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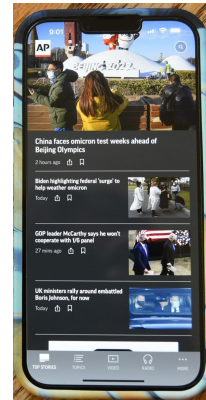
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# Connecting

May 4, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this May 4, 2022,

Connecting extends congratulations to **Jim Kennedy**, one of the AP's brightest and forward-thinking executives, on his plans to retire later this month after three decades with the company.

He has served as AP's strategic planning director for the past 21 years. I first got to know him in my early Kansas City chief of bureau days when he took a lead role in helping save the AP's stocks business from strong competitors that included Tribune Media. Stocks listings represented a sizeable portion of AP revenue back then. AP was successful in keeping that business - and Jim was huge with that. He's had many more accomplishments along the way.

We lead today's issue with the announcement by AP President/CEO **Daisy Veerasingham** of Kennedy's retirement, effective May 25.

If you have a favorite memory of working with Jim, please send it along.

We also bring you responses to the call in Tuesday's issue by colleague **Malcolm Ritter** that assure him he is not the only curmudgeon among our readership.

Malcolm asked in the lead story of Tuesday's edition if he's the only curmudgeon in this crowd, noting the passion he's adopted in retirement to spot language mistakes in the pages of two of the country's best newspapers – the New York Times and the Washington Post. Read on.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Jim Kennedy, AP's director of strategic planning, to retire

**Daisy Veerasingham, AP President and CEO, in a note to staff Tuesday:**

After more than three decades at the AP and 20 years on AP's key leadership team, Jim Kennedy, senior vice president and director of strategic planning, will retire on May 25.

Jim has seemingly specialized in keeping AP focused on changes in the news environment and the pace of that change. Under Jim's leadership, we launched The Wire, AP's first foray into digital news; introduced AP Mobile, our first mobile app, and the advertising business model supporting it; applied artificial intelligence technology to the news production process; and fostered numerous startup partnerships that brought new capabilities and a spirit of entrepreneurship to the AP.

Jim has been part of the very fabric of AP since joining the Business News department as enterprise editor in 1987, just in time to cover the biggest story of the day, the October 19, 1987, Wall Street crash known as Black Monday.

He was promoted to business editor a year later and instituted a global beat system that included training staffers around the world to cover business and financial news. As business editor, he also revamped the financial data service, introducing the first performance data for mutual funds and developing a technology solution that enabled editors to customize the presentation of market data in hundreds of newspapers around the U.S.



Jim won a Gramling Achievement Award in 1997 for his work to revitalize AP's business news services and for creating The Wire, the first news website for AP members, at a time when the internet was still "a place you went" by dialing it up on a modem. The Wire later received the Computer World Smithsonian Award in 1999.

After a stint at The Wall Street Journal, Jim returned to AP to serve as Director of Strategic Planning, and since 2001 has led strategic planning across all divisions of AP. A student of history, yet forward thinking, Jim has always appreciated the continuities in our business strategy over time, from the pony to the mobile phone.

Jim introduced AP to the design thinking process and in 2020 convened four teams to focus on innovation in the key areas of streaming video, digital audio, value-added services and next-generation audience development, engaging a wider cross-section of AP staff.

Jim has served on several industry and startup boards including the Society of American Business Editors and Writers, the international news agency organization MINDS, the startup accelerator Matter Ventures, the New York City Media Lab, and Digital Content Next, the trade association for digital content creators in the U.S.

In retirement, he plans to stay active in digital projects but also spend more time with his wife, two daughters and their growing families – and maybe get his golf handicap back down to single digits.

Please join me in thanking Jim for his lasting contributions and congratulating him on his retirement. He has inspired many generations of AP talent and we are immensely grateful for the positive impact he's made on our business.

## Fighting for press freedom



Senior Vice President and General Counsel Karen Kaiser poses outside the 2022 UNESCO World Press Freedom Day conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay, May 3, 2022. (AP Photo)

By Lauren Easton

This World Press Freedom Day, which serves a reminder to governments of their duty to uphold the right to freedom of expression, AP continues to advocate for the ability of journalists to operate freely and safely across the globe.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel Karen Kaiser, who will lead a discussion on freedom of expression and journalist safety at Tuesday's UNESCO World Press Freedom Day conference, explains the importance of a free press.

### **What are the greatest emerging threats to press freedom in the digital age?**

The digital age brings its own set of threats for journalists, including surveillance, misinformation, online harassment and smearing campaigns. All of these lead to intimidation and an attempt to silence reporting.

### **How does AP fight for press freedom, both in the U.S. and abroad?**

We fight for press freedoms by tracking restrictive laws that seek to criminalize reporting and silence the press, training our staff (including, importantly, on practicing strong digital hygiene), fighting against government overreach, and advocacy on all these issues.

## Press freedom doesn't only impact the media. What should the public know about the importance of this fundamental principle?

A free and independent press is essential to a democracy. Without the press shining a light on the government, the people are left in the dark. The silencing of journalism is what prevents information from reaching people. That is why this principle is so fundamental. And you can't have a free press without a safe press, which is why threats against journalists are a real threat to everyone.

## Curmudgeon, Malcolm Ritter? You're not alone

[Norm Abelson](#) - Here's a shout-out to two Connecting colleagues, Bruce Lowitt and Malcolm Ritter, writing in Tuesday's edition.

Bruce whet our appetites with a walk down memory lane. For his birthday, his wife arranged a trip back to Coney Island for a delectable meal of Nathan's famous franks, a childhood favorite.

It lit up a comparative look-back for me. Joe & Nemo's, which is no more, was the place to go in Boston area for hot dogs and hamburgers back in the late '30s and early '40s. The steamed dogs went for eight cents apiece, while the burgers cost 15 cents (usually beyond my economic means). My buddies and I would sometimes pool resources, and buy a dozen dogs, stuffed in a cardboard box, chomping away while walking happily along Revere Beach Boulevard, without a care in the world.

Malcolm tells us he scours the pages of the New York Times and the Washington Post catching typos and usage boo-boos, referring to himself as a curmudgeon. Well, good for him!

Anyone who reaches the later ages without a hint of suspicion of just about everything, or experiencing the joy of taking a whack at the accepted view, hasn't been paying attention. Or having much fun.

One of my treasured items has been a book of over 800 pages laying out the best lines of famous curmudgeons, from Oscar Wilde to Groucho Marx. Unhappily, I loaned the book out sometime back – and can't remember to whom. Anyone have a curmudgeon-like comment to fit that situation?

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[Christopher Bacey](#) - Re curmudgeons ...I am I am! I cringe at what I read, even on LinkedIn and from so-called professional communicators.

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[Kathy Curran](#) - Bravo to Malcolm Ritter!

Curmudgeon is a kinder word than the one I use to describe myself as I yell at the TV news people when they frequently and incorrectly use "I" as the object in a sentence.

"He brought flowers for Lucy and I" or "He aimed the camera at Sam and I" is hard on my ears.

I'm not the journalist in the family so no doubt am guilty of plenty of language transgressions. My late husband Tim Curran was the AP newsman, but we had the same nun, Sister Audrey, who taught us grammar, and I know we'd be in agreement on this.

And Happy Birthday to Bruce Lowitt. Now I know what I'm going to request for my next birthday. Nathan's!

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**Bruce Handler** - I gave up on this sort of thing a long time ago. The wave of grammatical illiteracy will drown us all. So why fight it?

"The jury is expected to reach their verdict on Monday." No, ITS verdict.

'The Sunni and the Shia have been fighting...' No. If there are more than one of each, they are SUNNIS and SHIAS.

It's just not worth it. That's why I spend my retirement days playing Wordle, Termo (Brazilian-Portuguese version of Wordle), WorLdle (maps of world countries) and Nerdle (a Wordle-style puzzle for figuring out numerical equations.) I also coughed up 20 bucks for a subscription to the NY Times "Spelling Bee," which, it turns out, I'm pretty damn good at.

I recommend you do likewise before you go crazy.

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**Kathleen McCarthy** - I'm with Malcolm Ritter in the curmudgeon contingent, although I usually just swear to myself and move on.

His approach is more constructive!

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**Doug Pizac** - Kudos to Malcom Ritter for staying on top of and improving the spelling/grammar of today's newspapers what with all the job cuts they have undergone.

I, too, have noticed a surge of errors over the years -- especially on websites and especially on those of TV stations. The stories seem to have been written via voice transcribing software from the broadcast without anyone double checking the software's spelling and grammar. Several times a year I call the various TV stations in Portland, Oregon, to let them know the bottom graphic for a story they are airing has

the name of the city or person being interviewed spelled wrong, and other simple lack of attention mistakes.

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**Lee J. Siegel** – *in a note to Malcolm Ritter* - I laughed when I saw the item about you in Connecting because I do the same damn thing all the time but mostly not to major media. I send emails, probably about once a week, to Portland or Eugene TV stations or to various Oregon newspapers -- the ones without pay walls because you can't subscribe to everything -- when I see goofs in their stories.

The most recent example was when, in a report about the earthquake susceptibility of the rotting I-5 bridge crossing the Columbia River between Portland and Vancouver, Washington, KGW in Portland used the word "liquification," which is not really a word, instead of the correct word, "liquefaction." The anchor sent me a nice note thanking me.

Another example occurred because I enjoy the Amazon series Outer Range with Josh Brolin, a strange combination of modern Western and sci-fi. I was looking at various websites trying to figure out some part of the rather odd plot when I read a story online on TheWrap mentioning a divorce by a couple in the show as marriage "disillusion." I sent email telling them the word was "dissolution" and got a thank you note back from the executive editor.

But the most important and gratifying form of my curmudgeonly activity is my relationship with my local, twice weekly newspaper, the Newport News-Times. I live 6 miles north of Newport, a 10,000-population town on the central Oregon coast. I often email or text its two main young news reporters, pointing out spelling or style errors, holes in stories, important points buried too low, and suggestions for future coverage angles. I also frequently send them and their managing editor stories they don't have in that appear in other media and have local implications. Often, they find out about these on their own, but sometimes they do not.

I enjoy a frequent back and forth with these two guys, who both are progressing nicely as reporters. I really want to see this paper survive and succeed given the thousands of small-town papers that have gone belly-up in recent decades.

Perhaps you and I are just curmudgeons, or maybe it's a genetic trait in retired science writers.

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**Dave Skidmore** - Yes. I, too, am a curmudgeon. But I learned the hard way that it is not conducive to marital harmony to correct your wife, especially in the presence of others, when she uses the word "disinterested" when she means "uninterested."

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**Robert Wielaard** - Malcolm, You are nod a loan! Fishing for the mis-used words in the Times is also a hobby of mine.

Interestingly, one reporter thanked you “for pointing out a typo.” You did no such thing. The words were spelled right, but mis-used. Spell-check software gives all the mis-used words you caught the green light.

I cast the net a tad wider. I look for clichés. Things, events and people are easily “epic” and “legendary.” And for expressions that sound alright but really aren’t. My favorite: Going forward. “Going forward, what are the plans for the party?” Would anyone ever plan anything going backward?

## New-member profile: Scotty Comegys

**Scotty Comegys** - I was a photo editor in Chicago from 1979-1985. Dick Horwitz hired me for the desk when AP-CX went 24-hours in September 1979. I was one of several hired in anticipation of the Pope's visit to Chicago in October 1979. It was exciting for a newbie, as some heavy-hitters came in from NY, lots of buzz and importance. (Horwitz even hired members of the DePaul University track team to run film up and down Michigan Avenue since traffic was closed off for the Mass in Grant Park.)



I remember with particular fondness Tom diLustro, who was very kind and instructed me on particulars such as backstopping messages to cooperating bureaus. Only two years later, he passed away, and I was so sad!

Anyway, I worked the CX day shift until I moved onto night shift and overnights to accommodate law school. I left at Thanksgiving 1985, when I returned to hometown Shreveport, Louisiana to practice law. I’m currently a staff attorney for Social Security. Son and daughter now live in New Orleans.

## More of your memories

### *Of Bi Byington*

**Marty Thompson** - "Bi" -- Elton Byington, had a large and not silent presence in his years in San Francisco.

When Bi sailed through the bureau en route to Communications a few steps away, his greeting and friendly comments were for all to hear. And appreciate. With San Francisco's earthquake history, it was unsurprising that the staff welcomed his arrival by strength related to the Richter scale.



All might agree that a normal tone greeting rated a 3 on the Byington.

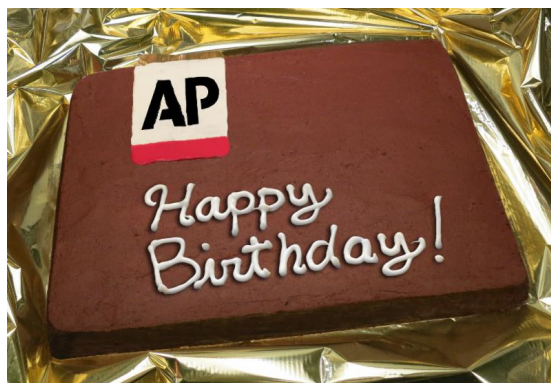
A boisterous greeting and comments might earn a 5 or 6 on the Byington.

Bi added a lot to the bureau, but the "Byington scale" rates a smile to this day, decades later.

## *Of Lenny Ignelzi*

Doug Pizac - Lenny was not just a great photographer, but a great person and fun to be around provided you didn't make a joke about golf. He was quite serious about the sport and covered many, many tournaments for AP with wonderful results. You didn't compete with him; you simply tried to stay up.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Patricia Casillo](#)

## Stories of interest

### *Politico's Supreme Court scoop boosts security concerns* (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — In breaking news of a Supreme Court draft opinion that would strike down 50 years of abortion policy, Politico's most impactful moment also put the news organization squarely in the middle of one of society's most contentious issues.

Politico sent a memo to staff members on Tuesday saying it had restricted access to its offices and told security to be "extra vigilant" about visitors. The company also urged employees to consider removing their Politico affiliation on social media accounts.

The company has not reported any specific threats.

But the story on the court's apparent readiness to overrule the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* case that legalized abortion nationwide led to wide speculation online about Politico's sources, some of it specific and malevolent.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed McCullough.

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## ***The implications of the draft Roe opinion leaking to the press*** (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

LAST NIGHT, Politico's Josh Gerstein and Alexander Ward dropped a bombshell story in the least hyperbolic sense of that term. The pair obtained a draft majority opinion—written by Justice Samuel Alito based on a preliminary vote of the Supreme Court, and circulated among the other justices in February—that would strike down *Roe v. Wade* and, with it, the constitutionally protected right to an abortion, with Alito calling the precedent “egregiously wrong from the start.” Gerstein and Ward noted prominently in their article that deliberations around sensitive cases can be “fluid”—with justices haggling over drafts and, sometimes, changing their minds in the process—and that an official verdict has yet to be rendered. Still, the story immediately lit up the mediasphere.

So, too, did the fact that a draft opinion had leaked to the press ahead of the formal publication of a final decision. In their story, Gerstein and Ward wrote simply that they received the draft, as well as “other details supporting the authenticity of the document,” from “a person familiar with the court's proceedings”; they also noted that the “appearances and timing of this draft are consistent with court practice” and published the whole thing on Politico's website so that readers could judge for themselves, apparently creating a fresh version of the document to stop users from combing through metadata to identify the source. (Various journalists praised Politico for good digital hygiene, though Kim Zetter, a reporter who covers cybersecurity, argued that it was risky to publish the whole document in any form given that the court could theoretically have used more old-school tools—subtle tweaks to language, say—to trace provenance.) Matt Kaminski and Dafna Linzer, Politico's top editors, also vouched for the draft's authenticity in an internal memo to staff, citing an “extensive review process.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Susana Hayward.

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## ***Would DOJ charge someone for leaking SCOTUS abortion opinion draft?*** (Washington Post)

By Matt Zaptosky

Not long after the historic leak Monday night of a draft Supreme Court opinion that would overturn the right to abortion established in *Roe v. Wade*, the calls began for the U.S. Justice Department to identify and criminally charge the leaker.

“This lawless action should be investigated and punished as fully as possible. The Chief Justice must get to the bottom of it and the Department of Justice must pursue criminal charges if applicable,” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said in a statement.

“If there’s not thorough criminal investigation into who leaked privileged documents from the United States Supreme Court then we live in a clown show state,” Donald Trump Jr., the former president’s son, wrote on Twitter.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said he was directing the Supreme Court’s marshal to open an investigation into how the document became public — a situation essentially unheard of in the high court’s history. But while the leaker or leakers might face professional consequences — such as getting fired or losing their law license — legal analysts say they will almost certainly not face any criminal exposure, provided they had legitimate access to the document.

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

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## ***Ron Galella, Celebrity-Hounding Photographer, Dies at 91*** (New York Times)

By Paul Vitello

Ron Galella, the freelance photographer who relentlessly pursued Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis until a judge barred him from taking her picture, who pestered Marlon Brando until Brando broke his jaw, and who for better or worse helped define today’s boundary-challenged culture of celebrity, died on Saturday at his home in Montville, N.J. He was 91.

The cause was congestive heart failure, said Geoffrey Croft, a family spokesman who edited Mr. Galella’s most recent book, “100 Iconic Photographs — A Retrospective.”

Mr. Galella was called a creep, a stalker and worse when he began shooting pictures of celebrities in the 1960s, before mass circulation magazines like *People* and *Us* made the presence of paparazzi like him ubiquitous — and a full generation before phone cameras and websites like TMZ made celebrity stalking the pastime of legions.

For photographing superstars in the late ’60s without permission, a judge called Mr. Galella the most flagrant of the “two-bit chiselers and fixers” who sold such pictures for money. Starlets spit at him. Security men throttled him.

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

# Today in History - May 4, 2022



**By The Associated Press**

**Today is Wednesday, May 4, the 124th day of 2022. There are 241 days left in the year.**

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

## **On this date:**

In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal from the French.

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

In 1945, during World War II, German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark and northwest Germany agreed to surrender.

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1998, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, California, under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.

In 2001, Bonny Lee Bakley, wife of actor Robert Blake, was shot to death as she sat in a car near a restaurant in Los Angeles. (Blake, accused of Bakley's murder, was acquitted in a criminal trial but found liable by a civil jury and ordered to pay damages.)

In 2006, a federal judge sentenced Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) to life in prison for his role in the 9/11 attacks, telling the convicted terrorist, "You will die with a whimper."

In 2011, President Barack Obama said he had decided not to release death photos of Osama bin Laden because their graphic nature could incite violence and create national security risks. Officials told The Associated Press that the Navy SEALs who'd stormed bin Laden's compound in Pakistan shot and killed him after they saw him appear to lunge for a weapon.

In 2020, New York state reported more than 1,700 previously undisclosed coronavirus deaths at nursing homes and adult care facilities. Struggling fashion brand J.Crew became the first major retailer to file for bankruptcy protection since the start of the pandemic. Former Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula died at 90; he'd won more games than any other NFL coach.

Ten years ago: The U.S. and China outlined a tentative deal to send Chen Guangcheng (chehn gwahng-chung), a blind legal activist, to America for study and potentially bring a face-saving end to a delicate diplomatic crisis. (Chen left China on May 19, 2012.) Adam Yauch, 47, the gravelly-voiced rapper who helped make The Beastie Boys one of the seminal groups in hip-hop, died in New York.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull aboard the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier in New York, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the World War II Battle of the Coral Sea, which reinforced the ties between the U.S. and Australia. A U.S. service member was killed in Somalia during an operation against the extremist group al-Shabab, the first American combat death there in more than two decades. Buckingham Palace announced that Queen Elizabeth II's 95-year-old husband, Prince Philip, was retiring from royal duties.

One year ago: President Joe Biden set a new vaccination goal to deliver at least one shot to 70% of adult Americans by July Fourth. (The effort would fall short, with a 67% vaccination rate.) Crews in Mexico City untangled train carriages from the steel and concrete wreckage that fell onto a roadway a day earlier, killing 26 people. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu missed a midnight deadline to put together a new governing coalition; his Likud party would be pushed into the opposition for the first time in 12 years.

Today's Birthdays: Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 92. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 85. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 81. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia Davison (The Angels) is 78. Actor Richard Jenkins is 75. Country singer Stella Parton is 73. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 72. Irish

musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 72. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 71. Singer-actor Pia Zadora is 70. R&B singer Oleta Adams is 69. Violinist Soozie Tyrell (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 65. Country singer Randy Travis is 63. Actor Mary McDonough is 61. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 55. Actor Will Arnett is 52. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 50. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 50. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 47. Sports reporter Erin Andrews is 44. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 43. Actor Ruth Negga is 41. Rapper/singer Jidenna is 37. Actor Alexander Gould is 28. Country singer RaeLynn is 28. Actor Amara (uh-MAH'-ruh) Miller is 22. Actor Brooklynn Prince (Film: "The Florida Project") is 12.

## 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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