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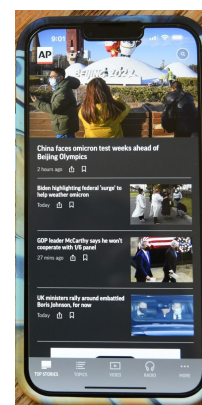
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# Connecting

May 12, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this May 12, 2022,

Connecting brings sad news of the death of another former AP chief of bureau – **Dean Fosdick**, who headed the Anchorage bureau for 15 years.

Our colleague died April 27 in Naples, Fla., at the age of 80.

We bring you his obituary and comments from two journalists who worked for him in Alaska, **Julia Rubin** and **Jim Clarke**. If you have a favorite memory to share, please send it along.

Dean was sometimes called “Fearless Fosdick” – not a bad nickname for a former Army paratrooper with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, as well as a pilot and

scuba diver and world traveler. Dean was just a year old when that name was created by cartoonist Al Capp in the Li'l Abner cartoon series in 1942.

After taking early retirement in 2001, he was recruited to write a twice-monthly AP garden/nature column. That assignment lasted 18 years. Dean was a regular reader of our newsletter.

We also bring you more comments on **Gary Clark**, AP bureau chief in four different bureaus (Honolulu, New Orleans, Miami and Atlanta), who died last week at 78.



Four chief of bureau assignments in a single career. A record? Many of us have three, but you know of another besides Gary with four or more? Today's trivia question.

Here's to a good day ahead – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Dean Fosdick, AP Anchorage bureau chief for 15 years, dies at 80



**Anchorage COB Dean Fosdick works late on election night in the Fall of 1998. Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.**

**Dean W. Fosdick  
Naples, Florida  
August 26, 1941 - April 27, 2022**

Dean, who was a well-known and well-traveled journalist whose stories and photos documented scenes from the northernmost village in Siberia to Botswana, India to your own back yard, died April 27 in Naples, FL. He was 80 years old.

Born August 26, 1941, in Owatonna, MN and raised in St. Peter, MN, attending and graduating from St. Peter High School where he played football all four years. After these many years he still had close ties with several of his classmates and that “Saints” football team. He took great joy in gourmet cooking, photography, hunting and fishing and being first to disclose information serving the public interest.

Joining the Army at 17 to “see the world”, seeing the world is exactly what he did! He became a Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division and spent two years in the Far East. After discharge from the Army, Dean earned his BA and MA at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism.

## Fosdick Named Bureau Chief

Dean Fosdick, Juneau correspondent, has been appointed bureau chief in Anchorage. He succeeds Hal Spencer, who resigned to become a political writer for the Anchorage Daily News.



Fosdick, 44, joined AP in Nashville in 1978, transferred to the New York General Desk in 1982. He was named correspondent in Juneau the following year.

**FOSDICK**

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota. He worked three years for the Minneapolis Star before joining AP.

From 1985 AP Log, courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Following graduation, Dean joined the Minneapolis Star as police reporter before moving on to be the Star's journalist covering state government and its magazine editor. He later joined the office of Governor Lowell Anderson as speech writer and advisor, after which he began a long career with the Associated Press having assignments in Nashville, New York, Juneau and Anchorage, the latter of which involved 15 years as Alaska Bureau Chief. He filed stories and images that originated from travels to the geographic North Pole, South Africa, India, Japan, the Russian Far East-Siberia, China and the Galapagos Islands from the Yangtze River to the Rhine. He filed the AP bulletin alerting the world about the Exxon Valdez fetching up on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound causing – at the time – the nation's worst oil spill.

Dean covered Solhezinitzin, Paul (Bear) Bryant-U of Alabama, dodged verbal barbs while doing post-game interviews with Bobby Knight, then basketball coach of the Indiana Hoosiers at the Great Alaska Shootout, played as a paid extra in the movie Coal Miner's Daughter, flew to the glacier launching strip at the climber's camp at the 14,000-foot level of Mount McKinley with Lowell Thomas Jr.

After taking early retirement in 2001, he was recruited to write a twice-monthly AP garden/nature column. That assignment lasted 18 years.

Dean had his pilot's license – scuba certification – was a master gardener, beekeeper and EMT.

He is survived by the multitude of friends and acquaintances, too numerous to name individually, who inspired and contributed to the immensely satisfying life he enjoyed. Dean is also survived by his adoring wife Carol, without whom his last days would

have been far less bright. She brought a twinkle to his eyes, put a spring in his step and filled his days with happiness and laughter.

Dean will be sorely missed.

Click [here](#) for link to this obituary.

## Remembering Dean Fosdick

[Jim Clarke](#) - Dean Fosdick hired me, sight unseen, as a legislative relief staffer in 1993. As was his way, he made sure I had a solid three days of training before he let me run the desk by myself. He trusted us to do a solid, professional job, and that's a lesson I have carried through my career. Trust your people. Some of the best advice I've ever gotten about running a bureau came from Dean: hire people smarter than you and then get out of their way. His instincts to let us do the work and to expect the best from us created a self-reinforcing loop. You worked hard for Dean because the thought of disappointing him was too troubling to consider.

He loved being an AP newsman in Alaska, and he passed that love on to the staff. If you had a good idea for a story, whether it was in downtown Anchorage or at the far end of the Aleutians, he worked to make it happen for you. He sent me to Attu to do the 50th anniversary story piece on the WWII battle, up to Barrow for the anniversary of Wiley Post's crash and death, to Prudhoe Bay for takeouts on the oil industry. There was no end to what interested him, and that enthusiasm was infectious.

He was also a great teacher. "We run for the phones," was one of his favorite sayings about the urgency of wire service work. He taught us how to deal with cranky members, inquiring GEN desk editors and ornery sourdoughs. And he really loved the AP, even with all the bumps and bruises that came with being a bureau chief. He was the driving force behind the Alaska AP Stylebook, a completely unauthorized publication that nevertheless was in every newsroom in the state and whose 30-year-old copies are still consulted.

I'm really going to miss him.

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[Julia Rubin](#) - I worked with Dean in the Anchorage bureau from 1990-1992, and he was a great guide to Alaska and a mentor to many of us younger staffers. He was a generous boss, giving me and other reporters some plum assignments out in the Bush that you knew (he told us!) he wanted to take himself. He had a gruff exterior that would soften when he talked about his many enthusiasms, which included hunting, fishing and wildlife photography. "Fearless Fosdick" would bring his weekend's catch, or his own venison, into the bureau to share.

Together with a professor at the University of Alaska, he edited and produced an AP Alaska Stylebook – not formally approved by the AP, but very helpful in sorting out the idiosyncrasies of the 49th state.

I thought Dean might stay in Alaska forever, but he eventually retired (for the first time) and moved back to the Lower 48, where he "traded his gun for a camera." In

2004, when I started editing Lifestyles stories, I got to work again with Dean, who was writing a biweekly gardening column from his home on Whidbey Island, Washington. He was great at it – combining his enthusiasm for nature with an AP veteran's understanding of what was worth writing about (he was big into sustainable gardening) and how to write it. And of course he provided his own photos. He and his wife, Martha, tended beehives on Whidbey Island, and taught their neighbors how to do that too. He experimented with different kinds of honey, and sent his New York editor (me!) a small jar of it each Christmas. He retired for a second time (this time from his column) in June 2021, early in the pandemic. Later that year, when I tried to get him to come back, he declined: "Adjusting after nearly five decades of meeting writing deadlines of one kind or another. Enjoying the added free time and don't mind at all the isolation." Ever the Alaskan. I'll miss him.

## More of your memories of Gary Clark

[Charles Bruce](#) – I am very sorry that we have lost our friend and colleague Gary Clark. Our condolences to Fay and the extended family.

Like others have said, Gary took pride in his appearance. Some called him Mr. Brooks Brothers for his sharp attire and executive presence.

It was a pleasure working with Gary for some 11 years. I do not recall a single instance of friction between us in handling COB and COC projects together. I believe our largest project was the move of the Miami bureau in 1985. With guidance from Larry Blasko, Gary and I rode out to the Federal Reserve Bank building where space was available and toured the space. It was ideal, with acres of roof space for dishes and a generator in the megawatt range. It had no windows but was built like a bunker. Larry flew in and sealed the paperwork. Gary said the task turned out much better than the New Orleans version a few years earlier. Oh, and the Miami Fed is across the street from the Doral Blue Monster golf course.

I don't play golf but Gary did enjoy fishing. We got out a couple of times to Big O--Lake Okeechobee. RIP my friend.

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[Dan Sewell](#) - The "Connecting" tributes to Gary Clark have been heartwarming, bringing a lot of smiles in this sad time.

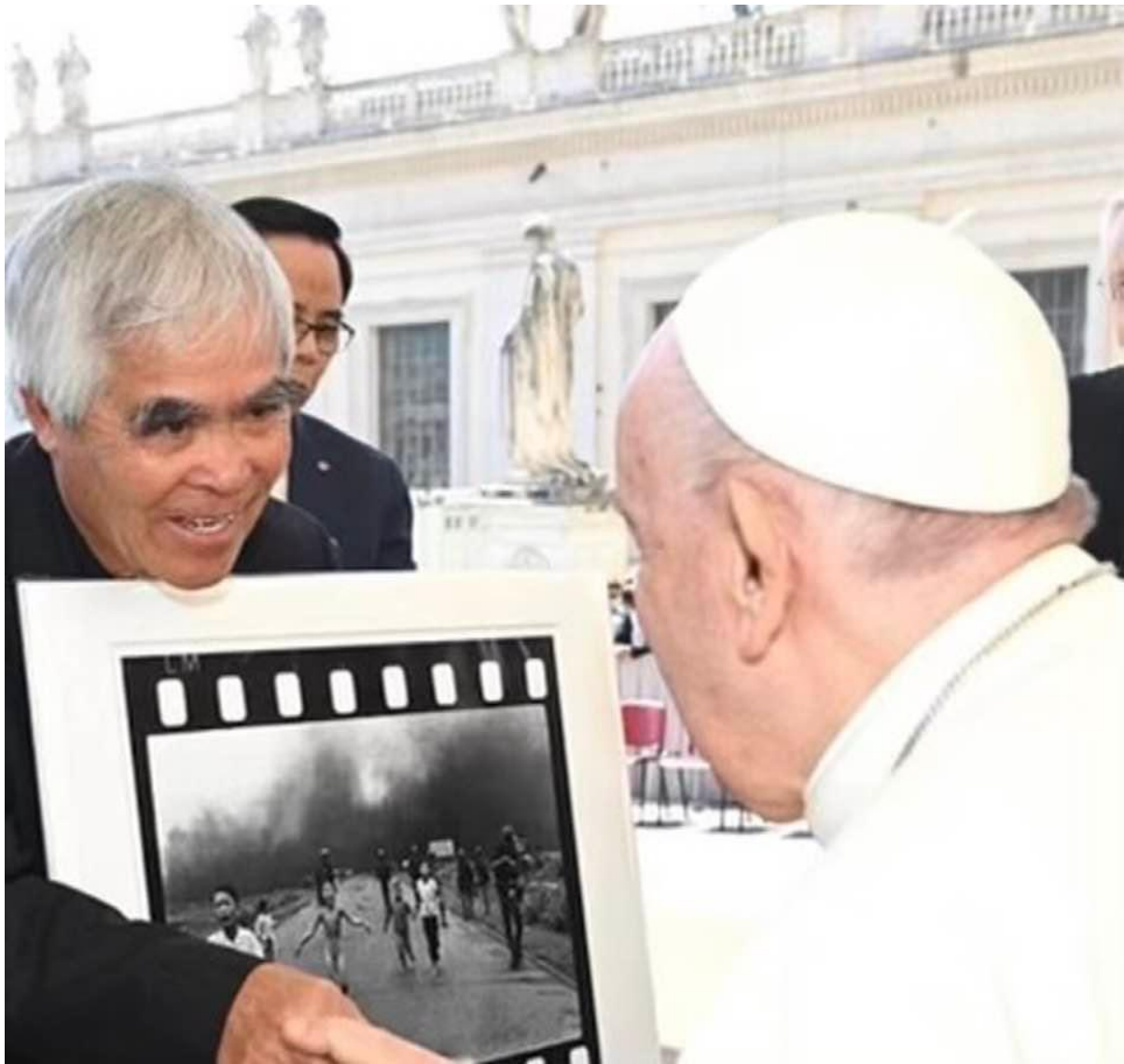
From a CEO, fellow chiefs, news editors, news execs, a correspondent and member editor: a good cross-section of all those Gary touched in The AP and among its members, which he considered part of the AP "family."

A Miami staffer who predated him, Steve Smith, asked if Gary realized how "adored" he was.

I hope so, and also hope all the tributes are of some comfort to Fay and his other loved ones.

## Nick Ut meets Pope Francis

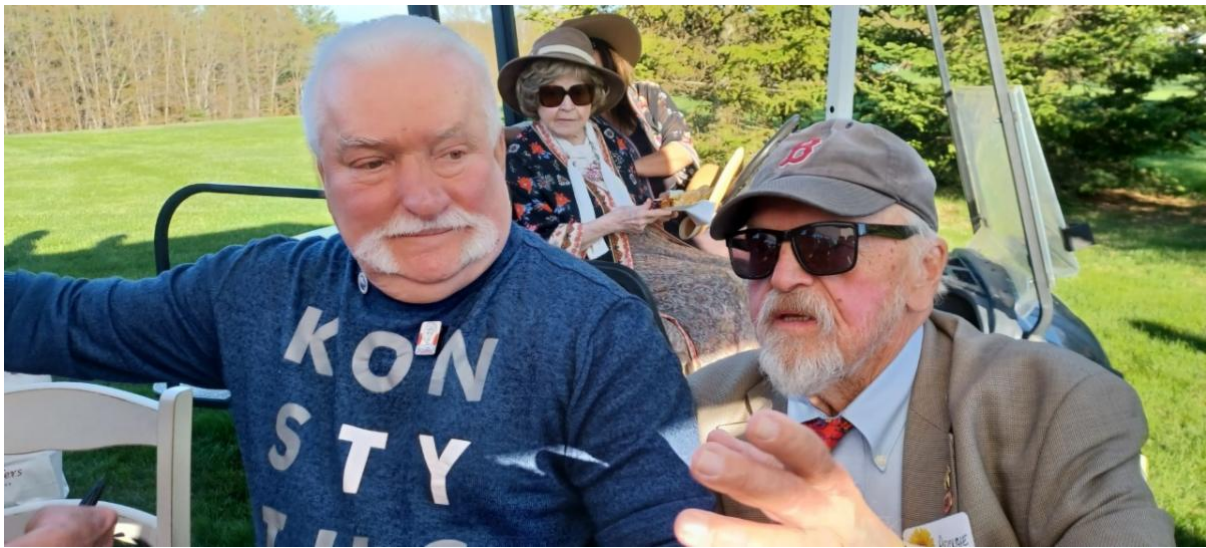




**Nick Ut** - I received two pictures from Vatican Photos when Kim Phuc and I met Pope Francis in Vatican City on Tuesday. I presented him with a print of my photo from the Vietnam War that won a Pulitzer Prize. Kim Phuc was the little girl burned by napalm who is running toward the camera.

## I met my labor hero





**Adolphe Bernotas** - Met my labor hero Wednesday – Lech Walesa, the Solidarnosc union electrician who sparked the revolution that led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The Nobel Peace laureate and first post-communist president of Poland was in New Hampshire to raise money for the 3 million Ukrainian women and children who have sought refuge in his country.

Marguerite and I made a contribution, and I had the opportunity to speak my little bit of Polish with this statesman. I mentioned to him that as a Lithuanian I am his historical cousin; he agreed with a beaming smile. (Google Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth).

I'm the one with the Red Sox hat; Walesa's sweatshirt says "Konstytucja," Polish for Constitution.

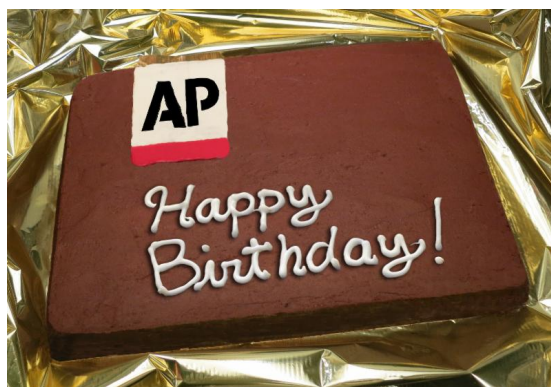
## What would Uncle George say?

That's the question posed by our colleague **Lynn Sherr** in sharing this recent Tweet from Amy Siskind:

Now Esper too - so despicable that these people from the Trump regime and journalists say nothing at the time when it matters, and save it for their book sales. Boycott all these books!

(Former Secretary of Defense Mark Esper just published a book, Sacred Oath. Esper is the nephew of legendary AP journalist George Esper, 42-year AP veteran who was AP's Saigon bureau chief and remained with other AP journalists, including Peter Arnett, when Saigon fell in 1975. George died in 2012.)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mary Koch](#)

## Stories of interest

*Palestinians mourn slain Al Jazeera journalist, blame Israel* (AP)



Palestinian militants carry the body of Shireen Abu Akleh, a journalist for Al Jazeera network, 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)

By MAJDI MOHAMMED and JOSEPH KRAUSS



RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Thousands gathered to mourn a slain Al Jazeera journalist in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday, as the head of the Palestinian Authority blamed Israel for her death and rejected Israeli calls for a joint investigation.

Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American reporter who covered the Mideast conflict for more than 25 years, was shot dead Wednesday during an Israeli military raid in the West Bank town of Jenin. Journalists who were with her, including one who was shot and wounded, said Israeli forces fired upon them even though they were clearly identifiable as reporters.

Israel says it is investigating the incident. It initially suggested she might have been shot by Palestinian militants, without providing evidence, but has since backtracked. Israel is calling for a joint investigation with the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the West Bank and cooperates with it on security.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***'I almost got hit': the Ukrainian journalists turned war correspondents overnight*** (Guardian)

By ISOBEL KOSHIW

When the war started journalists in Ukraine found themselves at the centre of the biggest story in the world. They became war correspondents overnight.

Ukrainian journalists were spotlighted this week when the Pulitzer prize board awarded them with a special citation, hailing the country's reporters for the "courage, endurance and commitment to truthful reporting" they have shown since the Russian invasion.

But initially, writing stories and making television reports was secondary for the reporters, editors, and producers who heard explosions around them and scrambled for safety. For more than a month many Ukrainian journalists focused on survival. Some have since returned to work, but often they lack protective equipment and hostile environment training.

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

# Today in History - May 12, 2022



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2022. There are 233 days left in the year.

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

On May 12, 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.

## **On this date:**

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, New Jersey.

In 1933, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration were established to provide help for the needy and farmers.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered. The two-week Trident Conference, headed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, opened in Washington.

In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD).

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

In 1975, the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the Mayaguez, in international waters. (U.S. Marines gained control of the ship three days after its seizure, not knowing the 39 civilian members of the crew had already been released by Cambodia.)

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who attacked Pope John Paul II. (In 2008, the pope's longtime private secretary revealed that the pontiff was slightly wounded in the assault.)

In 1986, the military action-drama film "Top Gun," starring Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis and released by Paramount Pictures, had its world premiere in New York.

In 2008, a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake in China's Sichuan province left more than 87,000 people dead or missing.

In 2009, five Miami men were convicted in a plot to blow up FBI buildings and Chicago's Sears Tower; one man was acquitted. Suspected Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'-yuk) was deported from the United States to Germany. (On this date in 2011, Demjanjuk, who maintained his innocence, would be convicted by a German court of being an accessory to the murder of tens of thousands of Jews; he died in March 2012 at age 91.)

In 2011, CEOs of the five largest oil companies went before the Senate Finance Committee, where Democrats challenged the executives to justify tax breaks at a time when people were paying \$4 a gallon for gas.

Ten years ago: Miami's LeBron James became the eighth player in NBA history to receive the MVP award three times.

Five years ago: Dozens of countries were hit with a huge cyberextortion attack that locked up computers and held users' files for ransom at a multitude of hospitals, companies and government agencies. Pope Francis urged Catholics to "tear down all walls" and spread peace during a visit to Fatima, Portugal, as he marked the 100th anniversary of one of the most unique events of the 20th-century Catholic Church: the visions of the Virgin Mary reported by three illiterate shepherd children.

One year ago: Israel pressed ahead with a fierce military offensive in the Gaza Strip, killing as many as 10 senior Hamas military figures and toppling two high-rise towers housing Hamas facilities; the Islamic militant group showed no signs of backing down, and fired hundreds of rockets at Israeli cities. Republicans dumped Rep. Liz Cheney from her House leadership post for her persistent repudiation of Donald Trump's election falsehoods, underscoring the hold that Trump retained on his party. The nation's largest fuel pipeline restarted operations, days after it was forced to shut down by a gang of hackers. Jay-Z, Foo Fighters and the Go-Go's were elected to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame their first time on the ballot, leading a class that also included Tina Turner, Carole King and Todd Rundgren.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Burt Bacharach is 94. Actor Millie Perkins is 86. R&B singer Jayotis Washington is 81. Country singer Billy Swan is 80. Actor Linda Dano is 79. Actor Lindsay Crouse is 74. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 74. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 72. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 72. Singer Billy Squier is 72. Blues singer-

musician Guy Davis is 70. Country singer Kix Brooks is 67. Actor Kim Greist is 64. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 64. Actor Ving Rhames is 63. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 61. Actor Emilio Estevez is 60. Actor April Grace is 60. Actor Vanessa A. Williams is 59. TV personality/chef Carla Hall is 58. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 56. Actor Scott Schwartz is 54. Actor Kim Fields is 53. Actor Samantha Mathis is 52. Actor Jamie Luner is 51. Actor Christian Campbell is 50. Actor Rhea Seehorn is 50. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 49. Country musician Matt Mangano (The Zac Brown Band) is 46. Actor Rebecca Herbst is 45. Actor Malin (MAH'-lin) Akerman is 44. Actor Jason Biggs is 44. Actor Rami Malek (RAH'-mee MA'-lihk) is 41. Actor-singer Clare Bowen is 38. Actor Emily VanCamp is 36. Actor Malcolm David Kelley is 30. Actor Sullivan Sweeten is 27.

## 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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