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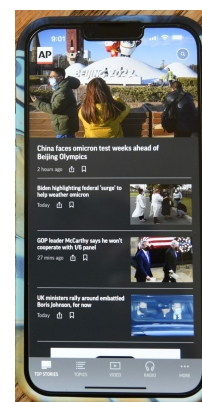
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Connecting

May 24, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this May 24, 2022,

'Fessing up time continues in today's Connecting with more of your stories about mistakes you made during your career.

The statute of limitations has been instituted by Ye Olde Connecting Editor, so come ahead with your own story – a way to get it off your chest and prove to others that their own mistake may not have been all that bad.

Memorial Day 2022 - Connecting welcomes your own stories of those loved ones who have died - and keeping with our journalistic theme, especially those who played a role in your career. A favorite story or anecdote. We will publish these through the coming week.

In today's issue, our colleague **Joe Frazier** remembers his wife **Linda**, who was killed in 1984 by a bomb smuggled into a news conference. Our hearts are with Joe.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Memorial Day: Remembering those we lost

[Joe Frazier](#) - For me, Memorial Day ceased being joyous kickoff to summer in 1984. On May 30 of that year my wife, Linda Frazier, who was a reporter for the Tico Times, Costa Rica's English language newspaper, was killed by a bomb smuggled into a rebel press conference near that country's border with Nicaragua, which was in the throes of a nasty counter-revolution.

We had been married 17 years and were based in Costa Rica. We had a son, then 10 years old.

In time I tried to rebuild our life but somehow fell short. Time has eased some of the staggering shock but each year at this time I find myself reliving every minute of that God-awful night and the days that followed. Much of that time is still a blur. Amnesia has its points.

But each year at this time I pause and think back. I guess I always will.

Connecting confessional:

Mistakes that we make

[Ted Bridis](#) - "A silly mistake that you make" - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

Not silly because it involved life and death but instructive and most definitely a mistake.

In the early 1990s, I was a staff writer in Tulsa and dispatched to cover a police standoff involving a disturbed, armed man in a suburban home.

The standoff lasted more than 24 hours. Police found two bodies next door. His grandmother was inside the home, presumably a hostage. Police didn't want to enter the home for fear of him shooting at them. A wayward bullet started a fire next door. They shot down the front door with a fire truck's water cannon, then sent inside a police robot with a video camera. "Will the robot be armed with any weapons?" we asked the police spokesman? He said no, as we watched technicians behind him rack a shotgun and mount it to the robot.

When it went inside, the man blew apart the robot and police retrieved it using a rope they had tied around it. We reporters were close enough, stationed just across the

street, that we witnessed everything. I was sitting on the curb with my laptop on my thighs typing out the story as it was unfolding around me.

At some point, it became obvious to those of us outside the home that police had run out of patience and were preparing to storm the house. We could see police creeping closer. I called the supervising desk editor in Oklahoma City, and we put together some preparedness that we could update and publish immediately once the incident was resolved.

It went something like, "Police in Tulsa stormed a suburban home where an armed suspect had barricaded himself for more than 24 hours, part of a bizarre standoff that included the shooting of a police robot sent inside."

The desk editor relayed the draft story to the broadcast editor and said to send the story once we confirmed that police had gone inside. Except she didn't understand she was supposed to wait to publish the story because police hadn't actually stormed the house yet.

Around me, out of the blue, reporters from TV news outlets started getting phone calls and messages asking what was happening. One of them told me, "AP is reporting that police stormed the house."

I said, "I'm the only AP reporter here and I haven't reported that yet because it hasn't happened." I called the desk and explained what was happening, and the editor was equally confused. He asked the broadcast editor, "You didn't file that story yet, did you?"

She said, "Yeah, you told me to file it, didn't you?"

Ironically, at that moment, police actually stormed the house and the gunman killed himself during the raid. A few minutes later, a police spokesman on the scene confirmed the activity and the man's death. I have always been horrified about that case. It could have gone so much worse: What if the gunman had heard the AP's reporting and managed to shoot one of the police officers? What if the accidental story prompted the man to kill himself? What if the police had changed their minds and decided to wait 24 more hours?

It was a teachable moment: Since then, whenever I wrote preparedness, I always included in large bold letters, "DO NOT PUBLISH UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO," and added "DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT." In nearly 30 years after that case, I never had a similar publishing accident.

The story is [here](#).

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[David Skidmore](#) - There was the time, 35 years ago, that I misspelled a key word in my story on the Scripps-Howard spelling bee May 27-28, 1987, in Washington, DC.

I was working on a TRS-80, affectionately known as Trash 80, an early portable computer that could be used to transmit stories to the desk over telephone lines. I

had set up my urgent lede with Xs in the spot for the word that would eliminate the second-place contestant. It was "dyscalculia" -- a brain disorder that renders the sufferer unable to do arithmetic. Knowing that each contestant was sponsored by a member newspaper, I was careful. I typed dyscalculia into my lede and then deleted the Xs by hitting the backspace key. However, the Trash 80 was incredibly slow and I did not notice that it continued to eat text after all the Xs had disappeared from its tiny screen. Apparently, I was suffering from dyscalculia because I had hit the delete key one too many times and the word went to the desk as "dyscalculi."

Not to worry. Carl Craft, a meticulous editor, was filing spelling bee ledes. He sat with an unabridged Merriam-Webster at his elbow, checking each and every word in the bee. The problem was that Craft was working from an unabridged that was one edition out of date and did not have dyscalculia. Knowing that throughout the two-day bee I had not made a single mistake, Craft took a leap of faith and hit send. It wasn't long after that I was obliged to send Craft a writethru correcting my error.

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Hal Bock - The story Mike Harris told about correcting what he thought was a mistake on incoming copy reminded me of something I did early in my AP years. I was filing the wire when a tennis story arrived from overseas and mentioned a player, Frew McMillan.

An obvious typo, I thought, cleverly changing the name from Frew to Fred.

Only later did I learn that Frew was a South African player, whose first name really was Frew.

Lessons from nature





Tricia English - For the past three years we've coexisted with a plethora of amazing wild creatures - some days it is straight up Nat Geo around here! I know how much I love watching these animals, but I had not given much thought to the connection that has developed from their perspective.

Early Friday morning while on the back deck I heard a loud, panicky cry. Seconds later a wandering dog exited the tree line and all I saw were spots hanging from its mouth. If you know me then you know what happened next involved more than a few

inappropriate words and nothing remotely close to an acceptable, 6:30am outside voice. Thankfully it was enough to cause the dog to quick release the tiny fawn and hightail it out of our yard. I turned back and realized there was another fawn in the trees, and then noticed mama - who was 20 feet away and had witnessed the whole event.

The little one stayed right where it was dropped. With no obvious major injuries and mama close by, we left things alone and prayed for the best. All day I'd look out and see that sweet little face peeking through the tall grass, every time willing mama to come back. Finally in the late afternoon, I looked out and was hopeful - the spot was vacant.

A few minutes later, something on the walkway just off the deck caught my eye. The injured fawn. Or so we thought. Five minutes later Mick noticed a second fawn tucked behind the wood and wire. Mama had brought both babies up close to the house and even found some protection for the injured one!

Later that night the stronger one went with mama, but the little one was in the same spot Saturday morning. We waited all day but moved it back to the tree line at dusk, hoping the space to stand up to nurse would increase the chances of mama returning. After a night of thunderstorms, this sweet thing was still there this morning. Unfortunately, weak and deteriorating.

So... today I mixed up the first bottle of formula I've made in 17 years. We laughed as we squirted it everywhere trying to get that baby to eat and were appropriately schooled by nature when it latched on and downed two ounces with the expertise of a sixth-year senior shotgunning Natty Light.

We then took a road trip to Walden's Puddle, who has been at capacity but miraculously had space for a fawn this weekend. Zoe, as "she" became known around here (we never did a close enough examination to accurately determine sex, but there was clear, nonscientific consensus abound), will be raised with four other fawns and eventually released back to the wild as a herd.

And I'll be thinking of that little one...and it's mama... and this experience... and the lessons from nature... for a very long time. Sometimes the message you need comes in the most vivid of ways.

(Trisha English is a Connecting colleague who operates her own mental health practice in Nashville, Tenn.)

Scooter, Canes, and grandkids shove-off on a Cruise



By [Ed Tobias](#)

It's not easy going for a cruise when a scooter and a couple of canes come along for the trip. I've done it with success a number of times in the past, and planning helps a lot.

My wife and I returned from our first first cruise since the pandemic began. It was also the first cruise for us with our son and his family. Much was the same as before the pandemic, but some things were a bit different. A few small speed bumps also appeared that hadn't happened on earlier cruises.

Cruise planning starts early

One of the keys to an enjoyable cruise is snagging an accessible cabin. These cabins are larger — sometimes a lot larger — than a standard cabin of the same class. That allows room for a scooter or a wheelchair in the cabin, which for safety reasons aren't allowed to be stored in the passageway.

These cabins also have a roll-in shower with a hand-held showerhead and a pull-down seat. On this cruise, the cabin had something I'd never used before: an automatic cabin door that opened with the swipe of a keycard when entering or the push of a button when exiting. And it remained open long enough for me to easily roll in and out.

Read more [here](#).

Rise and fall of newspaper box/vending machine

[Kevin Walsh](#) - Michael Weinfeld's item on abandoned newspaper boxes prompted me to do some casual research into the subject.

A Newsweek article from 2015 did a nice job of documenting the rise and fall of the newspaper box/vending machine. Some of the key excerpts:

"Print journalism insiders say the history of the boxes traces back to Kaspar Companies, founded under a different name in 1898 by August Kaspar. According to the company, August's son invented the first ever coin-operated newspaper vending machine, in the 1950s. In the decades that followed, it shipped 2 to 3 million units...

"USA Today, founded in 1982, is widely credited with the newspaper box boom of the 1980s and early 1990s. The publication's white boxes, shaped like television sets, seemed to be everywhere. Kaspar Companies takes credit for manufacturing many or most of those boxes...

"Later in the 1990s, the tide turned. Newspaper box sales began dropping off and publishers cut locations. According to data collected by the Newspaper Association of America, in 1996, newspaper boxes accounted for about 46 percent of single-sale daily newspapers. In 2014, that percentage was down to 20...

"...in August (2015), Kaspar Companies abandoned the industry it had helped start half a century earlier. "It pretty much dried up...so we've moved on," David Kaspar says. "We weren't losing it to competitors, it just wasn't there anymore." Now the company, based in Shiner, Texas, focuses on metal pickup truck accessories and precious metals."

Chicago Tribune columnist Eric Zorn wrote in 2020 that the industry no longer tracks vending machine sales as a percentage of single copy newspaper sales.

"There are many markets that have zero newspaper boxes left on the street," said Ronald Buss (the Tribune's distribution director). And the reasons are obvious: Overall print circulation has fallen by more than half since a historical high some 30 years ago, and, as the price of single copies has risen, it's become less and less likely that potential customers will have enough coins in their pockets to feed the machine..."

Zorn, who took a buyout in 2021 when Alden Global Capital took control of the Tribune, eloquently concluded:

"Gone are the days when boxes from competing papers stood chained to lampposts at intersections and near transit stops and diners by the thousands throughout the region, each a little monument to the First Amendment."

A reminder...

January
11
1935

Walter R. Mears

Celebration of Life

March
3
2022



Associated Press reporter Walter R. Mears in 1969. (Charles Tasnadi/AP)

Celebrate Walter's Life, Legacy and Career



July 22, 2022

6:00 – 8:00 pm

National Press Club

529 14th Street NW

Washington, DC

Raise a glass and share memories at a memorial happy hour to celebrate Walter.

“I now know what the first words of my obituary will be.”

- Walter R. Mears after winning the Pulitzer Prize



All are welcome



Welcome to Connecting



[Martin Kruming](#)

Stories of interest

Karine Jean-Pierre's Unlikely Rise to the White House Lectern (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

Karine Jean-Pierre began her debut briefing as President Biden's press secretary on Monday by acknowledging the unusual nature of her presence behind the White House lectern. "I am a Black, gay, immigrant woman, the first of all three of those to hold this position," she said.

Left unsaid were the other ways in which her path to becoming the president's chief spokeswoman sharply diverged from that of her predecessors.

Ms. Jean-Pierre was born in the Caribbean to Haitian parents, who lived paycheck to paycheck after immigrating to New York City. Her conservative Catholic family, she has written, carried "so many secrets, so much unexpressed pain." As a child, Ms. Jean-Pierre was sexually abused by a cousin. Her mother went decades without acknowledging that her daughter was a lesbian. And in her early 20s, despondent at a career setback, Ms. Jean-Pierre attempted suicide.

She grounded herself in political advocacy work, rising from meeting with constituents in Far Rockaway, Queens, to a job in the Obama White House. But while Ms. Jean-Pierre spent years as an MSNBC pundit and national spokeswoman for the liberal group MoveOn.org, she rarely had to tackle a daily grilling from an adversarial press corps.

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

-0-

Pentagon seizes foreign reporter's phone during official travel (Politico)

By LARA SELIGMAN

The Pentagon seized a foreign reporter's phone and would not allow him to use his electronics while traveling with the Defense Department's No. 2 official on Sunday, according to a person on the trip and an email viewed by POLITICO.

After this article was published on Monday, the reporter identified himself on Twitter as Reuters' Idrees Ali, who has covered the Pentagon for six years and accompanied top officials on dozens of trips. He is not a U.S. citizen.

"This policy was the first time I had experienced this after covering dozens of Pentagon trips across three administrations. It means that we can't do the very thing I'm supposed to on these trips, which is write stories," Ali wrote. Ali is not a U.S. citizen.

Before boarding the plane at Joint Base Andrews Sunday morning, Ali was told of a new rule mandating that foreigners flying on Air Force planes using top secret classification would be prohibited from using their electronics on the flight.

Ten minutes into the flight to Oslo, Norway, a public affairs officer "very apologetically" instructed Ali to "physically" hand over his phone, and was told that he could not use his AirPods or open his laptop, according to one of the people on the trip. The other reporter on the flight, who is a U.S. citizen, did not have to hand over their phone.

In a statement to POLITICO, Air Force spokesperson Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder said the incident was a "miscommunication" and said the service will "be reviewing the policy going forward."

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

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E.W. Scripps, Now Broadcast TV Company, Seeks Print Journalists To Staff Its Newsrooms (MediaPost)

By Tony Silber

The E.W. Scripps Company, one of the best-known newspaper and content-syndication companies of the 20th century, which divested its print assets to focus on the broadcast television market in 2014, announced last week it's partnering with Google on an initiative to transition print-media news journalists into broadcast news careers.

Scripps is the nation's fourth-largest local TV broadcaster, with a portfolio of 61 stations in 41 markets. It also owns Court TV, Ion and other channels.

Called the Scripps Journalism Journey Initiative, the program would provide mid-career transitions into full-time work in local and national Scripps newsrooms. Applicants will be provided extensive training in video-based storytelling and mentoring, plus job shadowing, hands-on work and individual coaching. The company expects to start accepting applications this summer.

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

-0-

Stamp for publisher Katharine Graham to join Distinguished Americans series June 14 (Linn's Stamp News)

By Charles Snee

Katharine Graham, the formidable owner and president of the Washington Post Co. who served for almost 30 years as publisher of the organization's flagship newspaper, the Washington Post, will be celebrated on a new United States forever stamp in the Distinguished Americans definitive series.

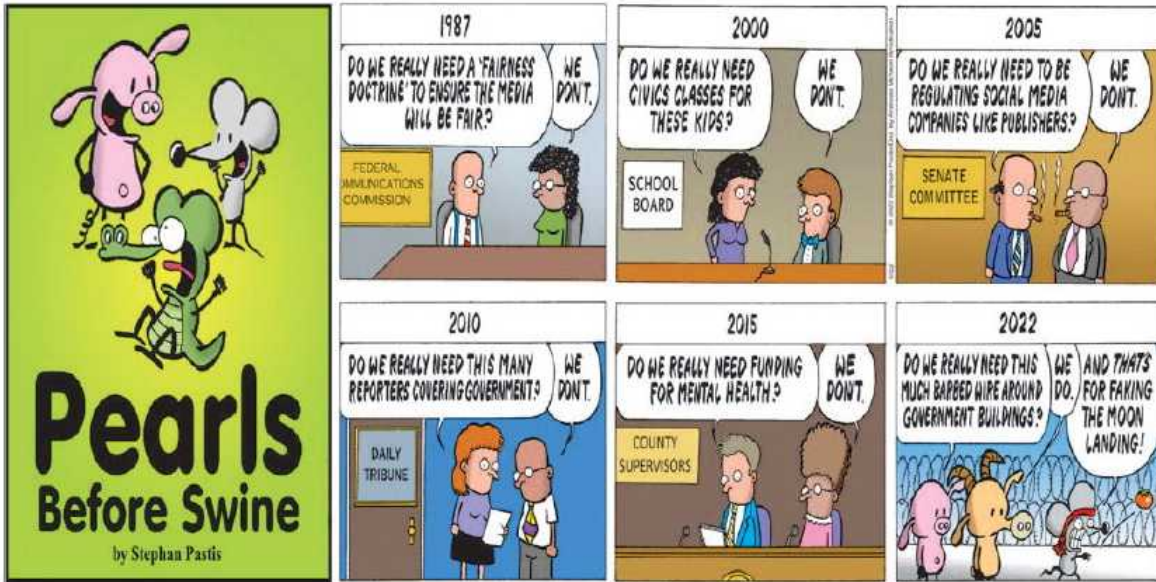
The nondenominated (78¢) forever stamp will be issued June 14 in Washington, D.C., where the Post is headquartered. The "Two Ounce" inscription at top right indicates the stamp will satisfy the 2-ounce first-class letter rate regardless of future rate increases.

According to the U.S. Postal Service, the stamp illustrates artist Lynn Staley's oil portrait of Graham based on a 1970s photograph. Derry Noyes served as both designer and art director for the stamp.

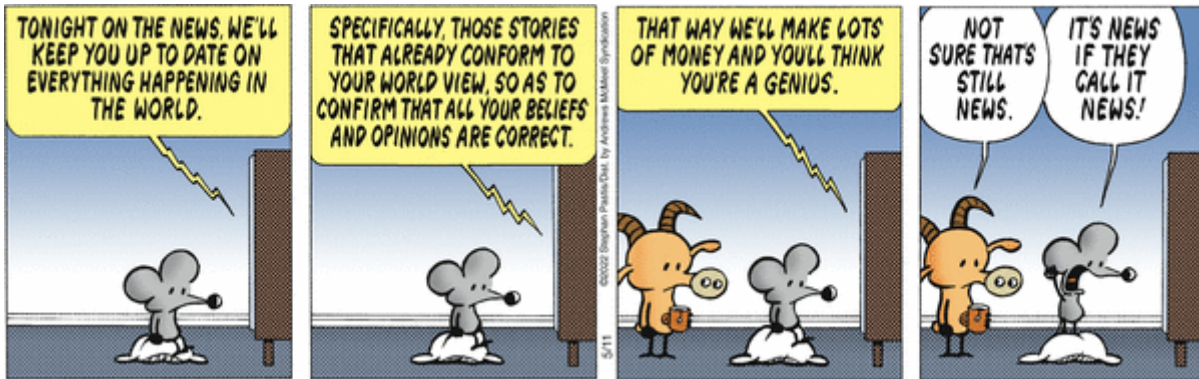
Read more [here](#). Shared by Lou Boccardi.



The Final Word



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas



Shared by George Arfield

MUTTS

By Patrick McDonnell



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Today in History - May 24, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 24, the 144th day of 2022. There are 221 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 24, 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message "What hath God wrought" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

On this date:

In 1935, the first major league baseball game to be played at night took place at Cincinnati's Crosley Field as the Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 2-1.

In 1937, in a set of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood in the North Atlantic, killing all but three of the 1,418 men on board.

In 1961, a group of Freedom Riders was arrested after arriving at a bus terminal in Jackson, Mississippi, charged with breaching the peace for entering white-designated areas. (They ended up serving 60 days in jail.)

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1974, American jazz composer and bandleader Duke Ellington, 75, died in New York.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde supersonic transport service to Washington.

In 1980, Iran rejected a call by the World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages.

In 1994, four Islamic fundamentalists convicted of bombing New York's World Trade Center in 1993 were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

In 2006, "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary about former Vice President Al Gore's campaign against global warming, went into limited release.

In 2011, Oprah Winfrey taped the final episode of her long-running talk show.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama doubled down on criticism of rival Mitt Romney's background as a venture capitalist, telling a rally at the Iowa State Fairgrounds there might be value in such experience but "not in the White House." Brian Banks, a former high school football star whose dreams of a pro career were shattered by what turned out to be a false rape accusation, burst into tears as a judge in Long Beach, California, threw out the charge that had sent Banks to prison for more than five years.

Five years ago: Setting past differences and rude comments aside, President Donald Trump and Pope Francis put a determinedly positive face on their first meeting at the Vatican. Ariana Grande suspended her Dangerous Woman world tour and canceled several European shows due to the deadly bombing at her concert in Manchester, England, two days earlier.

One year ago: Tennessee became the latest state to ban teachers from talking about certain aspects of race and racism in public schools. Samuel E. Wright, who famously voiced "Sebastian the Crab" in Disney's "The Little Mermaid" and had an acting career spanning five decades, died at 72.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian-impressionist Stanley Baxter is 96. Jazz musician Archie Shepp is 85. Comedian Tommy Chong is 84. Singer Bob Dylan is 81. Actor Gary Burghoff is 79. Singer Patti LaBelle is 78. Actor Priscilla Presley is 77. Country singer Mike Reid is 75. Actor Jim Broadbent is 73. Actor Alfred Molina is 69. Singer Rosanne Cash is 67. Actor Cliff Parisi is 62. Actor Kristin Scott Thomas is 62. Rock musician Vivian Trimble is 59. Actor John C. Reilly is 57. Actor Dana Ashbrook is 55. Actor Eric Close is 55. Actor Carl Payne is 53. Rock musician Rich Robinson is 53. Former MLB pitcher Bartolo Colon is 49. Actor Dash Mihok is 48. Actor Bryan Greenberg is 44. Actor Owen Benjamin is 42. Actor Billy L. Sullivan is 42. Actor-rapper Jerod Mixon (aka Big Tyme) is 41. Rock musician Cody Hanson (Hinder) is 40. Dancer-choreographer-singer Mark Ballas is 36. Country singer Billy Gilman is 34. Rapper/producer G-Eazy is 33. Actor Brianne Howey is 33. Actor Cayden Boyd 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.

Paul Stevens
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