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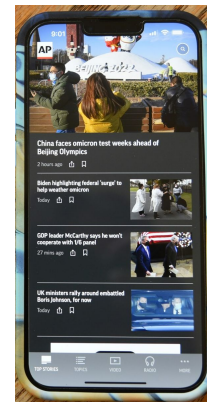
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Connecting

Dec. 5, 2022

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Good Monday morning on this Dec. 5, 2022,

We lead with a remembrance of **Doug Kranz**, a former chief of communications in San Francisco for The Associated Press, who died Nov. 27 at the age of 78.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. EST on Dec. 13 in Forest Park, Ga.

His son William recalled: "He was a friend to people of all walks, including fellow technicians like Art Loomis and Phil Emanuel and legends like Walter Mears."

If you have a favorite memory of Doug to share, please send it along.

A Loss...and A Gift

Some of you may recall **Sister Donalda Kehoe**, the Dubuque, Iowa nun whose acrostics – like her letters, typed on her manual

typewriter and mailed with unusual postage stamps - graced Connecting on several occasions before her death last Feb. 5 at the age of 95.

She had many pen pals across the country including several of you. She is one of the most special people to ever be part of this newsletter.



Her many admirers included [Ted Kooser](#), U.S. Poet Laureate in 2004-06 who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 2005. He recently published a poem remembering and honoring her and we bring it to you.

Kooser told me: "We never met in person. She wrote to me after she learned that I had family in Clayton County (Iowa), where she had been a girl, and that started our conversation. A can't recall how many years ago that must have been, close to twenty, I'm thinking.

"Her letters were always a treat, and she put a lot of time into them. It's good to have a nun in your corner!"

Here is his poem:

A Loss

Sister Donalda has died, in her nineties,
 at St. Francis convent, Dubuque, set back
 from the river and downstream not far
 from the place of her birth, she who typed
 long playful letters on an old manual,
 for which God still provided the ribbons
 and with which she not only tapped out
 the news of the world, small and sunlit
 out to its edges, not far, but also doggerel,
 corny puns, never a bad word for anyone,
 and with her Remington drew cartoons
 which must have taken whole mornings
 to think through and type. I will miss her
 happy genius and loving simplicity.
 I have never known anyone who seemed
 quite so delighted to be where she was,
 in a life all the sides of which she could
 reach out and touch. Return address typed
 in one corner of each flowered envelope
 with an assemblage of colorful stamps:
 Clare House, 3340 Windsor, Dubuque.

It was a gift



[Marjorie Miller](#) - It was the morning after I learned my 100-year-old mother had died. My husband and I were walking in Riverside Park about 6:30 a.m. and the farther we walked up towards Grant's Tomb, the more intense it got until we saw the full arc and then the double rainbow. Amid the pain of loss, it was a reminder of the beauty and goodness in life. It was a gift.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy! And Happy Birthday, Calvin Trillin - I knew we had something in common...

Paul

Services set for Doug Kranz, former AP San Francisco chief of communications



Doug Kranz (right) with Art Loomis, circa 1984-85.

Funeral services for Doug Kranz, a former chief of communications in San Francisco for The Associated Press, will be held at 10 a.m. EST on Dec. 13 in Forest Park, Ga.

His son William Kranz said the services will be held at Forest Park United Methodist Church. The family hopes to set up a Zoom call for friends and former colleagues to attend virtually. If you would like further information, his email - william.kranz@gmail.com

Douglas Glen Kranz passed away Nov. 27 at the age of 78. He is survived by his daughter Lisa Zweben, son William Kranz, granddaughter Rachel Cummings, and brothers Charles Kranz and Ronald Kranz. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Royce Kranz, and his son Douglas James Kranz.

In 1967, Kranz became a field technician with the Associated Press, specializing in the hands-on repair of electromechanical communications devices, especially teletype and telephoto machines. From then on until 1982, he worked various technician assignments in New York City, NY; Newark, NJ; Binghamton, New York; Washington, D.C.; and Sacramento, CA.

Between 1982 and 1985, Kranz served as chief of communications for the Associated Press in San Francisco, CA. He was responsible for dispatching technicians to install and service terrestrial satellite systems and electronic/electro-mechanical news-related equipment. In addition, he acted as liaison with AT&T, Pacific Bell, and overseas long-lines, with an area of responsibility that included California, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and Japan. During his tenure as chief of communications, he spearheaded the

creation of a remote communication facility in Pleasanton, CA., the first communications facility remote from an Associated Press news bureau, a legacy for which he was very proud.

During his commute from Brooklyn to Newark, "I recall driving to work one day when I saw smoke, then fire. Cars, trucks and buildings were aflame. Its was much like a war zone. I then learned of Martin Luther King Jr. assassination April 4, 1968."

"My father told me many amazing stories over the years of his time in the AP," William Kranz said. "He was a friend to people of all walks, including fellow technicians like Art Loomis and Phil Emanuel and legends like Walter Mears.

"Those who knew him will remember him for his positive attitude, his generosity, his storytelling, his quick wit, and his amazing ability to make friends. He had a unique way about him: laid back about most things, with an impeccable common sense that would occasionally unspool into mysticism and wild philosophy. Above all else, he will be remembered for the love he showed everyone around him. Those who remember him will treasure his memory forever."



When Rosa Parks was fingerprinted, AP's Gene Herrick was there



This AP Today in History item ran last week, on Dec. 1: In 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by Blacks.

AP Memphis photographer [Gene Herrick](#), a Connecting colleague who is 97, was there when she was taken to a Montgomery jail. He writes:

I took the now-famous picture of Rosa Parks being fingerprinted after she was arrested in Montgomery in 1955. At the time, she had refused to move from an all-white section of the bus, to a section set aside for people of color. She did not resist her arrest, nor the fingerprinting. Photographs of the incident were seen in newspapers, and on television across the nation. As an Associated Press newsman and photographer, I had heard about the arrest and went directly to the jail and took pictures of the event. There were no problems covering the story.

Albany gathering honors retiring newsman John Kekis



Joel Stashenko - A group of Associated Press veterans gathered on Dec. 2 at a brewpub for a celebration to honor Albany, N.Y., staffer **John Kekis**, who retired in late November after 42 years with the AP. Pictured (left to right) are Mike Groll, Karen Roach, Chris Carola, Joel Stashenko, Donna Liquori, Dave Germain, John Kekis, Bill Kates, Mike Hendricks, Mike Hill and Mike Gormley.

Kekis began his AP career as a baseball dictationist in 1980 and, later, general assignment reporter and night supervisor in New York Sports. He became upstate New York sports editor in 1986, broadcast editor in Albany from 1992-96 and Syracuse sportswriter from 1996-2003 before being reassigned to Albany, where he finished his career. He specialized in covering Syracuse University sports teams, auto racing at Watkins Glen and bobsled and luge through national and international competitions in Lake Placid, N.Y. He was part of the AP's staff at the Lillehammer (1994), Nagano (1998) and Salt Lake City (2002) Winter Olympics.

On possible demise of Iowa's first-in-nation status

Mike Holmes - Reading of the possible demise of Iowa's first-in-the-nation status — at least for Democrats — brought back memories of covering the 1980 caucuses. As AP statehouse reporter in Des Moines, I was on caucus duty for six months or so. A big story, sure, but what comes to mind these days are the sidebar moments. A few:

- In August of 1979, President Jimmy Carter and his family cruised down the Mississippi River on the steamboat Delta Queen. Technically a family vacation, Carter

still stopped and spoke at town after town along the way. In Burlington, Iowa, it was a rally at Crapo Park.

We were filing from a nearby motel when photographer Chuck Bennett, on loan from the Illinois staff, answered a query over the photo network. Some eagle-eyed LA Times editor was sure we'd screwed up. "Burlington, Los Angeles," the speaker barked. "Member here wants to know if your (caption) spelling of Crap-Oh park is correct." I laughed out loud. Chuck just grinned. "Los Angeles, Burlington," he responded. "Out here, we call it Cray-Poh ... but the spelling is correct."

- Walter Mears' ability to dictate the news agenda was astounding. Driving Walter back to Des Moines from a campaign event in Ames, I took a backroad shortcut. We passed a small-town grain elevator. Walter was curious about the huge piles of corn on the ground. I explained that President Carter's plan for a Soviet grain embargo and the failures of some short-line railroads were making it harder to sell crops and get them to market. Grain bins were full, so the ground was the only place to put it. "Stop," Walter said. "I want to talk to these guys."

His curiosity led to a column on Carter's troubles with farm voters, which AP ran the next day. Within 48 hours, three or four national dailies called Des Moines photographer Bob Jarboe asking for special pictures of this huge pile of corn that their campaign reporters had "discovered."

- Rural issues also took Sen. Ted Kennedy to a grain elevator, one near Mason City, on a late-December morning. He got out of a Lincoln Town Car wearing only a suit coat in below-zero temperatures. For the next half hour, he stood outdoors, visibly shivering, while speaking to a group of farmers.

After he left, I asked one bundled-up fellow in the crowd what he thought of the candidate. His analysis proved better than any pollster's: "Wouldn't vote for a guy who's not smart enough to wear a coat when it's this cold."

-0-

Daryl Beall - Iowa's first-in-the-nation presidential caucus is now a thing of the past. A fact of life since 1972, I was active in the first as a delegate for George McGovern and Democratic candidate for Iowa Secretary of State. I still hold the record as Iowa's youngest statewide candidate. McGovern was a big loser in 1972.

I was very proud of Iowa going first. A candidate without a bundle of money could do well in Iowa and that would catapult such a candidate into national prominence.

Iowa is a small state without expensive TV costs. Iowans became adapt at organizing, the lifeblood of successful campaigns. I volunteered for several presidential campaigns and except for Jimmy Carter in 1976, my track record was not very good. The Iowa caucuses were a source of pride for Iowans and a source of big bucks for Iowa media, hotels, restaurants and the entire Iowa economy.

I recognized the flaws of the first caucuses in 2020 when results were slow to come in and the accuracy was questioned. Iowa's smallness was an asset but also a liability because of the lack of racial diversity. Attending on a cold winter night and devoting

two or three hours met a lot of people could not participate. In that sense primaries are superior to caucuses.

As a proud Iowan and Democrat, I am disappointed we will no longer host the nation's first presidential selection process. But as an Iowa democrat, I understand the why and concur with the rules change.

Factoids to wonder about

[Norm Abelson](#) - On page 8 of Friday's NYTimes was a story about UN reporting of global food crisis. 222 million people in 33 countries face acute food shortage; 45 million in 37 countries face starvation.

On page 9 was a piece about the White House dinner in honor of France's President Macron. On the menu: Lobster and caviar (was it Russian?)

A pair of AP dinosaurs...and their families



[Arnold Zeitlin](#) - You might be interested in the following photo, Paul, of 2 AP dinosaurs, me (right) and David Mazzarella. We met Sunday for dim sum after years (certainly since the Covid pandemic) although we live 30 minutes' drive from each other in northern Virginia. We discovered that we were unknowingly on the opposing sides of the Biafra civil war in Nigeria for AP in the 1960s. I was on the federal side based in Lagos and David was in the town of Enugu covering the rebels. David lives in Falls Church VA; I live in Centreville VA.

With us were our families. From left, my wife, Karen Zhang; David's wife, Chris Wells (who was my boss from 1998-2001 when I was director of the Freedom Forum's Asia office in Hong Kong); my eldest daughter, Jennifer Crouzat-Zeitlin; my son, Jide Zeitlin; my middle daughter, Veronica McKenna-Zeitlin (better known as Bola); and my youngest daughter, Sze-kei Jordan.

We dinosaurs look sort of glum but we actually had a great feed and talk.

Your favorite journalism movies

Bill Kaczor - "All the President's Men," "Spotlight," "Citizen Kane," and "The Post" are my favorite journalism films in that order, but let me put in a plug for No. 5 on my list: "The Promise." I put it just a notch ahead of "A Private War."

"The Promise," released in 2017, is a love story set in the early days of World War I in Constantinople amid mass killings and deportations of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire. It stars Christian Bale as an AP reporter. Jack Coyle's AP story about the film says "Bale's portrayal in the movie is almost certainly the most starry, most heroic and most hard-drinking big-screen depiction of the AP in its 171-year history." Coyle noted that the character is a composite but that most dispatches from the region then came from J. Damon Theron.

"The Promise" was a box office bomb and got mixed reviews. But I loved it, if nothing else but for the fact that it helped erase some of that "Anonymous Press" image that AP staffers have had for much of its history.

According to articles in Forbes and Wired, the film's poor showing likely was at least partly the result of the century-old and ongoing political debate about whether the Armenians were victims of genocide or something less sinister. It was an independent film financed by Armenian-American businessman Kekor Kerkorian and advances the Armenian viewpoint. Armenian Genocide deniers launched a campaign to sabotage the film through such tactics as submitting bad reviews to social media websites. The Turkish government continues to deny its predecessors committed genocide and has pressured U.S. presidents to avoid recognizing it as such. (Update: Congress and President Biden have since recognized the Armenian Genocide.)

Bale's character, as well as the real-life AP correspondents, heroically reported the killings and deportations despite Ottoman efforts to suppress the news.

-0-

Keith Robinson - Among my all-time favorites is "Absence of Malice," maybe even my favorite.

It's ideal especially for a mass audience because it stars Paul Newman and Sally Field.

But it also is a good introduction to pitfalls that reporters can fall into. Many years ago I showed a shortened version of it to a journalism 101 class – or maybe a high school class, I can't recall. There are good lessons in that movie for beginning journalists to learn about responsible reporting, such as if getting confidential information is very

easy, then it might be a setup. And don't develop close personal relationships with someone you're reporting on. The latter should be a "Duh," but it still needs to be said.

-0-

Robert Wielaard - Neal Ulevich, commenting about journalism movies, says he has never forgotten -30- starring Jack Webb. I haven't seen that movie but do remember -30-.

In pre-computer, noisy newsroom days, I worked at The Winnipeg Free Press in Canada. I typed copy on massive, top-heavy typewriter. And when I got to the end of a story, I typed -30-. I was told to do that. And to this day I have no clue what that -30- was for. Anyone?

-0-

Dennis Conrad - When it comes to the list of the 25 best journalism movies, I think a case could be made for the inclusion of two critically acclaimed films that apparently received little or no consideration from active or retired members of the Fourth Estate: "Citizen Kane," linked to newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, and "Sweet Smell of Success," reminiscent of powerful Broadway columnist Walter Winchell. Maybe they are just too depressing to make the list but then "Ace in the Hole" got on it. I think "All the President's Men" would have to be my personal favorite. Ever since I was a kid in California, I had an interest in the career of Richard Nixon - starting at age 7 in 1960 when I put up homemade "Kennedy for President" signs. Then, a dozen years later, I happened to be a journalism major in college in DC during the Watergate coverage of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in the Washington Post. I seemed to follow coverage of Watergate more than I studied. I would even walk to the newsstand near the Post late at night to pick up its early edition to read their articles. The reading experience was made even more interesting because my roommate, also a journalism major, was a member of Young Americans for Freedom and a nonstop Nixon defender. Exciting times, they were.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

Monthslong investigation weaves sordid tale of debauchery within DEA



AP Photo

"The drug war is a game," José Irizarry told two AP reporters during his final moments of freedom. "It was a very fun game that we were playing."

Irizarry's decision to spend some of his last few hours before beginning a 12-year federal prison sentence with two AP reporters in early 2022 was a moment years in the making that yielded a bombshell bacchanal of a story itself months in the making.

Four years ago, just before starting at The Associated Press, New York-based investigative reporter Jim Mustian received a tip about a DEA investigation into one of the agency's own agents in Colombia. That spiraled into a string of AP scoops by Mustian and Miami-based Latin America correspondent Joshua Goodman on DEA corruption in Latin America, including an exclusive on the arrest of that agent. Irizarry had been accused of conspiring with Colombian drug cartels to divert millions from DEA money laundering stings in what prosecutors called one of the worst betrayals in DEA history.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Major scoop, distinctive enterprise help AP dominate COP27 coverage in Egypt



AP Photo/Peter Dejong

In the runup to COP27, it was clear that the question of “loss and damage” -- essentially paying reparations to poor countries getting slammed by climate change caused mainly by rich countries -- would be a central issue.

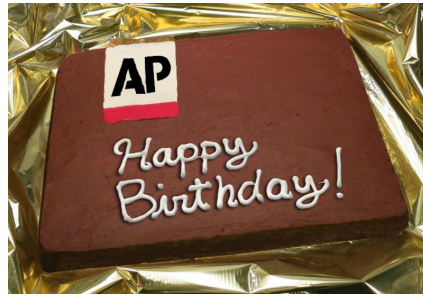
Extreme weather events, like the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, had given advocates momentum to make headway on an issue that had always been on the margins of discussions.

The AP’s team in Sharm el-Sheikh was first with the news that negotiators had reached a deal to create a loss-and-damage fund. The break came from Maldives Environmental Minister Aminath Shauna, interviewed by reporter Frank Jordans and video journalist Teresa de Miguel. Reporters Seth Borenstein, Wanjohi Kabukuru and Samy Magdy then worked sources with other delegations to make sure this deal had indeed been struck.

When assured that it had, Climate editors Dana Beltaji and Peter Prengaman filed the alert and urgent series while Susie Blann and Teodora Tongas published video.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Paul Stevens

Stories of interest

Defamation Suit Against Fox Grows More Contentious (New York Times)

By Jeremy W. Peters

Lachlan Murdoch, the chief executive of the Fox Corporation, is expected to be deposed on Monday as part of a \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News for amplifying bogus claims that rigged machines from Dominion Voting Systems were responsible for Donald J. Trump's defeat in 2020.

Mr. Murdoch will be the most senior corporate figure within the Fox media empire to face questions under oath in the case so far. And his appearance before Dominion's lawyers is a sign of how unexpectedly far and fast the lawsuit has progressed in recent weeks — and how contentious it has become.

Fox and Dominion have gone back and forth in Delaware state court since the summer in an escalating dispute over witnesses, evidence and testimony. The arguments point to the high stakes of the case, which will render a judgment on whether the most powerful conservative media outlet in the country intentionally misled its audience and helped seed one of the most pervasive lies in American politics.

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

-0-

Elon Musk's 'Twitter Files' ignite divisions, but haven't changed minds (Washington Post)

By Cat Zakrzewski and Faiz Siddiqui

It was billed as a bombshell: Elon Musk, after rifling through his new company's internal files, would finally expose how Twitter engaged in "free speech suppression" in the critical run up to the 2020 election.

“This will be awesome,” Musk tweeted, teasing the announcement with a popcorn emoji.

But by the time the dust settled Saturday, even some conservatives were grumbling that it was a dud. Musk’s Twitter Files produced no smoking gun showing that the tech giant had bent to the will of Democrats.

A handful of screenshots from 2020, posted over the course of two hours Friday evening in a disjointed, roughly 40-tweet thread, show the San Francisco company debating a decision to restrict sharing of a controversial New York Post story about the son of then Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

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

-0-

Opinion MSNBC’s cancellation of Tiffany Cross sends a chilling signal (Washington Post)

By Karen Attiah
Columnist

About a month ago, I was having a chat with a Black editor. We got around to talking about our experiences. As the conversation went on, we agreed that we definitely shared one thing as Black people doing public discourse work: precariousness.

To be a Black public figure who chooses to be honest about white supremacy in this country is dangerous business. And there is no starker example of that than Tiffany Cross — whose show, “The Cross Connection,” was canceled last month by MSNBC, and whose contract with the network wasn’t renewed.

Cross, a former D.C. bureau chief for BET Networks and an associate producer for CNN, was named host of “The Cross Connection” in late 2020. The show aired Saturday mornings and was one of the higher-rated weekend political shows for the network. It was also one of the few shows left on a major news network that centered the voices of Black people and others of color. Cross focused on matters domestic and international, doing shows, for instance, on global diaspora movements.

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

-0-

Stanford newspaper scoop leads to investigation of school president (SFGATE)

By ALEX SHULTZ

Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne is the subject of a university investigation following a report from the school’s newspaper, the Stanford Daily, that he committed scientific research misconduct.

Earlier this week, the Stanford Daily published an exhaustive story about a number of papers co-authored over the last few decades by Tessier-Lavigne — a neuroscientist — that contained potentially altered images. The Stanford Daily spoke to multiple experts who reviewed the papers, which appeared in the Science and Nature academic journals, and they all came to the same conclusion about the altered imagery, a serious charge in the research field.

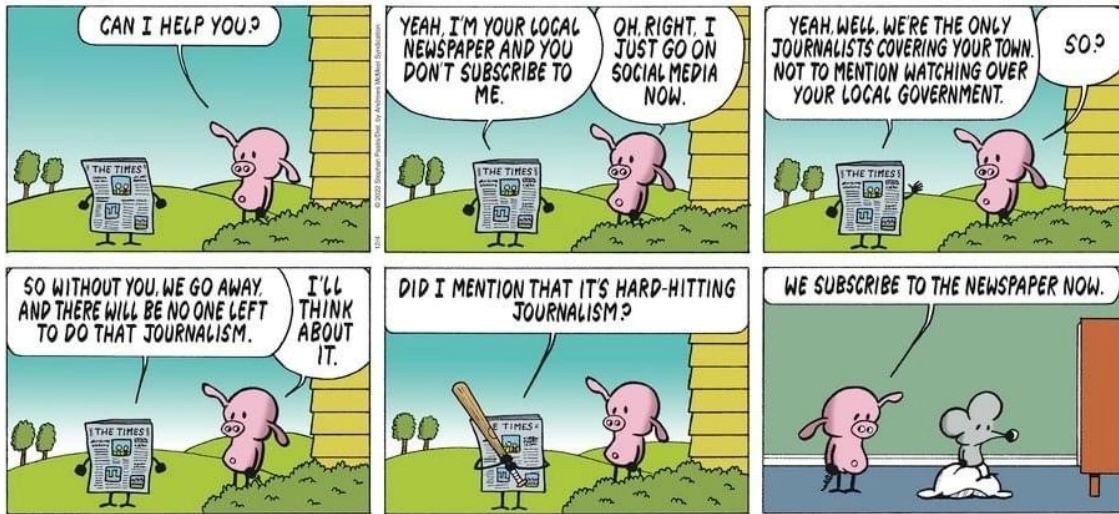
At first, a Stanford spokesperson downplayed the findings from the student newspaper story, writing that for two of the research papers in question, Tessier-Lavigne “was not involved in any way in the generation or presentation of the panels that have been queried,” and for two other research papers in question, the allegedly altered images “do not affect the data, results or interpretation of the papers.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

The Final Word

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



Shared by Charlie Monzella, Adolphe Bernotas, Paul Albright, Michael Weinfeld.

Today in History – Dec. 5, 2022



Today is Monday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2022. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 5, 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first Black president, died at age 95.

On this date:

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was reelected president; John Adams was reelected vice president.

In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1952, the Great Smog of London descended on the British capital; the unusually thick fog, which contained toxic pollutants, lasted five days and was blamed for causing thousands of deaths.

In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

In 2009, a jury in Perugia, Italy convicted American student Amanda Knox and her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito (rah-fy-EHL'-ay soh-LEH'-chee-toh), of murdering Knox's British roommate, Meredith Kercher, and sentenced them to long

prison terms. (After a series of back-and-forth rulings, Knox and Sollecito were definitively acquitted in 2015 by Italy's highest court.)

In 2018, former President George H.W. Bush was mourned at a memorial service at Washington National Cathedral attended by President Donald Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter along with their spouses; former president George W. Bush was among the speakers, eulogizing his dad as "the brightest of a thousand points of light."

In 2019, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she had asked the relevant House committee chairs to begin drawing up articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, saying his actions left them "no choice" but to act swiftly; in response, Trump tweeted that Democrats had "gone crazy." (Trump would be impeached by the House on charges of obstruction and abuse of power, but the Senate voted to acquit in the first of two Trump impeachment trials.)

In 2020, at a Georgia rally where he urged supporters to turn out for a pair of Republican Senate candidates in a January runoff election, President Donald Trump spread baseless allegations of misconduct in the November voting in Georgia and beyond. Hours before the rally, according to officials with knowledge of the call, Trump asked Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp to order a special legislative session to give him the state's electoral votes, even though Joe Biden had won the majority of the vote; Kemp refused to do so.

Ten years ago: Port clerks ended an eight-day strike at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach after winning guarantees against the outsourcing of jobs. Jazz composer and pianist Dave Brubeck died in Norwalk, Connecticut, a day before he would have turned 92.

Five years ago: Democratic congressman John Conyers of Michigan resigned from Congress after a nearly 53-year career, becoming the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job amid the sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation's workplaces. In a bitterly contested runoff election, Atlanta voters narrowly chose Keisha Lance Bottoms as the city's next mayor; a result that would be upheld after a recount requested by rival Mary Norwood. The International Olympic Committee barred Russia and its sports leaders from the upcoming Winter Olympics in South Korea after concluding that members of the Russian government concocted a doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games; some Russians would be able to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

One year ago: Bob Dole, who overcame disabling war wounds to become a sharp-tongued Senate leader from Kansas, a Republican presidential candidate and then a symbol and celebrant of his dwindling generation of World War II veterans, died at 98. U.S. health officials said that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus was rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggested it could be less dangerous than the delta variant, which continued to drive a surge of hospitalizations. Buck O'Neil, a champion of Black ballplayers during a monumental, eight-decade career on and off the field, joined Minnie Miñoso, Gil Hodges and three others in being elected to the baseball Hall of Fame by veterans committees.

Today's Birthdays: Author Calvin Trillin is 87. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 78. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 76. Musician and singer Jim Messina is 75. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 75. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 73. Actor Morgan Brittany is 71. Actor Brian Backer is 66. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 65. Country singer Ty England is 59. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 57. Country singer Gary Allan is 55. Comedian-actor Margaret Cho is 54. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 53. Actor Alex Kapp Horner is 53. Actor Kali Rocha is 51. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 50. Actor Paula Patton is 47. Actor Amy Acker is 46. Actor Nick Stahl is 43. Actor Adan Canto is 41. R&B singer Keri Hilson is 40. Actor Gabriel Luna is 40. Actor Frankie Muniz is 37. Actor Ross Bagley is 34. MLB outfielder Christian Yelich is 31.

Got a story or photos to share?

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



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

Here are some suggestions:

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

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

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

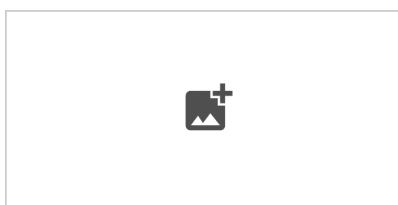
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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