

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

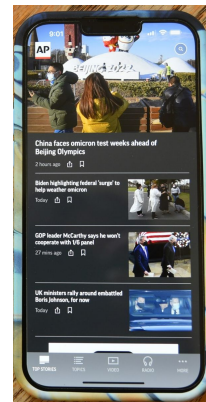
[View as Webpage](#)



# Connecting

March 28, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)  
[Top AP Photos](#)  
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)  
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)  
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this March 28, 2022,

We lead today's Connecting with a story on last Thursday's memorial service for **Walter R. Mears** in Chapel Hill, N.C.

It was written by our colleague **Harry Dunphy**, who retired from AP in 2016 after two decades in the Washington bureau, preceded by earlier assignments as AP bureau chief in Cairo, Moscow and Paris in a 50-year AP career.

"My sister and I were touched by the many AP reporters who attended our father's service," said Mears' daughter **Susan Mears**, who arranged the memorial with her sister **Stephanie Stich**. "Their

stories and condolences help balance our grief with joy for the life our father lived.”

A celebration of Mears’ life, legacy and career will be held July 22 at the National Press Club in Washington. The Pulitzer-Prize winning AP political journalist died March 3.

Our condolences go out to colleague [Hank Lowenkron](#) on the death of his wife on Saturday. Services are scheduled Tuesday at Aaron Nelson Funeral Home, 11411 N. Michigan Road, in Zionsville, a suburb of Indianapolis. Click [here](#) for her obituary.

Have a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



## ‘I wish there were a thousand Walter Mears’

By [Harry Dunphy](#)

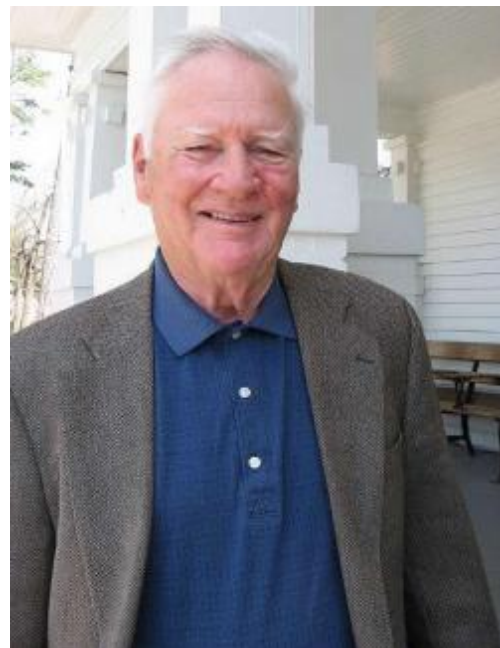
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - The life and career of AP’s Walter Mears were commemorated in a “Service of Death and Resurrection” Thursday at the Cedar Hill retirement community.

Among those taking part were Walter’s daughters, Stephanie Stich and Susan Mears, as well as friends of Walter from the community and the United Methodist Church that Walter and his late wife, Fran, attended.

The presider was the church’s pastor, Rev. Steven W. McElroy, a close friend and counselor of Walter’s, clad in a long black robe and embroidered stole.

The service included readings from scripture, among them Psalm 23 that begins “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, “ and the Lord’s Prayer.

Also in the program were the words of one of Walter’s favorite songs, “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Carousel.” After a pianist played the tune, McElroy recited the words.



In his homily, McElroy touched on all the highlights of Walter's career as a Pulitzer-Prize winning reporter, citing Timothy Crouse's "The Boys on the Bus" and a colleague asking Walter what the lead of a story should be.

"I didn't know Walter was famous," McElroy said. "But today Walter is the lead."

He recalled how he came to know Walter and Fran as among his congregation on Sunday mornings, "fifth row, right side, always early, wearing a red tie,"

McElroy also observed what a loving couple Fran and Walter were, always engaged in animated conversation and seeming to delight in each other's company.

McElroy said he often asked Walter what to pray for and Walter always replied, "Pray for peace."

Only later in their friendship, McElroy said, did he come to realize that Walter also meant his personal peace. McElroy said Walter never got over the death of his first wife and two small children in a household fire that he survived.

Lamenting the prevalence of so much conjecture and opinion in today's news reporting, McElroy said, "I wish there were a thousand Walter Mears," presenting as he did just the facts.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Economics of journalism*

Paul Albright - I never understood the business side of journalism; so, I may be speaking out of ignorance. Nevertheless, I agree with John Willis when he notes it is a "heck of way to run a railroad" when he is able to have a two-year subscription to the Gannett-owned Columbus Dispatch discounted from \$143+ to \$22 (Connecting, March 25).

I had a similar experience with the Wall Street Journal in 2021. I was paying approximately \$50 per month for the print edition delivered (erratically) to my driveway. Then our teen-age granddaughter came by at cookie time offering a 12-month subscription to the WSJ print edition for \$234. That's a 39 percent saving for me with some portion of that going to Girl Scouts. Go figure!

-0-

### *Another take on lede vs. lead*

Ford Burkhardt - Is "Lede" Part of Our Occupational "Folklore"?

A faculty expert in folklore at the U. of Arizona may have a helpful notion for the "lede" vs. "lead" debate. The spelling "lead" is clearly functional and correct. No



argument. But the term "lede" may be part of our "occupational folklore," along with "heds," "slots" and other elements that evoke much more than just "correct" spelling.

Here's some evidence. [A piece on "Ledes"](#) by Marc Lacey shows the richness of lede-craft. Check it out.

-0-

## *On the set of Blue Bloods*



Our colleague [John Paul Filo](#) – at left in the top photo - shooting on the set of CBS' Blue Bloods where he is the long-running program's photographer. Photo by director

Ralph Hemecker. In the second photo, the object of his lens, covering over the shoulder of the Commissioner played by Tom Selleck of his top aides played by Greg Jbara, Abigail Hawk and Robert Clohessy for Blue Bloods Episode 1218 "LONG LOST".

### *Best of the Week*

## **AP's all-formats team delivers unmatched coverage of refugees fleeing Ukraine**



**AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu**

With hundreds of hours of live coverage, gripping portraits of people fleeing and broader takes on the impact of the migration wave, AP's multiformat team covering people displaced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has provided unrivaled coverage of Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

AP journalists posted at Ukraine's borders with Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova, and within Ukraine itself, have put a human face to the mass movement of refugees, mostly women and children who have left their homes traumatized and exhausted, sometimes after being trapped for days or weeks in their basements to escape bombardment.

With regional news director Amer Cohadzic supervising the operation across formats, Rome-based senior producer Maria Grazia Murru coordinating video coverage and Czech Republic video journalist Adam Pemble organizing logistics, the teams cooperated seamlessly across borders and formats to spot trends in the flow of



refugees, helping each other broaden their with observations and interviews from multiple locations.

Read more [here](#).

## Stories of interest

### *Dirck Halstead, Photojournalist Who Captured History, Dies at 85* (New York Times)



The photojournalist Dirck Halstead, left, with the United Press International reporter Leon Daniel on the battlefield in South Vietnam in 1972. "Dirck was cool under fire," said his fellow photographer David Hume Kennerly, who took this shot. Credit...David Hume Kennerly

By Neil Genzlinger

Dirck Halstead, who photographed world-shaking events for half a century for United Press International, Time magazine and other news outlets, sometimes under harrowing conditions, died on Friday in Boquete, Panama. He was 85.

David Hume Kennerly, his friend and a fellow photographer, said the cause was a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mr. Halstead took pictures of presidents, including Richard M. Nixon during his landmark trip to China in 1972; and Bill Clinton, whom he captured in a particularly well-known image with Monica Lewinsky in 1996. He photographed domestic protests. And he documented the war in Vietnam, where he opened U.P.I.'s first picture bureau in Saigon in 1965 as American involvement in the conflict was deepening.

When the first American combat troops arrived in Vietnam that year — Marines coming ashore in Da Nang — he photographed the moment. Eleven years later, he captured images of the fall of Saigon, coverage that won him the Robert Capa Gold Medal from the Overseas Press Club.

Read more [here](#). Shared by George Widman.

-0-

## ***Black News Channel shuts down days after ratings high*** (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK - The Black News Channel has pulled the plug after the 2-year-old venture failed to meet payroll and lost the backing of its biggest investor.

Princell Hair, the company's president and CEO, told employees Friday in a memo that the news network was ceasing live production and would file for bankruptcy. BNC was available in some 50 million homes with cable and satellite but had failed to attract many viewers.

The network, founded in 2020 by former GOP congressman J.C. Watts, hired more than 250 Black journalists and production personnel last year in a relaunch following an investment by Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shahid Khan.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Chris Wallace Says Life at Fox News Became 'Unsustainable'*** (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbbaum

“I just no longer felt comfortable with the programming at Fox.”

Chris Wallace uttered those words matter-of-factly, in between bites of a Sweetgreen salad at his new desk inside the Washington bureau of CNN, the network he joined in January after nearly two decades at Fox News.

For those on the left who admired him, and those on the right who doubted him, it's a statement that was a long time coming.

A down-the-middle outlier at Fox News who often confounded conservatives by contradicting the network's right-wing stars, Mr. Wallace was also one of the channel's fiercest defenders, disappointing liberals who hoped he might denounce colleagues like Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson.

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

-0-

## ***'The Dots Were All There. We Just Couldn't Connect Them.'*** (Politico Magazine)

By MICHELE A. BERDY

The day before Russia launched its war against Ukraine, I was in the seaside city of Sochi in southern Russia, not far from the Ukrainian border, attending an arts festival and enjoying a break from the dark and snowy Moscow winter among palm trees and verdant hillsides.

Sochi is on the Black Sea, as is Ukraine. My colleagues and I had been talking for months about aerial photographs that showed a build-up of troops near Russia's borders with Ukraine, apparently threatening a new invasion. Was it preparation or intimidation? Nothing seemed to be happening, even as the U.S. started warning of an imminent attack.

I work at The Moscow Times, an independent newspaper founded in 1992 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union that publishes online in both English and Russian. As the paper's arts editor, I was planning to attend the Sochi Winter International Arts Festival beginning on February 16. A few days before I was to leave, I asked my editor if I should go — would it be safe for me to be on the Black Sea coast if war broke out?

“You'll be in a group,” she said, “and I don't think it will start.” I said, “I don't either, but the thing is — I didn't think Russia would annex Crimea in 2014.” She said, “I didn't think they'd invade Georgia in 2008.”

I recognize now that the dots were all there. We just couldn't connect them. We couldn't imagine a full-scale invasion because a full-scale invasion was unimaginable.

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



-0-

## ***The Lawfare Podcast: Getting Information Into Russia***

**By Jen Patja Howell**

Over the last few weeks, we've talked a lot about the war in Ukraine on this series—how the Russian, Ukrainian and American governments are leveraging information as part of the conflict; how tech platforms are navigating the flood of information coming out of Ukraine and the crackdown from the Kremlin; and how open-source investigators are documenting the war.

This week on Arbiters of Truth, our series on the online information environment, we're going to talk about getting information into Russia during a period of rapidly increasing repression by the Russian government. Evelyn Douek and Quinta Jurecic spoke with Thomas Kent, a former president of the U.S. government-funded media organization Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, who now teaches at Columbia University. He recently wrote an essay published by the Center for European Policy Analysis on "How to Reach Russian Ears," suggesting creative ways that reporters, civil society and even the U.S. government might approach communicating the truth about the war in Ukraine to Russians. This was a thoughtful and nuanced conversation about a tricky topic—whether, and how, democracies should think about leveraging information as a tool against repressive governments, and how to distinguish journalism from such strategic efforts.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Six journalists named winners of Yankee Quill Award***

(AP)

### **Associated Press**

Five modern-day journalists and one historic figure in the field have been named the recipients of this year's Yankee Quill Awards, New England's highest journalistic honor.

The awards will be presented during the annual New England Newspaper and Press Association convention in Boston on April 29, according to the Academy of New England Journalists, which sponsors the awards.

The inductees were selected in 2021, but the ceremony was postponed because of the pandemic.

This year's honorees are Paul Bass, Tom Condon, Melvin B. Miller, Marianne Stanton, Terrence L. Williams, and William Monroe Trotter.

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

# The Final Word

*Times' farewell to Dirck Halstead*





Photographs of Vietnam in April 1975, from left, North Vietnamese being held in Saigon; Chinook helicopters assisted in evacuating South Vietnamese families from Xuan Loc; and U.S. Marines evacuating Americans and Vietnamese at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam. Dirck Halstead won the Robert Capa Gold Medal from the Overseas Press Club for his images of the fall of Saigon.

# Dirck Halstead, 85, Photojournalist Who Captured World-Changing Events, Dies

By NEIL GENZLINGER

Dirck Halstead, who photographed world-shaking events for half a century for United Press International, Time magazine and other news outlets, sometimes under harrowing conditions, died on Friday in Boquete, Panama. He was 85.

David Hume Kennerly, his friend and a fellow photographer, said the cause was a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mr. Halstead took pictures of presidents, including Richard M. Nixon during his landmark trip to China in 1972; and Bill Clinton, whom he captured in a particularly well-known image with Monica Lewinsky in 1996. He photographed domestic protests. And he documented the war in Vietnam, where he opened U.P.I.'s first picture bureau in Saigon in 1965 as American involvement in the conflict was deepening.

When the first American combat troops arrived in Vietnam that year — Marines coming ashore on

*'He covered history in an intelligent way and took great risks doing it.'*

Da Nang — he photographed the moment. Eleven years later, he captured images of the fall of Saigon, coverage that won him the Robert Capa Gold Medal from the Overseas Press Club.

"He covered history in an intelligent way and took great risks doing it," Mr. Kennerly said in a statement.

"Dirck was cool under fire," he added. "One time in 1972 we were pinned down by North Vietnamese regulars near An Loc. South Vietnamese soldiers were dying left and right around us, mortar rounds were exploding, we were taking heavy machine gun fire from the tree line, when Dirck looked at me and said, 'Can't wait to have a drink at the Melody Bar tonight!'"

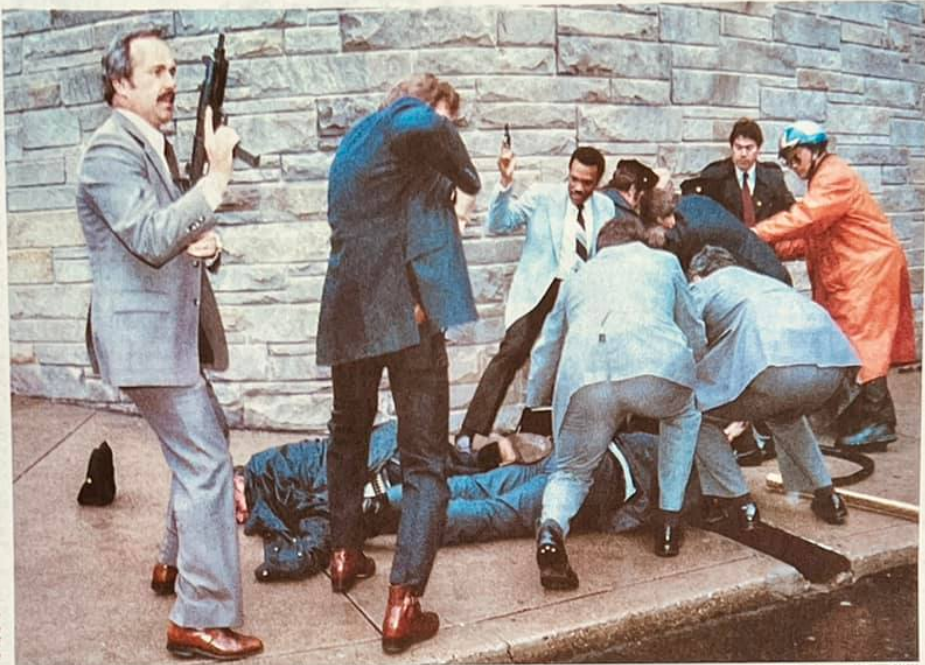
Mr. Halstead placed his archive at the Briscoe Center for American History in Austin, Texas.

"Dirck Halstead was one of the great news photographers of his generation," the center's executive director, Don Carleton, said by email. "His body of work will be a source of important historical information far into the future."

Dirck Storm Halstead was born on Dec. 24, 1936, in Huntington, N.Y., on Long Island. His mother, Leslie (Munro) Halstead, was an advertising executive, and his father, William, was a telecommunications engineer who held a number of patents for radio and television equipment.

At 15, when the family was living in Westchester County, N.Y., his parents gave him a Kodak Duaflex camera for Christmas.

"The thing that made the difference was they gave me a little darkroom outfit with it, which allowed you to make contact prints," he said in an oral history recorded in 2010 for the Binghamton University Libraries. "And that was the thing that got me hooked."



DIRCK HALSTEAD/LANSON, VIA GETTY IMAGES



DAVID HUME KENNERLY

He began bringing the camera to class and was soon the high school's de facto official photographer.

"By the time I was in my senior year in high school I was working on a part-time basis for a local newspaper and getting \$5 per picture, he said. At about the same time, that newspaper's owner, Carl Tucker Jr., began acquiring other papers in the area.

"All of a sudden I was shooting for seven newspapers," Mr. Halstead said, "and I was the only photographer, so that \$5 per picture started to multiply."

At 17, he said, he was on a student trip to Guatemala when he found himself photographing a coup there and, as he put it, became "the youngest war correspondent Life magazine ever had." He tried Haverford College but was more interested in pho-

tography than classroom study, and he left after a year to work in Dallas. Soon he was drafted, and he became an official photographer for the U.S. Army — "the best job I ever had," he said, because it allowed him to roam all over the world.

After two years in the Army he joined U.P.I. He worked in Philadelphia, New York and Washington before drawing the Saigon assignment.

In 1972 he was one of a handful of photographers selected to accompany Nixon on his trip to China. That led to an offer to work for Time.

"I took the contract with them with the proviso that I wouldn't have to do any more wars or any more politics," he told The Jackson Hole Guide of Wyoming in 1995. "Ten days later I was back in Vietnam."



BY CORWIN

Mr. Halstead snapped a photograph of the chaos following the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan outside the Hilton Hotel in Washington in 1981.

Far left, Mr. Halstead, front, with Leon Daniel, a United Press International reporter, in South Vietnam in 1972. Near left, Mr. Halstead in 2019 in Boquete, Panama, where he lived.

His main beat for Time, though, ended up being the White House. He captured countless historic moments involving the presidents of the 1970s, '80s and '90s, including several attempted assassinations.

"In each case," he said, "all that you've heard is true. Everything starts to move in slow motion, and it seems like it takes forever."

He worked for Time for almost 30 years and shot some 50 covers for the magazine. One, which ran in 1998, was an accident, and a feat of memory.

Mr. Halstead had a theory that every image lingers like "photographic lint on the mind of the photographer," as he put it, whether or not the image was published. When the scandal involving President Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky broke in early 1998, Mr. Halstead had a vague memory of

having seen Ms. Lewinsky's face before. He hired a researcher to go through thousands of images he had shot in the past few years, and he was rewarded: The researcher found a shot Mr. Halstead had taken in 1996 at a gathering at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, with Mr. Clinton, his back to the camera, embracing the smiling Ms. Lewinsky.

"One frame, in focus," he said. "It was perfect."

The shot ended up on the cover of a special report that Time published in August 1998. The Austin American-Statesman, recounting the tale in 2007, said the story of the picture has become "a case study for photojournalists about the importance of archiving images."

Though Mr. Halstead did much of his work in the era of film and darkrooms, he was interested in

the new technologies of the digital age, and in 1997 he started an on-line magazine, Digital Journalist, about the new types of photography and storytelling that were emerging. In 2006 he published a memoir, "Moments in Time: Photos and Stories From One of America's Top Photojournalists."

Mr. Kennerly, a Pulitzer Prize winner, said Mr. Halstead was a mentor to many.

"He was a star photographer, but he was very unselfish about coverage," he said. "He was very helpful not only to me, but to tons of other photographers."

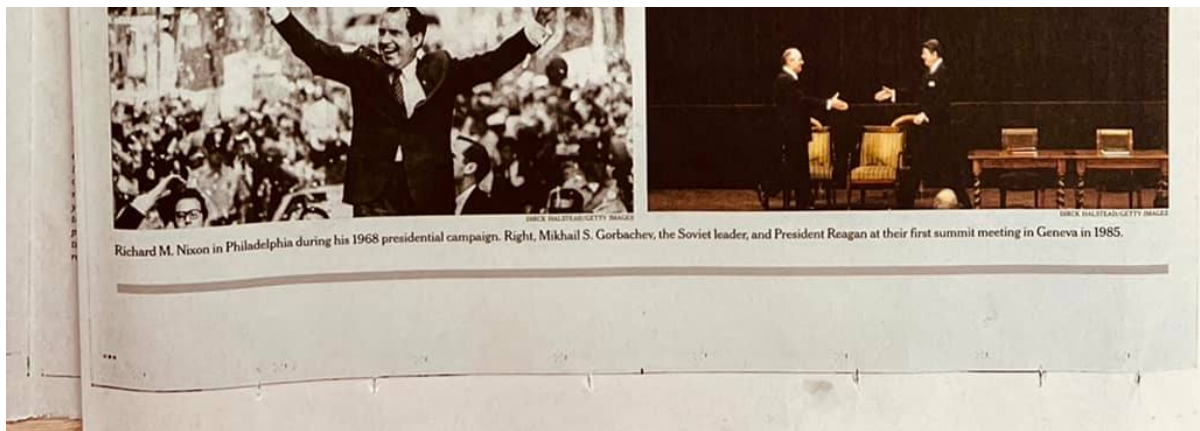
Mr. Halstead, who lived in Boquete, was married and divorced three times. He is survived by a sister, Anne MacPherson.

"Dirck Halstead's technical skill as a photographer was greatly enhanced by his deep intellectual curiosity about the people and events he documented with his camera," Dr. Carleton of the Briscoe Center said. "Dirck made an effort to know as much as he could about his subjects, which gave him the knowledge to recognize that moment when a picture would most likely be newsworthy. Hence his success at shooting so many photographs that made the cover of newsmagazines."

Not many journalists win a prize for taking a picture of other journalists, but Mr. Halstead did. In 1978 he won the top prize in the annual awards competition of the New York Press Photographers Association for a picture he had taken while shooting for Time during the July 1977 blackout. It was an image of the newsroom of The New York Times.







Shared by David Hume Kennerly

## Today in History - March 28, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 28, the 87th day of 2022. There are 278 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

### On this date:

In 1797, Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire received a patent for a washing machine.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, ruled 6-2 that Wong, who was born in the United States to Chinese immigrants, was an American citizen.



In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film “Triumph des Willens” (Triumph of the Will), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present.

In 1939, the Spanish Civil War neared its end as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

In 1942, during World War II, British naval forces staged a successful raid on the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire in Operation Chariot, destroying the only dry dock on the Atlantic coast capable of repairing the German battleship Tirpitz.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington, D.C., at age 78.

In 1977, “Rocky” won best picture at the 49th Academy Awards; Peter Finch was honored posthumously as best actor for “Network” while his co-star, Faye Dunaway, was recognized as best actress.

In 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life story inspired the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “The Sound of Music,” died in Morrisville, Vermont, at age 82.

In 1999, NATO broadened its attacks on Yugoslavia to target Serb military forces in Kosovo in the fifth straight night of airstrikes; thousands of refugees flooded into Albania and Macedonia from Kosovo.

In 2000, in a unanimous ruling, the Supreme Court, in *Florida v. J.L.*, sharply curtailed police power in relying on anonymous tips to stop and search people.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court wrapped up three days of public arguments on President Barack Obama’s historic health care law. (In June 2012, the court would uphold almost all of the law, including the mandate that virtually all Americans have health insurance or pay a penalty.) On the last day of his visit, Pope Benedict XVI demanded more freedom for the Roman Catholic Church in communist-run Cuba and preached against “fanaticism” in an unusually political sermon before hundreds of thousands at Revolution Plaza. Bluegrass legend and banjo pioneer Earl Scruggs, 88, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump proposed immediate budget cuts of \$18 billion from programs like medical research, infrastructure and community grants so that U.S. taxpayers, not Mexico, could cover the down payment on the border wall. Wells Fargo said it would pay \$110 million to settle a class-action lawsuit over up to 2 million accounts its employees opened for customers without getting their permission.

One year ago: Local media in Myanmar reported that security forces opened fire on a crowd attending the funeral of a student who was killed along with more than 100 others a day earlier in a crackdown on protests against the February coup there. Four bodies were found in Tennessee in the aftermath of flooding caused by heavy rains.

Two additional tugboats were deployed to Egypt's Suez Canal to help free a giant container ship that had been wedged for days across the crucial waterway.

Today's Birthdays: Author Mario Vargas Llosa is 86. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 81. Movie director Mike Newell is 80. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is 77. Actor Dianne Wiest (weest) is 76. Country singer Reba McEntire is 67. Olympic gold medal gymnast Bart Conner is 64. Actor Alexandra Billings (TV: "Transparent") is 60. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 56. Actor Tracey Needham is 55. Actor Max Perlich is 54. Movie director Brett Ratner is 53. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 53. Actor Vince Vaughn is 52. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 51. Singer-songwriter Matt Nathanson is 49. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 46. Actor Annie Wersching is 45. Actor Julia Stiles is 41. Singer Lady Gaga is 36. Electronic musician Clayton Knight (Odesza) is 34.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor**, Connecting newsletter

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**