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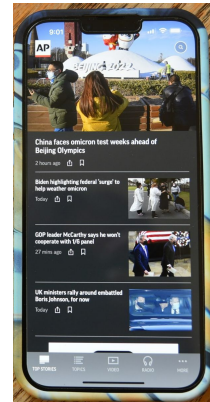
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Connecting

Dec. 14, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Dec. 14, 2022,

'It's not as simple as that'

Our Connecting colleague [Rhonda Shafner](#) explains:

The unveiling (revealing the headstone with its epitaph) for our friend **Marcus Eliason** occurred recently in Israel. With the consent of Marcus's wife, [Eva](#), I am providing an excerpt of how the family chose the epitaph, "It's not as simple as that." It was written by Marcus and Eva's son and read by Marcus's brother:



"In the early 1990s, Dad started noticing people wearing T-shirts with slogans that said things like 'Ban nuclear weapons' and 'Save the whales,' and 'Boycott petroleum.' His response was to commission a T-shirt of his own printed only for him that said the following: 'Actually, I don't think it's as simple as that.'

We chose this epitaph because it encapsulates Dad's willingness to engage with anyone, and I mean **anyone** around him in a friendly yet thoughtfully adversarial way... The T-shirt meant having a conversation with him..."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Click [here](#) for a link to the story on Marcus' death. Marcus' real name was Jack; it was changed because another in the family had that name.

Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A memory of John Mulroy



MEMORIAL

Technical Services Manager Anthony Keefe of international communications in London, right, and former Moscow Chief of Bureau Mike Putzel, now Washington-based diplomatic writer, left, attach a brass plaque to the door of the Moscow bureau's new satellite communications system.

The circuit, linking Moscow, New York and London, is the first in the Soviet Union to carry voice, news and photo transmissions simultaneously. The plaque says: "Moscow Communications Center, dedicated to the memory of John Mulroy, who said it could be done." Mulroy, AP's director of international commu-

nications, conceived the plan for using satellite technology to overcome the Soviet Union's notoriously unreliable land lines. He had begun negotiations for such a system when he was killed in the Dec. 21, 1988, terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. (Photo: Liu Heung Shing)

AP World, Winter 1991 - courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

More on that Indy 'winner' Will Overhead



Spotted and shared by [John Lee](#), who noted, "I just figured that, somewhere at some time, Will Overhead existed. So I pulled up the [findagrave](#) search page, plugged in the name and there it was."

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[Doug Pizac](#) -- I enjoyed the story about the Will Overhead mishap from 78 years ago. Here's a similar story involving a communications misunderstanding I would like to share. The photographer I speak of went on to have a prosperous and noteworthy career in our journalism industry. I'm leaving out her name to not embarrass her on something that happened 40 years ago. We still laugh together at her innocent oops.

Back in the early 1980s a newbie photographer at the L.A. Times was sent to Santa Anita Racetrack to illustrate a story they were doing on horse racing handicappers. She went and came back with very nice images -- of handicapped people in wheelchairs, using canes, crutches, etc. Having never been to a horse racing track before she did not know of the racing term handicappers and shot what she thought was the subject.

Fortunately, the editors caught the error and educated her (after having a good laugh) before the story was published. She was sent back to the track with new background knowledge and returned with the needed pictures that correctly illustrated the story.

Scene from Saigon



Nick Ut - I just came back from Vietnam and walk around City of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City. This is a photo of me with filmmaker Tony Bui standing in front of the old Eden Building which accommodated the offices of AP Saigon and NBC throughout the war. The famous Givral restaurant on the ground floor is now a luxurious department store housing Hermes and other luxury goods. And it seems a new Mandarin Oriental hotel is also being built, left, and Hotel Continental Saigon, right

Great job by AP on the blizzard

John Wylie - I just got the latest wire report to the Tulsa World on the massive blizzards, snow storms and potential flooding across a huge swath of the northern Plains and Midwest. We have tons of family and friends in the affected area and the wrapup, which called on 4 AP staffers in key places feeding into Sioux Falls, where the likely most experienced weather reporter took all the incoming material while doing his own reporting and produced a crystal clear story on which of our family members we needed to worry about (and which of our client newspapers that might be affected to ask what we might do to help from here).

It was a great job of teamwork which also included a major member newspaper pitching in. I'd been trying all day to get a true macro pix of the situation and finally got it off a member-posted AP newspaper story.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephen Groves in Sioux Falls wrote [the story](#) with contributions from Sam Metz, Trisha Ahmed and John Antczak. Amy Forliti had a role in editing it.

Hummingbird feeders



[Doug Pizac](#) -- I recently relocated our hummingbird feeders that were on poles in the backyard to putting them on small hanging basket hangers on the posts of our main floor rear deck for better enjoyment of the wonderful creatures on a daily basis. The tiny birds found them quickly and the new location also became a great place to take pictures from.

With a light snowfall serving as a seamless backdrop I began shooting but found the birds very bland looking. By adding a strobe set to 1/64th power to provide a flicker of light to create catch lights, it also brought out the brilliant colors in their reflective feathers.

Mike Balsamo named AP Law Enforcement news editor

Sarah Rafi - *Deputy U.S. News Director, Reporting Teams, in note to staff* - I am very happy to announce Mike Balsamo's appointment as the Law Enforcement News Editor for U.S. News.

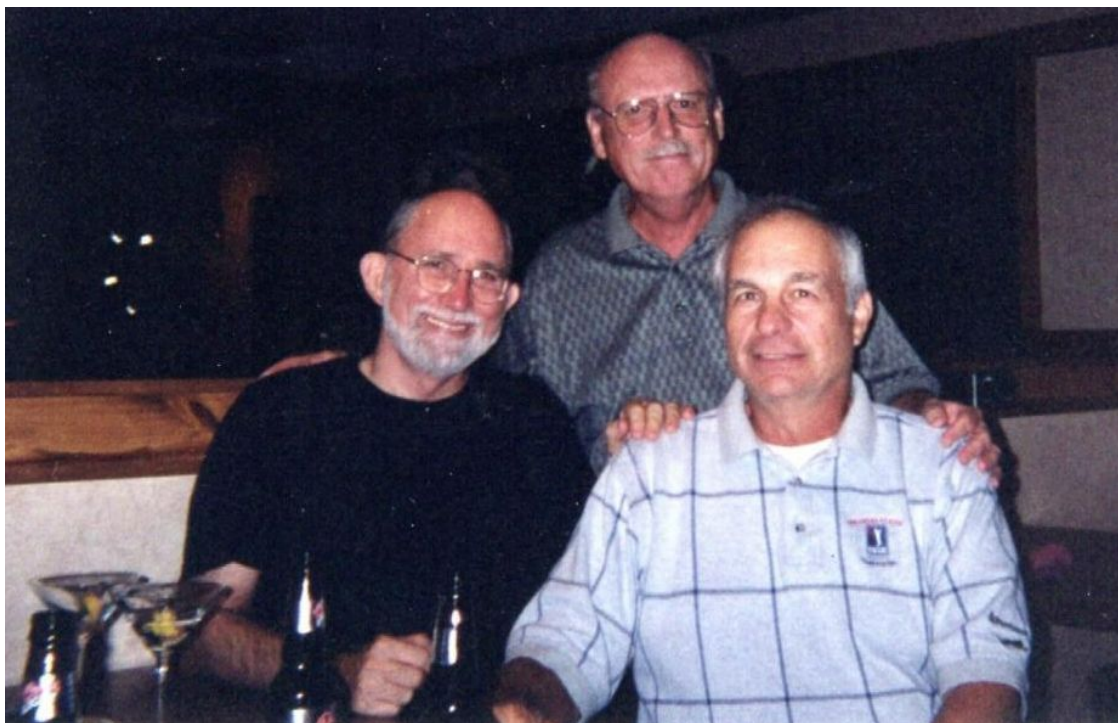
Mike has been a U.S. Department of Justice reporter since 2018, during which time he has excelled at and guided federal law enforcement coverage both inside and outside of Washington. He previously worked as a law enforcement and breaking news reporter in Los Angeles and New York City, two of AP's largest U.S. bureaus.

Colleagues nationwide will attest that Mike's readiness for breaking news, from mass shootings to mask mandates, high-profile trials to Bureau of Prisons exclusives, is

second-to-none. He is eager to build a law enforcement team with continued commitment to all-formats coverage of both breaking news and news AP breaks.

Please join me in congratulating Mike as he takes on his new role, which begins immediately.

The way we were



From left: John Carland, Robert Shaw, Harry King

[John Carland](#) - I enjoyed seeing photo of my old friend and college classmate Harry King, along with wife Ellen, in recent Connecting. It reminded me that I had a photo that not only included Harry but also Robert Shaw. Robert and I had taken courses together at Univ of Ark at Little Rock. Later we had a long history of emailing back and forth to discuss books we were reading or had read (Robert was a hungry reader) and Harry and I worked together in the complaint department of the Arkansas Democrat during college. During that time, Harry, living in North Little Rock, would pick me up from my home on the way to campus. He usually got to our house before I was ready. Since in those days we never locked our front door, he would come in and quickly fall asleep on couch. When I was ready, I would wake him up and we would toddle off to UALR to roll back the frontiers of ignorance.

Years later, on one of my trips to Little Rock I thought it would be nice for us to get together for drinks and reminiscences which we did at a hotel bar (Harry tells me it

was the Embassy Suites in West Little Rock). If you look closely at the lower left side of the photo you will see Robert's two beer bottles and my two Martini glasses. Harry, I think kept himself to soft drinks--and you can see in the pic that he's the more alert of we three! I can't put a date on our getting together but surely it was at least 12 years ago.

In any case, it was a great afternoon--three not-so-old guys, at least not then, having a good time re-living the past and getting caught up. I was so lucky to know these guys and be their friends. And we did OK in our careers--Harry as Arkansas' top sportswriter and early on AP guy, Robert as an acclaimed AP reporter and manager, and me as an official historian who wrote about and documented the history of the Vietnam War. Not so shabby as we like to say.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Joan Mower](#)

Stories of interest

Leonard Pitts Jr.: Time flew, didn't it? Now, it's time for me to fly off, too (Miami Herald)

Opinion BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Well, as Carol Burnett used to say, I'm so glad we had this time together.

I've written about 1.6 million words as a columnist. This 600 or so will be the last. I'm retiring for a few reasons. One is that, while I've managed to squeeze out four novels between column deadlines, my dream was always to write books full time. I turned 65 in October, so if not now, when?

Another reason is that a column, for me, at least, is an act of emotional investment — and I'm emotionally exhausted. They say you know when it's time. That's true. And it is.

Read more [here](#).

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Musk Shakes Up Twitter's Legal Team as He Looks to Cut More Costs (New York Times)

By Ryan Mac, Mike Isaac and Kate Conger

SAN FRANCISCO — Over the past two weeks, Elon Musk has shaken up Twitter's legal department, disbanded a council that advised the social media company on safety issues and is continuing to take drastic steps to cut costs.

Mr. Musk appears to be gearing up for legal battles at Twitter, which he purchased in October for \$44 billion, according to seven people familiar with internal conversations. He and his team have revamped Twitter's legal department and pushed out one of his closest advisers in the process. They have also instructed employees to not pay vendors in anticipation of potential litigation, the people said.

To cut costs, Twitter has not paid rent for its San Francisco headquarters or any of its global offices for weeks, three people close to the company said. Twitter has also refused to pay a \$197,725 bill for private charter flights made the week of Mr. Musk's takeover, according to a copy of a lawsuit filed in New Hampshire District Court and obtained by The New York Times.

Read more [here](#).

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Mediaite's Most Influential in News Media 2022

By Mediaite Staff

The media industry was rocked by upheaval and the need for reinvention in 2022, as the country and economy started to adjust to a post-pandemic atmosphere. Millions of dollars were poured into new endeavors and experimental ventures — some that emerged as leading forces in the media world, and some that followed Icarus' path of flying too close to the sun before crashing to Earth.

In the news business, the year ends with a great deal of uncertainty as layoffs loom, legacy publications face strikes and alternative media continues to siphon off viewers, listeners, and readers. But, when looking back at the major stories of 2022 — from Uvalde to Ukraine — the necessity and value of quality journalism has never been more clear.

The year began with many themes spilling over from 2021, from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the continued dominance of Donald Trump over the news agenda. However, as the year continued both Covid and Trump began to wane as Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine overshadowed all else by March.

As spring gave way to summer, the leaked Supreme Court's bombshell decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and the FBI's search of Mar-a-Lago reshaped the landscape,

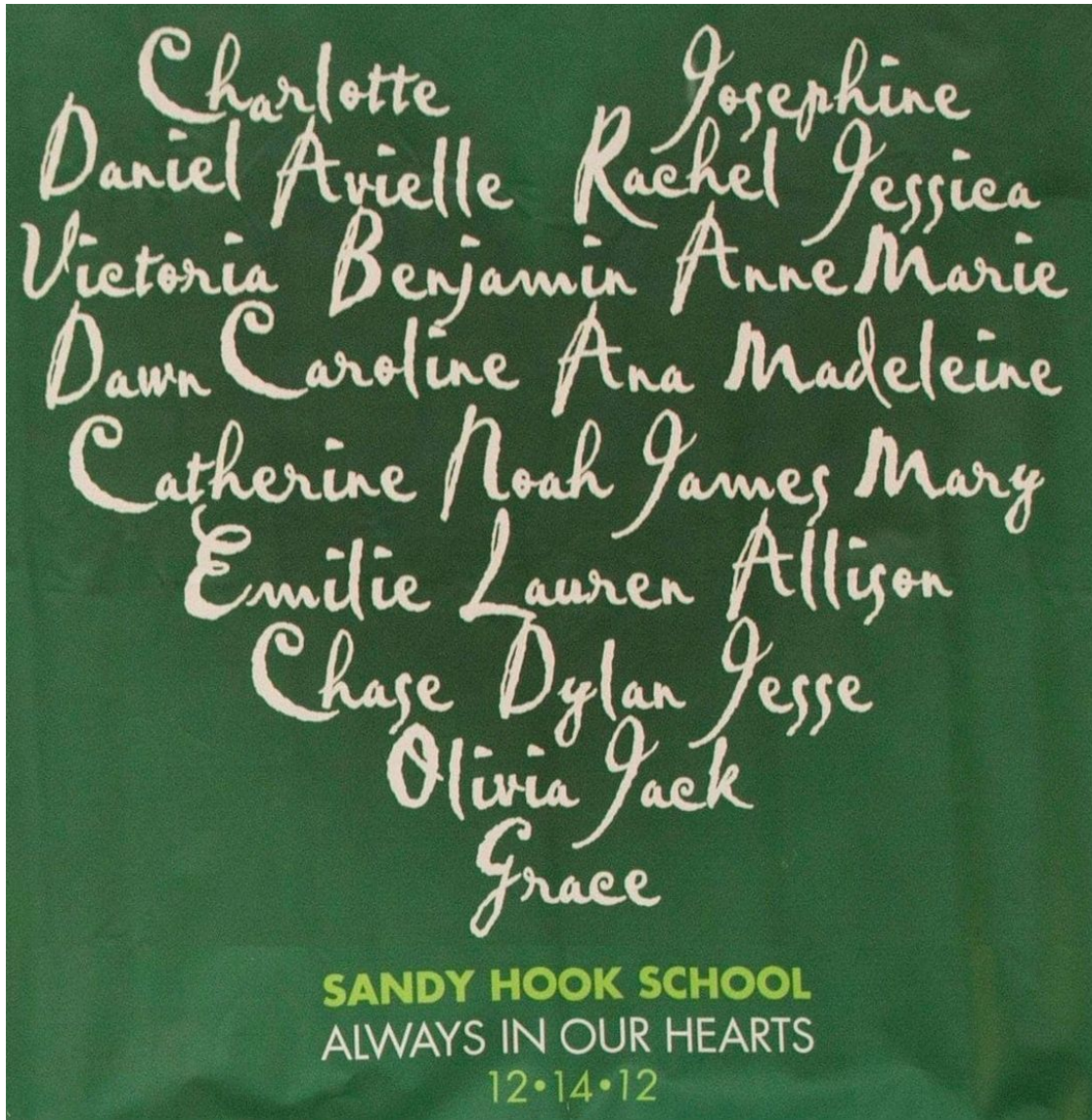
energizing both sides of the political spectrum. All the while, midterm primaries played out as Trump-backed candidates and the GOP establishment duked it out and the House Jan. 6th Committee captivated audiences on CNN and MSNBC with shocking hearings.

On cable news, MSNBC's star host, Rachel Maddow, announced she would only host once a week, which meant both CNN and MSNBC began searching for new 9 p.m. attractions. CNN, which got a new parent company and a new leader in 2022, briefly dabbled in streaming with the short-lived CNN+. While CNN continues to go through a shake-up, Fox News began competing with broadcast networks in the ratings and strung together months of dominance.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Dec. 14, 2022







The Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial on Monday in Newtown, Connecticut. The names of the 20 first graders and six educators killed a short distance away at Sandy Hook Elementary School 10 years ago are engraved in concrete around a memorial pool with a sycamore tree in the middle. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson).

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2022. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 14, 2020, the Electoral College decisively confirmed Joe Biden as the nation's next president, ratifying his November victory in a state-by-state repudiation of President Donald Trump's refusal to concede he had lost; electors gave Biden 306 votes to Trump's 232. Speaking from Delaware, Biden accused Trump of threatening core principles of democracy, but told Americans that their form of self-government had "prevailed."

On this date:

In 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, home at age 67.

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1861, Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died at Windsor Castle at age 42.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (ROH'-ahl AH'-mun-suhn) and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1939, the Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations for invading Finland.

In 1961, a school bus was hit by a passenger train at a crossing near Greeley, Colorado, killing 20 students.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, ruled that Congress was within its authority to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against racial discrimination by private businesses (in this case, a motel that refused to cater to Blacks).

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1985, former New York Yankees outfielder Roger Maris, who'd hit 61 home runs during the 1961 season, died in Houston at age 51.

In 1986, the experimental aircraft *Voyager*, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 2006, a British police inquiry concluded that the deaths of Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, in a 1997 Paris car crash were a "tragic accident," and that allegations of a murder conspiracy were unfounded. Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun died in New York at age 83.

In 2020, the largest vaccination campaign in U.S. history began with health workers getting shots on the same day the nation's COVID-19 death toll hit 300,000.

Ten years ago: A gunman with a semi-automatic rifle killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, then took his own life as police arrived; the 20-year-old had also fatally shot his mother at their home before carrying out the attack on the school.

Five years ago: The Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules, a move that gave internet service providers a free hand to slow or block specific websites and apps as they see fit, or charge more for faster speeds. The most serious charge against James Alex Fields, accused of driving into a crowd protesting a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, was upgraded to first-degree murder; a 32-year-old woman, Heather Heyer, died and dozens were injured.

One year ago: The House voted to hold former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows in contempt of Congress after he ceased to cooperate with the Jan. 6 committee investigating the Capitol insurrection. (The Justice Department would decline to prosecute.) A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit that was brought by former President Donald Trump in his attempt to block congressional lawmakers from obtaining his tax returns. The U.S. death toll from COVID-19 topped 800,000, according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University. Stephen Curry set a new NBA career 3-point record; the Golden State Warriors' guard hit his 2,974th 3-point shot against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden. Authorities in South Carolina said an autopsy found unusually severe brain disease in the frontal lobe of Phillip

Adams, a former NFL player accused of fatally shooting six people in South Carolina before killing himself in April.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-actor Abbe Lane is 91. Actor Hal Williams is 88. Actor-singer Jane Birkin is 76. Pop singer Joyce Vincent Wilson (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 76. Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz is 76. Actor Dee Wallace is 74. R&B singer Ronnie McNeir (The Four Tops) is 73. Rock musician Cliff Williams is 73. Actor-comedian T.K. Carter is 66. Rock singer-musician Mike Scott (The Waterboys) is 64. Singer-musician Peter "Spider" Stacy (The Pogues) is 64. Actor Cynthia Gibb is 59. Actor Nancy Valen is 57. Actor Archie Kao is 53. Actor Natascha McElhone is 53. Actor-comedian Michaela Watkins is 51. Actor-comedian Miranda Hart is 50. R&B singer Brian Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 47. Actor KaDee Strickland is 47. Actor Tammy Blanchard is 46. Actor Sophie Monk is 43. Actor-singer-musician Jackson Rathbone is 38. Actor Vanessa Hudgens is 34. Rock/R&B singer Tori Kelly is 30.

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.



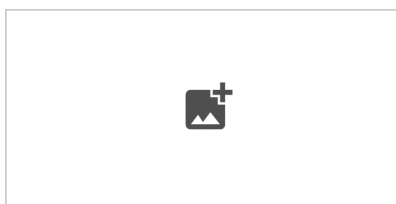
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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