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# Connecting May 11, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this May 11, 2022,

Today's Connecting brings you -

A thank you, from **Jim Kennedy**, AP's director of strategic planning, for the many Connecting congratulatory notes he received on news that he will retire May 25 after a 30-year career.

Fond memories of our colleague **Gary Clark**, an AP chief of bureau in four locations during his 40-year career. Gary died Monday at the age of 68.

And a Happy Birthday to **Victor Simpson**, longtime chief of bureau and news editor in Rome, who with his latest trip around the sun joins the Connecting 80s Club today.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

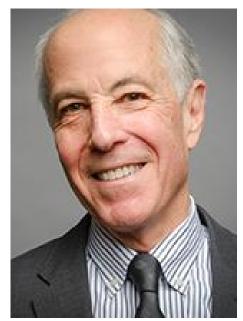
Paul

## A note of thanks to the Connecting crowd

<u>Jim Kennedy</u> – AP director of strategic planning, who is retiring May 25 after 30-year AP career:

The outpouring of kind words and well wishes from the Connecting cohort on my impending retirement from AP has been amazing. I am truly gratified to be recognized by so many of the people I have admired and worked with over the years. I must admit, though, it's a bit like reading multiple versions of your own obit. Weird in that respect, but certainly welcome.

What I want to say at this moment, aside from thank you, is to underscore what a privilege it has been to work at AP and to support its unique mission alongside all of you. When I got the opportunity to lead the Black Monday coverage in 1987, I thought my career had surely peaked. And, of course, it was only the first of so many opportunities the company would afford me. That continuing flow of incredibly cool and important projects, one after the other, is what I cherish most about my two long stints at AP. Even when doors closed, others opened. And if you were willing to hang out on the bleeding edge, you could always find the next big thing to work on.



I am incredibly indebted to the four CEOs I served as strategic planner and humbled by their praise the past week. They are the ones who cleared the way for me and made it possible for me to have the influence I had across the enterprise. And that goes all the way back to the very start, when folklore has it that Lou had to be consulted about the prospect of hiring a newspaper editor from Tampa straight into AP headquarters in New York.

One of my AP bosses along the way described me as "Mr. Outside who became Mr. Inside." I took that as a compliment.

As someone who has spent his working life looking to the future, the time has come for me to focus more on the present, hopefully filling in some of the gaps I've left in pursuit of a career at this level. There is my family, of course, and I think someone mentioned my golf game.

But after a little fun, I'll likely find my way back to some cool, important stuff, always building on my learning and experience at AP.

To those I leave behind still cranking the AP wheel every day and pursuing the mission, I wish you all the luck in the world and urge you to keep at least one eye peeled for

that next big thing. It will be right in front of you.

Thanks again for the forum and for all your thoughtful notes.

## Your memories of Gary Clark



Atlanta business writer Dan Sewell had a special visitor the day he received his pin marking 20 years of service with the AP – his 10-year-old youngest son, Logan. This 1988 photo shows, from left: Atlanta newswomen Lori Wiechman and Tara Meyer, Chief of Bureau Gary Clark, Logan and Sewell. That's ACOB David Simpson just behind Clark. (AP World photo, shared by AP Corporate Archives)

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# Imagine seeing Gary teeing up on the 420-light-year first hole of Galaxy Golf

<u>Larry Blasko</u> - The last short story Mark Twain published was "Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven" in which he made the point that Heaven, for each of us, is doing what we liked best when we were alive on Earth. In that light, those of us lucky enough to know Gary Clark can see him teeing up on the 420-light-year first hole of Galaxy Golf.

Dead Steamboat Captain Eli Stormfield in Twain's story leads an afterlife on the road, sometimes dealing with friendly folks he knew and sometimes with strangers he nonetheless needs, not much different from Gary's journeys as a COB.

Stormfield sorts between the Heavenly customs he thought he'd have to observe and the ones that actually helped him, not unlike the way Gary kept members happy and staff producing by standing as a buffer between them and 50 Rock edicts, but also maintaining high and consistent standards for every state he helmed as COB.

After all sorts of observations, meetings and such, Stormfield concludes "A man has got to be in his own heaven to be happy". Gary Clark's family, AP years and golf clubs were his own heaven, and he was happy. Those lucky enough to know him in this life were made happy and better by it.

And if we meet him in the next, we will learn the preferred spelling between "Allelujah!" and "Hallelujah!" and what club to use if the tee is on Mars but the green is on Jupiter.

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## Chasing the news, having fun, never surprising the boss and avoiding brown shoes

<u>Will Lester</u> - The AP lost one of the great bureau chiefs this week. I know that because I was his news editor in Miami for almost five years.

Gary Clark combined a great sense of managing membership through his close attention and personal charm, with a good sense of news and a knack for hiring good people and letting them do their work.

As a news editor who was new to Florida, I was the beneficiary of that good hiring, with a raft of talented veterans who kept us in good shape. Gary's only requests: cover the big news aggressively, keep the members happy and allow "no surprises" to the boss.

At key moments, Gary would weigh in on the news report and the biggest stories. Those decisions helped the bureau perform very well for much of the time.

#### Among those decisions:

- --When the money laundering trial of ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega started in Miami, AP reporter Richard Cole lobbied to cover it closely, but I wasn't sure we could spare a position from our small staff every day. Gary didn't hesitate: send a reporter and cover it wall to wall. That resulted in numerous Page 1 national stories. Cole and legendary stringer Milt Sosin got us off to a good start by breaking news of Noriega's indictment a scoop that lasted all night, briefly causing panic on the general desk in New York.
- --When there was a rape at the Kennedy mansion in Palm Beach and William Kennedy Smith was arrested, charged and eventually acquitted, it quickly became apparent

that the big national newspapers and the New York tabloids were going to cause a nightmare for us, he quickly agreed we should post Dan Sewell up there for the duration. Dan quickly developed sources, broke stories and basically saved our bacon.

- --When the big bosses got upset about a Florida screwup, Gary routinely shielded the staffers being criticized, saying "I have big shoulders." He fended off NY cries for action and later dealt with the staffer himself in a firm but thoughtful way.
- --Gary was a very conservative dresser. Usually wearing the AP bureau chief uniform of blue blazer, crisply pressed shirt, dark tie, khakis and often a black pair of Weejun loafers. But never brown shoes, especially when dressed for work, he told me once. I believe wearing brown shoes to work would have shown up on my evaluation.

He also needled me for my musical tastes for rock and roll, asking if I liked Neil Young with a mischievous smile. I liked Young and his whining, falsetto voice, but would avoid giving Gary a firm opinion.

Gary often injected his acerbic New England humor to break the tension. He believed newsrooms should be fun.

Years after working for Gary, these principles stick with me:

Never surprise the bureau chief – especially with bad news, chase the news aggressively and never wear brown shoes when dressed properly for work. Gary would not approve.

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## Running two states off Coke machine socket

<u>Kent Prince</u> - The sad news of Gary Clark's death brings a flood of memories from his years in New Orleans.

Like the time the power failed in that wretched office tower where the bureau was located. We looked out of our dark office and noticed lights shining in a Coke machine at the gasoline station on the street. So we jimmied a balcony door to stretch a very long series of extension cords to plug in our old Mouse computer. COB Clark was horrified that the AP was reduced to running two states off a Coke machine socket and warned me to never tell any of the members or the big guys in NY.

Many have commented on Clark's sense of propriety. It was a factor in the AP office being in that bewitched building in the first place. (New Orleanians were reluctant to rent there because it was thought to have been twisted in Hurricane Betsy.) Clark picked it over a two-story historic site a block from the federal courthouse; he rejected that building which had a 20-foot balcony overlooking the parade routes, along with a carriage entrance and marble working fireplaces; he said that just didn't look like an AP bureau.

Many have also commented on his ability with members, but those meetings weren't always on the manicured golf course or buttoned down in a board room. Vicksburg in

particular was a challenge. I remember Clark's stunned return to New Orleans after his first encounter with the legendary editor Charlie Faulk whose hospitable bourbon bottle was always open right after breakfast.

Long after he left New Orleans, Clark told me what became my favorite Clark story. On a trip to Scotland, he was playing one of the famous golf courses near the North Sea. He teed off and the ball dropped a sea gull in flight. Clark said he walked over to the carcass where the caddie instructed him flatly: "play it as it lays, laddie, play it as it lays."

I felt Clark and I had a special relationship -- not the least part of which was that both our wives were named Fay(e). His didn't have the E. I'll miss him.

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## Where's Reindl? 'Oh, he's in Treasury'

Jim Reindl - I don't know what the statute of limitations is for a rocket from a former beloved CEO but here goes. Way back when I was a first-time CoB in Miami and Gary was my CoB mentor in Atlanta, there was a Bureau Chief meeting in New York. On one particular evening the 'consultations' with fellow chiefs went deep into the night. The next day started early with a meeting chaired by Wick Temple. As he surveyed the room and noticed my absence, due I'm sure to a faulty alarm clock, Wick asked 'Where's Reindl?' Ever the friend, colleague and protector, Gary's timing was perfect: 'Oh, he's in Treasury,' he said. I somehow doubt Wick bought that one, but he let it go and I eventually slipped into the session and emerged unscathed. Gary was a great friend to me during my time in Miami and since. I was pleased and proud that he and Fay made the trip from Atlanta to Indianapolis for Graca's and my wedding. I also recall at one D.C. Open golf tourney in Indy Gary gamely trying to give this absolute hacker some tips, proving he was only human and couldn't work miracles. We've lost a great friend and colleague and the world feels a little colder today.

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# Gary Clark was always accessible, willing to listen to any concerns and provide a calm, well-reasoned response

Jim Willis – former editor and president, Birmingham Post-Herald - When Gary Clark became AP's COB in Atlanta and we visited for the first time, I was impressed by his appearance. In fact, every time I saw Gary, he was dressed like a preppy fraternity man in a blazer, button down shirt, tie and khaki trousers. On second thought, when we'd have our annual state AP meeting at Gulf Shores, I think he did dispense with the tie when Dave Martin would boil a pot of mudbugs on the beach for all of us.

Gary had a calm, unflappable and friendly demeanor that would make it difficult for anybody not to like him and I always enjoyed our visits when he stopped by the newsroom or I'd see him at state meetings.

The Atlanta COBs were responsible for Georgia and Alabama, so what I wanted to know from Gary was whether member newspapers in Alabama would be an afterthought to be reckoned with only after Georgia members had been served.

Gary made it clear in word and deed that AP member newspapers in each of those states were equally important.

Gary didn't always tell me what I wanted to hear, but he was always accessible, willing to listen to any concerns and provide me with a calm, well-reasoned response.

I had the good fortune while working at the Birmingham Post-Herald from 1985 through the closing of the newspaper in 2005 to get to know quite a few AP Atlanta bureau chiefs. All of them were good at what they did and the way then maintained contact with member newspapers. Gary met and exceeded the standard I came to expect from AP Atlanta COBs.

I pray that God will help Fay and the Clark family find some measure of peace in their loss. RIP, Gary. You helped the AP and its members provide readers with an excellent news report each day.

## Lend/Loan

Norm Abelson - Friends, Connecting countrymen, lend me an ear. I promise it is only a loan, and will be returned just as soon as I learn: Loan is a NOUN; lend is a VERB.

Mea culpa!

# Zeina Karam named deputy Europe news director

#### By Nicole Meir

In a memo to staff on Tuesday, Vice President and Head of Global News Gathering Paul Haven and News Director for Europe and Africa James Jordan announced a key appointment:.

We're thrilled to announce that Zeina Karam, The Associated Press' current news director for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, has been named deputy news director for Europe, rounding out the region's leadership team at a time of deep importance for the world.

In her new role, Karam will report to Europe and Africa News Director James Jordan and focus on elevating AP's coverage of major stories such as the war in Ukraine, the future of Putin's Russia and the wider European project, Connecting, May 11, 2022

the cost-of-living crisis, migration, and the impact of climate change on the region. She will relocate to London and take up her duties in the coming months.

Karam, 49, has reported on political crises and conflict in the Middle East for more than two decades, leading coverage of the war that broke out in Syria in 2011, the rise of the Islamic



State group and, more recently, Lebanon's financial and economic collapse.

She was named Beirut bureau chief in 2014, overseeing text coverage of Lebanon and Syria. In 2016, she was appointed AP's news director for Lebanon, Syria and later Iraq, a position that consolidated leadership in video, text and photo.

She played a leading role in the writing of a 2015 AP series of stories, "Inside the Caliphate," which explored life under the Islamic State group. She also co-authored, alongside The Associated Press, the book "Life and Death in ISIS: How the Islamic State Builds its Caliphate." A native of Beirut, Karam was part of the reporting team that won the AP Gramling Award in 2018 for documenting Syria's war.

Karam joined the AP in Lebanon in 1996 when the country was still reeling from the bloody 15-year civil war that ended in 1990. She holds a degree in political science and public administration from the American University of Beirut.

Please join us in congratulating Zeina on her promotion!

Click **here** for link to this story.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



Hal Bock

**Craig Klugman** 

## **Victor Simpson**

## **Welcome to Connecting**



**David Koenig** 

## **Stories of interest**

# Al Jazeera reporter killed during Israeli raid in West Bank(AP)



Journalists and medics wheel the body of Shireen Abu Akleh, a journalist for Al Jazeera network, into the morgue inside the Hospital in the West Bank town of Jenin, Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The well-known Palestinian reporter for the broadcaster's Arabic language channel was shot and killed while covering an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin early



Wednesday, the Palestinian health ministry said. (AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed) (Photo at right, Al Jazeera Media Network via AP)

### By JOSEPH KRAUSS and FARES AKRAM

JERUSALEM (AP) — A female journalist for Al Jazeera was shot and killed while covering an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin early Wednesday. The broadcaster and a reporter who was wounded in the incident blamed Israeli forces, while Israel claimed there was evidence the two were hit by Palestinian gunfire.

Shireen Abu Akleh, a well-known Palestinian reporter for the broadcaster's Arabic language channel who is also a U.S. citizen, was shot and died soon afterward. Ali Samoudi, another Palestinian journalist, was hospitalized in stable condition after being shot in the back.

The Qatar-based network interrupted its broadcast to announce her death. In a statement flashed on its channel, it called on the international community to "condemn and hold the Israeli occupation forces accountable for deliberately targeting and killing our colleague."

"We pledge to prosecute the perpetrators legally, no matter how hard they try to cover up their crime, and bring them to justice," Al Jazeera said.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas, Dennis Conrad.

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# "We need to be interesting": Editors of metro dailies talk about their biggest opportunities and challenges now (Nieman Lab)

#### By LAURA HAZARD OWEN

"We can no longer afford to be the paper of record," Brian McGrory, the editor of The Boston Globe, said in a gathering of metro daily editors on Tuesday. "We need to be the paper of interest."

He added: "There's incredible competition for people's time and their pocketbooks and their attention, and if the Globe is not interesting, searingly relevant, provocative on a day-to-day basis, we're simply not going to survive as a news organization."

The panel, "The Digital Transformation of The Metro Daily," was hosted by the Harvard Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy, and was moderated by Jennifer Preston, who's a senior fellow at Shorenstein's Technology and Social Change Project and was formerly VP for journalism at the Knight Foundation. Besides McGrory, panelists included Suki Dardarian, editor and SVP of The Minneapolis Star Tribune; Gabriel Escobar, editor and SVP of The Philadelphia Inquirer; Michele Matassa Flores, executive editor of The Seattle Times; and Mizell Stewart III, VP of news performance, talent and partnerships for Gannett and the USA TODAY Network.

Some interesting excerpts from the panel are below. You can watch the whole thing once it's posted here.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mike Holmes.

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# The gonzo journalist who forever changed political campaign coverage (Washington Post Magazine)

#### By Jason Vest

It was presidential campaign reporting unlike anything seen before. The reporter made it clear: He had no desire to join the permanent Washington press corps, or ever cover politics full time, and indeed he never did. He was contemptuous of Democratic centrists and unabashed about a sitting Republican president's depravity, and said so in prose that sounded like a punch-drunk H.L. Mencken spoiling for a bar fight. ("A treacherous, gutless old wardheeler who should be put in a goddamn bottle and sent out with the Japanese current," he said of Dem presidential aspirant Hubert Humphrey. And the incumbent in the White House? "A drooling red-eyed beast with the legs of a man and the head of giant hyena ... the dark, venal and incurably violent side of the American character that almost every country in the world has learned to fear and despise.")

This is the unmistakable prose of the late Hunter S. Thompson, who had high hopes that a one-off gig covering national politics 50 years ago — really a sop from his editor at a music magazine — might help him go from journalist to novelist. He already had two nonfiction bestsellers under his belt, one of which he'd reported out over years as an embed, covering an outfit at least as amoral as any in Washington: the Hell's Angels.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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# What newsrooms must do to support women journalists under attack online (International Journalists' Network)

## By DAVID MAAS

Newsrooms must do more to protect women journalists who experience online violence, urges new research released by ICFJ and UNESCO for World Press Freedom Day.

Failing to have policies in place or to even acknowledge the issue, too many newsrooms have frequently left women journalists to face online violence on their own, shouldering the psychological, professional and financial consequences that come with it, explain researchers Dr. Julie Posetti, ICFJ's deputy vice president of global research, and Senior Research Associate Nabeelah Shabbir, in a new extract from their forthcoming book "The Chilling: A Global Study of Online Violence Against Women Journalists." Becky Gardiner, a senior lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London also contributed to the chapter as a specialist researcher.

"There is a need to shift the onus for managing gendered online violence from the individual journalists under attack to the news organizations that hire them, the political and other actors who frequently instigate and fuel attacks, and the digital services that act as vectors for abuse," write the researchers, who analyzed findings from 15 country case studies of newsroom responses to online attacks, as well as survey responses and interviews with nearly 1,000 women journalists, editors and experts.

Read more **here**. Shared by Susana Hayward.

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## Report for America expands into all 50 states, bolsters newsroom diversity with diverse selection of new corps members

#### By SAM KILLE

Report for America today (Tuesday) announced the placements of more than 300 journalists for its 2022-23 reporting corps. The cohort, which includes a number of corps members returning for a second or third year, will join the staffs of more than 200 local news organizations across all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam.

The corps is diverse—nearly half are journalists of color and nearly two thirds are women. By better reflecting their communities, Report for America's partner newsrooms will be better positioned to build trust with those they serve.

"Report for America provides a unique opportunity for journalists to pursue meaningful, local beat reporting that sadly is missing from many of today's newsrooms," said Earl Johnson, director of admissions at Report for America. "Together, our emerging and experienced corps members will produce tens of thousands of articles on critically under-covered topics—schools, government, healthcare, the environment, communities of color, and more."

Report for America is a national service program that places journalists into local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities. It is an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, a nonprofit journalism organization.

Read more **here**.

## Today in History - May 11, 2022



**By The Associated Press** 

Today is Wednesday, May 11, the 131st day of 2022. There are 234 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 11, 2010, Conservative leader David Cameron, at age 43, became Britain's youngest prime minister in almost 200 years after Gordon Brown stepped down and ended 13 years of Labour government.

#### On this date:

In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant (STY'-veh-sunt) arrived in New Amsterdam to become governor of New Netherland.

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1927, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was founded during a banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1946, the first CARE packages, sent by a consortium of American charities to provide relief to the hungry of postwar Europe, arrived at Le Havre, France.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1981, legendary reggae artist Bob Marley died in a Miami hospital at age 36.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1998, India set off three underground atomic blasts, its first nuclear tests in 24 years. A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

In 2020, Twitter announced that it would add a warning label to tweets containing disputed or misleading information about the coronavirus. Jerry Stiller, best known for his role as George Costanza's father in "Seinfeld" and earlier as part of a comedy duo with wife Anne Meara, died at 92.

Ten years ago: A Chicago jury convicted Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson's former brother-in-law, William Balfour, of murdering her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew. (Balfour was sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: President Donald Trump signed an executive order launching a commission to review alleged voter fraud and voter suppression, building upon his unsubstantiated claims that millions of people voted illegally in the 2016 election. (Trump disbanded the commission in January 2018 amid infighting and refusals by numerous states to cooperate.)

One year ago: The confrontation between Israel and Hamas, sparked by weeks of tensions in Jerusalem, escalated; Israel unleashed new airstrikes on Gaza while the Israeli city of Tel Aviv came under fire from a barrage of rockets launched from the Gaza Strip. The Interstate 40 bridge over the Mississippi River was closed after authorities said they found a crack in the span linking Arkansas and Tennessee. (The bridge remained closed for nearly three months.) More than 1,000 gas stations in the Southeast reported running out of fuel, primarily because of what analysts said was unwarranted panic-buying among drivers, as the shutdown of a major pipeline by hackers entered its fifth day. Stage and screen actor Norman Lloyd, known for his role as a kindly doctor on TV's "St. Elsewhere," died at his Los Angeles home at the age of 106; his career had earlier put him in the company of Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, Charlie Chaplin and other greats.

Today's Birthdays: Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is 89. Jazz keyboardist Carla Bley is 86. Rock singer Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 81. Actor Pam Ferris is 74. Former White House chief of staff John F. Kelly is 72. Actor Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ahg-DAHSH'-loo) is 70. Actor Frances Fisher is 70. Sports columnist Mike Lupica is 70. Actor Boyd Gaines is 69. Actor Martha Quinn is 63. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 58. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 54. Actor Nicky Katt is 52. Actor Coby Bell is 47. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'-tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 44. Actor Austin O'Brien is 41. Actor-singer Jonathan Jackson is 40. Rapper Ace Hood is 34. Latin singer Prince Royce is 33. Actor Annabelle Attanasio (TV: "Bull") is 29. Musician Howard Lawrence (Disclosure) is 28.

## Got a story or photos to share?

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

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye

Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

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

- **Multigenerational AP families** profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- First job How did you get your first job in journalism?
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

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