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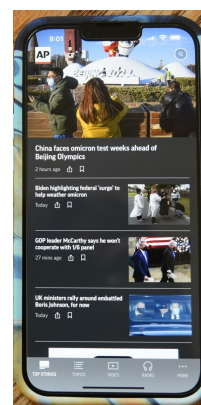
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Connecting

Oct. 20, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Oct. 20, 2022,

Please forgive Ye Olde Connecting Editor if he takes a pause from the news of the day to talk about a topic of interest to virtually every girl and boy on the mailing list: cars!

As the proud owner of a bright-red Volkswagen bug, my very first convertible, acquired when I turned 70, I took immediate note of a Facebook posting by colleague [Ed Williams](#) on his recent purchase of his dream vehicle – a brand-new Ford Maverick pickup truck.

Ed has been retired for nine years as a professor in Auburn University’s journalism department and has long harbored the dream of owning a pickup. It’s never too late to make a dream come true!

I asked him for the rest of the story:

“Waited nearly 15 months for this Ford Maverick to arrive. The wait was worth it. Named Aubie, pretty appropriate, since it’s the name of our Auburn University football mascot, and I was on the journalism faculty at Auburn for 30 years. Aubie the truck is a beauty, from her heated seats and heated leather-wrapped steering wheel to her power tilt/slide moonroof and carbon gray exterior. And I love the smell of a new vehicle.



“She can do things that I never imagined when I had my old Chevy S-10 pickup truck 30 years ago. I remember when I bought that used truck, our department head Jack Simms, retired from The Associated Press, asked to borrow it to haul a load of chicken manure from the Auburn poultry science lab to his backyard garden. Ain’t gonna happen with Aubie!”

In my rehab from the broken hip, progressing nicely into outpatient PT, I was banned from riding in RB (Red Baron) for six weeks. So when I was able to pile my walker into the back seat, to the chagrin of Ollie, and put the top down and play Roy Orbison full volume on the radio, well, it was heaven. PT on wheels!

The lesson here: Retired or not, age no factor - It’s never too late to buy that dream vehicle... Got your own story to share? Send it along.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Remembering John Gaps III

'He breathed life into every one of those days'



[Steve Hart](#) - I have a ton of memories working with John but two stand out in my mind.

John singing loudly what sounded like a Japanese sea shanty with colleagues at the Barcelona Olympics.

The other was spending a few weeks together in Waco, Texas, for the Branch Davidians where, before the fatal end, every day seemed to be a repeat of the previous one.

He and others would seek out a different photo at the same time scoping out the best vantage point for the end. We would then move a picture or two; hit a bucket of golf balls at the driving range that was next to the hotel; then a game of pool at the hotel bar; all to be repeated the next day.

Believe it or not the movie "Groundhog Day" had just been released and John organized us all to go see it one evening.

He breathed life into every one of those days.

Years later we reconnected after he started posting short video biblical explainers. I had reached out via email and we would 'chat' about his new mission. I'm so glad we did.

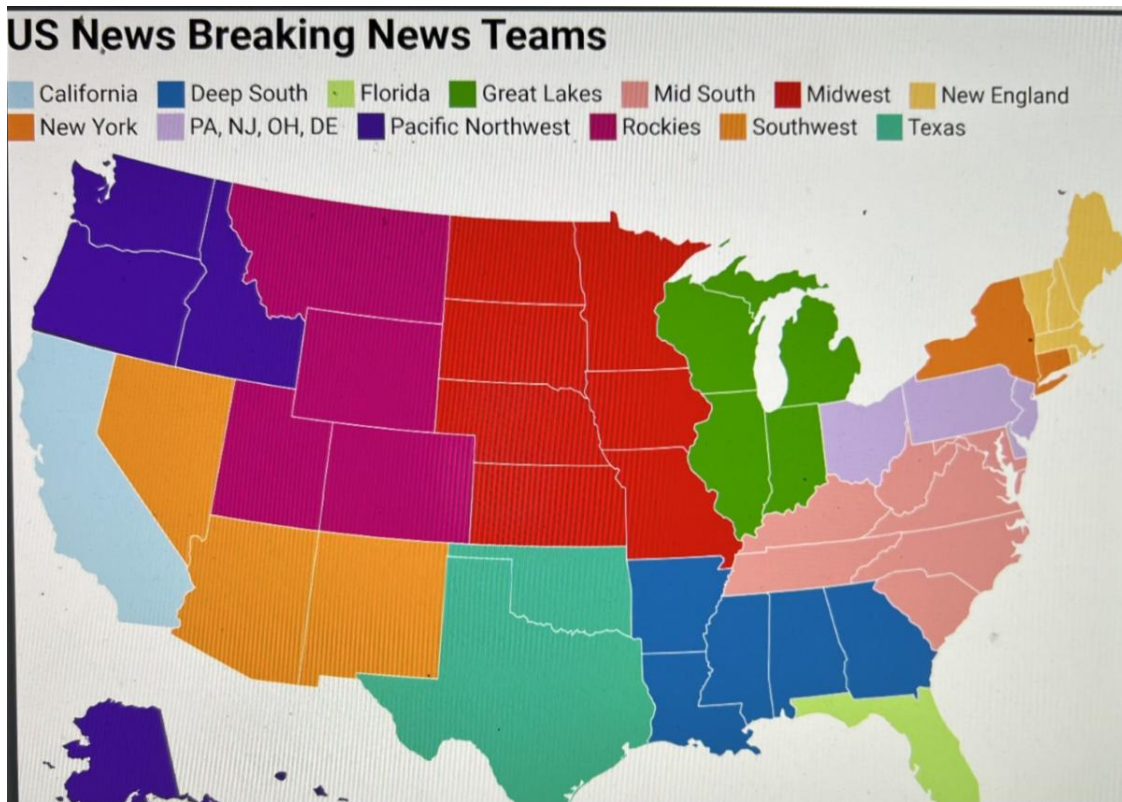
Yesterday was a bad day and I sorely miss him.

-0-

Dan Hansen – Very sad to hear of the passing of John Gaps. It was an honor to have worked with such an accomplished and talented photojournalist on various national and international assignments. One of my favorite memories with John was celebrating with AP staff and other international journalists at the conclusion of the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics in the press village outdoor patio, with many drinks and John smoking a cigar, as we joined a group of North Korean journalists at the next table in loudly singing Take Me Home Country Road and various other popular American songs into the early morning hours. They didn't speak English and we not Korean but a grand time it was!

Travel well John Gaps.

AP posting assistant news director positions for 13 newly created U.S. regions, 3 national assignment manager positions



In a note to AP staff on Tuesday from Josh Hoffner, AP national news director:

We are excited to announce that we are moving forward this week with the next phase in our evolution of the U.S. newsgathering operation to deliver a report that is consistently leading the way with speed, authority and all-formats excellence. We are

posting 13 assistant news director positions and three national assignment manager positions. The assistant news directors will oversee all-formats breaking news teams of anywhere from 15 to 25 reporters, photographers and video journalists, providing vital on-the-ground leadership of the news from the 50 states. (I have attached a map that shows the various groupings of states). The national assignment managers will play their own essential role in driving breaking news coverage by surging reporting firepower at the biggest stories and ensuring that the AP is connecting the dots across our footprint. Both the assistant news directors and national assignment managers will report to Kim Johnson and Frank Baker.

These are exciting leadership positions that will be crucial in guiding the AP into the next era. We encourage staff from all formats to come forward and apply! You will get to shape the coverage every day and lead outstanding – and growing – teams of journalists. There's also more to come in the U.S., including upcoming positions for editors for state government and localization.

New e-bike rebate program named in honor of late AP reporter

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Rhode Island residents who buy electric bicycles will soon be eligible for rebates under a program announced on Wednesday and named in honor of a former Associated Press reporter.

The \$250,000 Erika Niedowski Memorial Electric Bike Rebate Program will offer rebates of up to \$1,000 or 75% of the final purchase price, whichever is less, to low- and moderate-income residents, and rebates of up to \$400 or 30% of the final purchase price of the bicycle, whichever is less, for other residents, according to the office of Gov. Dan McKee.

Niedowski, a former journalist for The Associated Press and a Pulitzer Prize finalist for The Baltimore Sun, died in October 2020 after a sudden illness. She was 46.

Niedowski, who was also director of communications for McKee while he was lieutenant governor, was an advocate for renewable energy and environmental justice and loved donning her favorite hoodie and taking off on her bike.

“This is an amazing honor for Erika. This program will merge two loves in her life, cycling and protecting the environment,” her longtime partner, Patrick Laverty, said in a statement.

Applications for the rebate program will be available online at www.drive.ri.gov starting Oct. 24. The bikes must be purchased in Rhode Island.

“Erika was an inspiration to all who knew her,” McKee said. “She was brilliant, talented, thoughtful, and her commitment to promoting clean energy solutions will positively impact Rhode Island for generations to come.”

(Shared by Bill Kole, Will Lester)

Memories of expense accounts sparked

[Steve Paulson](#) - The memories of John Gaps III from Ruth Gersh were the best I have seen in a long time. Which brings back memories of some of my own expense accounts. When the 2000 census was completed, I was sent to the smallest town in Colorado, Bonanza, population 7, in the desolate San Luis Valley, best known for its UFOs. It took half a day to get there, and another half day to find and interview the permanent residents. Exhausted after a long day, I went back to the main highway, where I found that the local motel had burned down. I went searching for other accommodations, and found the Bonanza Valley View Hot Springs nearby, offering ``rustic'' rooms. After I checked in, I noticed something very strange. No one was wearing clothes. I had found the local nudist camp. I stayed in the room most of the time, but did enjoy the hot springs late at night. Thankfully, no one researched my expense account.

Then there was the time when I was news editor in Raleigh that cheerleaders from a local sports team were named to the Top 10 in Playboy magazine. I went out and bought a copy and put it on my expense account, in case someone filed a complaint with HR. I swear I only read the stories.

Online lecture includes recommendation of Brian Horton photo book



清华大学新闻与传播学院
School of Journalism and Communication, Tsinghua University

清新国际在线讲堂

2022秋季学期·第3期（总第72期）

TSJC Global Classroom

GBJ Lecture Series · 2022 Fall

Patrick Casey

Former reporter, editor

Associated Press



**How to turn a routine event photograph into
a compelling news photo**

Patrick Casey is a retired Associated Press newsman who helped cover the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the 9-11 terrorist attack in New York City. Casey has had a long-standing interest in China and black-and-white photography. After working at Associated Press for 22 years, he moved to Beijing in

2008 and served as a photojournalist for Xinhua News Agency and CGTN. His photos can be seen at chinainblackandwhite.org.



Time

Tuesday, October 18

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., EDT

8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Beijing time

Patrick Casey - The news here in Beijing is that I gave an online lecture about photography last night to the graduate students in journalism at Tsinghua University, China's Harvard. It was an honor to appear at such a prestigious school. I used a lot of my own photos and talked about the many nuances of street and news photography. I also recommended that the students study retired AP photographer Brian Horton's book, "The Associated Press Guide to Photojournalism." Some of my photos used last night and those of my wife Zhang Wanli can be seen at our website [here](#).

New book on Burl Osborne holds special appeal to Connecting readers

Marc Wilson - I just finished reading Jane Wolfe's new book, *Burl, Journalism Giant and Medical Trailblazer*.

It's an excellent read and has special appeal to your Connecting audience.

As the title notes, the book features two main themes – Burl's journalism career and his even more remarkable medical history.

Burl's AP career is well-documented and tracks his rise from rookie reporter in West Virginia to AP correspondent to news editor to COB in Louisville and Columbus to ACOB in Washington, culminating in his tenure as AP managing editor (followed later by a term as chairman of the AP Board of Directors).

The book stirs all kinds of memories when reading the names of so many of Burl's fellow AP employees, including top AP leaders Frank Starzel, Wes Gallagher, Keith Fuller, Lou Boccardi, Tom Curley and Gary Pruitt. Many other AP alumni surface, including Dorman Cordell, John Brewer, Kathleen Carroll, Carl Leubsdorf, Jim Mangan, Bob Scott, Marv Arrowsmith, Andy Lippman, Rich Opper, Mike Silverman, Paul

Stevens, Michael Putzel, Terry Hunt, Dave Tomlin, Bob Johnson, Walter Mears, Bobbie Seril, Mark Thayer, Noland Norgaard, Ann Blackman and others.

Burl's post-AP career was at the Dallas Morning News where, as editor, he led successful effort to make the News one of the nation's top daily newspapers while winning a fierce newspaper war with the Dallas Times Herald.

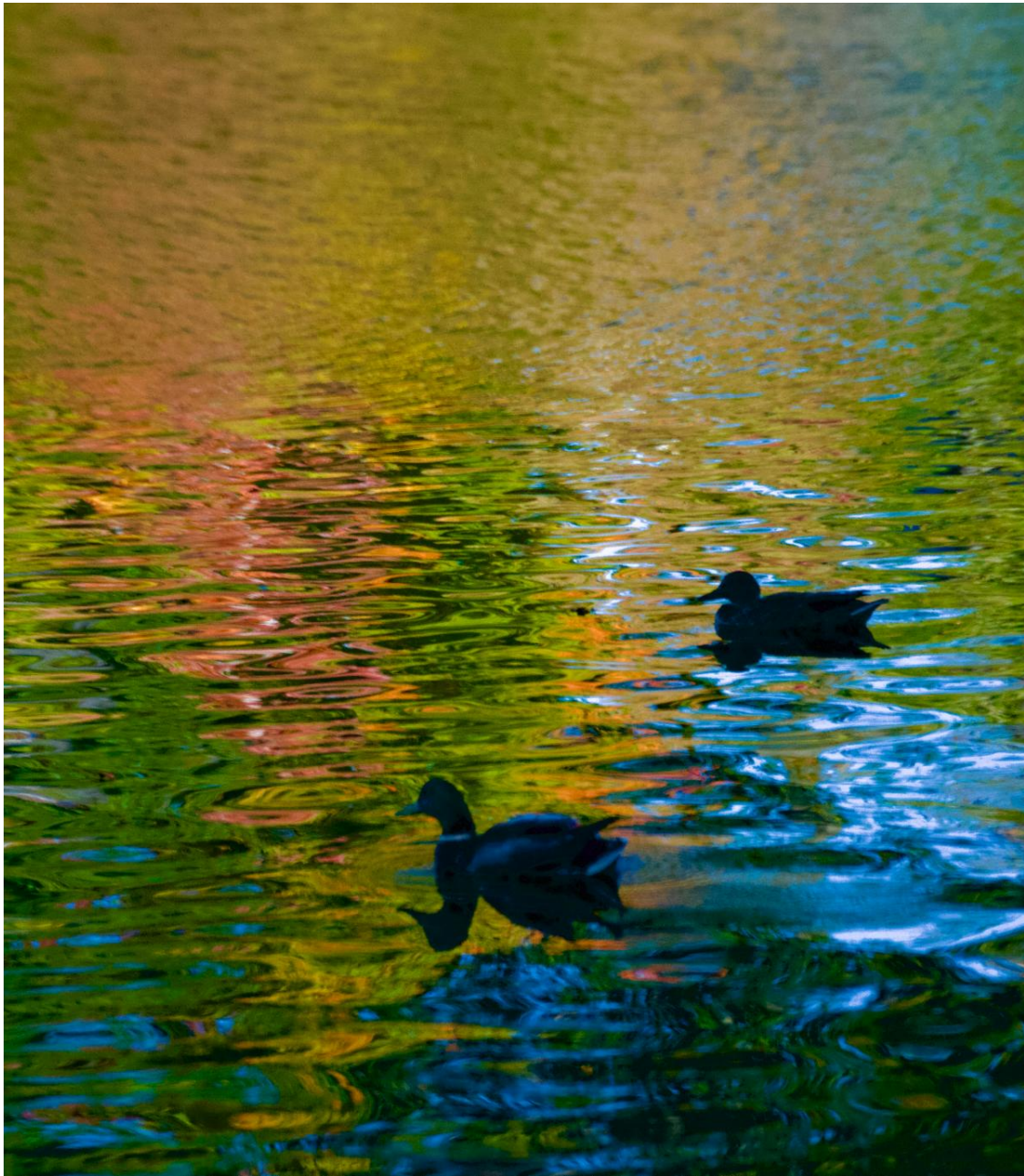
The second theme of Jane's book is about Burl's pioneering medical history. He was born in a rural Kentucky coal town to poor parents. His father never learned to read or write. Early on, doctors found that Burl's kidneys were failing kidneys. Burl was told as a child not to expect a long life – a prediction he heard repeatedly during his life.

When he was AP correspondent in Spokane, he participated in a highly experimental (and painful) home dialysis treatment before becoming one of the earliest kidney transplant patients. His mother donated a kidney for the surgery, which was performed in 1966 by the legendary surgeon Dr. Tom Starzl, nephew of former AP General Manager Frank Starzel.

In 1994, Burl underwent a second transplant surgery, receiving a kidney from his brother David. After the surgery, Burl wrote to his doctor (in part): "Very few people in this world are given a second chance at life. Now you have seen to it that I have a third, and I know I must use it wisely."

Burl used his life – his lives – wisely and well, and his story is worth reading.

Connecting water shot



[Malcolm Ritter](#) - Fall color in the Charles River near Boston.

AP photo gallery

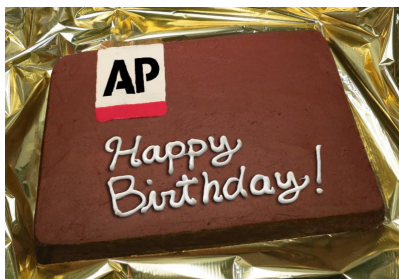


AP staffers pose for a photo to celebrate the 30th anniversaries of office accountant Lucia Bernasconi and chief office accountant Marisa Fois, in Rome. From left: Laurence Veerasamy; Bernasconi; Fois; Corinne Escoffier. (Photo courtesy of Carla Tamburrino)



The AP Revenue and ENPS teams attend the Edward R. Murrow Awards Gala at Gotham Hall in New York, Oct. 10, 2022, hosted by the Radio Television Digital News Association. From left: Belinda Hernandez; Michael Fabiano; Starr Talley; Brian Hopman; Kia Breau; Lyndsey Regis; Brian Doyle; Maggie McNish; Ivett Chicas; and Rachel Dixon. (Photo courtesy of RTDNA Staff)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bob Nordyke](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Murray Evans](#)

Stories of interest

India Bars Kashmiri Photographer From Traveling to Receive Pulitzer (New York Times)

By Mujib Mashal

MUMBAI, India — A Kashmiri photojournalist who was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize this May has been barred by the Indian authorities from traveling to the United States to receive her award, the latest case of brazen harassment of the country's news media.

The photographer, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, was awarded the Pulitzer for her role in coverage by the news agency Reuters of India's devastation last year during the second wave of Covid-19. She said immigration officers at the New Delhi airport had pulled her aside on Tuesday and stamped her airline ticket "canceled without prejudice," offering no explanation.

Ms. Mattoo had a valid visa to the United States, as well as an invitation to attend the Pulitzer award ceremony on Thursday. Her Reuters colleagues who were traveling with her — who are not from the disputed Kashmir region — were allowed to board the flight.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady, Sibby Christensen.

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Sullivan's warning: Journalists should be on high alert (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Margaret Sullivan cringed one day when a former colleague at The Washington Post, critic Carlos Lozada, tweeted with exasperation about books pitched to him as combinations of memoir and manifesto.

That's exactly what she was writing.

Sullivan's "Newsroom Confidential" traces her career from The Buffalo News to The New York Times and The Washington Post, but its meat lies in the challenge she puts to fellow journalists in the Trump era. Too many times she saw journalists slow to recognize threats posed to democracy during his presidency and now, with Donald Trump poised for a potential comeback and following his taking cues, Sullivan said she worries that reporters are unprepared.

"There still seems to be a tendency to not want to offend," she said, "to not want to offend the Republican establishment, to not offend the Trump Republicans, but rather to normalize them with democracy on the brink. I don't think that's the right approach."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Oct. 20, 2022



Today is Thursday, Oct. 20, the 293rd day of 2022. There are 72 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 20, 2011, Moammar Gadhafi, 69, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was killed as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte (SURT) and captured the last major bastion of resistance two months after his regime fell.

On this date:

In 1803, the U.S. Senate ratified the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee opened hearings into alleged Communist influence and infiltration in the U.S. motion picture industry.

In 1967, a jury in Meridian, Mississippi, convicted seven men of violating the civil rights of slain civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner; the seven received prison terms ranging from 3 to 10 years.

In 1973, in the so-called "Saturday Night Massacre," special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox was dismissed and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William B. Ruckelshaus resigned.

In 1976, 78 people were killed when the Norwegian tanker Frosta rammed the commuter ferry George Prince on the Mississippi River near New Orleans.

In 1977, three members of the rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd, including lead singer Ronnie Van Zant, were killed along with three others in the crash of a chartered plane near McComb, Mississippi.

In 1979, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum was dedicated in Boston.

In 1990, three members of the rap group 2 Live Crew were acquitted by a jury in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., of violating obscenity laws with an adults-only concert in nearby Hollywood the previous June.

In 2001, officials announced that anthrax had been discovered in a House postal facility on Capitol Hill.

In 2004, a U.S. Army staff sergeant, Ivan “Chip” Frederick, pleaded guilty to abusing Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. (Frederick was sentenced to eight years in prison; he was paroled in 2007.)

In 2018, Saudi Arabia announced that U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee) had been killed in Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul; there was immediate international skepticism over the Saudi account that Khashoggi had died during a “fistfight.” (A U.S. intelligence report later concluded that Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman had likely approved Khashoggi's killing by a team of Saudi security and intelligence officials.)

In 2020, two weeks before Election Day, President Donald Trump called on Attorney General William Barr to immediately launch an investigation into unverified claims about Democrat Joe Biden and his son Hunter, effectively demanding that the Justice Department abandon its historic resistance to getting involved in elections.

Ten years ago: Heading into the campaign's final weeks, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney upped his criticism of President Barack Obama's plans for a second term, accusing the Democrat of failing to tell Americans what he would do with four more years; the Obama campaign aggressively disputed the notion, claiming it was Romney who hadn't provided specific details to voters.

Five years ago: The U.S. government said 24 of its workers had now been confirmed to be victims of invisible attacks in Cuba. Suicide bombers struck two mosques in Afghanistan during Friday prayers, killing more than 60 people.

One year ago: Nikolas Cruz pleaded guilty to murdering 17 people during a February, 2018, rampage at his former high school in Parkland, Florida. (A jury would spare Cruz from the death penalty, instead sending him to prison for life.) Nine months after being expelled from social media for his role in inciting the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, former President Donald Trump said he was launching a new media company with its own social media platform. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city would require its entire municipal workforce to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or be placed on unpaid leave. Netflix employees staged a walkout from the company's office-studio complex in Los Angeles in protest of a Netflix special in which comedian Dave Chappelle made anti-transgender comments. A federal court filing revealed that the NFL and lawyers for thousands of retired players had reached an agreement to end race-based adjustments in dementia testing in a \$1 billion settlement of concussion claims.

Today's Birthdays: Japan's Empress Michiko is 88. Rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson is 85. Former actor Rev. Mother Dolores Hart is 84. Actor William “Rusty” Russ is 72. Actor Melanie Mayron is 70. Retired MLB All-Star Keith Hernandez is 69. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., is 67. Movie director Danny Boyle is 66. Former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis is 65. Actor Viggo Mortensen is 64. Vice President Kamala Harris is 58. Rock musician Jim Sonefeld (Hootie & The Blowfish) is 58. Rock musician Doug Eldridge (Oleander) is 55. Journalist Sunny Hostin (TV: “The View”) is 54. Political commentator and blogger Michelle Malkin is 52. Actor Kenneth Choi is 51. Rapper Snoop Dogg is 51.

Singer Dannii Minogue is 51. Singer Jimi Westbrook (country group Little Big Town) is 51. Actor/comedian Dan Fogler is 46. Rock musician Jon Natchez (The War on Drugs) is 46. Actor Sam Witwer is 45. Actor John Krasinski is 43. Rock musician Daniel Tichenor (Cage the Elephant) is 43. Actor Katie Featherston is 40. Actor Jennifer Nicole Freeman is 37.

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.

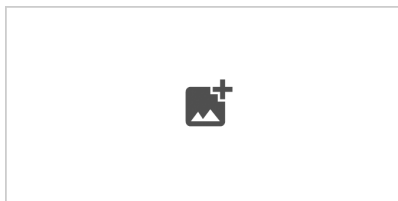
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



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