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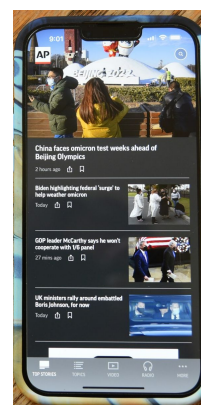
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Connecting

Sept. 1, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Sept. 1, 2022:

No, The Associated Press is not for sale. Connecting's inbox blew up this week after this graph was published in The New York Times' story on The Washington Post's business struggles:

"The Post's executives have had extensive internal talks about whether to buy other major news organizations, according to five people familiar with the matter. The outlets discussed have included The Associated Press, The Economist and The Guardian, some of the people said. The Strategic Review Team noted in a multipage memo that an acquisition might make sense to expand The Post's audience internationally, where it is not as well known."

"As a not-for-profit news cooperative, The Associated Press cannot be bought or sold," Lauren Easton, vice president of AP Corporate Communications, told Connecting. "This has been AP's structure since its founding in 1846, and keeps us free

from even perceived financial influence. We believe it is the best structure for an independent news organization."

Today's Connecting also includes colleagues' remembrances of their encounters with Mikhail Gorbachev, who died Tuesday, and coverage of Princess Diana's death in a car crash 25 years ago Wednesday.

Be well,

Peg

Meeting Mikhail



Charlie Hanley – It was April 2009. Mikhail Gorbachev, long out of power, was relaxed, sitting beneath the gorgeous murals of Raphael's 16th-century Villa Madama in Rome, having participated in an Italian government-sponsored conference on nuclear disarmament.

Yours truly turned the interview to a quirky subject the ex-Soviet president brought up in a panel discussion: Let's denuclearize the world, but let's keep a few nuclear bombs to deflect incoming asteroids threatening the Earth.

In my question, Gorby saw an opening.

"Do you know who first talked to me about outer space?" he asked through longtime interpreter Pavel Palazhchenko.

"Umm, no."

"President Reagan," he explained. "It was at the Geneva Summit (1985). We were walking together and he suddenly turned to me: 'General Secretary Gorbachev, if the United States were invaded by space aliens, would the Soviet Union come to our aid?'"

Pavel and his mischievous boss went silent, watching for this American's reaction. My jaw, I'm sure, was slowly dropping.

"I told him, 'Of course'," Gorby said.

"And then naturally I had to ask, 'And, Mr. President, if the Soviet Union is invaded by space aliens, would the United States come to our aid,' and he said, 'Of course.'"

You could take the boy out of Hollywood, it seems, but you could never take Hollywood out of the boy.



[Dan Perry](#) - When I met Mikhail Gorbachec 13 years ago, as AP's Europe-Africa editor visiting the bureau in Moscow, I was struck by the fact that this titanic figure who lowered the curtain on the communist experiment – with the dreams, illogic and cruelty that attached to it – was afraid of Valimdir Putin. He criticized Putin's fake "United Russia" party, but avoided my eyes when talking about the Russian leader himself. All I could think of was this: Sic Transit Gloria Mundi.

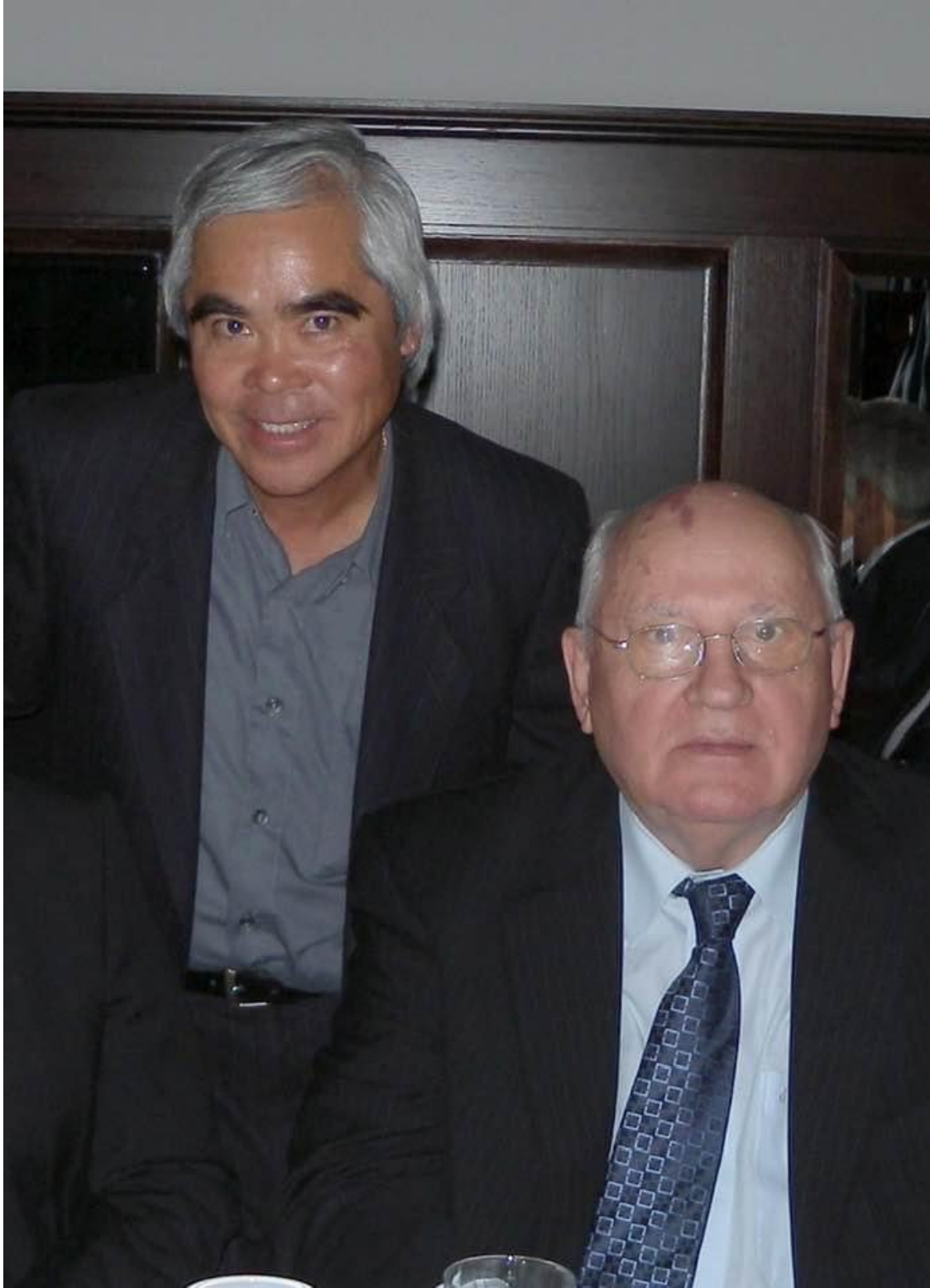
It was a grand experience. The AP staff taught me how to say "happy birthday" in Russian and he bought my accent and thus assaulted me in jackhammer Russian, and it was only after a translator materialized that I could understand his thoughts: He never thought openness (Glasnost) would bring down the Soviet Union. He also asked if I could organize commercial gigs.

RIP a great man, a titan of the 20th century. Meeting such people is a privilege of AP journalism..

Here's my take on it yesterday on TV, and here's a reminiscence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWJhmwznMZM>

<https://dan-perry.medium.com/a-surreal-encounter-with-mikhail-gorbachev-293db06c4faf>



Nick Ut with Mikhail Gorbachev at a Berlin, Germany, film festival dinner.



Mourners file past the tributes left in memory of Diana Princess of Wales at Kensington Palace in London, Friday, Sept. 5, 1997. It was a warm Saturday evening and journalists had gathered at a Paris restaurant to enjoy the last weekend of summer. At sometime past midnight, phones around the table began to ring all at once. News desks were contacting reporters and photographers to alert them that Princess Diana's car had crashed in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris. That's how the news unfolded in the early hours of Aug. 31, 1997. (AP Photo/David Brauchli, File)

A moment in time: AP journalists remember Diana's death

By DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It was a warm Saturday evening and a group of journalists had gathered at a Paris restaurant to enjoy the last weekend of summer. At sometime past midnight, phones around the table began to ring — seemingly all at once — as news desks contacted reporters and photographers to alert them that Princess Diana's car had crashed in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel.

Here's how the news of Diana's death unfolded in the early hours of Aug. 31, 1997, and the days that followed as told by journalists who covered the story for The Associated Press.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting RX

Mark Mittelstadt - This medical report for the Connecting injury ward is being typed with one hand. My other one is immobilized in an arm sling following rotator cuff surgery three weeks ago.

The need to re-attach tendons in my left shoulder was not due to a fall or other injury; just 68 years of wear and tear in the connection that keeps the arm attached to the shoulder. "As we get older..." my doctor in New Jersey used to say as he gave his diagnosis. (I hated that.)

Mild pain began to slightly limit movement in the arm during the spring of 2021. I chalked it up to arthritis. The pain worsened, but I ignored it during a busy year of travel to Iowa for high school reunions, seeing family and eventually moving my mother 60 miles to her hometown. An MRI in November revealed two torn tendons that needed to be repaired. With more travel planned this year, including a week in Orlando refereeing soccer at the Special Olympics USA Games, I delayed committing to three months of surgery and rehab. When it was finally done last month the operation revealed more damage, which took a bit longer to repair. The surgeon said it went well. In two weeks I'll begin what I've been told is eight weeks of painful physical therapy to regain use of the arm.

Growing old stinks. But, as the doctor said, the alternative is worse.

Remembering radio, tech trips

Nolan Kienitz - John Willis' comment about "radio" jogged my gray matter this morning about one of my many trips across the Lone Star State maintaining the teletypes at radio/TV/newspaper sites. In the early 1970s, I was assigned the North Central Texas region and based in Dallas.

One of my longest trips started in Taylor, Texas, (northeast of Austin) where I was doing routine maintenance at a member's site. I was paged (no cell phones back then) to call the Dallas Bureau. Talked with Herman Ebrom (one of the Dallas Bureau ACOCs) who said I needed to head out to the radio station in Perryton, Texas, to repair a "stopped" M15 printer. Turns out the "stopped" M15 was due to a frozen clutch on the main-shaft. Thus it was truly "stopped".

Mind you that Perryton is NOT in the North Central Texas region, but the Lubbock-based technician was on vacation and I was the designated back-up for West Texas and the Panhandle. I started out at 2 p.m. and finally got to Perryton and repaired the M15 near 11 p.m. Roughly an eight-hour trip for a bit over 500 miles.

The radio station was very pleased to have the AP M15 working again. The next issue came about as the station owner/manager asked where I was going to spend the night, and I said I was headed for the closest motel. He quickly mentioned that would be impossible due to all the oil exploration underway in the Texas Panhandle, and virtually everything was booked from Lubbock to Amarillo and beyond.

He started calling around to help me out and found a room at a motel in Liberal, Kansas. I thanked him and headed north to Kansas and got checked in for a few hours of sleep. I called the Dallas Bureau and talked with the overnight Automatic Operator to let them know where I was for the night. What the "heck" was I doing in Kansas? I shared my adventure, and we all got a good laugh.

Bottom line was that the member was pleased and (hopefully) renewed his contract for another cycle.

Only one of so many long-distance trips across Texas.

Connecting series:

More of your stories about getting the call to jury duty



[Malcolm Barr Sr.](#) - Regarding jury duty and Bob Daugherty's experience (non-experience) in Virginia's Fairfax County. I had a similar happening in Fairfax but was told by a court employee with a nudge and a wink: "We don't seat jurors who are 'fourth estate.'" I wish I'd been there to see Bob in a shirt and tie get up. Never happened as I recall when we worked the same shift in Washington!

-0-

[Hal Bock](#) - I have been summoned a couple of times and seated on a jury once. In questioning of the jurors, I was foolish enough to identify myself as a sportswriter. I had a friend who would say he sold dental supplies to cut off any unwanted airlines conversation.

The lawyers were exchanging motions when one of them requested a sidebar. The two lawyers met with the judge and then summoned me to the bench.

What did I do wrong? I thought. I was sitting there, waiting for the case to begin, and now the judge and the lawyers wanted to see me?

I walked up, and the judge looked at me and said, "Mr. Bock, what did you think of Michael Jordan scoring 55 at the Garden last night?"

I'm glad I wasn't the defendant.

-0-

Joe Bonney - About 40 years ago New Orleans News Editor Kent Prince and I were surprised to find ourselves in the same jury pool. Both of us were selected for criminal trials. Kent can't recall many details of his case, but mine was unforgettable.

Two tourists had entered one of the city's most dangerous public housing projects at 2 a.m. and never came out alive. The defendant was charged with two counts of second-degree murder. As the trial neared the end of its third day, acquittal seemed likely. There seemed to be reasonable doubt -- until the defense lawyer put the client on the stand. Within minutes the defendant had convicted himself. Our jury's vote was unanimous on the first ballot. After taking a few minutes to make sure everyone was comfortable with the verdict, we returned to the courtroom. Then the real excitement began.

When the judge read the guilty verdict, the defendant's supporters went berserk -- yelling, screaming and slinging heavy oak chairs around the room. The lone bailiff was overmatched. Reinforcements were called in, and soon more than a dozen sheriff's deputies and spectators were wrestling on the courtroom floor as we jurors watched from ringside. The lawyers tried to make themselves invisible.

Deputies finally muscled the rowdy spectators toward the door. Their progress was interrupted when one of the defendant's supporters spread-eagled herself across the doorway, momentarily blocking the exit. The fed-up deputies shoved her through the doorway, knocking her over and sending everyone down into a dogpile.

Then we heard a sharp "boom!" like a gunshot. One of the hell-raisers had kicked out a panel of the courtroom door, sending the noise echoing through the high-ceilinged marble corridor.

When the ruckus ended, the judge sat quietly for a moment, then apologized for the disruption, thanked us for our service, and directed the deputies to escort us to our cars. I wondered how he could maintain such equanimity. It may have had something to do with his unusual first name, and that he was a man who'd gone through life being called Shirley.

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Dennis Ferraro - Over the years I have been called more times than I can remember and served my time at the Bronx County Courthouse ... a hardball throw from Yankee Stadium. ...

One case was straight out of "just how stupid are you?"

Four individuals were sitting in a car that was partially parked at a bus stop. Two approaching officers were going to have them just move the car when they noticed open bottles of beer, a misdemeanor in New York. The officers asked them to exit the vehicle at which time the driver let a handgun slip to the street and tried to kick it under the car.

Needless to say they were arrested. During booking, none of them claimed ownership of the car. A DMV check proved that the driver did own the car. The car was impounded and inspected. It was then that a kilo of cocaine was discovered in the trunk.

What started out a simple parking violation turned into a major drug bust.

Yes, we voted to indict.

Lesson learned if you have drugs in your trunk park in a legal spot.

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Jeff Rowe - I've been a juror five times -- four criminal cases and one civil case. All were very interesting and gave me windows into people's lives and their interactions with institutions that I otherwise never would have experienced.

I don't recall the lawyers asking many questions about journalism, but I do remember all of my bosses grumbling about my time away from something they thought I should have figured out a way to evade.

From the first case, I noticed that the lawyers seemed to accept jurors faster and with fewer questions if they had multiple prior jury services. Later, a couple of lawyers told me that their reasoning in accepting jurors with prior service is that those jurors essentially already had been vetted by the legal process.

The importance of that was ratified in my first case -- when we got to the jury room to deliberate, one of the 12 said he thought the laws governing drunken driving and assault were bad. No amount of cajoling and reminding him that he had taken an oath to uphold the laws as written changed his mind. Late in the second day of deliberations the rest of us hit on a solution: Would the rebel juror agree to a guilty verdict on one charge if we acquitted on the other? (We had been 11-1 to convict on both.)

Rebel juror agreed, but what we thought was a brilliant agreement unraveled when the defendant's lawyer demanded a poll of the jurors. Rebel juror said it was not his verdict.

The judge banged his gavel and declared a mistrial.

Journalists are competitive by nature, i think, and by my fifth case, I was starting to think "what's the record for jury services?"

The champion in all the cases where i served had worked seven cases. Two more, and I will move into a tie with him.

-0-

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Jury duty seemed to avoid me in my years at the AP. Every time I got a summons it was the week before I was scheduled to move to my next post. Depending on how you look at it I was either very lucky or deprived of my civic duty!

Stories of interest

After weeks of silence, Gannett reveals it laid off 400 and cut 400 open positions

By ANGELA FU
Poynter

Gannett CEO Mike Reed told staff in a companywide Q&A session Wednesday that Gannett laid off 3% of its U.S. workforce, or roughly 400 employees, in August, according to three people who attended the meeting.

The announcement comes more than two weeks after Gannett, the nation's largest newspaper chain with more than 200 papers, executed a round of layoffs starting Aug. 12. Though employees and reporters had repeatedly asked Gannett for information about the scope of the layoffs, the company declined to provide that information until now.

CFO Doug Horne, who was also present at the meeting, told staff that in addition to the layoffs, Gannett would not fill 400 open positions. Executives said the company slashed its marketing budget and made other non-payroll cost reductions, according to two people at the meeting. Gannett also reduced its executive team from 10 members to seven as part of a restructuring announced in June.

Read more [here](#).

Survey finds young people follow news, but without much joy

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Young people are following the news but aren't too happy with what they're seeing.

Broadly speaking, that's the conclusion of a study released Wednesday showing 79% of young Americans say they get news daily. The survey of young people ages 16 to 40 — the older of which are known as millennials and the younger Generation Z — was conducted by Media Insight Project, a collaboration between The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute.

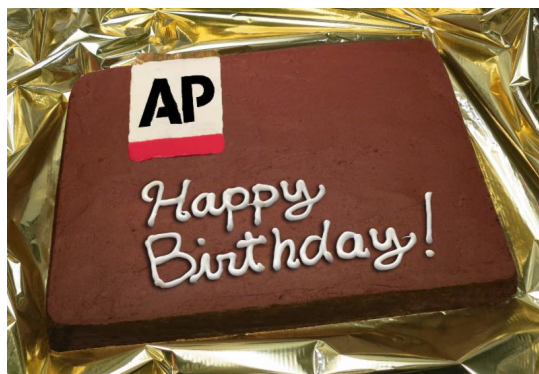
The report pokes holes in the idea that young people aren't interested in news, a perception largely driven by statistics showing older audiences for television news and newspapers.

"They are more engaged in more ways than people give them credit for," said Michael Bolden, CEO and executive director of the American Press Institute.

Read more [here](#).

Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[John Hanna](#)

[Bill Chevalier](#)

[Don Ryan](#)

Today in History – Sept. 1, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 1, the 244th day of 2022. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 1, 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

On this date:

In 1715, following a reign of 72 years, King Louis XIV of France died four days before his 77th birthday.

In 1897, the first section of Boston's new subway system was opened.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

In 1942, U.S. District Court Judge Martin I. Welsh, ruling from Sacramento, California, on a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Fred Korematsu, upheld the wartime detention of Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese nationals.

In 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was Sept. 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik (RAY'-kyuh-vik), Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of Game 21. An arson fire at the Blue Bird Cafe in Montreal, Canada, claimed 37 lives.

In 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off Newfoundland.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued a "desperate SOS" as his city descended into anarchy amid the flooding left by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2009, Vermont's law allowing same-sex marriage went into effect.

In 2015, invoking "God's authority," Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis denied marriage licenses to gay couples again in direct defiance of the federal courts, and vowed not to resign, even under the pressure of steep fines or jail. (Davis would spend five days in jail; she was released only after her staff issued the licenses on her behalf but removed her name from the form.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama ridiculed the just-completed Republican National Convention as better-suited to an era of black-and-white TV and "trickle-down, you're on your own" economics, and declared that Mitt Romney "did not offer

a single new idea” for fixing the economy. Lyricist Hal David, 91, who teamed with Burt Bacharach on dozens of timeless songs for movies, television and a variety of recording artists in the 1960s and beyond, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: A line of cars stretched more than a mile at a water distribution center set up on a high school football field in Beaumont, Texas, which had been left without drinking water by flooding from Hurricane Harvey. The mayor of Houston announced that ongoing releases of water from two swollen reservoirs could keep thousands of homes flooded for up to 15 days. Comedian Shelley Berman died at his California home at the age of 92.

One year ago: Relentless rain from the remnants of Hurricane Ida sent the New York City area into a state of emergency, as water poured into homes and subway stations and left vehicles nearly submerged on major roadways, the storm would leave nearly 50 people dead in six Eastern states. Three days after Ida battered Louisiana and parts of Mississippi as the fifth-most-powerful hurricane to strike the U.S., about a million homes and businesses still had no electricity, and hundreds of thousands of people lacked running water. Three suburban Denver police officers and two paramedics were indicted on manslaughter and other charges in the 2019 death of Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old Black man who was put into a chokehold and injected with a powerful sedative in a fatal encounter that provoked national outcry. President Joe Biden played host to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office, and sought to reassure him that the U.S. remained squarely behind the Eastern European nation.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor George Maharis is 94. Conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY’-jee oh-ZAH’-wah) is 87. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 84. Comedian-actor Lily Tomlin is 83. Actor Don Stroud is 79. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 78. Singer Archie Bell is 78. Singer Barry Gibb is 76. Rock musician Greg Errico is 74. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 72. Singer Gloria Estefan is 65. Jazz musician Boney James is 61. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 59. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 58. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is 56. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 51. Actor Maury Sterling is 51. Rock singer JD Fortune is 49. Actor Scott Speedman is 47. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol Annies) is 46. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 41. Actor Zoe Lister-Jones is 40. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 38. Actor Aisling (ASH’-ling) Loftus is 32.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

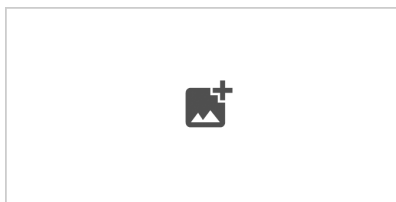
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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