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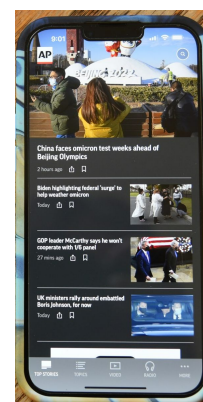
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# Connecting

August 19, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Aug. 19, 2022,

**Elvis Presley** may have been the headliner in Thursday’s Connecting with memories of the King of Rock and Roll tied to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, but it was **Jim Fitzgerald** who was on the minds of several of you.

In that same issue, our colleague [Ellen Nimmons](#) shared a photo of her late husband, who worked 45 years as a writer and editor for The Associated Press before his death in 2017, and a note to him from the legendary AP reporter **Richard Pyle**. In the background of the photo, unearthed as Ellen prepares for a move, was the late **Sam Boyle**, New York bureau chief.

Said [Joel Stashenko](#) – “While the material on Elvis Presley undoubtedly brought warm feelings from the legions of The King’s fans, the image that captivated me was of the

former New York City bureau newsman and White Plains correspondent Jim Fitzgerald. What great memories that brought back of the many years of working with Jim, sometimes from afar from the Albany and state capitol bureaus and sometimes side-by-side during occasional forays into the city bureau. How fortunate we were to share in his gentlemanly manner, good cheer and, of course, top-notch journalistic chops. It was an added bonus to catch a glimpse of former NY COB Sam Boyle in the background of Jim's picture, and to be reminded of the sharp wit of Richard Pyle in the note found by Ellen Nimmons. Great personalities, all."



Said **Marc Humbert** – "Fitzgerald, Pyle and Boyle? Doesn't get any better than that, folks. The heart and soul of the NY Buro. God, they were so good."

And said **Frank Eltman** – "Loved seeing the photo of Jim Fitzgerald, who was a mentor, inspiration and a wonderful friend. Also remember Sam Boyle as a great leader of the NYC Bureau crew, which for my money was second to none. Fond memories. So many friends gone but not forgotten. "

A correction in a story in the same edition: the AP Radio Network is still alive. It's the Broadcast Wire that shut down.

**VACATION RELIEF:** I will be away for the next few days and for Monday's edition, please send your story and photo submissions to Peg Coughlin – [pcoughlin@ap.org](mailto:pcoughlin@ap.org) I will return on Tuesday.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## The death of the King of Rock and Roll



# Memphis Press-Scimitar

U.S. WEATHER FORECAST: A 60 per cent chance of rain with high in the upper 80s. Low tonight low 70s. High Thursday mid 80s.

79TH YEAR      MEMPHIS, TENN., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1977      TELEPHONES: 527-1111

SPECIAL  
EDITION

*Memphis Leads the World in Mourning the Monarch of Rock 'n Roll*

## A Lonely Life Ends on Elvis Presley Boulevard

**By CLARK PORTEOUS**  
*Press-Scimitar Staff Writer*  
(Aug. 17, 1977)

The King is dead.  
Elvis Presley — the jangling, driving, rock 'n roll king — lived just 42 years, seven months and eight days.  
It was an exciting but frustrating life which ended in Baptist Hospital, where Elvis was pronounced dead at 3:30 p.m. yesterday of a heart attack.  
Elvis made millions of dollars and literally was worshipped by millions of fans. But he was known much of the time, paid a high price for privacy and could not do many things he would have liked to do because he always drew a crowd of admirers.  
Elvis, with a pleasant singing voice and a new style, strumming a guitar and gyrating his pelvis — which brought him the name in early days of "Elvis the Pelvis" — made millions, was able to buy anything he wanted, yet happiness seemed to elude him.  
Elvis gave away countless thousands, giving funds to numerous Memphis institutions just before Christmas every year. He would give his friends — and occasionally even strangers — expensive automobiles.  
Yet as the years passed, many of his friends seemed to have faded away, not generally because they wanted to, but some said Elvis had changed.  
Elvis Aron Presley was written about on his 40th birthday, and friends were quoted as saying he was "let and farty" and refused to see anybody until his weight got down to his regular trim 160 pounds. He was staying in his mansion, Graceland, on Elvis Presley Boulevard, a part of Bellevue remained by city fathers to honor Elvis.  
He became more and more of a recluse in his last few years. Red West and other close friends, who used to be called the "Memphis Mafia," were no longer with him.  
Elvis, already a living legend and someone of a folk hero to many, was found unconscious at Graceland at 3:30 p.m. yesterday.  
Maurice Elliott, Baptist Hospital vice president, and Joe Esposito, Presley's road manager and long-time friend, called an ambulance and tried to revive Elvis with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage until the ambulance arrived. Efforts to revive Presley continued in the ambulance and in the emergency room at Baptist Hospital.

### A Tribute to Elvis

The unexpected death of rock 'n roll star Elvis Presley Aug. 16, 1977, was news of international impact. Almost every news agency in the world reported the tragedy under a Memphis dateline.  
The public interest required that many members of The Press-Scimitar staff have a hand in compiling and presenting the story. Every conceivable angle was covered in a period of five publication days. Requests for copies of The Press-Scimitar containing coverage of the singer's death poured in from all over the world in great numbers. It was impossible to meet the demand.  
Therefore, as a public service to its readers, The Press-Scimitar has reprinted in this special tribute edition all Elvis Presley stories and pictures published in the five-day period. With as few changes as possible, all stories and pictures that we published in the regular editions of The Press-Scimitar are reprinted herein. This edition plus a similar edition of The Commercial Appeal are offered to readers for 50 cents.



ELVIS PRESLEY: THE BEAT WENT ON — AND ON AND ON  
— LIPF THOMPSON

### Mourners In Waiting For Last Homecoming Of Revered Singer

By CHARLES GOODMAN and HENRY HALLEY  
*Press-Scimitar Staff Writers*  
(Aug. 17, 1977)

A slow mist fell on the quiet crowd at the curb on either side of the decorative iron fence that backed over the street the crowd, which had surged forward. A hearse entered behind police motorcycles, and the crowd watched as a copper casket was carried up the steps of Graceland and in the front door.  
It was six minutes past noon.  
"Elvis is really dead," someone said.

**Jim Willis** - I learned something last week while reminiscing with fellow Memphis Press-Scimitar colleagues about the death of Elvis and our coverage. As night city editor of the now defunct afternoon newspaper, I handed out assignments to everybody in the newsroom and then started calling day shift people back to work.

Once the stories were written and pictures processed, I left to go home.

Thereupon the copy desk began its work, including doing page one layout. As you'll see from the attached image, Elvis' death was our lede story. It never occurred to me that there would be any debate about the play, but I now know there was.

Vince Vawter, retired publisher of the Evansville Courier and Press, and Bobby Wilson, retired AME/Graphics at the Knoxville News-Sentinel, said after I left that the managing editor told Fred Chisenhall, AME/News, to play Elvis below the fold because the morning newspaper already had the story. Fred responded, "Over my dead body." The rest is history.

-0-

**Doug Tucker** - I saw Elvis twice, in Houston and Las Vegas. Wow! He had to have been the most electrifying live performer who ever graced a stage.

Which is why I was so delighted to become acquainted about 16 years ago with the man who headed security for the king of rock 'n roll when he played (the International Hotel?) in those era-defining appearances in Sin City. John was elderly and frail when I

knew him and died just a year or so afterward. He had only positive memories of Elvis, the nicest and most humble celebrity he said ever dealt with.

“He treated everyone with respect. don’t think he had much money when he died,” he told me. “He was so generous. He loved to do things for people.”

John showed me pictures of him and Elvis and passed along two fascinating stories which I’ve never seen anywhere.

With a laugh, he told of a man who was a relative of one of the hotel’s top executives and made a fortune as an usher seating people at Elvis’ shows.

“It was the only time all year he worked. High rollers and wealthy fans would give him hundreds of dollars just to seat them as close to the stage as possible. He lived in a beautiful home. Had a boat on Lake Mead. Took expensive vacations and only worked those few weeks when Elvis played the hotel. The rest of the year, he took off.”

Maybe the other story is apocryphal. Maybe it’s not. But John said two members of Elvis’ entourage swore it was true.

And all you Elvis aficionados out there - if you know this is just urban legend, please keep it to yourself. OK? I like to think that it really happened.

Elvis was performing before a typically crazed, sold-out audience when he noticed a little girl sitting in the front row with her mother was blind.

Between songs, he asked the mother if she would let him lift the girl, who appeared to be about 7 or 8, onto the stage with him.

She agreed of course, and Elvis carefully took the excited little girl into his arms and onto the stage.

“What is your name. Thank you for coming to our show,” Elvis said, cradling her in his arms.

“My mother says you’re very handsome,” she said. “Can I feel your face?”

“Of course you can, sweetheart. Then can I feel your face.”

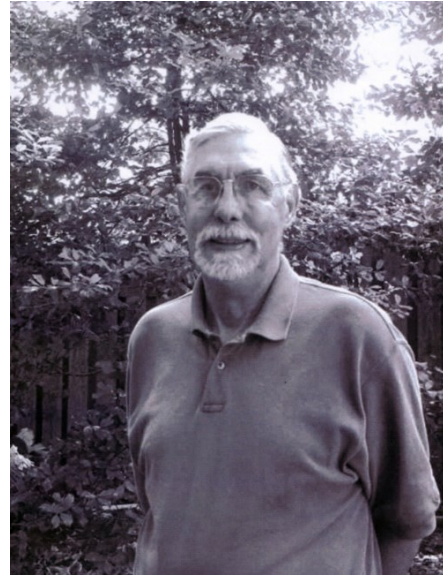
“Why do you want to feel my face?” Asked the little blind child.

“Because you’re the most beautiful girl I’ve ever seen,” said the king.

## Dart legacy of the late St. Louis AP newsman Ed Schafer

[Jim Salter](#) – Ed Schafer spent nearly three decades with the AP in St. Louis. We called him “Easy Ed” because of his laid-back demeanor, but he was a great journalist and one of the best friends anyone could ask for.

Ed was also a true character who always had a story to tell and on Thursday – nearly 12 years after his death from a heart attack at age 71 -- St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Joe Holleman led his column with a legendary Ed story:



### **Dart legacy of the late St. Louis newsman Ed Schafer**

**Joe Holleman**  
**St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

This year's annual Blueberry Hill Open Dart Tournament will be the 50th consecutive year for the competition — and it will begin one day after the bar's 50th anniversary.

Mark your calendar for the first tourney toss at 7 p.m. Sept. 9. The competition runs through Sept. 11 at the pub, 6305 Delmar Avenue.

The competition, billed as the “oldest continuous dart tourney in North America,” features seven events each in both the men's and women's divisions. Players will vie for \$10,000 in total prize money.

On the eve of the competition, Sept. 8, there will be a 50th birthday party for the bar, which opened on that date in 1972. (The first dart tourney was in 1973.)

Part of the lore of the lounge is how darts got its start there, a tale that chief barkeep and bottle-washer Joe Edwards describes as “how I got conned into having darts at Blueberry Hill.”

Edwards said that a few days after opening the joint, Ed Schafer, an Associated Press reporter who lived in the neighborhood, came in and bought a beer.

Read more [here](#). Also shared by Lori Rose.

## **Remembering Joy Billington Doty**

**Dave Tomlin** - I never actually met Joy Billington Doty during the several months in 1970 when we both were working at the late great Washington Star, but without even knowing it she probably saved my infant newspaper career from crib death.

I was a dictationist hoping to break in as a reporter. Now and then the city desk sent me out to cover something, usually because it happened to break late in the day when there wasn't anybody else around.

One afternoon as happy hour approached, I was told to get myself ASAP to the stately old Shoreham Hotel for a cocktail party where President Nixon was supposed to make a quick appearance to coax corporate bigwigs to write big checks to the National

Symphony Orchestra. It was said to be a “woman’s page” story, but event sponsors said there were no girls allowed inside. Those were the days, right?

When I entered the softly lit, high ceilinged, oak paneled room, the first thing I spotted was the open bar, and next to it the equally open buffet featuring a tenderloin carvery flanked by gourmet cheeses and heaps of juicy shrimp and shellfish resting on crushed ice. I had never seen anything like it.

Slurping my first-ever single-malt scotches, I soon forgot why I was there and fell upon the buffet like the starving man I pretty much was back then. In minutes my hands and notebook were soaked with au jus, ice melt and other seepage and spillage. I failed to notice the president’s arrival until he was well into his spiel. What was he talking about? Fumbling with my glass and plate, I couldn’t find my pen. When I finally located it, I couldn’t get it to make legible marks on my sopping pad. By the time I had flipped to a dry page, Nixon’s pitch was over.

There were a few random questions as the president got ready to make his getaway. The last of them was why the Navy hadn’t yet demolished the ugly temporary office buildings thrown up during World War II on the Capitol mall. The president ad-libbed, “If they’re not gone by the Bicentennial, some admirals’ heads are going to roll.” I wrote that down and staggered out with the rest of the crowd.

Back in the newsroom, reeking of alcohol, I felt sure I was doomed. A sympathetic reporter asked to see my notes and I handed him my only steno page with any writing on it.

“This is pretty good,” he said. “If I were you, I’d write that up in three or four grafs and then cross your fingers that the society editor sent a writer anyway for the rest.”

The society editor had indeed. Joy Billington (not-yet-Doty as I recall) was there at an open door, taking sober notes on a dry pad. The next day’s paper had her story on the “woman’s page,” and my little brief ran in boldface on Page One.

Belated thanks, Joy. Rest in peace.

## On the demise of the broadcast wire

[Carl P. Leubsdorf](#) - Reading about the demise of AP’s radio wire brought back memories of my early days in the New Orleans bureau, when my assignment was Day Radio. My shift ran 5:30-2 (until someone realize that meant I got the overnight differential so it became 6:30-3). My job was to rewrite all of our Louisiana and Mississippi state wire stories for the local radio splits, inserted into the national wire at the bottom of the hour. They were written so local radio stations could just “rip and read” them, which was exactly what happened on smaller stations. It was sort of boring and, in the interest of livening things up, I wondered what might happen if I wrote a couple of tongue twisters into the copy. I recall trying it once or twice, then listening as an announcer stumbled over my words.

Maybe I shouldn’t reveal that, even 60 years later. I guess I’ll hear about that on my next review.

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**Jim Carrier** - I was a writer-reader for WICC Bridgeport in 1971 when Connecticut COB John Armstrong called to offer the state broadcast editor's job in New Haven.

Right out of college, with a BA in Psychology, I had learned to write at WICC under the brutal red pen of news director Steve Young. Every day he would read one of the major newscasts written by one of us five staffers and mark it up. Mine looked like they were bleeding, and I would drive home to Norwalk crying. He instructed me to study Theodore Bernstein's "The Careful Writer." I did every night. Then I'd drive back to the station the next morning to face the slaughter again. Gradually I fell in love with words, the importance of aural rhythm, and the craft of storytelling. I often imagined that I was writing for some garage mechanic in New Jersey flat on his back working under a car and listening to the radio. I wanted to catch his ear with that first sentence and keep him listening.

What caught AP's eye was my byline in the New York Daily News from Fairfield County where I'd begun to freelance pieces. Steve eventually left for CBS and CNN, and I was still dreaming of joining CBS in New York, but countless applications to stations in the Big Apple had gone nowhere. So, after 5 years in radio, I thought I'd give the wire service a try.

The New Haven bureau was packed in a room at the Journal-Courier. We typed on paper, handed it to an editor, then to an operator who punched the piece onto a tape which fed the wire. Those guys caught many mistakes.

We were one of the first bureaus to get the new freezer-sized computers and CRTs. I still remember the trepidation of typing splits and sending them without any editing directly to broadcast stations throughout the state.

Those years of writing for ear were my foundation, and I still judge writing by how it sounds. If it flows, without running out of breath, or tripping over word knots, with one thought logically leading to the next, it's usually pretty good.

## More on invasion of Grenada

**Dan Sewell** - Re Grenada, sounds like Bruce Handler had a fascinating visit while meeting Grenada's first prime minister and the ill-fated Maurice Bishop.

The original, Sir Eric Gairy, used much of his United Nations introductory speech to call for more UFO research.

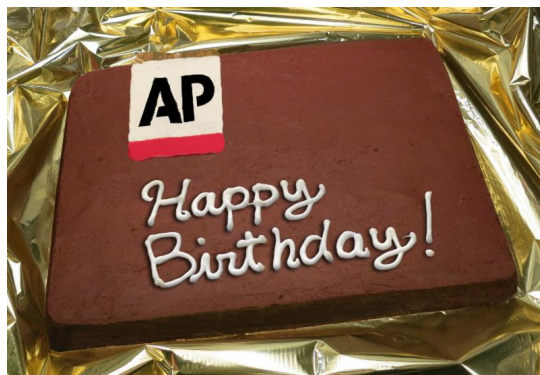
After the U.S.-led invasion following Bishop's execution by hard-liners, Gairy returned from exile for 1984 elections.

His party was routed by the U.S.-backed party.

Gairy blamed the CIA, saying the ballots were chemically treated so that votes for his party automatically changed to the opposition.

Surprised Rudy Giuliani hasn't used that one yet!

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Skip Foreman](#)

*On Sunday to...*

[Jay Reeves](#)

[Kendal Weaver](#)

## Stories of interest

*CNN cancels 'Reliable Sources,' host Stelter leaving network* (AP)





FILE - Brian Stelter attends the 15th annual CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute in New York on Dec. 12, 2021. CNN says it has canceled its weekly program on the media, 'Reliable Sources,' and host Brian Stelter will be leaving the network. The show, which predated Stelter's arrival from The New York Times, will have its last telecast on Sunday. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN has canceled its weekly “Reliable Sources” show on the media after three decades on the air, and said Thursday that its host, Brian Stelter, is leaving the network.

The show will have its last broadcast this Sunday.

“Reliable Sources,” and its host, appear to be the first prominent casualties in CNN’s effort to become less confrontational politically, a priority of Chris Licht, who became the network’s chairman and CEO in the spring, and his boss, David Zaslav, head of the Warner Bros. Discovery parent company.

Stelter has written a book, “Hoax: Donald Trump, Fox News and the Dangerous Distortion of Truth” and been critical of Fox News, making him a frequent target of CNN’s conservative critics.

Licht has made it known internally that he’s not interested in conflict between CNN and Fox News on the network. The CNN “New Day” anchor Brianna Keilar had also attracted attention for detailed critical pieces on Fox, but they have stopped since Licht took over.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a Poynter analysis by Tom Jones on Stelter's departure.

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## ***NBC News' Richard Engel says his 6-year-old son, Henry, has died*** (Today)

By Chrissy Callahan

NBC News Chief Foreign Correspondent Richard Engel announced Thursday that his son Henry, 6, has died.

"Our beloved son Henry passed away. He had the softest blue eyes, an easy smile and a contagious giggle. We always surrounded him with love and he returned it, and so much more. Mary and Richard," Engel wrote on Twitter.

The TODAY regular shared a link to a memorial page on the Texas Children's Hospital website, which offered more details on Henry's life and his battle with Rett syndrome, a genetic brain disorder without a treatment or cure.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Rett syndrome can cause loss of use of the hands, problems with walking, seizures, slowed brain and head growth and intellectual disability.



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

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## ***HOW TO KILL A NEWSPAPER*** (The Atlantic)

By Andrew Travers

Here in Aspen, the air is thin, the snow is perfect, and money is everywhere. This is a singular American town in many respects. Among them is this: Aspen had, until very recently, two legitimate daily newspapers, The Aspen Times and the Aspen Daily News. At a moment when local newspapers face manifold threats to their existence and more and more American cities become news deserts, Aspen was the opposite: a news geyser. The town's corps of reporters covers small-town tropes like high-school musicals and the Fourth of July parade. But Aspen's journalists are also the watchdogs and chroniclers of one of the richest towns in America and a site of extreme economic inequality, the exemplar of the phenomenon that academics call "super-gentrification," where—as the locals often say—"the billionaires are forcing out the millionaires."

I joined The Aspen Times as an editor in 2014, after a seven-year tenure at the Aspen Daily News. The Times has published since 1881, when Aspen was a silver-mining boomtown, through its postwar rebirth as a ski resort, and now as the home of ideas festivals, wine festivals, \$50 entrees, and an awe-inspiring collection of private jets, many owned by billionaires deeply concerned about climate change. The paper, which was based for much of its history in a purple-painted building between a drugstore and the Hotel Jerome, developed a reputation for shoe-leather reporting and accountability journalism.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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## ***Op-Ed: How fighting over grammar can help fix a divided America*** (Los Angeles Times)

BY ELLEN JOVIN

Four years ago I decided I needed to host a pop-up grammar-advice stand. The plan was simple: I'd sit on the streets of New York City and help people with their questions. I ordered a folding table, drew a "Grammar Table" sign and waited for the weather to cool. On a September day I walked to a small park near my apartment building, propped up my sign, and began answering questions from passersby.

The idea was natural to me because I'm a lifelong professional grammar nerd. I've taught grammar and writing for years, written and edited professionally, and studied more than 25 languages for fun. Behind me, during Zoom calls, are shelves of grammar books alphabetized from Albanian to Zulu. Some may think it is a total conversation killer but trust me when I tell you that people love talking about grammar — and fighting about it, too.

That fall day, it took about 30 seconds before I got my first question and the inquiries continued from there. People wanted to oust their spouses' errant apostrophes, cram commas into underpunctuated clauses ("Oxford comma or bust!"), raze past tense forms used as past participles ("I should have ran, ugh!") and more.

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

## **Today in History – Aug. 19, 2022**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 19, the 231st day of 2022. There are 134 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 19, 1960, a tribunal in Moscow convicted American U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers of espionage. (Although sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, Powers was returned to the United States in 1962 as part of a prisoner exchange.)

### On this date:

In A.D. 14, Caesar Augustus, Rome's first emperor, died at age 76 after a reign lasting four decades; he was succeeded by his stepson Tiberius.

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat arrived in Albany, two days after leaving New York.

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces landed at Benedict, Maryland, with the objective of capturing Washington D.C.

In 1848, the New York Herald reported the discovery of gold in California.

In 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

In 1942, during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France, suffering more than 50-percent casualties.

In 1955, torrential rains caused by Hurricane Diane resulted in severe flooding in the northeastern U.S., claiming some 200 lives.

In 1980, 301 people aboard a Saudi Arabian L-1011 died as the jetliner made a fiery emergency return to the Riyadh airport.

In 1987, a gun collector ran through Hungerford, England, 60 miles west of London, killing 16 people, including his mother, before turning his gun on himself.

In 2010, the last American combat brigade exited Iraq, seven years and five months after the U.S.-led invasion began.

In 2020, Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president in a speech to the party's virtual convention, cementing her place in history as the first Black woman on a major party ticket. Apple became the first U.S. company to boast a market value of \$2 trillion, just two years after becoming the first U.S. company with a \$1 trillion market value.

Ten years ago: Missouri Congressman Todd Akin, the conservative Republican U.S. Senate candidate, said in an interview on KTVI-TV in St. Louis that it was "really rare" for women to become pregnant when they were raped. (Akin afterwards backed off his on-air comments, saying that he'd misspoken; Akin lost the November election to Democratic incumbent Claire McCaskill.) Tony Scott, 68, director of such Hollywood hits as "Top Gun," and "Days of Thunder," died in Los Angeles after jumping from a suspension bridge.

Five years ago: Thousands of demonstrators chanting anti-Nazi slogans and denouncing white nationalism upstaged a small group of conservatives in Boston who had gathered for a "free speech rally." In Dallas, police on horseback broke up a scuffle at a cemetery between people rallying against white supremacy and supporters of Confederate monuments. Duke University removed a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee after it was vandalized. Comedian and activist Dick Gregory, who broke racial barriers in the 1960s and later spread messages of social justice and nutritional health, died in Washington, D.C., at the age of 84.

One year ago: As the Taliban moved to consolidate their rule less than a week after seizing power in Afghanistan, they violently dispersed scattered protests for a second day. At Kabul's airport, military evacuation flights continued for Americans and others seeking to leave, but access to the airport remained difficult. A standoff in Texas over new voting restrictions that gridlocked the state Capitol for 38 consecutive days ended when some Democrats who fled to Washington dropped their holdout, paving the way for Republicans to resume pushing an elections overhaul. (The overhaul would win legislative approval on Aug. 31.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Debra Paget is 89. USTA Eastern Tennis Hall of Famer Renee Richards is 88. Former MLB All-Star Bobby Richardson is 87. Actor Diana Muldaur is 84. Actor Jill St. John is 82. Singer Billy J. Kramer is 79. Country singer-songwriter Eddy Raven is 78. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) is 77. Former President Bill Clinton is 76. Actor Gerald McRaney is 75. Actor Jim Carter is 74. Pop singer-musician Elliot Lurie (Looking Glass) is 74. Rock musician John Deacon (Queen) is 71. Bluegrass musician Marc Pruett (Balsam Range) is 71. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 70. Political consultant Mary Matalin is 69. Actor Peter Gallagher is 67. Actor Adam Arkin is 66. Singer-songwriter Gary Chapman is 65. Actor Martin Donovan is 65. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Anthony Munoz is 64. R&B singer Ivan Neville is 63. Actor Eric Lutes is 60.

Actor John Stamos is 59. Actor Kyra Sedgwick is 57. Actor Kevin Dillon is 57. Country singer Lee Ann Womack is 56. TV reporter Tabitha Soren is 55. Country singer-songwriter Mark McGuinn is 54. Actor Matthew Perry is 53. Country singer Clay Walker is 53. Rapper Fat Joe is 52. Olympic gold medal tennis player Mary Joe Fernandez is 51. Actor Tracie Thoms is 47. Actor Callum Blue is 45. Country singer Rissi (REE'-see) Palmer is 41. Actor Erika Christensen is 40. Actor Melissa Fumero is 40. Pop singer Missy Higgins is 39. Actor Peter Mooney is 39. Actor Tammin Sursok is 39. Olympic silver medal snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis (jay-kuh-BEHL'-ihs) is 37. Actor J. Evan Bonifant is 37. Rapper Romeo is 33. Actor Ethan Cutkosky is 23.

## 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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