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Connecting

Nov. 16, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Nov. 16, 2022,

Connecting brings you sad news of the death of **Ray Goergen**, whose Associated Press career included 12 bureaus – the last in Philadelphia, where he served as chief of communications.

Our colleague **Keith Robinson** wrote in Tuesday's issue that he was not too surprised by [a survey](#) showing 87% of journalism job seekers regretted getting their j-degree and would seek an education in a different, more financially prosperous field if they could do it over again. But his degree, he continued, and work in journalism gave him a healthy sense of skepticism, a greater understanding of the workings of the world, and a greater appreciation for the written and spoken English language.

Colleague **Julie Inskeep**, a former AP board member whose Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette was one of Keith's members during his Indianapolis bureau chief days, suggested one more advantage to the degree and profession: "It is a job where you know you can make a difference in your community. And Keith did in Indiana for us!"

What did your journalism degree mean to you? Would you do it all over again and choose a different field of employment? What would that be? And why?

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Ray Goergen, Philadelphia chief of communications during 51-year career, dies at 88



AP World, 2001; courtesy AP Corporate Archives

Regis Walter (Ray) Goergen, who started work at The Associated Press as a copy boy in Wheeling at the age of 16 and concluded his career 66 years later as chief of communications in Philadelphia, died Nov. 4 at the age of 88.

His first fulltime position with AP was as an office assistant in Baltimore in 1951, followed by duties in Charleston, Nashville, Birmingham, Atlanta, Birmingham, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Omaha, New York, Richmond and Cleveland. He was named Philadelphia chief of communications in 1969, responsible for transmission of news over a seven-state area; moved to New York with SATNET in 1986 and returned to Philadelphia as COC in 1988. He concluded his AP career in 2002.

His son Richard worked for AP from 1982 to 2000, most of those years in the East Brunswick communications operations center. He was part of the Firmware department that did the coding for our DR400 and DR9600 modems that were installed at member locations.

Goergen was a Korean War Veteran. Among other assignments, he wrote PR dispatches about the troops.

Goergen, born in Baltimore, died of pancreatic cancer on Nov. 4 at his home in Brigantine, NJ. Father of 5, grandfather of 11 and great grandfather of 5, he is survived by his children Martha (Mr. William C. Johnson, Sr.), Lauren (Mr. Robert G. Keller), Regina (Mr. Lawrence E. Camilletti), Richard Regis Goergen and Carlyn, (married to Dr. Michael A. DeLuca). Goergen was married to Nelda Pratt Goergen for 36 years.

As noted in his obituary: Generous both to his family and his church, St. Thomas in Brigantine, where he sang in the choir, Regis will be sorely missed for his sense of humor and his strong sense of responsibility for those less fortunate than himself. The family will communicate funeral information at a later date.

(Thanks to Bob Keller, Brad Martin and Aracelia Mercado for their assistance with this story.)

'We'll all be working for Eva Parziale some day'

[Dan Sewell](#) - *following news Eva Parziale will retire Nov. 22* - When Eva Parziale joined the Miami bureau in the mid-1980s, she quickly established herself as someone who could be thrown into any situation - and Florida always comes up with challenges.

One of her first was on-scene coverage of the 1986 FBI shootout with two heavily armed serial robbers in suburban Miami. It was "the bloodiest day" in FBI history, with two agents killed and five wounded before the two shooters were killed.

She really distinguished herself when she became the Night Supervisor. That usually meant being paired with a junior reporter to respond to anything that might break across the entire state of Florida.

Her calm, thorough and all-pro supervision of breaking news stories at night, often a-wire news, made it clear she was headed for bigger things. Our line in the bureau was "We'll all be working for Eva Parziale some day."

Lucky me, I actually did, starting in 2005 when she easily lured me back from Gannett to The AP to serve as Cincinnati correspondent. We had a really good run in Ohio with a stellar staff that included Columbus-based AP Legal Affairs Writer Andrew Welsh-Huggins, one of the steadiest, most solid and most-respected journalists I've ever worked with.

Election nights in Ohio were special (as they usually had been in Florida) because of the traditional swing-state, bellwether status that kept it in the national spotlight. Memories of Eva standing up to announce she was calling a key race will linger; and I'm sure 2024 will be a bit of election night withdrawal for her.

Hope she and Andrew will order in pizza that night.

More on our Connecting veterans

[Larry Thorson](#) - I may not have put myself on your Veterans Day roster in the past because, as I always say — when someone says Thank you for your service — Thank you, but I regret my service. I was an infantryman in the stupid and evil Vietnam war. The worst mistake in US foreign policy until the invasion of Iraq. I was drafted right after I finished two years in the Peace Corp (Thailand 1963-65). That's the kind of service I prefer to declare on my life story. I'm a member of Veterans for Peace and of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and sometimes March in Veterans Day with that contingent.

[Lyle Price](#) — Army, 1954-57, South Korea (after war's end) Inchon, Pusan, and 11 months with first field artillery observation battalion just south of the DMZ and near mythical site of "MASH" TV show; 2) Among the founding soldiers at a NIKE missile site west of Providence, R.I.

All (A)Twitter

[Norm Abelson](#) - Has the English language, sunk for years in the dark chambers of internet gobble-de-gook, finally been twisted into an incomprehensible pretzel? Let's see:

Typical political denial circa 1980: The truth is that those guys are lying about me.

Typical type of political denial 2022 - I wish to deny the fiction that I told a lie about an untruth I was accused of lying about, concerning a charge that it was a lie for me to have falsely declared that I have never lied about charges that I committed fraud against those I accused of spouting "truthiness" in their false accounts of my denial of lying. And that's my last word on the subject.

What good is language if its usage is not about clarity, if we cannot understand what we are saying or writing to each other? For example, I totally support efforts to do away with discrimination toward people regarding their personal and sexual identity. But selecting one's own pronoun only clouds understanding, and does nothing, in my estimation, to further that worthwhile cause.

Writing in made-up abbreviations on Twitter, in texting and other such lazy and confusing platforms adds to the babble. Never mind the use of emojis to replace words. Are we on the road back to cave paintings and grunting?

Of course, there is the history of evolving language, Shakespearian and other usage innovations, etc. But I would argue they, for the most part, have added to rather than detracted from clarity.

Finally, the liberal use of extreme profanity, on-line, on television and in the press, talks about the poverty of using proper language to express extreme feelings. And, by the way, normalizing the worst in cursing leaves me nothing to say when I'm really angry, darn it.

Remembering Mort Saltzman, Reno and LA newsman for AP

[Susan Sward](#) - Hi Paul. Mort Saltzman, who worked as an LA editor for AP in the early 70s, died Nov. 9 of pancreatic cancer. He was 82. I knew him as a superb, demanding, heart-of-gold editor in LA AP.

Marty Thompson reports that Mort worked in Nevada AP in the 60s. Mort had lived in Davis CA for the last 30 years. The Sacramento Bee carried a [detailed obit on him](#).

This from Lyle Price who worked with Mort in LA AP:

Mort arrived at the AP bureau in Los Angeles during 1969 or 1970 and I have him on my faded copy of an LA staff roster from 1971. He had as sharp of a mind and of a sense of humor that one could ever wish to encounter. He was a very competent news person, but it was as a human being that I most remember him. One of the funniest bits was when he once told me that the bureau chief had told him that he'd rated him as favorably as another LA staffer that had started with AP in Nevada--and Mort had groaned to me that in his mind the other man (who transferred shortly after to WX) wasn't all that sharp and that he feared that he (Mort) wasn't being evaluated as well as he deserved. I'd say that he didn't say this to tear down the other man but in sort of amused distress. He also was fond of expressing Yiddish-type words and once worked diligently (and very unsuccessfully) to perfect my rendition of one of his favorites. I don't think it was mensch, but one equally well-used that I can't recollect just now.



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This from Steve Magagnini who worked with Mort at the Sacramento Union and Sacramento Bee after Mort left AP:

Mort Saltzman, a mensch among men. You lived life to the fullest, with passion and compassion, humor and heart, curiosity and righteous indignation, and plenty of love to go around. We have been fast friends ever since I entered The Sacramento Union

newsroom 44 years ago, turned in a story and got pushback, of course, from Mort, the best kind. He loved the back and forth, loved to challenge assumptions, and if you could stand your ground and intelligently make your case, Mort Saltzman went from being your toughest critic to your biggest champion. He loved news, and little in life gave him more joy than a great story that crushed the competition. To me he was a mentor, an uncle, a brother and a tremendous friend who always made time to talk, whether he was editing, slinging food or coffee, working as a census taker, volunteering at election headquarters or studying the morning line. You couldn't ask for a better, wiser, more devoted friend. Thanks for always being there, you will never be forgotten, you were a tremendous force for good. Edith Sandosham Crawford and I send all our love to the love of his life Wendy, son Eric and Mort's large extended family.

Skip Foreman, our new Triad sports editor, has been covering NC for more than four decades

Winston-Salem Journal staff

Skip Foreman, a longtime Associated Press reporter in North Carolina, has been named Triad Sports Editor for Lee Enterprises and will direct sports coverage for the Winston-Salem Journal and journalnow.com as well as the Greensboro News & Record and greensboro.com.



He starts his new job on Monday.

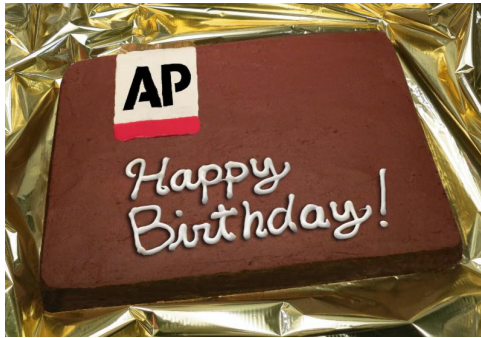
"I'm excited to have Skip on our team," said Dimon Kendrick-Holmes, editor of Lee Enterprises' North Carolina newspapers. "He's a tremendous journalist and storyteller, and he knows the Triad well. We want to bring our readers local stories they can't get anywhere else, and he's going to do that."

Foreman retired from the AP in July after 43 years of covering sports and news on the East Coast.

He began his journalism career in 1973 as a high school senior, working as a reporter for The Daily Reflector, the newspaper in his hometown of Greenville, N.C.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Owen Ullmann](#)

Stories of interest

Opinion: The media need a serious overhaul of their election coverage (Washington Post)

By Jennifer Rubin

After the 2016 election, the mainstream media and pollsters were filled with remorse for horribly misreading the national mood and wrongly predicting a Hillary Clinton win. How had they missed the mark so badly?

Yet after a similar media failure in this year's midterm elections? Mostly crickets so far. If the media really want to improve their credibility and serve the interests of democracy, they need another round of introspection. What's needed is serious and permanent changes in the way the media cover elections — especially those involving former president Donald Trump.

The Trump challenge starts Tuesday night, when the former president is expected to announce his presidential campaign for 2024. The media would be wise not to cover the news conference live, which will almost certainly include a host of election conspiracy theories.

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

-0-

Facebook fact-checkers will stop checking Trump after presidential bid announcement (CNN)

By Donie O'Sullivan

Facebook's fact-checkers will need to stop fact-checking former President Donald Trump following the announcement that he is running for president, according to a company memo obtained by CNN.

While Trump is currently banned from Facebook, the fact-check ban applies to anything Trump says and false statements made by Trump can be posted to the platform by others. Despite Trump's ban, "Team Trump," a page run by Trump's political group, is still active and has 2.3 million followers.

Tuesday's memo from Meta underscores the challenges social media platforms face in deciding how to handle another Trump presidential campaign. The former president announced Tuesday night that he would seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, aiming to become only the second commander-in-chief ever elected to two nonconsecutive terms.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

NBC News reporter Miguel Almaguer suspended over retracted Paul Pelosi story (New York Post)

By Yaron Steinbuch

An NBC "Today" show correspondent has been suspended as the network conducts an investigation into his now-retracted story about the attack on Paul Pelosi.

Journalist Miguel Almaguer has reported that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband didn't let on that he was in danger when cops showed up at his San Francisco home right before he was assaulted with a hammer.

The correspondent has been suspended for the erroneous story, the Daily Beast's Confider newsletter reported.

The now-deleted clip said Paul Pelosi, 82, answered the door for cops who responded to a 911 call, but that they were "seemingly unaware they had been called to the home of the speaker of the House."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Medill School of Journalism receives \$25,000 gift from the SNPA Foundation to help fund The State of Local News Project. (SNPA)

The SNPA Foundation is pleased to announce a \$25,000 gift to the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University to help fund The State of the Local News Project.

Tim Franklin, Senior Associate Dean, and Director of the Local News Initiative, said, “We are grateful for the support of the SNPA Foundation. While the Knight Foundation has pledged support for the bulk of the project, that commitment is contingent on the Medill School raising funds for a significant chunk of the work. We have also received support from the Microsoft Journalism Initiative and individual donors. The gift from the SNPA Foundation provides important industry validation of our program to key donors and helps us provide the funds to begin our important work.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by David Dunn-Rankin.

Today in History – Nov. 16, 2022



Today is Wednesday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2022. There are 45 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 16, 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

On this date:

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

In 1960, Academy Award-winning actor Clark Gable died in Los Angeles at age 59.

In 1961, House Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn died in Bonham, Texas, having served as speaker since 1940 except for two terms.

In 1982, an agreement was announced in the 57th day of a strike by National Football League players.

In 1989, six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter were slain by army troops at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas in El Salvador.

In 1991, former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards won a landslide victory in his bid to return to office, defeating State Rep. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader.

In 2001, investigators found a letter addressed to Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont containing anthrax; it was the second letter bearing the deadly germ known to have been sent to Capitol Hill.

In 2004, President George W. Bush picked National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to be his new secretary of state, succeeding Colin Powell.

In 2006, Democrats embraced Nancy Pelosi as the first female House speaker in history, but then selected Steny Hoyer as majority leader against her wishes.

In 2018, a U.S. official said intelligence officials had concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had ordered the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee).

In 2020, President-elect Joe Biden warned of dire consequences if President Donald Trump and his administration continued to refuse to coordinate with his transition team on the coronavirus pandemic and kept blocking briefings on national security policy issues and vaccine plans; Biden told reporters, "More people may die if we don't coordinate."

Ten years ago: Former CIA Director David Petraeus told Congress that classified intelligence showed the Sept. 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans was a terrorist attack, but that the Obama administration withheld the suspected role of al-Qaida affiliates to avoid tipping them off.

Five years ago: Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken became the first member of Congress to be caught up in a wave of allegations of sexual abuse and inappropriate behavior, after a Los Angeles radio anchor accused him of forcibly kissing her and groping her during a 2006 USO tour. (Franken would resign weeks later.) The federal bribery trial of Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey ended with the jury hopelessly deadlocked on all charges. (Federal prosecutors decided not to retry him.) Jose Altuve of the World Champion Houston Astros won the American League Most Valuable Player award; Giancarlo Stanton of the Marlins was the winner in the National League.

One year ago: Hospitals in Michigan and Minnesota reported a wave of COVID-19 patients not seen in months as beds were filled with unvaccinated people and health care leaders warned that staff were being worn down by yet another surge. American journalist Danny Fenster, who spent nearly six months in jail in military-ruled Myanmar, arrived back in the United States after former U.S. diplomat Bill Richardson helped negotiate his release. The U.S. Census Bureau announced that Hartville, Missouri, was now the closest town to the center of U.S. population distribution. Michelle Wu was sworn in as Boston's first woman and first person of color elected mayor in the city's long history.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 87. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 83. Actor Joanna Pettet is 80. Actor Steve Railsback is 77. Actor David Leisure is 72. Actor

Miguel Sandoval is 71. Actor Marg Helgenberger is 64. Rock musician Mani is 60. Former pro tennis player Zina Garrison is 59. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 58. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 58. Actor Harry Lennix is 58. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 56. Actor Lisa Bonet (boh-NAY') is 55. Actor Tammy Lauren is 54. Actor Martha Plimpton is 52. Actor Michael Irby is 50. Actor Missi Pyle is 50. Rock musician Corey McCormick (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 46. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul (ahk-SAH'-nah by-OOL') is 45. Actor Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ehn-hahl) is 45. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 43. Former NBA player Amare Stoudemire (ah-MAR'-ay STOW'-duh-my-ur) is 40. Actor Kimberly J. Brown is 38. Rock singer Siva Kaneswaran (The Wanted) is 34. Actor-comedian Pete Davidson is 29. Actor Casey Moss is 29. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 27.

Got a story or photos to share?

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



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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

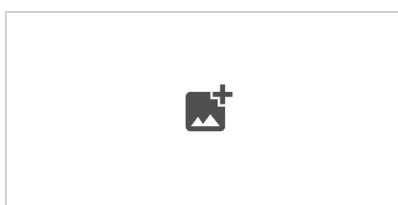
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

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