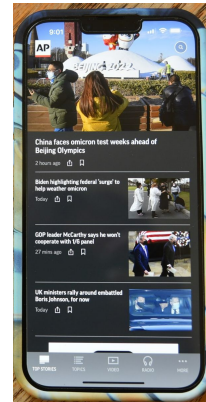


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Connecting

Dec. 23, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Dec. 23, 2022,

AP President/CEO **Daisy Veerasingham** shared the following message with AP's worldwide staff on Thursday:

As we head into the holidays, I want to thank each of you for your many contributions to The Associated Press this year. Because of your hard work and dedication to AP's mission, audiences around the world were both informed and inspired by our factual, nonpartisan journalism. Whether you were on the front lines reporting the news or providing crucial behind-the-scenes support, your work made a difference.

There has been no shortage of major news stories in 2022, from the war in Ukraine to the death of Queen Elizabeth II to the World Cup, and so much more. This video, which will play on New Year's Eve in New York's Times Square for thousands to see, highlights the critical journalism AP produced this year.

I hope you will take a few minutes to watch [this video](#) of the year in review, as covered by the AP.

As we look ahead to 2023, I know we will once again deliver the essential journalism and services that our customers – and people across the globe – rely on, just as we have for 176 years. No other news organization in the world does more to advance the power of facts.

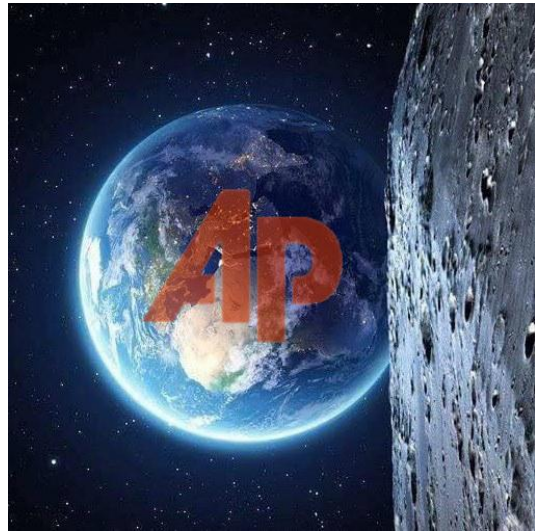
Thank you so very much for the work that you do. I wish all of you around the AP world and your families a happy new year.

-0-

Ye Olde Editor wishes you Happy Holidays. Connecting will take a few days off and be back in your Inbox next Tuesday.

Be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



Harry Cabluck – as humble as he is talented

[Jim Gerberich](#) - I wrote to some friends yesterday about Harry Cabluck, "a legend by a legend." Harry is as humble as he is talented. (See item in Thursday's issue.)

He did more than just "hold down the button." Some may have said he took a risk but in reality he knew with seconds left there were few options for the Steelers but to go long. Speaking of long, it was long before autofocus.

Cabluck downplayed his role shooting the iconic image of Franco Harris.

"I just held the button down on the camera and let the camera run, and all I did was follow the football and try to keep it in focus," he said.

Lockerbie memory



[Kevin Walsh](#) - Lisa and I visited the memorial site in Lockerbie, Scotland on August 1, 2017, as part of a big United Kingdom driving trip.

It remains one of the most moving and memorable experiences in our travels across 84 countries.

Reading the Lockerbie memories in Connecting, including the story of young Alexia Tsairis, made me look back in our travel photo archives. And, sure enough, among the handful of photos I took during our visit, was one of the memorial to Alexia.

I was also struck that day by another memorial, this one honoring Steven Lee Butler, a Peace Corps volunteer who also died on Pan Am Flight 103.

The simple quote from Steven on his memorial has stayed with me ever since:

"Life is life -- Enjoy it."

The FIFA World Cup



Two boys kick a ball on the street in a plaza in Havana, Cuba, oblivious to the wedding about to take place behind them in April 2004. (Photo by Mark Mittelstadt)

Mark Mittelstadt - As a Johnny Come Lately to soccer, I enjoyed Mort Rosenblum's reflections and memories on the just completed FIFA World Cup (Wednesday Connecting).

Passion around the world for what most of it calls football is unmatched by any sporting event played in the United States or elsewhere. It's a passion that comes early. Young boys kick ragged balls of any type on cobblestone streets, dodging the occasional car or tuk-tuk that rattles by. If it's a really big match, national holidays are declared and fans take time off from work to watch their team in person or on a neighborhood TV.

For most of the world, football is life. In some countries it is life or death, with assaults or assassinations of players or coaches who don't win, or referees who don't make the right call. In America, we just kill them on social media.

The huge crowd welcoming the Argentine soccer team in Buenos Aires, seen in Rodrigo Abd's photo with Mort's post, was stunning.

A soccer referee entering my 27th year and former coach of my sons' teams, I watched much of this year's World Cup, as I have done many Cups past. The semifinals between Argentina and Croatia and between France and Morocco were exciting. But they were no match for the France-Argentina final.

It was a battle between arguably the world's best soccer player, Argentina's Lionel Messi, and a player likely to soon take that unofficial title, France's Kylian Mbappe. Messi -- shorter but crafty, great control of the ball -- can find his openings and take the shot. Mbappe -- taller, stronger, faster, equally good with the ball -- also finds ways to score. Messi and teammate Angel Di Maria scored in the first half to give Argentina a 2-0 lead. Mbappe scored his team's first goal halfway through the second half and quickly followed with another. The teams finished overtime tied at 3-3, with Mbappe scoring all three of his team's goals. Argentina won on kicks from the penalty mark 4-2.

The two stars did not disappoint. Messi won the Golden Ball award for best player; Mbappe was runner up. Mbappe won the Golden Boot award for top goal scorer; Messi was Silver. Interestingly, competitors for their national teams at the World Cup, they are teammates on French Ligue 1 powerhouse Paris Saint-Germain.

It was Messi's last World Cup appearance. In all, he scored 13 World Cup goals. Mbappe has 12, the same number as Brazilian icon Pele.

For all the excitement of the Qatar World Cup, there were controversies and scandals, as seem to follow the world's governing soccer body FIFA, as Mort noted. Investigations, resignations, civil charges have been part of FIFA's history. Despite efforts to clean up the Zurich-based association and its confederations around the world, the confluence of money, influence, property, power seems to infect the body with shady dealings, a cancer that can never fully be eradicated.

What will we learn about how the United States, Mexico and Canada managed to land the 2026 FIFA World Cup? Time will tell.

Finally, Mort may enjoy [this take](#) from Tuesday's The Onion. What do they say -- the joke is always better when there's a degree of truth?

Final goodbye: Recalling influential people who died in 2022

By BERNARD MCGHEE

One would have to go back hundreds of years to find a monarch who reigned longer than Queen Elizabeth II.

In her 70 years on the throne, she helped modernize the monarchy across decades of enormous social change, royal marriages and births, and family scandals. For most

Britons, she was the only monarch they had ever known.

Her death in September was arguably the most high-profile death this year, prompting a collective outpouring of grief and respect for her steady leadership as well as some criticism of the monarchy's role in colonialism. She likely met more people than anyone in history, and her image — on stamps, coins and bank notes — was among the most reproduced in the world.

Other world leaders who died in 2022 include former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who died in August. His efforts to revitalize the Soviet Union led to the collapse of communism there and the end of the Cold War. He eventually resigned after an attempted coup, just as republics declared independence from the Soviet Union.

Read more [here](#).

The Year of the Slap: Pop culture moments in 2022

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Taylor Swift was up. Elon Musk was in, out, and in. Tom Cruise was back. BTS stepped aside, and so did Serena Williams, and Tom Brady too — oops, scratch that.

But the slap? The slap was everywhere.

Ok, so maybe it wasn't on the level of a moon landing, or selection of a pope. But henceforth all you need say is "the slap" and people will know what you mean — that moment Will Smith smacked Chris Rock at the Oscars and a global audience said, "Wait, did that happen?" Even in the room itself — maybe especially in the room itself — there was a sense that everyone had imagined it, which helps explain why things went on as normal, for a bit.

The pandemic was over in 2022, phew! Well, of course it wasn't. But live entertainment pushed forward, with mask mandates dropping, and people rushing to buy things like, oh, Taylor Swift tickets!

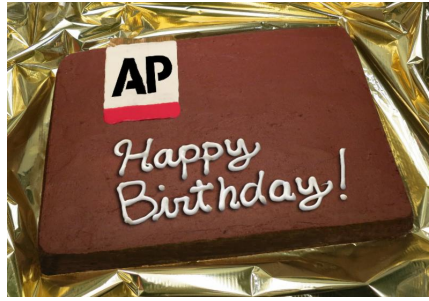
Read more [here](#).

AP Sighting (If it's AP, it's gotta be good!)



Shared by [Adolphe Bernotas](#)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Donna Bryson](#)

On Saturday to...

[Sergio Florez](#)

[Bill Wertz](#)

On Sunday to...

[Ed Bell](#)

[Chris Connell](#)

[Roger Petterson](#)

[Anita Snow](#)

On Monday to...

[Darrell Christian](#)

[Tom Cohen](#)

[Peggy Simpson](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[John Humenik](#)

Stories of interest

Donald Trump had to be told a pool of reporters would no longer follow him around because he wasn't president anymore: report (Business Insider)

By Hannah Getahun

Aides and advisers to former President Donald Trump said he had a difficult time transitioning from the White House to life as a private citizen, according to a new report from the Washington Post.

According to the Post, one example of this was when Trump wanted his team to call on a press pool — reporters who travel with presidents — for an event at Mar-a-Lago. Advisers had to break the news to Trump that this was no longer a possibility.

"We had to explain to him that he didn't have a group standing around waiting for him anymore," an unnamed former aide told the Washington Post.

The advisers ended up pulling reporters who were near Mar-a-Lago for other reasons, two sources told the Post.

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

-0-

EXCLUSIVE: TikTok Spied On Forbes Journalists (Forbes)

By Emily Baker-White

An internal investigation by ByteDance, the parent company of video-sharing platform TikTok, found that employees tracked multiple journalists covering the company, improperly gaining access to their IP addresses and user data in an attempt to identify whether they had been in the same locales as ByteDance employees.

According to materials reviewed by Forbes, ByteDance tracked multiple Forbes journalists as part of this covert surveillance campaign, which was designed to unearth the source of leaks inside the company following a drumbeat of stories exposing the company's ongoing links to China. As a result of the investigation into the surveillance tactics, ByteDance fired Chris Lepitak, its chief internal auditor who led the team responsible for them. The China-based executive Song Ye, who Lepitak reported to and who reports directly to ByteDance CEO Rubo Liang, resigned.

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

-0-

Veteran News Anchor Jim Gardner Makes His Goodbye Count By Telling Truth About The Press

(HuffPost.com)

By Ron Dicker

He humbly asked his 6ABC audience for a “final word” and launched an eloquent defense of his craft.

“The American free press has been under attack, not by forces from other countries, but from elements embedded in our own society, and even our own government. It worries me deeply,” Gardner said.

After an anecdote about Thomas Jefferson's deep belief in freedom of the press, Gardner delivered his most important message about the fourth estate.

“We are not the enemy of the people,” he said.

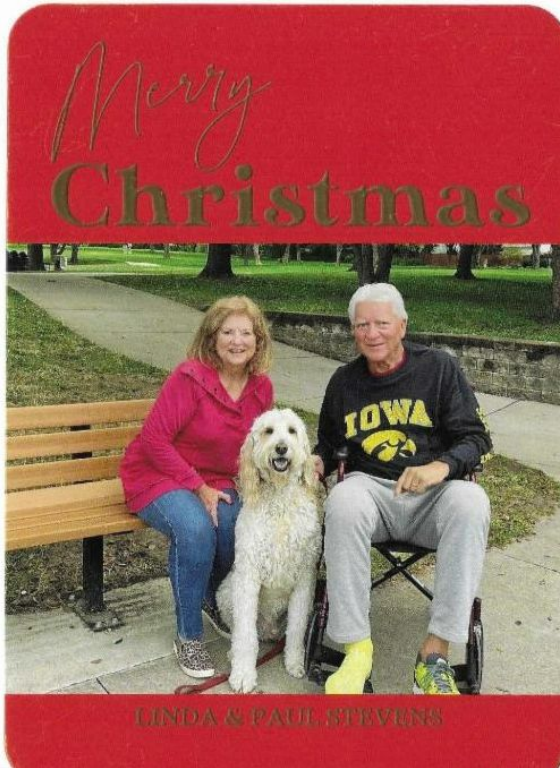
“Serving the people, you the people of the tri-state area, with responsible and unbiased journalism. This is our mission now and in the future,” he continued. “And if we falter, you damn well better let us know, for your benefit and for ours.”

Gardner received a well-deserved applause from colleagues as he said good night for the last time.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh, Peg Coughlin.

The Final Word

From our little house on the prairie, to yours...



Today in History – Dec. 23, 2022



Today is Friday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 2022. There are eight days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 23, 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area “not exceeding ten miles square” for the seat of the national government; about two-thirds of the area became the District of Columbia.

On this date:

In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published in the Troy (New York) Sentinel; the verse, more popularly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

In 1913, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1954, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

In 1972, a 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Nicaragua; the disaster claimed some 5,000 lives.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan (ruh-TAN') and Jeana (JEE'-nuh) Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1997, a federal jury in Denver convicted Terry Nichols of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, declining to find him guilty of murder. (Nichols was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In 2003, a jury in Chesapeake, Virginia, sentenced teen sniper Lee Boyd Malvo to life in prison, sparing him the death penalty.

In 2016, the United States allowed the U.N. Security Council to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem as a "flagrant violation" of international law; the decision to abstain from the council's 14-0 vote was one of the biggest American rebukes of its longstanding ally in recent memory.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie and other dignitaries attended a memorial service for the late Sen. Daniel Inouye at Honolulu's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Jean Harris, the patrician girls' school headmistress who spent 12 years in prison for the 1980 killing of her longtime lover, "Scarsdale Diet" doctor Herman Tarnower, died in New Haven, Connecticut, at age 89.

Five years ago: The top leadership of the Miss America Organization resigned amid a scandal over emails in which pageant officials had ridiculed past winners over their appearance and intellect and speculated about their sex lives. A federal judge in

Seattle partially lifted a Trump administration ban on certain refugees after two groups argued that the policy kept people from some mostly Muslim countries from reuniting with family living legally in the United States.

One year ago: Kim Potter, a white suburban Minneapolis police officer who said she confused her handgun for her Taser, was convicted of manslaughter in the death of a young Black man, Daunte Wright, during a traffic stop. (Potter would be sentenced to two years in prison.) A 14-year-old girl, Valentina Orellana-Peralta, was fatally shot by Los Angeles police when officers fired on an assault suspect and a bullet went through the wall and struck the girl as she was in a clothing store dressing room; the assault suspect was also killed. Joan Didion, the revered author and essayist known for her provocative social commentary and detached, methodical literary voice, died at 87; her publisher said Didion died from complications from Parkinson's disease.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ronnie Schell is 91. Former Emperor Akihito of Japan is 89. Actor Frederic Forrest is 86. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen (YOR'-mah KOW'-kah-nen) is 82. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 79. U.S. Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.) is 78. Actor Susan Lucci is 76. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 73. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 66. Actor Joan Severance is 64. Singer Terry Weeks is 59. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 58. The former first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 55. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 47. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 45. Actor Estella Warren is 44. Actor Elvy Yost is 35. Actor Anna Maria Perez de Tagle (TAG'-lee) is 32. Actor Spencer Daniels is 30. Actor Caleb Foote is 29.

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!

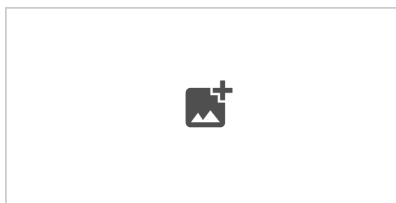


Here are some suggestions:

- **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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