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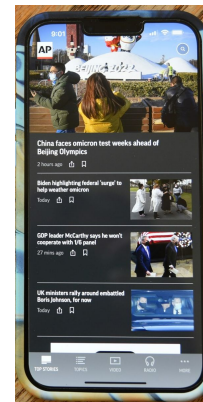
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Connecting

April 27, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this April 27, 2022,

Our Connecting colleague **Jack Ronald** was a journalist dedicated to bringing news to his fellow residents of Portland, Ind., a community of 6,000, through the daily Commercial Review.

But his journalistic vision extended far beyond his eastern Indiana hometown.

He was involved in international journalism training for about 20 years, beginning when he was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 1988, first in Moldova, Chisinau, and then to former Soviet republics and beyond. He wrote "A Path Toward Independence: Principles of Newspaper Management for Central

Asia,” which was published by the International Center for Journalists and has been translated into Russian, Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Tajik.

His death Saturday from liver cancer at the age of 73 was felt keenly in Portland, and by his wife Connie and their three girls and their families – and throughout the world. Personally, he was a friend of 40 years, from the time I came to Indianapolis as AP bureau chief, to when he became a contributor and regular reader of our newsletter.

We bring the story of his death – and his life – in an article published Tuesday in The Commercial Review by editor and publisher **Ray Cooney** – and [a link](#) to Jack’s obituary prepared by his daughters. One of his best friends, **Andy Lippman**, who met Jack when Andy was named Indianapolis bureau chief to succeed me, offers his thoughts...along with another close friend of Jack’s, retired Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette editor **Craig Klugman**.



Jack made this world a better place. A legacy we can all hope to attain.

FRIENDS OF GARY CLARK: Our colleague **Brent Kallestad** shares the sad news that Gary was diagnosed late last week with Stage 4 throat cancer and that it is terminal. Gary’s wife Fay told Brent that Gary would love to hear from his many friends. Gary turned 78 last month and has bravely faced serious health issues for several years now. If you would like to send an email, maybe sharing a favorite memory with him or whatever you’d like to say, you can do so in two ways: an email through Fay at Clarkfay@hotmail.com or a letter at: 1563 Fernando Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

My thanks to colleague **Peg Coughlin** for her editorship of Connecting the past two days while Linda and I were in California.

Send along your Connecting story and photo contributions. Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Jack Ronald: A journalist dedicated to his community and to the world



Jack Ronald, from a trip to Paris in 2018.

By [RAY COONEY](#)
The Commercial Review
Portland, Indiana

A journalist, free press advocate and community leader, Jack Ronald died Saturday.

He was 73.

Ronald had been diagnosed with liver cancer in early March. He was chairman and president of the Graphic Printing Company, where he had worked in various capacities since 1974. He was the longtime publisher of The Commercial Review before his retirement in summer 2020 and served as its editor for decades. He is a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Ronald was born to Hugh and Sara (Haynes) Ronald in Portland on Nov. 17, 1948. He graduated from Portland High School in 1966 and Earlham College in 1970.

Though he had not planned a career in journalism, he decided to give it a try when there was an opening for a city editor at The Commercial Review in 1974. (His parents had started a weekly newspaper, The Graphic, on his first birthday, and it later bought the daily publication.) He worked at The CR for 46 years — he served as editor from 1977 to 2014 and publisher from 1982 to 2020 — and was still writing his weekly column and filling in as a proofreader after he left his full-time role. He served as

chairman and president of the Graphic Printing Company from 1985 until the time of his death.

Ronald was a freelance writer, critic and columnist for newspapers in Indianapolis for about two years before joining the staff of The Commercial Review. He published "Boodle," a children's quarterly magazine with national circulation, from 1989 to '97.

He served as a visiting professor of journalism at Earlham College on a part-time basis from 1986 through 1993.

Ronald's work earned him a litany of journalism awards, including for editorial writing, reporting and photography from the Hoosier State Press Association, Inland Press Association and Indiana Associated Press Media Editors.

(He also served as president of APME from 1980 to '82.) He won the Indiana Journalism Award from Ball State University in 2004, was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the Hoosier State Press Association's Charlie Biggs Commitment to Community Award in 2014.

"Jack Ronald's continued activism through his involvement in numerous organizations within the county as well as his published columns and coverage in The Commercial Review give a voice and a presence that would be void if not for his genuine, demonstrated love for his community," said former Jay County High School principal and current Jay School Board member Phil Ford in supporting Ronald's nomination for the commitment to community award. "Jack has a sense of history and tradition, mixed with a desire to gently push the community progressively forward."

That commitment to community began shortly after he returned to his hometown, as he joined Portland Rotary Club in 1975 and was a member until his death. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow in 1995. He began a six-year run as director of United Way of Jay County in 1975 as well.

Ronald was founding director of the Jay County Arts Council from 1976 to '80 and was instrumental in the creation of Arts Place. He served on the council's exhibits panel from 1994 through '98 and was on the Arts Place board of directors from 2013 until the time of his death.

He was a driving force in the formation of the Jay County AIDS Task Force in 1994, serving as its first president, and was instrumental in the development and creation of John Jay Center for Learning. He was president of The Portland Foundation (1988 through '94), Portland 2000 (1988 to '92) and Portland Area Chamber of Commerce (1988). He also served on the boards of Friends of the Limberlost, Minnetrista Cultural Center, John Jay Center for Learning and Jay County Development Corporation.

Ronald was Portland Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year in 2007. (He is nominated for the 2021 Jay County Community Award for Dunkirk Community Commitment along with George Lopez and Arnold Clevenger for their concerts performed for residents at Miller's Merry Manor. The awards ceremony is scheduled for next month.) In 2017, he was among the first inductees into The Circle of Corydon, a state honor for those who have made "a remarkable contribution to the

betterment” of Indiana and “demonstrated in life and in service the qualities exemplified by our state’s great citizens.”

“I’m not very good with words,” Ronald said, drawing a laugh from the family, friends and local officials gathered for the ceremony. “All I can say is thank you.”

He was involved in international journalism training for about 20 years, beginning when he was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 1988. He moved with his family to Chisinau, Moldova, for six months, teaching courses at Universitatea de Stat din Moldova, Chisinau, and doing consulting work for Centrul Independent de Jurnalism and Asociația Presei Independente.

Ronald’s work in Moldova sparked a career in training journalists in former Soviet republics and beyond, including Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Belarus, Poland, Russia, Afghanistan and Myanmar. He wrote “A Path Toward Independence: Principles of Newspaper Management for Central Asia,” which was published by the International Center for Journalists and has been translated into Russian, Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Tajik.

Survivors include his wife Connie, who he married on June 19, 1971; daughters Margaret Ronald (husband: Joshua Lawton) of Watertown, Massachusetts, Emily Ronald (husband: Michael Veloso) of Waltham, Massachusetts and Sara “Sally” Ronald (husband: Benjamin Lawson) of Bloomington; grandchildren Julian, Johanna, Gabriel, Beatrice and Cora; brother Steve Ronald (wife: Beth) of Minneapolis; and sisters Linda Ronald (husband: Steven Butler) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Louise of Richmond.

A celebration of Ronald’s life is being planned for June.

Memories of Jack Ronald

[Andy Lippman](#) - Connie Ronald says there will be a celebration of life for her husband Jack, who died Saturday of cancer at age 73.

How could there be otherwise—except for the fact that the title of the Event should be “a celebration of life-in full.”

Jack was with the Portland, Ind. Commercial-Review for 40 years, where he served as the paper’s president, publisher and editor. He stepped down as publisher in 2020, except to write a column where he wasn’t afraid to speak his mind even if it meant upsetting some of his more conservative subscribers.

He wasn’t malicious in his criticisms, but he could get a cackle out of knowing he was afflicting the people he thought wrong or too comfortable. But he loved Portland, and he loved his staff.

When he found out that he had cancer, he even used the column to let people know, so they wouldn’t wonder why he wasn’t putting in his regular appearance at a city function.

Many summers were spent in eastern Europe, working with editors on journalism ethics and newspaper management. One of his last projects was working with a paper operating in Myanmar, helping them put out a paper which had to go “underground” because of pressure from the military.

And perhaps his most satisfying effort was to ultimately decline offers to buy the paper, and to keep it running as a local paper.

Then, he was able to step away as publisher-content that the staff and the community would be well-served.

That’s all part of Jack the journalist, but Jack the person was one of the most eclectic people I’ve ever met. He wrote poetry that appeared in national magazines; he wrote children’s stories for his daughters and had them bound so they could be saved for future generations. I looked forward to getting a new book when he put them together. His daughter Maggie is a science fiction author, and we were talking before he got sick that she had written two new books.

He and Connie would be sitting on their back porch, and I’d get the most amazing bird or flower photos on email. They both loved to hike the local trails and they got in a final trip together to Rome after covid subsided. They were supposed to be in Holland to see the tulips this month.

They had five grandchildren and loved hosting the entire family at a cabin in New England every summer. But what he loved best was spending time with Connie and rejoicing in her career; and also enjoying the girls and their children. I feel like I know all the Ronald clan from getting the family newsletters Jack would put out.

Jack was an equally wonderful friend, and we’d talk at least once every other week. We’d talk about books we had read, art we had collected, and inevitably politics where we rarely disagreed.

My favorite Jack story is when I was invited to spend a weekend with the family. Jack told me to bring my dog since the girls didn’t have a dog. The girls made a play doghouse for my dog and we had a wonderful time.

A week or so later, I got a note from AP President Lou Boccardi. It said:

“I hear you spent a weekend with Jack Ronald and his family. I hear you brought your dog. Nice touch.”

Jack Ronald had a nice touch with life.

And there won’t be an empty seat in the place when his life is celebrated.

Thanks for making my life that much better, my friend.

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[Craig Klugman](#), retired editor of The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette: Jack was smart, and he was a committed journalist and publisher. He talked about the importance of a free press not only to the readers of his editorials and columns, but also to reporters around the world in countries where a free press was just starting.

Most important, he emphasized to those new journalists the responsibilities of working in a country with a free press.

Connecting mailbox

NBC's Jim Hartz and AP's Milt Haynes

[Jerry Cipriano](#) - Reading the obituary of Jim Hartz of NBC News, I am reminded that he was a close, lifelong friend of fellow Oklahoman Milt Haynes, a writer and editor on The AP National Broadcast Wire in New York back in the 1970s. When Hartz was working at what was then the RCA Building at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, he would sometimes pop over to AP headquarters at 50 Rock to see Milt. And when Milt died in 2002, Hartz delivered a very touching eulogy at his memorial service.

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Kevin Noblet comments right on

[Marty Steinberg](#) – Kevin Noblet's comments in Tuesday's Connecting were so right on target, so well said and timely.

Hope we survive this period of domestic and international trauma. Some days, I'm not so sure we will. But we still have to fight the fight to preserve our democracy in the United States and stand up to Putin's nazi onslaught against Ukraine.

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New York Press Club donates to Reporters Without Borders to support journalists in Ukraine

Reporters Without Borders (RSF), with its local partner in Ukraine, Institute for Mass Information, recently announced the establishment of a Press Freedom Center in Lviv, Ukraine. The initiative will provide essential equipment, services and assistance to journalists reporting from the war zone.

The Press Freedom Center will collect and distribute much needed protective equipment for journalists, such as helmets and bulletproof vests. It will also have an onsite workspace, the Digital Media Center in Lviv, to provide internet, live-streaming capacity, and a safe space for journalists to work and seek shelter during attacks.

The New York Press Club donated to Reporters Without Borders to support these efforts.

“It’s important for all of us in the journalism community to support our colleagues who are putting themselves in danger to report the truth about the war to the rest of the world. Without them, we’d all be in the dark,” said Debra Toppeta, president of the New York Press Club.

To make a donation to Reporters Without Borders, click [HERE](#).

Read more about RSF’s Press Freedom Center [HERE](#).

(Shared by Paul Albright)

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2022 OPC Foundation Scholar Awards

OPC press release

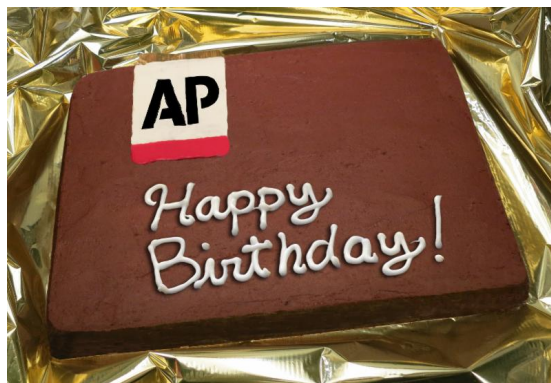
We want to make sure you have the opportunity to see the 2022 Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Awards. We intend to honor the 17 young journalists who won OPC Foundation Scholar Awards this year at a virtual event that will take place on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 4 PM EDT.

Besides the awards presentation, OPC Foundation president Bill Holstein and vice president John Daniszewski, vice president and editor-at-large for standards at The Associated Press, will interview three former OPC Foundation fellows who are now on the frontlines reporting on the War in Ukraine.

Please RSVP [here](#).

(Shared by Sibby Christensen)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Carrier

Sally Hale

[Larry McDermott](#)

[Dan Sewell](#)

Stories of interest

Pulitzer preview: Jan. 6 reporting, IRS and Facebook

(Poynter)

By: Roy J. Harris Jr.

Journalists are sure to remember 2021 as a remarkable news year. Starting with penetrating Jan. 6 coverage of the Capitol rioting and its devastating fallout, the media also provided insightful coverage of climate change and other environmental challenges while following closely the painfully slow pandemic recovery. And along the way, it delivered numerous local and national scoops — including exclusives on the database inner workings of the Internal Revenue Service and of Facebook, to name only two.

On May 9, new Pulitzer Prize administrator Marjorie Miller will livestream the announcement from Columbia University of the 106th prizes in 15 journalism categories, coming as close as the press can to immortalizing its very best work. Also revealed will be seven prizes for U.S. arts and letters, rounding out the 22 total Pulitzer categories.

Poynter, as it has done for a dozen years, offers an advance look at some of the reporting likely to receive the Pulitzers' blessing as winners or finalists in certain of its most competitive, news-based areas.

Speculating on what might win a journalism Pulitzer is always risky. The oldest of the nation's annual awards has its own unique way of judging entries: a secretive two-tiered system that chooses finalists, and then winners. First, all news organization entries are narrowed to three candidates in each of its journalism categories — with small, hand-picked juries making the first cut. Then, the week before "Pulitzer Monday," the 18-member Pulitzer board meets to designate the final picks.

Read more [here](#).

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Los Angeles Sheriff, Accused of Cover-Up, Opens Investigation Into Reporter (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

The Los Angeles County sheriff said on Tuesday that he was investigating a reporter at The Los Angeles Times who had reported allegations that he was involved in covering up a case of inmate abuse, an announcement that drew accusations that he was violating the reporter's First Amendment rights.

The reporter, Alene Tchekmedyan, published an article on Monday detailing a legal claim filed by an officer who accused Sheriff Alex Villanueva of blocking an investigation into the alleged abuse and retaliating against whistle-blowers.

Ms. Tchekmedyan also published security video footage of a police deputy handcuffing the inmate, who had punched him in the face. Once the inmate was on the floor, the officer kept his knee on the inmate's head for three minutes.

At a news conference on Tuesday, the sheriff said he was investigating "all parties" involved in the leaked video, which he said was "stolen property that was removed illegally." He stood next to large photos of Ms. Tchekmedyan and two other people.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Rubin, Sibby Christensen.

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Trolls, Trump and Elon Musk: a Twitter tale foretold

By DAN PERRY

The acquisition of Twitter by Elon Musk is a riveting moment in one of the grand stories of our times: technology's disruption of the culture and economy. For a mere \$44 billion, the enigmatic billionaire becomes a key decider on whether social media is recast as a force for good, or at least is prevented from destroying civilization.

The world's richest person has been flirting with Twitter for some time. His move carries a sense of inevitability and brings to a boil social media's still-open question of liability and responsibility. Musk argues that free speech is what animates him, as the bedrock of democracy. But there is no such thing: we are not free to shout "fire" in a crowded theater.

If Musk understands this he does not betray it, yet the problem cannot be ignored. The question of how to handle the outrageous, the libelous and the incendiary is central to the success of his new toy. The answer probably lies in a combination of balance, nuance and compromise, which can be boring to the swashbuckling disruptor.

With so much hanging in the balance, I offer a survey of the issues on this ornate but wobbly table.

Read more [here](#).

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John DiStaso, ‘dean’ of New Hampshire’s political press corps and WMUR reporter, dead at 68 (WMUR)

By K C Downey

MANCHESTER, N.H. — John DiStaso, the most experienced political writer in New Hampshire and often referred to as the “dean” of the state’s political press corps, has died after a prolonged illness. He was 68.

DiStaso was a native of Paterson, New Jersey, where he attended public schools before graduating from Villanova University in 1975. He received his master’s degree from William Paterson University in 1979.

DiStaso, who spent the past seven years as a political reporter for WMUR, began his New Hampshire journalism career as the Seacoast area correspondent for the New Hampshire Union Leader. As a staff reporter and later the senior political reporter for the Union Leader from early 1980 through the spring of 2014, he covered many public policy issues and dozens of political campaigns and candidates.

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

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‘Climate of fear’: Hong Kong press club suspends press awards (Aljazeera)

By Erin Hale

The Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents’ Club (FCC) is the latest organisation to bow to growing censorship in the Chinese city after it suspended its annual press awards for fear of legal repercussions less than two weeks before the event.

The Human Rights Press Awards were due to recognise the work of media outlets that have come under police scrutiny, including the now-closed Stand News, a member of the club’s press freedom committee told Al Jazeera.

Previously the awards were organised by the club but voted on by an independent panel of judges. Award rules allow news outlets and individual journalists to self-nominate their work for free, unlike other press awards that sometimes charge an entry fee.

FCC President Keith Richburg said board members were concerned that the awards would create an enormous risk to the club under Hong Kong’s new national security legislation imposed in June 2020 and recently revived colonial-era sedition laws.

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

The Final Word

Shared by Len Iwanski, Adolphe Bernotas, Paul Albright.

Today in History - April 27, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 27, the 117th day of 2022. There are 248 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 27, 1994, former President Richard M. Nixon was remembered at an outdoor funeral service attended by all five of his successors at the Nixon presidential library in Yorba Linda, California.

On this date:

In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed by natives in the Philippines.

In 1810, Ludwig van Beethoven wrote one of his most famous piano compositions, the Bagatelle in A-minor.

In 1813, the Battle of York took place in Upper Canada during the War of 1812 as a U.S. force defeated the British garrison in present-day Toronto before withdrawing.

In 1865, the steamer Sultana, carrying freed Union prisoners of war, exploded on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee; death toll estimates vary from 1,500 to 2,000.

In 1941, German forces occupied Athens during World War II.

In 1973, acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray resigned after it was revealed that he'd destroyed files removed from the safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

In 1978, 51 construction workers plunged to their deaths when a scaffold inside a cooling tower at the Pleasants Power Station site in West Virginia fell 168 feet to the ground.

In 1992, Russia and 12 other former Soviet republics won entry into the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 2010, former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was extradited from the United States to France, where he was later convicted of laundering drug money and received a seven-year sentence.

In 2011, powerful and deadly tornadoes raked the South and Midwest; more than 60 tornadoes crossed parts of Alabama, leaving about 250 people dead and thousands of others injured in the state.

In 2015, rioters plunged part of Baltimore into chaos, torching a pharmacy, setting police cars ablaze and throwing bricks at officers hours after thousands attended a funeral for Freddie Gray, a Black man who died from a severe spinal injury he'd suffered in police custody; the Baltimore Orioles' home game against the Chicago White Sox was postponed because of safety concerns.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire inside a synagogue near San Diego as worshippers celebrated the last day of Passover, killing a woman and wounding the rabbi and two others. (John Earnest, a white supremacist, has been sentenced to both federal and state life prison terms.)

Ten years ago: The space shuttle Enterprise, mounted atop a jumbo jet, sailed over the New York City skyline on its final flight before becoming a museum piece aboard the USS Intrepid.

Five years ago: David Dao, the airline passenger who was violently dragged off a flight after refusing to give up his seat, settled with United for an undisclosed sum; cellphone video of the April 9 confrontation aboard a jetliner at Chicago's O'Hare Airport had sparked widespread public outrage over the way Dao was treated. About 20 hours after he fatally shot a state trooper, a Delaware man was shot to death following an overnight standoff with police. Texas A&M defensive end Myles Garrett was picked first overall by the Cleveland Browns in the NFL Draft.

One year ago: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eased its guidelines on the wearing of masks outdoors, saying fully vaccinated Americans didn't need to cover their faces anymore unless they were in a big crowd of strangers; those who were unvaccinated could also go outside without masks in some situations. President Joe Biden signed an executive order to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for federal contractors, providing a pay bump to hundreds of thousands of workers.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Anouk Aimee is 90. Rock musician Jim Keltner is 80. Rock singer Kate Pierson (The B-52's) is 74. R&B singer Herb Murrell (The Stylistics) is 73. Actor Douglas Sheehan is 73. Rock musician Ace Frehley is 71. West Virginia Gov. Jim

Justice is 71. Pop singer Sheena Easton is 63. Actor James Le Gros (groh) is 60. Rock musician Rob Squires (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 57. Singer Mica (MEE'-shah) Paris is 53. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., is 53. Actor David Lascher is 50. Actor Maura West is 50. Actor Sally Hawkins is 46. Rock singer Jim James (My Morning Jacket) is 44. Rock musician Patrick Hallahan (My Morning Jacket) is 44. Rock singer-musician Travis Meeks (Days of the New) is 43. Country musician John Osborne (Brothers Osborne) is 40. Actor Francis Capra is 39. Actor Ari Graynor is 39. Rock singer-musician Patrick Stump (Fall Out Boy) is 38. Actor Sheila Vand is 37. Actor Jenna Coleman is 36. Actor William Moseley is 35. Singer Lizzo is 34. Actor Emily Rios is 33. Singer Allison Iraheta is 30.

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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