskyy

Because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, people around the world are getting more exposure to Ukrainian and Russian through social media posts, news stories, viral videos of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and signs from protesters. On Duolingo, we saw a 200% increase in learners studying Ukrainian between the weeks of February 14 and February 21, which we take to reflect growing interest in Ukraine and its people and is perhaps even an act of solidarity.

Languages and how people use them represent personal identities and the political and cultural histories of a community. As a company dedicated to language education, we wanted to provide a (brief) overview of Ukrainian and Russian, what people speak in Ukraine and why, and the linguistic complexities behind the videos and signs you've been seeing.

## What language do they speak in Ukraine?

Ukrainian is the official language of Ukraine. It's a Slavic language, which means it's related to languages such as Russian, Czech, and Polish. This is a huge language family with lots of linguistic diversity, so modern Ukrainian shares some commonalities with its closest relatives, Russian and Belorussian, and fewer with its more distant cousins (like Czech). (If you're more familiar with Western European languages, Romance languages may provide a helpful analogy.) Like its neighbors, Ukrainian uses a version of the Cyrillic alphabet, which shares a lot of letters with the Russian writing system but which also has a few unique letters to represent sounds specific to Ukrainian.

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

## Today in History - March 24, 2022



### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 24, the 83rd day of 2022. There are 282 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 24, 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez (vahl-DEEZ') ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil.

#### On this date:

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1832, a mob in Hiram, Ohio, attacked, tarred and feathered Mormon leaders Joseph Smith Jr. and Sidney Rigdon.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch (kohk) announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

In 1980, one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by a sniper as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

In 1995, after 20 years, British soldiers stopped routine patrols in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country. Thirty-nine people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

In 2010, keeping a promise he'd made to anti-abortion Democratic lawmakers to assure passage of his historic health care legislation, President Barack Obama signed an executive order against using federal funds to pay for elective abortions covered by private insurance.

In 2015, Germanwings Flight 9525, an Airbus A320, crashed into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board; investigators said the jetliner was deliberately downed by the 27-year-old co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz.

In 2016, a U.N. war crimes court convicted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of genocide and nine other charges for orchestrating a campaign of terror that left 100,000 people dead during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia; Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison. (The sentence was later increased to life in prison.)

In 2020, the International Olympic Committee announced that the Summer Olympics in Tokyo would be postponed until 2021 because of the coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Rick Santorum won the Louisiana Republican presidential primary, beating front-runner Mitt Romney in yet another conservative Southern state. Former Vice President Dick Cheney, with a long history of cardiovascular problems, underwent a heart transplant at a Virginia hospital.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump and GOP leaders yanked their bill to repeal "Obamacare" off the House floor when it became clear the measure would fail badly. Former Penn State President Graham Spanier was convicted of hushing up child sexual abuse allegations in 2001 against Jerry Sandusky, whose arrest a decade later blew up into a major scandal for the university. (After losing an appeal, Spanier served nearly two months in jail.)

One year ago: The Senate confirmed former Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine to be the nation's assistant secretary of health; Levine was the first openly transgender federal official to win Senate confirmation. Virginia, the state with the second-highest number of executions, became the 23rd state to abolish the death penalty. Jessica Walter, whose roles included a scheming matriarch on TV's "Arrested

Development” and a stalker in the film “Play Misty for Me,” died at 80. “Nomadland” cemented its Oscar front-runner status, winning the top award at the Producers Guild of America Awards.

Today’s Birthdays: Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 83. Former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire is 75. Rock musician Lee Oskar is 74. Singer Nick Lowe is 73. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 71. Fashion designer Tommy Hilfinger is 71. Actor Donna Pescow is 68. Actor Robert Carradine is 68. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, is 68. Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is 66. Actor Kelly LeBrock is 62. TV personality Star Jones is 60. Country-rock musician Patterson Hood (Drive-By Truckers) is 58. Actor Peter Jacobson is 57. Rock singer-musician Sharon Corr (The Corrs) is 52. Actor Lauren Bowles is 52. Actor Lara Flynn Boyle is 52. Rapper Maceo (AKA P.A. Pasemaster Mase) is 52. Actor Megyn Price is 51. Actor Jim Parsons is 49. Christian rock musician Chad Butler (Switchfoot) is 48. Actor Alyson Hannigan is 48. Former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning is 46. Actor Amanda Brugel (TV: “The Handmaid’s Tale”) is 45. Actor Olivia Burnette is 45. Actor Jessica Chastain is 45. Actor Amir Arison is 44. Actor Lake Bell is 43. Rock musician Benj Gershman (O.A.R.) is 42. Neo-soul musician Jesse Phillips (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 42. Actor Philip Winchester (TV: “Strike Back”) is 41. Dancer Val Chmerkovskiy is 36. Actor Keisha Castle-Hughes 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  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)