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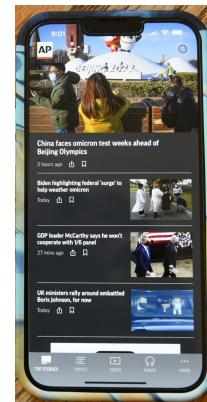
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# Connecting

August 4, 2022

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Vin Scully prior to a game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in 2016. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Aug. 4, 2022,

Dodgers broadcaster **Vin Scully** is considered by many to be the GOAT – the greatest of all time – and the sports and broadcasting worlds mourn his death that occurred Tuesday night at the age of 94.

Our sports-mad colleague **Bill Hancock** shared with his Facebook pals: "Oh, my, Vin Scully was the GOAT in a whole profession of goats. Who were the favorite announcers from your youth?"

"Searching memory lane, among mine were Red Barber, Dizzy and Pee Wee, Lindsey Nelson, Ray Scott, Dick Enberg, Curt Gowdy, Jack Buck, Ray Scott, Keith Jackson, Chris Schenkel, Pat Summerall, Harry Caray, Kern Tips, Connie Alexander and Jim McKay. (Of course, for us Okies, Bob Barry and Jack Ogle. And Bill Platt.)"

Connecting would welcome your memories of working with Scully. Meantime, Tom Jones of Poynter published today this remarkable memory of Scully's life that includes a number of iconic AP photos including the two shown above. Click [here](#) to read.

### Connecting Summer School is in session!

Our friend **Norm Abelson** has a late-summer assignment for his Connecting colleagues, and you can pick and choose which questions you'd like to answer:

As a reporter, what was the most embarrassing or difficult question you ever had to pose? What was the toughest or scariest story to cover, the strongest positive or negative response you ever got back from a piece you wrote? The funniest. and/or most memorable? Additionally, for photographers, what was the most difficult shot to get, and the one you're most proud of?

He asked the questions so gets a head start with these replies:

**Most embarrassing and difficult:** In front of a huge crowd at the opening of a major arts center at Dartmouth College, his alma mater, I asked recently remarried Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, "It is true you are having an affair with Joan Crawford?"

**Two toughest:** A 4 a.m. one-on-one exclusive jailhouse interview with a young man who, just hours earlier, lay in ambush with a rifle, and shot to death his parents and both siblings. Discovery of the remains of a sexually abused young girl (I think about 6), dug up in the basement of a tenement.

**We lead today's issue** with a story of courage and perseverance as our colleague **Mike Tharp**, a longtime newspaperman known to many of you, is in a fight with cancer. His thoughts no doubt resonate with those of you who have faced the disease. Wearing his news hat, he says:

*One point: if I don't make it, I don't want any bullshit about "long battle with cancer." I can't do anything to battle cancer. I can only hold still for the needles. And take a sleeping pill to cloak the pain at night.*

Mike is in our prayers for a full recovery.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## The Chemo Chronicles: Part II

**Mike Tharp** – Five more days of chemo after this week's five where I sit now, followed by three weeks off.

Then nut-cuttin' time, which mean cutting my bone marrow to see if all these pokes, prods and jabs have inserted enough good poison in me to kill bad stuff robbing me of energy, hope and, ultimately, life.

Since being diagnosed in May of last year, the chemo and bone marrow cancer have left me unable to walk without a walker. I've been to three rehab centers (including over Christmas and New Years.—same-same Nam).

They've all helped me regain strength, but I still need the red rollerthon inherited from my cousin Gerry in Austin who died of cancer in 2014.

My mind? Surprisingly empty about the stakes. My wife Jeralyn (Nurse Ratched/Florence Nightingale), my son Nao and his family of Misato, Faith and Josh and my daughter Dylann; fam all over America and friends here, in Japan and Asia...

They've all raised my spirits in many cool ways.

I've rewatched Animal House, Blues Brothers, Airplane and other movies that made me laugh. I was a geek for Shark Week. I read till my lips got tired—fiction and non-

And I do 1–2-hour workouts with dumbbells, ankle weights, stretch bands and other stuff.

In my chair.

One point: if I don't make it, I don't want any bullshit about "long battle with cancer." I can't do anything to battle cancer. I can only hold still for the needles. And take a sleeping pill to cloak the pain at night.

Been institutionalized more in the past 18 months than I've been at home—hospitals where my big left toe was amputated, they treated my broken tibia from a fall, Covid, impacted colon; and the rehab centers that tried to restore my balance and strength.

If this indeed is eschatological times for me, I'll keep munching my gummies (provided free by a fellow Vietnam vet) and see what happens.

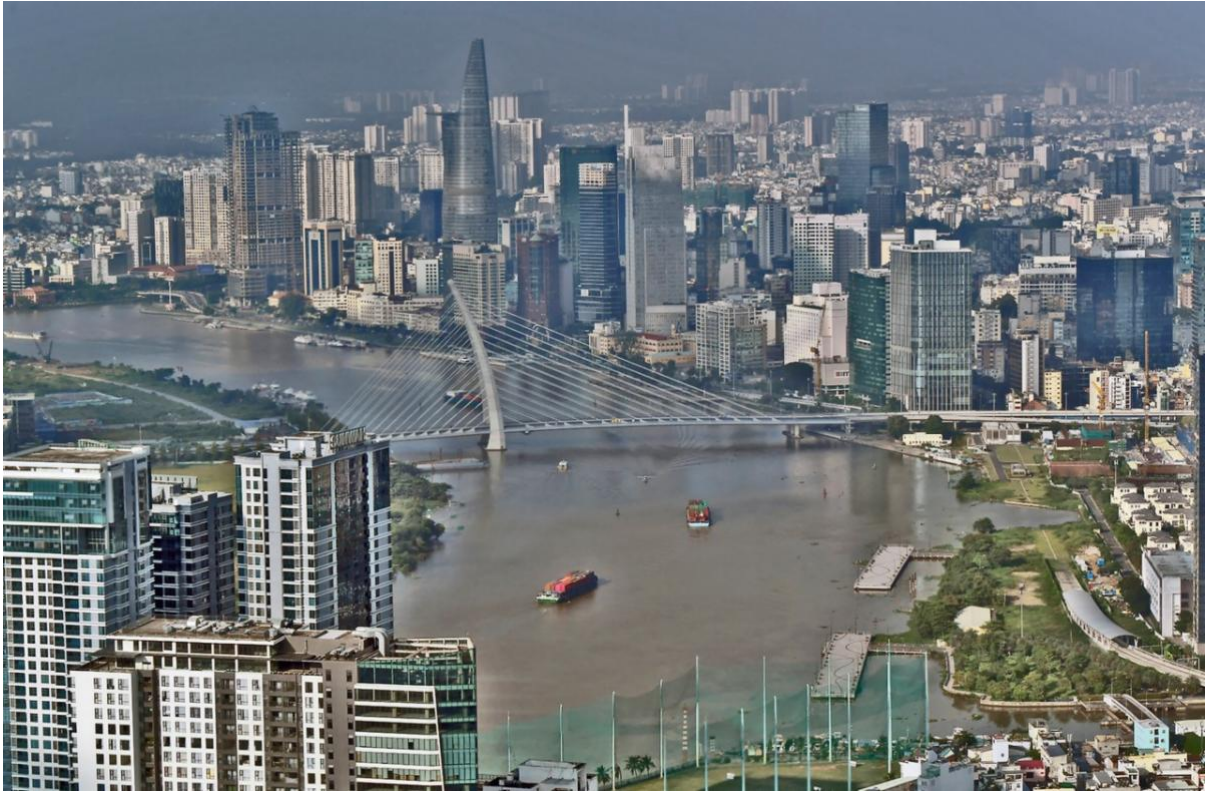
I'm not a god man but seven wars and the deaths of too many family and friends over my 77 years have taught me I'm a spirit man. Hope some of my particles mix with some of those I miss and treasure.

Just read this poem by Richard Sorge, Russian spy in Japan for many years til he was caught and executed:

**In our veins is blood not water  
We go forward through the bark of revolvers  
In order that as we die  
We transform  
Into ships  
Into shipping lines  
And other long-lived things**

Meanwhile comma peace

## Nick Ut back from Vietnam





[Nick Ut](#) - I just come back from Vietnam yesterday, and send you some photos of Saigon changed. In 1975, the North of Vietnam won the war and changed the name of Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City. Saigon has changed and is a new skyscraper city.

## Connecting mailbox

*Wishing Kristin, Charles the happiness they deserve*

[Marty Thompson](#) - It is heartwarming to learn of the new after-AP lives Kristin Gazlay and Charles Hill are beginning together in Texas.

As an admirer of both, I am delighted at their plans. It's a pleasure to wish for them happiness they deserve.

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## *More on taxes*

[Arnold Zeitlin](#) – Henry Bradsher's tax tale reminded of a story told to me by Max Desfor, the late and much-missed Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographer. When he was working in the Tokyo bureau, Max said, the Japanese tax people insisted he was not declaring his full salary for tax purposes because, for one reason, his name was Max and, therefore, he should be getting the maximum AP salary.

Now it can be told that during my tours of duty in Pakistan, the Philippines and Hong Kong I managed to avoid local taxes by never seeking residential status in those constituencies. I was always able leave at leave every three months and return to renew my visa. The immigration director in the Philippines told me, "We know what you've been doing." That was when he threw me out of the country after I had been there more than three years.

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## *AP sighting*

[Dick Lipsey](#) - This one is from "Assignment: Paris," a 1952 movie starring Dana Andrews as a reporter for the New York Herald Tribune in Paris.

Andrews is sent to Hungary (during the darkest days of the Cold War) and arrested by authorities. In Paris, bureau chief George Sanders learns of the arrest and says, "Get the AP and Reuters. Find out if they've heard anything!"

I saw this recently on the Turner movie channel.

## 85 years since the disappearance of Amelia Earhart



### AP Images Blog

Text and photo editing by Kathryn Bubien

Aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart was born in 1897 and began her career as a nurse and social worker. In her spare time, she flew. In 1928, the New York publisher George Palmer Putnam, whom she later married, asked if she wanted to be the first woman to fly the Atlantic. In 1932 she flew the Atlantic solo, winning the Distinguished Service Cross from the U.S government. Three years later she completed flights from Mexico City to New York, and from Hawaii to California. In 1937, she began her most ambitious flight, an attempt to circumnavigate the earth on a route close to the equator.

Amelia Earhart achieved her fame by overcoming the prejudice against women pilots. "Manufacturers refuse us planes," she said, listing some of the obstacles facing women; "the public have no confidence in our ability. If we had access to the equipment and training men have, we could certainly do as well. Thank heaven, we continue willingly fighting a losing battle.... but if enough of us keep trying, we'll get someplace."

Read more [here](#).

## Stories of interest



## ***Belarus court gives another journalist a lengthy prison term*** (AP)

By YURAS KARMANAU

TALINN, Estonia (AP) — A court in Belarus on Wednesday sentenced yet another independent journalist to a lengthy prison term, part of a continued government crackdown on opposition activists, critical media outlets and independent reporters.

Iryna Slaunikava, 52-year-old journalist with the Poland-based TV channel Belsat, was convicted of forming an extremist organization and participating in protests and sentenced to five years in prison. The sentence handed to Slaunikava by a judge in Gomel, a city in southeastern Belarus, is one year longer than what the prosecution had sought for her, according to the Belarusian Association of Journalists.

Slaunikava is the third Belsat journalist imprisoned in Belarus. Belsat, a Belarusian-language TV channel funded by the Polish government, has been declared extremist by Belarus' authorities. It has been a source of news for hundreds of thousands of Belarusians ever since it started broadcasting in 2007. Belsat's YouTube channel currently has 474,000 subscribers.

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

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## ***Major news organizations sue Texas Department of Public Safety for public records on Uvalde shooting*** (CNN)

By Brian Stelter

New York (CNN Business) - More than a dozen major news organizations have filed a lawsuit against the Texas Department of Public Safety to obtain public records relating to the Robb Elementary School massacre.

The coalition includes CNN, the Texas Tribune, and many of the state and the country's biggest news outlets.

The news organizations have been fighting for weeks to obtain information on behalf of the public amid serial falsehoods and stonewalling from Texas officials in the aftermath of the mass shooting.

The lawsuit, filed in state court in Austin, arises under the Texas Public Information Act, which enables news outlets and members of the public to pursue litigation to obtain records. The news outlets cited many previous requests for information and an "ensuing failure to disclose public records concerning this abhorrent tragedy."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Journalist, 3 others killed in Mexico; 13th this year*** (AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A journalist was among four people killed inside a beer shop in central Mexico, the 13th media worker killed in the country this year.

San Luis de la Paz Mayor Luis Sánchez said Ernesto Méndez, director of the news site Tu Voz, or Your Voice, was with four other men when they were attacked. The fifth person was seriously wounded and taken to a hospital, he said.

Guanajuato Gov. Diego Rodríguez Vallejo condemned the Tuesday night killings via Twitter Wednesday.

Sánchez said that at this point it was unknown whether the attack was related to Méndez's journalistic work, his role as representative of local businesses in the planning of an upcoming fair or something else.

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

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## ***In Widening Crackdown, Renowned Journalist Arrested in Guatemala*** (DNYUZ)

In another sign of growing political repression in Guatemala, the authorities have arrested an award-winning journalist who was critical of the government and raided the offices of the newspaper he founded.

José Rubén Zamora, president of the elPeriódico newspaper, was arrested at his home in Guatemala City on Friday night on charges including possible money laundering, blackmail and influence peddling, according to the Guatemalan attorney general's office.

"There must be a conspiracy, a persecution," Mr. Zamora told reporters outside his home as he was being held by the police. "If that's the case, we must pay for the love of Guatemala with jail.

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

# The Final Word

***"Heeey Wally?" "Yeah Beav?"***



*From Retro TV, following the death of Tony Dow, who portrayed Wally on "Leave it to Beaver":*

"Heeey Wally?" "Yeah Beav?" "Hey Wally, well, I miss you." "I miss you too Beav."  
 "Was it creepy and scary?" "Ah heck no, Beav, it was ... peaceful." "What's it like  
 Wally?" "Well, it's a lot like Mayfield." "Mom and dad are here, Lumpy, heck, even  
 that creep Eddie Haskell is here." "Really? Eddie got in?" "Yeah, I guess they took pity  
 on him." "There's even a malt shop, me and all the guys and girls hang out after the  
 Friday night game." "You get to play football and basketball too?" "Heck ya Beav and  
 the best part is, no one gets hurt." "Gee Wally, I can't wait to come there." "Well  
 Beaver, you have time, but when you do, Mom, dad and me will be waiting."

## Today in History – Aug. 4, 2022



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 4, the 216th day of 2022. There are 149 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History

On Aug. 4, 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

### On this date:

In 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard had its beginnings as President George Washington signed a measure authorizing a group of revenue cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

In 1830, plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

In 1916, the United States reached agreement with Denmark to purchase the Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1972, Arthur Bremer was convicted and sentenced in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to 63 years in prison for his attempt on the life of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace (the sentence was later reduced to 53 years; Bremer was released from prison in 2007).

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

In 1993, a federal judge sentenced Los Angeles police officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell to 2 1/2 years in prison for violating Rodney King's civil rights.

In 2009, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In 2019, a masked gunman fired on revelers enjoying summer nightlife in a popular entertainment district of Dayton, Ohio, leaving nine people dead and 27 wounded; police said officers shot and killed the shooter within 30 seconds of the start of his rampage.

In 2020, nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been improperly stored for years in the port of Beirut, Lebanon, exploded, killing more than 200 people, injuring more than 6,000 and devastating nearby neighborhoods; it was one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded.

Ten years ago: Michael Phelps won the 18th Olympic gold medal of his career as the United States won the medley relay at the London Games. The United States set a world record to win the women's medley relay. Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova 6-0, 6-1 to join Steffi Graf as the only women to complete the Golden Slam — winning the Olympics and the four majors. Three British athletes won gold medals in Olympic Stadium: Jessica Ennis in heptathlon; Greg Rutherford in men's long jump; and Mo Farah in the men's 10,000 meters.

Five years ago: Former pharmaceutical CEO Martin Shkreli, who became notorious for a price-gouging scandal, was convicted on federal charges that he deceived investors in a pair of failed hedge funds. (Shkreli was sentenced months later to seven years in prison.) The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.3 percent, matching the 16-year low that had been recorded in May, as employers added 209,000 jobs.

One year ago: Sydney McLaughlin smashed the world record and Dalilah Muhammad broke it as well in an American 1-2 finish in the women's 400 hurdles at the Tokyo Olympics. Andre De Grasse of Canada won the Olympic gold medal in the 200-meter race five years after finishing second to Usain Bolt in Rio; De Grasse won in a national record time of 19.62 seconds. Belarusian Olympic sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, who feared for her safety at home after criticizing her coaches on social media, flew into Warsaw on a humanitarian visa after leaving the Tokyo Olympics.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Tina Cole is 79. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 78. Football Hall of Famer John Riggins is 73. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 67. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 67. Actor Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 64. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 64. Actor Lauren Tom is 63. Former President Barack Obama is 61. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly & Ryan") is 61. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 60. Actor Crystal Chappell is 57. Author Dennis Lehane is 57. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 54. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 54. Actor Michael DeLuise is 53. Former race car driver Jeff

Gordon is 51. Rapper-actor Yo-Yo is 51. R&B singer-actor Marques (MAR'-kus) Houston is 41. Britain's Duchess of Sussex, the former actor Meghan Markle, is 41. Actor Abigail Spencer is 41. Actor/director Greta Gerwig is 39. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 37. Actors Dylan and Cole Sprouse are 30. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") 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

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**