

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#)

# Connecting

Jan. 3, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype[Top AP News](#)[Top AP Photos](#)[AP Merchandise](#)[Connecting Archive](#)[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Jan. 3, 2023,

With the start of this new year, Connecting turns 10 years old – begun with a dozen subscribers by this AP retiree. I'm glad you're along for the ride...

Today's first issue of 2023 is rich with memories – nothing new for Connecting but unusual in the number and scope of the remembrances.

We extend our sympathies to colleague [Sandy Johnson](#) on the death of her mother on Dec. 30. Mavis Benner Johnson was 91. Click [here](#) for her obituary.

Colleague **Richard Chady** recommends you take a look at "AP's Photos of the Year 2022" as presented on YouTube. They comprise 150 of the most impactful images from across the world. "CBS Saturday Morning" co-host Michelle Miller talks with AP photographers Ramon Espinosa and Jae Hong, and with Columbia journalism professor Nina Berman, about moments, captured on camera, that shed light on where we are, and where we're going. Click [here](#) to view.

Colleague **Paul Colford** notes the proliferation of AP photos that pop in this great visual by The Washington Post on Barbara Walters' standout career. Click [here](#).

Barbara Walters was an inspiration to many young journalists. If you're one of them and want to tell us why, your story would be welcomed.

I wish you good health and happiness in this coming year. Thank you for being a part of our growing Connecting family.

Paul

## Happy – and I do mean HAPPY – New Year

**Norm Abelson** - Okay, it's New Year season, and time for resolutions. So what does a guy staring at his 92nd birthday in a couple of months decide on?

I'm no great fan of statistical deep-diving, but I took a cursory look anyway. Here's what I found:

There are about two million nonagenarians traipsing about the U.S. That number has tripled since 1980 and is expected to double over the next four decades. Some psychologists have posited that optimists tend to live longer. What does that have to say about the fact more than twice as many women than men make it to 90?

I should have stopped my research right there, because the articles began to look at the dark side – no more Social Security and other programs for the older population. Illnesses. Mental and emotional lapses, Loneliness. Etc..

Enough! Starting right now, I'm resolved to look at things from Magdalene's positive perspective, and try to dump my life-long affair with the negative.

Here's my other resolution for 2023: Less research. Less negative. More Jack Daniels.

## Ever worked in newspaper digitalization project?

**Brendan Riley** - Anyone been involved in a newspaper digitization project? I'm working with a museum group to digitize old issues of Vallejo CA newspapers dating to the 1860s. We have access to original editions, but they are in bad shape. Interested in finding a company or organization that does this and, of course, any sources of grant funds to cover the costs. Besides the original editions, there also is microfilm but that's not of the best quality. Any ideas greatly appreciated. You can reach me directly at [genoans@hotmail.com](mailto:genoans@hotmail.com)

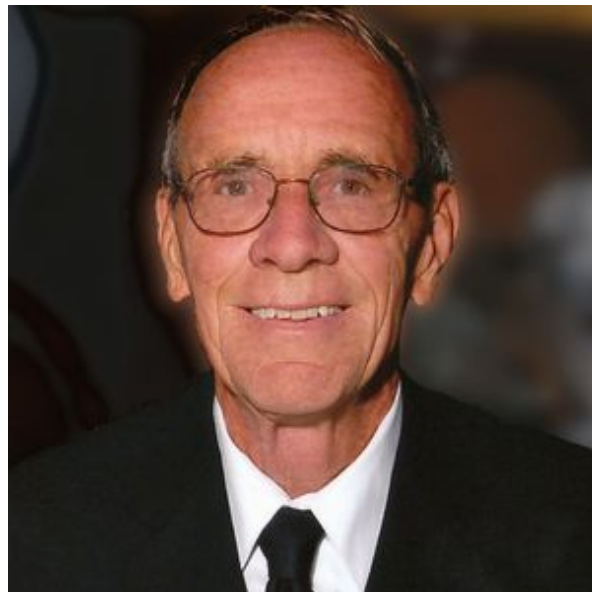
# Kenneth Edward Conway

Apr 5, 1931 - Oct 28, 2022

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** The name of Ken Conway was listed in the 2022 Connecting Deaths issue last week; he was not a Connecting member and the name came from a Human Resources listing of deaths of AP pensioners. His former Los Angeles colleagues did some research and found his obituary, and a few offered their memories.)

Kenneth Edward Conway slipped the surly bonds of Earth at the age of 91 on Friday, October 28, 2022 in Alhambra, California. Alhambra had been his home of the last 49 years and his family was by his side as his fight with lung disease ended.

Ken was born in Manilla, IA in 1931 to Paul and Anna Conway. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Elaine Murphy, Mark Conway and Francis Conway. Ken attended Manilla High School where he played on the baseball & basketball teams and was a member of the 20 student graduating class of 1949. After earning a degree in English from Loras College in Dubuque, IA in 1953, Ken taught 9th & 10th grade English and coached the baseball and basketball teams at Holy Family High School in Mason City. The following year he enlisted in the US Army and served 2 years stationed at Ft Sill, OK at the tail end of the Korean War. Upon completion of his military service Ken embarked on a career in broadcast journalism with jobs in Texas and Florida. He made a fateful decision to take a TV station job in Charleston, WV which is where he ultimately met and married the former Paula Jacquelyn Cobb in 1960.



Ken and Jackie began their family in Charleston, ultimately welcoming 5 children over a span of 7 years. It was in Charleston that Ken began his career working for the Associated Press, a career that would ultimately span 35 years and ended with his retirement in 1996. His job with the AP took them all to Spokane, WA for one year and then on to the Los Angeles area where they settled permanently in Alhambra. He worked as a news writer and editor, covering such newsworthy events as the Robert Kennedy assassination, the Manson family and OJ Simpson trials.

Read more [here](#).

## *Memories of 'Cathode Ken' Conway*

**Michael Rubin** - Ken was the consummate, confident supervisor and always knew when to push on a story or let it ride. He was an excellent editor, improving copy but

not fitting any particular style. A terrific newsman, he had a solid eye for good stories as well as holes in copy left because of incomplete information or incomplete writing.

He was a very good guy, a great colleague, and I think all of us are glad we worked with him. I remember one Christmas when it seemed every staffer married with children was scheduled to work. Many single staffers offered to swap shifts but Ken demurred, noting he had five (I original thought it was seven) kids and both the overtime and relative peace and quiet might be welcome.

-0-

**Mike Goodkind** - If Kenneth Conway is indeed "Cathode Ken," then definitely "one of the very good guys." He was an incredible steady hand and straight shooter, who when he told you something it was almost always correct and always sincere. Evenings not long after I arrived, I sometimes worked the local desk. Can't remember whether it was called the state desk or city desk, but I do remember Ken calmly moving things forward in front of his CRT. He had a large number of kids as I recall, which consumed much of his apres-AP time and attention, but he had one extracurricular passion, a single-engine aircraft he had fixed up and flew all over Southern California, contributing to his editor's scope of geography and inside understanding of aviation and a steady hand on the office cockpit, still often paper and pencil. Somehow once it became relevant for a story, I was working on that we observed it seemed reckless that a small plane had traversed the airspace directly above LAX, but Ken knew that's how planes transited the city — high above the takeoffs and landings directly below. Ken had come to LA, I think directly, from a stint as correspondent in Spokane. Never heard him all about the machinations of his career, though.

-0-

**Lyle Price** - Sadly, the listed name of Kenneth Conway as of late last year was determined to be (as Mike Rubin sent you a link affirming) that of our old comrade. I don't remember ever seeing a more memorable parade of e-mail tributes from co-staffers for a departed colleague, and I wish to echo their praise of the man's friendly demeanor and his editing skills, both of which made him such a positive asset.

I met Ken in early 1969 when he transferred from Spokane, WA, where he had been the correspondent. The computer era was beginning to engulf journalism -- and cathode ray tubes were replacing typewriters at about that time -- so Ken's nickname somehow became "Cathode" Conway, as some of the e-mail tributes in his honor noted affectionally. I don't recollect which of the riots and peace marches and elections he had a hand in but there were many such deadline events in a news jurisdiction that at that time made LA the editing and relay point for any California stories going either to members inside of California or to NY for relay on the AAA or intrabureau wire to smaller dailies. The foregoing relay also included stories from Nevada, Hawaii and Guam. These duties involved a number of hands and involved all shifts--and since I don't recollect that he missed many if any workdays I know he was there for a whole lot of those and contributed mightily with his notably hardworking and calm demeanor.

However, the biggest things that I recollect are his unflagging good nature and personal bits such as when the late Bob Kerr and I took him fishing in our rowboat on a calm day on LA harbor.

-0-

[Linda Deutsch](#) - Congrats to Mike and Lyle for following the leads and finding “our” Ken Conway. So he is gone but definitely not forgotten. I remember him as soft spoken, a gentleman in a profession where others often leaned toward the rough and tumble. I notice someone said in his official obit that he was “unflappable” and I think that would be the best description of him. Yes, he edited my stories and occasionally took dictation from me. I remember that he had a plane he lavished with loving care. It looks like he lived a long and productive life even after he retired from AP. And yes, as we suspected, those unfiltered cigarettes finally caught up with him. RIP Ken. You made us look good.

## Ed Seaton: terrific editor, publisher, AP booster

[Tad Bartimus](#) - I am very sorry to read of Edward Seaton's death. He was terrific as an editor, publisher and AP Booster. We had a mutual admiration society and were always delighted to see one another -- we'd stand in a hallway for an hour gabbing about journalism, Kansas, sports, dogs, etc... He admired and supported AP people as much as any publisher/owner I've ever known. He was funny, kind, smart and a true newsman through and through. I regret losing touch with him in recent years and will miss him. So will his readers, his staff, and his friends as well as his fine family. His death is a painful loss to many.

## A memory of Barbara Walters

[Frank Aukofer](#) - The death of Barbara Walters triggered a memory, which I recounted in my autobiography/memoir, “Never a Slow Day.” It was 1976 and I was part of The Milwaukee Journal team covering the Republican National Convention in Kansas City. President Ford had dumped Nelson Rockefeller as his vice president for re-election, favoring Bob Dole. It was Rockefeller’s last hurrah and The Journal assigned me to bird-dog him for the whole day. I was the only reporter in his entourage and met Baba Wawa at a party hosted by Katharine Graham. Here’s the excerpt:

In 1976 Rockefeller was still the vice-president, and attended the convention in Kansas City, putting on a brave face and making the rounds in a last hurrah. The Journal wanted it covered, and assigned me to spend the day with him. In the story, I wrote, “Rockefeller is 68 now, and he is both a heartbeat and a light year away from the one job he wanted most.”

Surprisingly, I was the only reporter in the Rockefeller entourage, which included his wife, Happy. Because I was in the trailing group, I spent a good deal of time with Mrs. Rockefeller, who helped me with names and other information. It was a lot of fun. We



traveled to caucuses and other events, and wound up at a party hosted by Katharine Graham, the publisher of The Washington Post.

Among the guests was Barbara Walters, the television personality. I introduced myself and we chatted amiably. Later I wrote in a diary I kept at the time: "Spent the day with Rockefeller and had a good time. I was the only reporter with him. Happy very pleasant. Met a bunch of celebs, including Barb Walters, at Kay Graham lunch. Walters very pleasant and very sexy."

Eleven years later, at a Press Club dinner honoring ABC's David Brinkley with the club's Fourth Estate Award, I ran into Walters again. We chatted briefly, and I recalled that we had met in 1976 at the Katharine Graham party for Rockefeller. "Oh," she said. "Were we intimate?"

## A meeting with Pele



**Kazuo Abiko** - In connection with Pele stories following his death, this photo shows Pele and myself after he spoke at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in June 2002, when FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan was held. I was FCCJ president at that time and moderated the "professional luncheon" featuring the King of Football.

## Remembering Eloy Aguilar

**Greg Nokes** - Enjoyed Monte Hayes recollections of the late Eloy Aguilar when he was COB in Mexico City. I had the privilege of working with Eloy as our news editor when I was chief of Caribbean Services in Puerto Rico lo these many years ago. I've saved this photo of Eloy and others taken during a visit to the San Juan bureau by the late Stan

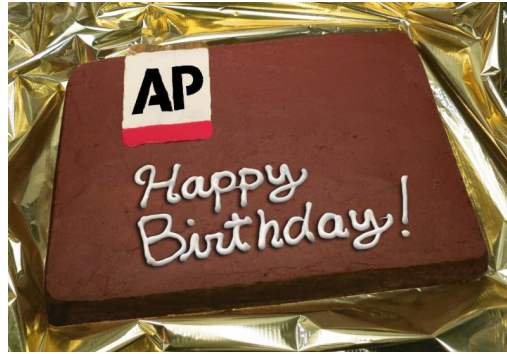
Swinton, head of AP World Services, second from the right. Eloy is on the right. Others pictured from left to right are me, the late AP reporter Harold Lidin, good friend Irwin Tress, and Ron Walker, the late editor of the San Juan Star.

## Sunset on Maui -- Happy New Year!



Paul Albright – Taken Dec. 31 by our vacationing daughter.

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Gary Sosniecki](#)

[Soll Sussman](#)

## Stories of interest

*Barbara Walters, dead at 93, was cultural fixture, TV icon* (AP)





**FILE - This May 8, 1980 file photo, former President Richard M. Nixon answers question during interview by ABC television personality Barbara Walters in New York. TV news pioneer and creator of 'The View,' Barbara Walters has died at 93, Friday, Dec. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Ray Stubblebine, File)**

**By FRAZIER MOORE**

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara Walters was that rarest of TV personalities: a cultural fixture.

For more than a half-century, she was on the air, placing in front of her audience world figures, big shots and celebrities whose names and faces might have changed from year to year. But hers never did.

She first found her way to prominence in a visually oriented business where, typically, women were adornments or otherwise secondary.

And there she stayed, stayed so long and reliably she came to serve as a trusted reference point: What Barbara thought, what she said and, especially, what she asked the people she interviewed.

“I do think about death,” she told The Associated Press in 2008 as she was closing out her eighth decade. But if death got the last word, Walters had the nation’s ear in the meantime, she made clear, with amusement, as she recalled the zany Broadway hit “Spamalot,” based on a Monty Python film.

“You know the scene where they’re collecting dead bodies during a plague, and there’s a guy they keep throwing in the heap, and he keeps saying, ‘I’m not dead yet’? Then they bash him on the head, and he gets up again and says, ‘I’m not dead yet!’

“He’s my hero,” Walters said with a smile.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Gov. Katie Hobbs is sworn in while hiding from reporters*** (Arizona Republic)

**By LAURIE ROBERTS**

Arizona has a new set of leaders today, only you wouldn’t know it unless you’re a fan of Facebook.

The state’s transition to Democratic rule (in the top three offices, at least) was peaceful. It just wasn’t public.

No reporters were allowed inside to witness the event or, as importantly, to pose questions to the officials who will now run our state. Instead, the governor who

vowed transparency livestreamed the event on her Facebook page.

Granted, Monday is a state holiday and Gov. Katie Hobbs will stage a ceremonial inauguration on Thursday – thanks to various special interests that are kicking in an undisclosed amount to pay for the celebration. But Hobbs assumed power at 10 a.m. on Monday and in her first official act, she decided to take the public's business private. She refused to allow reporters to witness the event, granting access only to an AP pool photographer.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

## ***Zelensky Signs Controversial News Media Regulation***

(New York Times)

**By Anushka Patil**

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine has signed off on legislation that would significantly expand the government's regulatory power over the news media, a measure that journalists have warned could erode press freedom.

Mr. Zelensky, whose administration has been criticized for undermining press freedoms, ordered the drafting of a law increasing media regulation in 2019.

The measure was passed by Ukraine's Parliament earlier this month along with a spate of other bills that lawmakers say were intended to help the country meet the European Union's legislative conditions for membership. The bills included measures to protect the rights of national minorities. Mr. Zelensky signed the media regulation bill into law on Thursday, the Ukrainian media reported.

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

-0-

## ***For 3 big Alabama newspapers, the presses are grinding to a halt*** (NPR)

**By Debbie Elliot**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — It's gotten harder to find a sidewalk newspaper box to buy a copy of The Birmingham News, but you can find the latest edition at the public library downtown.

Sherrel Wheeler Stewart pulls a food stain-splattered copy hanging from a spindle.

"A lot of people read it," she says. "Look at this spaghetti sauce."

Stewart is a former editor and reporter who spent nearly two decades working for the newspaper, and she has fond memories.

"The front page used to be that place that was, I guess you could say, sacred," Stewart says. "To pick up that Sunday paper, open it up and see your name at the top ... it was just special."

But holding that Sunday paper will soon be a bygone thing.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

## The Final Word

***Tony Vaccaro, 100, Dies; Photographed War From a Soldier's Perspective*** (New York Times)



Tony Vaccaro in 1945. Along with the M-1 rifle he carried in battle, he kept a small 35-millimeter Argus C3 camera that he had bought as a teenager. Credit...Tony Vaccaro Studio/Monroe Gallery of Photography, via Associated Press

By Richard Goldstein



As a high school student in the New York City suburbs, Tony Vaccaro became intrigued by photography. Two months after graduation, when he was inducted into the Army during World War II, he showed a captain the photos he had taken for his yearbook and requested an assignment as a combat photographer with the Signal Corps.

“The pictures are great,” the officer told him. But since he had no experience in combat and was too young to be a seasoned photographer, he was rejected.

At 21, though, he was old enough to be an infantryman.

Private Vaccaro spent 272 days in combat with the 83rd Infantry Division, which fought its way from Normandy to Germany.

Along with the M-1 rifle he carried across Europe, he kept a small 35-millimeter Argus C3 camera that he had bought as a teenager. Army regulations prohibited soldiers from taking photos unless they were with the Signal Corps. But he managed to capture thousands of images of the war, taken close up. They conveyed an intimacy often denied to the photographers of the Signal Corps, whose mobility was limited by their much heavier cameras.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Jan. 3, 2023



Today is Tuesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2023. There are 362 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

### On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1861, more than two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown. The Delaware House and Senate voted to oppose secession from the Union.

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Markkula (MAHR'-kuh-luh) Jr.

In 2002, a judge in Alabama ruled that former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry was mentally competent to stand trial on murder charges in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four black girls. (Cherry was later convicted, and served a life sentence until his death in November 2004.)

In 2007, Gerald R. Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during a ceremony watched by thousands of onlookers.

In 2008, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Democratic caucuses in Iowa, while Mike Huckabee won the Republican caucuses.

In 2013, students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators. The new 113th Congress opened for business, with House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) re-elected to his post despite a mini-revolt in Republican ranks.

In 2020, the United States killed Iran's top general in an airstrike at Baghdad's international airport; the Pentagon said Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds force, had been "actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members" in Iraq and elsewhere. Iran warned of retaliation.

Ten years ago: Students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators. The new 113th Congress opened for business, with House Speaker John Boehner re-elected to his post despite a mini-revolt in Republican ranks. No. 5 Oregon beat No. 7 Kansas State, 35-17, in the Fiesta Bowl.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump signed an executive order disbanding the controversial voter fraud commission he had set up to investigate the 2016

presidential election after alleging without evidence that voting fraud cost him the popular vote; the White House blamed the decision to end the panel on more than a dozen states that refused to cooperate. A brutal winter storm delivered a rare blast of snow and ice to the coastal Southeast, giving parts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina their heaviest snowfall in nearly three decades.

One year ago: A jury in San Jose, California, convicted Elizabeth Holmes of duping investors into believing that her startup company Theranos had developed a revolutionary medical device that could detect diseases and conditions from a few drops of blood. The East Coast's main north-south highway, Interstate 95, became impassable in Virginia after a truck jackknifed, triggering a chain reaction as other vehicles lost control during a winter storm; hundreds of drivers were stuck in place in frigid temperatures, some for over 24 hours. Expanding COVID-19 boosters amid an omicron surge, the Food and Drug Administration allowed extra Pfizer shots for children as young as 12.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 91. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 87. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull is 84. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 80. Musician Stephen Stills is 78. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 77. Actor Victoria Principal is 73. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 67. Actor Shannon Sturges is 55. Actor John Ales is 54. Jazz musician James Carter is 54. Contemporary Christian singer Nichole Nordeman is 51. Musician Thomas Bangalter (Daft Punk) is 48. Actor Jason Marsden is 48. Actor Danica McKellar is 48. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 47. Singer Kimberley Locke (TV: "American Idol") is 45. Actor Kate Levering is 44. Former NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 42. Actor Nicole Beharie is 38. Pop musician Mark Pontius is 38. R&B singer Lloyd is 37. Pop-rock musician Nash Overstreet (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 36. Actor Alex D. Linz is 34.

## Got a story or photos to share?

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

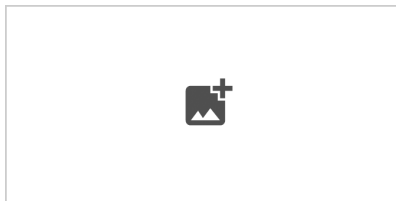
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**  
Editor, Connecting newsletter  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:unsubscribe_stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!