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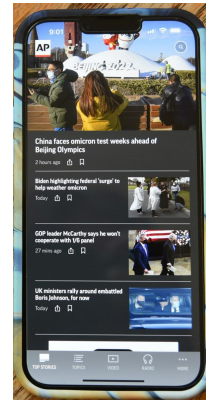
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Connecting

Sept. 29, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Sept. 29, 2022,

The Poynter story in Wednesday's Connecting on how major news organizations handle obituary preparedness stories on prominent people prompts Ye Olde Connecting Editor to ask that you share your experiences in this area.

In the Poynter story, AP's **Hillel Italie**, a colleague who oversees the Associated Press' entertainment obituaries, said the number of preparedness stories is around 300 to 400. Sometimes, it's just "common sense" who gets one, he said, naming actor Sidney Poitier as an example. People with known health problems, like singer Olivia Newton-John, are also obvious candidates.

Our colleague **Francesca Pitaro** dipped into the Corporate Archives for a story on the AP's biographical sketch service that began in 1914 and continued at least through 1984. It's our lead story today.

HEALING THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS are with our colleague **Claudia DiMartino**, who is back in New York Presbyterian Hospital so doctors can work on some kidney and dialysis problems. Claudia had a lung transplant some 7 and a half years ago. If you want to reach out, her email – cdgogirl@aol.com

At least two of our colleagues are impacted by Hurricane Ian's landfall along Florida's Gulf Coast on Wednesday.

Jo Steck - So I'm sitting here in the dark - first hurricane - windows boarded, watching TWC's coverage of Ian making landfall and wondering what really is the purpose of Jim Cantore's standing amidst flying debris and 110-mph winds. Yes, it illustrates the magnitude of the storm, but OK, you've done it. Cut! Instead, he's risking life and limb and for what? To be that guy? Just wondering. What say you all. Cover the story or be the story?

Adolphe Bernotas - We are safe, hunkering with relatives in North Port; our house probably will not survive. Harbor Isles will become Harbor Piles.

You have a storm story to tell? Please send it along.

CALIFORNIA AP REUNION LUNCH: About 20 AP retirees are planning a get-together lunch on Friday, Oct. 7, in San Francisco. Location: the Delancy street restaurant at the foot of the Bay Bridge in San Francisco — 600 The Embarcadero. One of the organizers, colleague **Chuck McFadden**, said that with that many old-timers on hand, the air will be thick with war stories and memories. If you would like more information or plan to attend, drop Chuck a note at - cardinals54@comcast.net

CONNECTING AUTHORS: The time nears for Connecting's annual presentation of books authored by its colleagues in the past 12 months. This gives you the reader a headstart on holiday book buying, for one. So if you have written a book that was published in the past year, send me the following: 300 to 400-word synopsis of the book, jpg image of the book cover and jpg closeup image of you the author.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP biographical sketches: A forerunner of today's preparedness obituaries

No. 186 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS No. 186 BIOGRAPHICAL FEATURE SERVICE

(Sketch 2242) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Sketch 2242)
(Issued May 1, 1934)
LUDWIG VON REUTER . . . German Admiral . . . Born Feb. 9, 1869
EDITORS: The following biographical sketch of Ludwig von Reuter is for use **PRIMARILY IN EVENT OF HIS DEATH**. The material, but not the actual text, may be used in connection with current news events.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Ludwig von Reuter, a doughty old seadog of the Imperial German navy, was the man who ordered the scuttling of the German fleet just as it was being surrounded to the British on June 21, 1919.



LUDWIG VON REUTER

Blasting his action upon an order of Kaiser Wilhelm, issued in 1914 at the start of the world war, that no German ship must be allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy, von Reuter, then a rear admiral, ordered the battle flags run up and the sea valves opened. As the ships settled, the crews took to the boats, and some of the British vessels, their commanders infuriated by the coup, fired on them, 34 Germans being killed or wounded.

The British tried to get lines aboard the German ships and tow them to safety, but they succeeded only the battleship Baden, three light cruisers and 18 torpedo boats. All the others went down with flags flying, 11 ships of the line, five battle cruisers, eight small cruisers, 56 torpedo boats and a number of auxiliary craft. Years later some of them were raised, rusted hulks of little value even as scrap.

Von Reuter was arrested, charged with violating the terms imposed by the armistice, and sent to Park Hill prison camp to await trial. But resentment against him died down, the charges were not pressed and he was released. He returned to Germany, was raised to the rank of vice admiral and retired seven months later.

That retirement marked the end of 45 years of almost continuous sea duty. Born at Guben, Germany, February 9, 1869, von Reuter began his service as a cadet in the imperial German marine service. His first command was the station yacht *Lorelei* at what then was Constantinople and now is Istanbul. In 1906 he was called to Berlin and attached to the naval ministry for four years.

In 1908 he was assigned as commander of the battle cruiser *York*, and in 1912 was given the bridge on the larger *Derfflinger* of the same category. His two sons, born within these years, were named for the ships their father commanded.

In the world war he had command of two important scouting groups in the North Sea and participated in three major operations. On December 18, 1914, he led his squadron to the British coast and shelled Scarborough and Whitby. He also took part in the fight at Doggerbank January 24, 1915, which the British claimed as a victory, and in the historic battle of Jutland on May 21 and June 1, 1916, wherein British command of the seas received a set.

He had reached the rank of rear admiral when the war ended and was designated to deliver the high seas fleet to the victorious allies. The armistice terms called for the surrender, too, of all German submarines and their crews.

(Sketch 2244) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Sketch 2244)
(Issued May 1, 1934)
V. S. McCLATCHY . . . Publisher-Publicist . . . Born Aug. 29, 1857
EDITORS: The following biographical sketch of Valentine Stuart McClatchy is for use **PRIMARILY IN EVENT OF HIS DEATH**. The material, but not the actual text, may be used in connection with current news events.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

When Valentine Stuart McClatchy toured Japan and Korea in 1919, two Japanese in civilian attire followed him everywhere and American newspaper correspondents in Tokyo afterward told him the men were government agents assigned to spy upon his activities.

There was a reason. Of all California's newspaper-making McClatchys, "V. S." was outstanding because of his long campaign for exclusion from the United States of Japanese immigrants.

Over the opposition of commercial interests seeking cheap labor, McClatchy sided "a coolie population."

McClatchy's fear was that Japanese farmers and field laborers, with a lower standard of living and a higher birth rate than Americans, would crowd out the native stock and ultimately destroy the American population of the west. He showed, on paper, that without the immigration restrictions he sought, the Japanese population in America would in approximately a century reach 100,000,000.

From the time he retired from active newspaper work in 1922, McClatchy devoted much of his time and energy to this campaign. He made speeches, testified before congressional committees, and wrote voluminously. Immigration committee against any relaxation of the immigration laws, acting as the committee's executive secretary from 1922 on.

McClatchy was the eldest son of James McClatchy, Irish of Scotch ancestry, a California pioneer who in 1849 walked from the southern end of Lower California into San Diego after his ship was disabled. The older McClatchy was the first editor and later part owner of the *Sacramento Bee*, founded in 1857, and served as sheriff of Sacramento County. He married Charlotte McCormack, who was born of Irish parentage in Prince Edward Island, "V. S." their first son, was born in Sacramento August 29, 1857.

With Charles K., his younger brother, "V. S." was thrown into the newspaper business by their father's death in 1883. With "C. K." as editor and "V. S." as publisher they obtained sole ownership and jointly published the *Bee* for 46 years. Disagreements on policy finally dissolved the long partnership in 1923, "V. S." selling out to his brother.

McClatchy was married at Oakland in 1881 to Miss Adeline Haniffa. They had eight children: Edna (Mrs. J. Everett Johnson), Harold J., James V., Valentine (Mrs. Ina Woodhouse), Ralph L., Claire, Leo A., and Marion (Mrs. Butler Jack).

—End Condensed Sketch—

(Sketch 2245) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Sketch 2245)
(Issued May 1, 1934)
JAMES R. LORD . . . Labor Leader . . . Born Jan. 30, 1877
EDITORS: The following biographical sketch of James R. Lord is for use **PRIMARILY IN EVENT OF HIS DEATH**. The material, but not the actual text, may be used in connection with current news events.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Although several times elevated to high places in the councils of American organized labor, James R. Lord always regarded himself as basically a digger of coal. His career reflected the viewpoint of the pickman and the driller to the mine.

At one time he was regarded as the right hand man of the late Samuel Gompers. For ten years, 1913-23, he was a vice-president of the American Federation of Labor and head of its mining department. For five years thereafter he was an officer of the Pan-American Federation of Labor with duties that took him to Mexico and Central America. Then his fortunes ebbed and he went "back to the mines."

Partly through circumstance but chiefly because that was what he wanted to do, Lord went to work in a coal mine when he was only 8. No family necessity was responsible for this. He could have continued his schooling if he wished.

But he preferred to work by his father's side in the mine near Farmington, Illinois, where the family made its home after emigration from England, where Lord was born at Leeds on January 30, 1877. Once he had won his father's permission to go to work in the mine by promising to study his reader and arithmetic, at night, Lord's academic training was fragmentary. In later years, however, his speech and bearing were those of a well-educated man.

After a number of years as a miner, he took an interest in education and in the Rochdale plan of cooperative stores for mine workers. This led in 1909 to the start of his long service within the ranks of labor—his decline as a number of the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America for district 12 in Illinois.

Four years later he was elected a vice president in the American Federation of Labor and also became president of its mining department, representing seven international unions. He held both of these offices until 1923, when a political impasse within the executive circles of the A. F. of L. led to the abolition of the mining branch.

Meanwhile, Lord had been chosen to represent the federation at the British trade union congress at Blackpool, England, in 1917 and at the International congress at London in the same year. An agglutinate of mining democracy with diplo- at London in the same year. An agglutinate of mining democracy with diplo- macy was of advantage to him at these meetings and again later in Mexico.

Lord was named chairman of labor missions sent to the southern republic in 1918 and again in 1920, but neither of these visits compared in importance to that he made to Mexico, D. F., in 1923 as a representative of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, of which he also was treasurer.

He met on a confidential footing virtually all of Mexico's most influential men—



V. S. McCLATCHY



JAMES R. LORD

NOTE TO EDITORS

EDITORS: These biographical sketches are for use **PRIMARILY IN THE EVENT OF DEATH**, at which time the texts may be published without further notice of release. If any prior use is made of this material in connection with news events in which the subjects may figure, the copy should be restored to members' files as it cannot be repeated.

(Sketch 2241) **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS** (Sketch 2241)
(Issued May 1, 1934)

JOSEPHUS DANIELS . . . Editor-Politician . . . Born May 18, 1862

EDITORS: The following biographical sketch of Josephus Daniels is for use **PRIMARILY IN EVENT OF HIS DEATH**. The material, but not the actual text, may be used in connection with current news events. It is a **SUBSTITUTE** for sketch 1071, which should be destroyed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Josephus Daniels had the distinction of holding high public office under the only three democratic presidents the nation had since the civil war.

He served as chief clerk of the interior department under the second Cleveland administration; was secretary of the navy during Woodrow Wilson's eight years in office, and under Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was his assistant in the Wilson regime, he entered the diplomatic service as ambassador to Mexico.

In addition to his full public life, which also included an active and forceful participation in the affairs of his state, Daniels' private life reflected a boundless energy. When not in the public service, he edited and managed at Raleigh, N. C., the News and Observer, a newspaper which brought him affluence. He wrote books and articles for syndicates and was active in the Methodist Episcopal church, South, having been a delegate to several of its conventions.

Daniels had an innate ability to make friends and to hold them. He also made enemies, who feared his pointed pen.

He was subjected to bitter criticism while he was secretary of the navy. Shortly after he took the post in 1912 he banished intoxicants from naval vessels, and later he established schools aboard ships for enlisted men.

Ridicule was widespread when he signed an order abolishing "port" and "starboard" as terms for "left" and "right" aboard navy ships. This was attacked as an absurd thing for a "landlubber editor" to tell sons of the sea.

The test of his steel came, however, when the United States entered the world war. The navy was expanded to a personnel of 533,000; ships were rushed to completion; 2,000,000 American soldiers were transported across the sea under naval escort without loss of one, and more than \$4,000,000,000 were spent without hint of extravagance, graft or incompetence.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt, who served under Daniels as assistant secretary of the navy, became president in 1933 and named his old "boss," then past 70, as ambassador to Mexico, the appointment met with student objection there. The Mexican dissidents held him accountable for American warships firing on Vera Cruz in 1916.

Was Amateur Journalist

The objections soon subsided, however, and the Daniels personality soon made him recognized as a helpful friend of the republic to which he was accredited.

Daniels became a newspaper publisher in 1876 when, as an amateur, he issued a weekly paper at Wilson. He graduated to professional work when he became editor of the Wilson Advance at the age of 18. In 1885 he moved to Raleigh and bought a controlling interest in the "State Chronicle." Previously he had published small papers in Rocky Mount and Kinston, abandoning the latter venture to study law



JOSEPHUS DANIELS

papers in Rocky Mount and Kinston, abandoning the latter venture to study law at the University of North Carolina—not with the intent of practicing law but to broaden himself for his newspaper career.

In 1887 he was appointed state printer, an office which helped him financially to become a successful publisher. He held this post—the only state office of his life—for six years, giving it up in 1893 to go to Washington as chief clerk of the interior

Francesca Pitaro – The AP had a biographical sketch service, started in 1914 under the direction of Charles E. Crane, that provided the sketches to members, allowing newspapers to go to press quickly, having 1,000 - 10,00 words on a notable already on file.

By 1964, the service had produced sketches on 4,207 persons, and one horse, the horse being Man o' War. In 1985, the service was still going strong. Susan Pistilli, head of the news library in New York, and her staff were sending out three new sketches and several updates per month. Subjects were selected by Pistilli, who then contacted the bureau with the most information about the person, and the sketches were written by staffers in the bureau. Every two years, AP supplied members with an index listing every person for whom there is a biographical sketch.

So far, I haven't found the ending date for the service.

The above images are from a large format (26" x 22 ½") mat, sent out in 1934. In later years, the format changed to an 8 x 10 sheet.

Mike Gracia well-liked, voice of reason in Broadcast News Center



Mike Gracia at the Kid Chocolate Arena during the boxing competition at the 1991 Pan Am Games in Havana with the mural of Che Guevara in the background, which prompted the AP staff to refer to the venue as Che Stadium.

Dave Lubeski - He signed off his sportscasts and newscast as "Mike Gracia" but to most everyone in the Broadcast News Center, he was known simply as "The Gratch."

Not only did he put in 40 productive years with the AP, a little-known fact about his employment - He only took one sick day in those 40 years.

As he said in his profile (in Wednesday's Connecting), he began at AP by splitting his time between news and sports, but ended up fulltime in sports for the longest period of his AP days.

I was with him in Cuba for the Pan Am games assignment when his dad's cousin took us on a tour of Havana to the places where his mom and his dad grew up. She also had us over for dinner where we were greeted by practically the entire neighborhood when we arrived in a taxi. It was a fabulous Cuban feast with family and drop-in visitors throughout the evening.

Mike Gracia was well liked by everyone in the BNC. He was often the voice of reason and always had control of the situation. He was an excellent newsman, and he played a prominent role in the success of the broadcast sports department.

To me, the Gratch wasn't just a co-worker, he is a close friend and a damn fine human being.

Using 'liberated' in Ukraine

By John Daniszewski
AP Vice President for Standards

The recent recapturing of territory from the Russians in the Kharkiv region by the Ukrainian armed forces has raised a question: Should AP use the term "liberated" for these towns and villages?

While the answer is delicate and nuanced, we believe that it is yes.

Webster's New World Collegiate Dictionary gives a straightforward definition for the verb liberate: to release from slavery, oppression, enemy occupation, etc.

That fits the current circumstances. Therefore, in this conflict, we may use the words "liberate," "liberated" or "liberation" when Ukrainian forces recapture or reacquire Ukrainian territory that had been seized and occupied by Russia. The use of the word recognizes that the territory was invaded and occupied by Russia and now has been restored to Ukraine.

It is important to recognize, though, that "liberated" is one of those words that does contain a value judgment. It denotes that these places were under occupation and their recapture means renewed liberty for residents. "Liberation" of territory communicates that the recapture of territory is a restoration.

We should be careful using the word "liberated" for all conflicts, because in some cases it is unclear whether the recapture of territory leads to greater freedom or benefits the population. For instance, many residents of eastern and central Europe may not have felt liberated when Soviet troops replaced German Nazi troops at the

end of World War II. And the Chinese government uses the term “liberation” to refer to the 1949 Communist revolution, so the world has obvious pejorative tendencies in certain circumstances.

When it comes to Ukraine, we should attribute the “liberation” to Ukrainian authorities or others unless AP has been able to visit the areas and confirm their recapture.

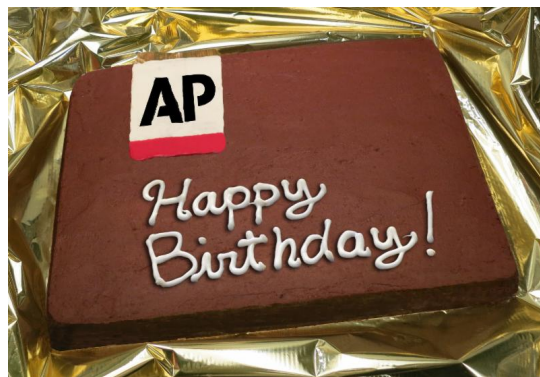
Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Can any White House reporter identify this room?



Bill Hendrick - I'm in the picture (wearing sunglasses that I'd forgotten to take off) but I was so wide-eyed I don't remember the room. My only time in White House in 40+ year career. Was with The AP at the time. Bonus if can guess the year...

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mark Berns](#)

[Gary Gentile](#)

[Brent Kallestad](#)

[Mike Mcphee](#)

Stories of interest

Thank you to the journalists and meteorologists covering Hurricane Ian (Poynter)

By AL TOMPKINS

We Floridians are so thankful to our journalists who have tracked Hurricane Ian nonstop for more than a week. We are blessed to have skilled professional meteorologists in Tampa Bay's TV market.

This is a moment when we realize the importance of the institutional knowledge of the meteorologists, anchors, reporters, producers and news executives who have been in this market for a long time. Some of our anchors have been covering storms for decades. They know every cove and creek and how to pronounce Kissimmee and Homosassa.

The TV stations also partnered with radio stations and — this is important — the TV people remembered that radio listeners cannot see the screen, so the TV meteorologists explained in detail what they were showing.

There are some others who are heroes in my eyes. Of course, the army of utility workers and out-of-state rescue crews, and local law enforcement members (including dispatchers) who calmly and professionally respond when they must want to scream.

Read more [here](#).

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A 'fearless' voice: Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts retiring after 31 years (Miami Herald)

BY CONNIE OGLE

For more than 30 years, Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts has entertained and enlightened millions of readers, first as a sharp-eared music critic with a deep love for classic R&B, then as a columnist tackling such complex subjects as culture, race, poverty and politics.

Over the past several years, a divisive period in American history, the nationally syndicated Pitts captured America and its struggles from a progressive point of view. His writing was furious but insightful, ironic but eloquent. It was always compulsively readable.

Now Pitts, who was hired by the Herald in 1991 and will be 65 in October, is retiring. It's time, he said.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Bill Plante, CBS News correspondent for a half-century, dies at 84 (Washington Post)

By Emily Langer

Bill Plante, who became a fixture of American television sets as a globe-trotting CBS News correspondent, covering the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, four U.S. presidents and more than half a century of national and world affairs, died Sept. 28 at his home in Washington. He was 84.

The cause was respiratory failure, said his wife, Robin Smith.

Mr. Plante joined CBS News as a reporter and assignment editor in 1964 — two years after Walter Cronkite assumed the anchor's chair on the network's nightly news — and retired as senior White House correspondent in 2016, having become in his own right one of the most visible newsmen on television.

Like many journalists, Mr. Plante had the proverbial front-row seat to history. Unlike many colleagues, he also had, more than occasionally over the years, a front-row seat in the White House briefing room.

Read more [here](#).

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New book is a love letter to local newspapers — and an SOS to the communities they serve (Poynter)

By: Kristen Hare

Kenneth Tingley read the newspaper before his parents got to it — first the funnies, then sports, then, as he grew up, the news. When his dad brought home the New York Daily News each evening, tucked into his lunch box, “Every day, I would devour that.”

Tingley grew up and became a journalist. When, in 1999, he became the editor of The (Glens Falls, New York) Post-Star, he started writing a regular column explaining what went into the coverage decisions at the paper.

Tingley kept that up for 21 years, and those columns provided a roadmap for his new book, “The Last American Newspaper,” which was published by McFarland.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Opinion 4 years after Khashoggi’s murder, assaults on press freedom are getting worse (Washington Post)

By David Ignatius
Columnist

On the fourth anniversary of Jamal Khashoggi’s murder, we should demand accountability from Saudi Arabia, louder than ever. But we should also denounce, as Khashoggi would have, the assaults against press freedom in so many other countries that continue unabated — and often go unremarked.

Khashoggi’s last column, received by The Post the day after he went missing, was about the need for “free expression,” not just in Saudi Arabia but everywhere that authorities try to suppress and intimidate journalists. He called for “a modern version of the old transnational media so citizens can be informed about global events.” How right he was. This is a global problem, and it’s getting worse.

After Khashoggi’s killing, many governments tried to pretend they were friends of the press by denouncing the Saudis who murdered him. They wrapped themselves in the cloak of his martyrdom. But these leaders should be accountable for their countries’ crimes against the media, too — just as we demand justice from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who authorized the operation that led to Khashoggi’s death.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin, Dennis Conrad, Sibby Christensen.

-0-

Dallas Cowboys receiver CeeDee Lamb crashed into a photographer, but she's OK and 'nailed the shot' (ESPN)

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver CeeDee Lamb made an incredible, leaping, one-handed touchdown catch to help give the Cowboys a 23-16 win over the New York Giants on Monday Night Football.

After landing with the score, Lamb tumbled and rolled into photographer Kathryn Riley on the sideline, knocking her down. With the football still in his hands, Lamb, who had eight catches for 87 yards, checked on Riley before going to celebrate the touchdown with his teammates.

"[Lamb] just asked if I was OK and offered to help me up, and I told him that I was fine," Riley told ESPN. "Truthfully I was embarrassed.

"Luckily I'm OK and the gear is OK.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Lumpkin.

Today in History – Sept. 29, 2022



Today is Thursday, Sept. 29, the 272nd day of 2022. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 29, 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1962, Canada joined the space age as it launched the Alouette 1 satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The musical "My Fair Lady" closed on Broadway after 2,717 performances.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, creating the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

In 1986, the Soviet Union released Nicholas Daniloff, an American journalist confined on spying charges.

In 1989, actor Zsa Zsa Gabor was convicted of battery for slapping Beverly Hills police officer Paul Kramer after he'd pulled over her Rolls-Royce for expired license plates. (As part of her sentence, Gabor ended up serving three days in jail.)

In 2000, Israeli riot police stormed a major Jerusalem shrine and opened fire on stone-throwing Muslim worshippers, killing four Palestinians and wounding 175.

In 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.

In 2020, the first debate between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden deteriorated into bitter taunts and near chaos, as Trump repeatedly interrupted his opponent with angry and personal jabs and the two men talked over each other. Trump refused to condemn white supremacists who had supported him, telling one such group known as Proud Boys to "stand back, stand by."

Ten years ago: Omar Khadr, the last Western detainee held at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, returned to Canada after a decade in custody. Former New York Times publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger died at the age of 86.

Five years ago: Tom Price resigned as President Donald Trump's secretary of Health and Human Services amid investigations into his use of costly charter flights for official travel at taxpayer expense. The United States warned Americans to stay away from Cuba, and ordered home more than half of the American diplomatic corps there; the administration began referring to the mysterious health ailments affecting Americans there as "attacks" rather than "incidents" but acknowledged that neither Cuban nor US investigators could figure out who or what was responsible. San Juan Mayor

Carmen Yulin Cruz accused the Trump administration of “killing us with the inefficiency” after Hurricane Maria.

One year ago: In a major victory for pop star Britney Spears, a judge in Los Angeles suspended the singer’s father from the conservatorship that had controlled her life and money for 13 years, saying the arrangement reflected a “toxic environment.” (The judge would end the conservatorship weeks later.) Five-time Olympic swimming medalist Klete Keller pleaded guilty to a felony charge for storming the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot. Former Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida won Japan’s governing party’s leadership election, putting him in line to become the country’s next prime minister.

Today’s Birthdays: Conductor Richard Bonyng is 92. Writer-director Robert Benton is 90. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 87. Soul-blues-gospel singer Sherman Holmes is 83. NASA administrator and former Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 80. Actor Ian McShane is 80. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 80. Nobel Peace laureate Lech Walesa (lehk vah-WEN’-sah) is 79. Television-film composer Mike Post is 78. Actor Patricia Hodge is 76. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 74. Rock singer-musician Mark Farner is 74. Rock singer-musician Mike Pinera is 74. Country singer Alvin Crow is 72. Actor Drake Hogestyn is 69. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 66. Singer Suzzy Roche (The Roches) is 66. Comedian-actor Andrew “Dice” Clay is 65. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 64. Actor Roger Bart is 60. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 59. Actor Jill Whelan is 56. Actor Ben Miles is 56. Actor Luke Goss is 54. Actor Erika Eleniak is 53. R&B singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 53. Country singer Brad Cotter (TV: “Nashville Star”) is 52. Actor Emily Lloyd is 52. Actor Natasha Gregson Wagner is 52. Actor Rachel Cronin is 51. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 49. Actor Alexis Cruz is 48. Actor Zachary Levi is 42. Actor Chrissy Metz (TV: “This Is Us”) is 42. Actor Kelly McCreary (TV: “Grey’s Anatomy”) is 41. Rock musician Josh Farro is 35. NBA All-Star Kevin Durant is 34. Actor Doug Brochu is 32. Singer Phillip Phillips is 32. Pop singer Halsey is 28. Actor Clara Mamet 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.

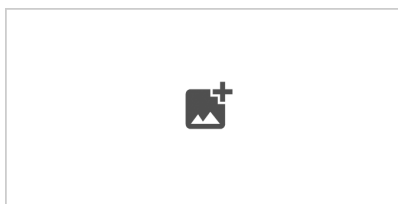


Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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