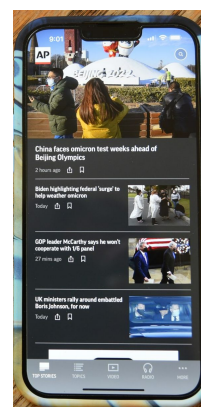


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# Connecting

Jan. 6, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 6, 2023,

Fond memories of longtime Portland (Ore.) AP photographer **Jack Smith** highlight today's Connecting – in follow-up to the sad news in yesterday's edition of his death.

Retired AP director of photos **Hal Buell** called him “the quintessential wire service photographer.” There may be no higher compliment than that.

We lead today's issue with a story from **Charlie Hanley** on losing a bag on a flight back from Cuba that contained his precious notebooks chronicling what he observed. That bag took a most circuitous route back into Charlie's hands, as you will read.

Got a similar story to share? Please send it along.

Have a great time on this first weekend of 2023. Make it special, and – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## The wayward bag

**Charlie Hanley** – Henry Bradsher’s recent notes on lost luggage brought back a painful memory, an embarrassing one I share with Connecting colleagues only because it will serve to reinforce their belief in their own intelligence – since they’d never be so dumb. And maybe their belief in guardian angels.

It involved two quick reporting trips to Cuba over the 1983-84 year-end holidays. In mid-December, I landed in Havana for 10 days of feature reporting. That work done, I headed to Jose Marti Airport, teeming with Russians going home for the holidays, and caught an almost-empty charter flight back north to spend Christmas with family in Florida.



In Miami my checked bag never showed. The clothing, toiletries etc. didn't matter. What mattered was that – and you'll need both hands to count the ways this was dumb – the bag held at least half of my dozen or so notebooks, half my features.

I was frantic. All that time and money. What will Nate (Foreign Editor Polowetzky) say? I couldn't tell him, not yet. While I wrote and filed what I could salvage from surviving notebooks, I was on the phone daily to Air Florida, the charter line. No luck. It came down to one last shot: I was returning to Cuba to cover the revolution's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 1.

In Havana, my government minder assured me, unconvincingly, they'd do their best to trace the bag. Off to Santiago I went to report on Fidel's fiesta, returning to the capital after a couple of days – and to still no news of the *maleta perdida*. I felt as lost as my suitcase. Desperate.

Finally, at Jose Marti again for a flight north -- to face the music at 50 Rock -- I could think of nothing but doing my own sweep. Suit yourself, my minder said. I jogged from one end of the terminal to the other. I found a cavernous hall, empty except for an immense pile of luggage in a corner, a pyramid of orphaned suitcases. It was impossibly huge, but as I approached, unmistakably, there at the very bottom, in front, dead center, sat my bag. Desperation became disbelief. Who or what led me to this spot?

Stamps and tags told me it had traveled all the way to Moscow on Aeroflot – of course, those Russians – and then back via Paris. It was a bit battered. And it had been broken into. A small tape recorder was gone. But all that mattered were those

beautiful No. 568G AP spiral notebooks. (Did I ever tell Nate what happened? No, not that dumb.)

## *And Henry, with one more luggage note...*

**Henry Bradsher** - Perhaps I have some responsibility for Southwest Airlines' incredible lost-luggage mess – because of a warning from at least as early as the 16th-century that “speak of the Devil and he shall appear.”

Southwest began losing people's luggage shortly after I contributed to Connecting on December 22 a piece about lost luggage. So, the Devil appeared, my fault?

Incidentally, during the 14 retirement years that I travelled all over the world to lecture on cruise ships, I always put inside my suitcases, at the top of the contents, a note with my name, complete address, and phone numbers – just in case the outside luggage tag got torn off, as sometimes happens.

The notes included an email address but no social media contact. Although some young people seem to think that continued use of email dates me (but, of course, not Connecting participants), I've had absolutely nothing to do with so-called social media.

I consider it (or them) to be not only a waste of time but also basically anti-social. It ties people up with their cell phones rather than having real personal contact, what long ago was called “social intercourse”, a term that fell out of use because it sounded too close to another kind of intercourse.

## **Remembering Jack Smith – ‘the quintessential wire service photographer’**



Jack Smith stood 6-feet-4 and loved to cook on a grill, as shown in this photo by his friend and AP colleague Jeff Robbins.

**Hal Buell** – *retired AP director of photography* - Jack Smith was the quintessential wire service photographer...quick to respond to a breaking story and a valued member of set piece team events from Olympics to conventions. Jeff Robbins lists the many stories Jack covered over his long tenure. I don't think Jeff mentioned Jack's coverage of the whale trapped in ice way north of Portland, a back and forth, frigid adventure

that ran over many days until the critters were freed. His signature photos were the instant and steady images of the Helena's eruptions.

But Jack was more....an ebullient participant in every way, quick on the comeback with a steady sense of humor in the workroom or after hours at the bar. He loved the ocean and though I may be wrong, I'll bet he accompanied Jeff on lobster hunts. He lived on his sailboat for a good part of the time.

In the end, and what really counted, was Jack's reliable talent. He was a fine shooter. His work on Helena was a winner from the start. The range of stories he covered, like so many of our national team, touched every kind of news event.

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**Lee Balgemann** - I worked with the late Jack Smith when we were both Photo Editors in the Chicago bureau!

The biggest thing I remember about him was how he towered over the light table and after a while his back started to bother him and he'd bring the loupe and roll of negatives up to "his" level.

-0-

**Jeff Barnard** - I am shocked to learn of the death of Jack Smith. I had felt in my heart that the old pirate would live forever.

Jack always played by his own rules, which made him a great photographer - nobody's elbows were sharper - who always got the shot. His methods and attitude did not always endear him to bureau chiefs, who were forced to recognize the cost of doing business Jack's way, which often included an airplane and always meant getting the shot. He always took care of the reporters he was working with, such as me. Once on a wildfire around Bend - I think it must have been back in the 1990s - we finally knocked off late at night, and motel rooms were scarce. Jack got his wife to book me a room at the pricey Sunriver Lodge, which was normally not a place for AP reporters to aspire to sleep, and took the heat for the cost.

As a one-person correspondent I often parachuted into stories where I worked the story and photos on my own. Jack made sure I had a camera bag well equipped with AP cast-off gear, especially during the transition from Nikon to Canon, which was no longer good enough for space shots and the Olympics, but plenty good enough for me.

He was always cool in a crisis, with little respect for those who were "running around with their hair on fire."





When he retired I gave him a framed copy of my portrait of Ken Kesey, a cruller in one hand and his other embracing the Prankster hood ornament on the resurrected version of the Magic Bus, with the spelling corrected on the destination plate to "Further." When I retired some years later, I got a surprise delivered to my door, a signed copy of his shot of Tonya Harding at the 1994 Winter Olympics, her skate up on the railing of the rink, tearfully pleading with a judge to let her replace a broken lace. It eloquently summed up that whole melodramatic story.

Jack always got the shot.

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**Michael Doan** - Jack was probably my best friend in the mid-1970s, when we both worked at Washington AP. I just don't know what to say. Despite his gruff exterior, he was very kind. He helped me buy a car and my first house. We went to his hometown of Salt Lake City and to Lake Tahoe and Oregon to ski five or six times. He served in Vietnam before the U.S. buildup there. Few people knew at the time that he was in a Final Four basketball game as a guard for the University of Utah, and I think he was a quarterback too.

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**Rick Green** - I was sorry to hear of Jack Smith's passing.

We worked together in the Portland bureau for about 15 years.

To say he was plainspoken would be a gross understatement.

He recounted that a bureau chief once criticized him for wearing tennis shoes on assignment. Jack told him, "My Nikes cost more than your Florsheim's."

Another bureau chief, seeking to elicit enthusiasm from her staff, once held a meeting and told everyone to say why they got into journalism. When it was Jack's turn, he

said, "I've had real jobs and done real work like setting fence posts. This is way better than that."

He recalled he wasn't sure he would get the Mount St. Helens eruption shot until the plane finally broke through the cloud deck and there it was.

This was another one of his award-winning images:



And this of the tanker, the New Carissa, off the Southern Oregon coast:



Jack was not bashful about his own talents. He said people sometimes dismissed him, saying he just happened to be in the right place at the right time. He correctly noted there is a special skill to being in the right place at the right time.

His gift was not only photography, but facilitating, planning and taking charge, even if his personality was large enough and his language sufficiently colorful to give pause to those who didn't realize his bark was worse than his bite.

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[Sally Hale](#) - I may owe my life to Jack Smith.

We both were covering a raucous protest in downtown Portland when a big rock came flying straight at my head. I didn't see it coming. Jack pushed me out of the way just in time, then resumed shooting the protest. However, it took me a minute to compose myself!

Jack was the quintessential breaking news photographer. He was smart, fast and unflappable - whether he was covering a protest, the Trail Blazers or the latest bizarre twist in the Rajneeshee story. He always got the shot. And beneath his sometimes gruff demeanor, he was a truly nice and generous guy. I'm sorry to learn of his death.

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**AP photographer Jack Smith, left, and AP photo editor Grant Lamos, right, relax on the train from Belgrade to Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, to cover the 1984 Winter Olympics.**

**Peter Leabo** - I'm not quite sure when I met Jack, but it was early in my AP career. And we worked many major assignments together around the world from papal visits in Latin America to Olympics and many others; always an honor and a privilege.

We were roommates in our apartment at the press village in Sarajevo for the 1984 Winter Olympics. As Jack was about 6" too long for the bed, he got the room with double beds, tied them together and slept diagonally.

He was known fondly as "Chainsaw," a nickname earned by a combination of his 6'4" build and signature full beard that gave him the appearance of a lumberjack, and his no-holds-barred, tell-it-like-it-is attitude. You always knew exactly where you stood with Jack and how he felt.

And there were also times when Jack would let you know how he felt without words.

At the medals ceremony for the men's downhill in Sarajevo, Jack had staked out a position front and center. I was well off to the side for a different angle. Just minutes before the ceremony, a Japanese television crew ran in front of the photographers and proceeded to start setting up their tripod and TV camera directly in front of Jack. Jack looked over at me and shook his head as I laughed over what I imagined might happen next. But Jack simply tapped the shoulder of the cameraman in front of him with his forefinger. The cameraman turned around. Staring straight at Jack's chest, he slowly brought his head back to look up at Jack towering over him. Jack simply shook his forefinger and shook his head. The camera crew moved immediately. No words were ever spoken.

Jack was an extremely talented photographer, a gentle giant, had a great sense of humor, and always had your back. RIP, Chainsaw.

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**Guy Palmiotto** - Saddened by the news on the death of Jack Smith. Worked with Jack early in my AP career covering the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada, 1978 and the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, NY, plus other varied assignments. He was an excellent photographer with sports being his forte', and he always gave me an honest opinion about my photography. Great to be around, with a personality that matched his size. He will be missed.

-0-

**Doug Pizac** - Being so tall, Jack had a towering intimidation built in but he was gentle giant -- unless you pissed him off which didn't last long before it ended with a smile. I learned so much from him in my early days with AP and he was instrumental in teaching me the ins and outs of running a one-man photo bureau when I transferred to Salt Lake City.

Whenever I needed help in SLC with World Cup skiing or March Madness, he was my go-to person to come and help me. And when he showed up some of the local photographers he had earlier worked with shouted "Jack's Back" like the returning of a photographic messiah. EVERYBODY knew Jack.

His smile, friendship, leadership and old-school work ethic will be forever missed.

-0-



Seattle photographer Barry Sweet and Portland photographer Jack Smith are shown next to part of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline at Prudhoe Bay, one of their stops for coverage of the pipeline opening. AP World 1977 photo, courtesy AP Corporate Archives.

**Barry Sweet** - It is with great sadness I read of Jack Smith's death. We were longtime friends and staffers. Even after retirement we saw each other during his annual trip to Utah. In fact, I called him in December. He was truly AP.

One favorite story about Jack and I was on a story involving oil discovery in Alaska. We both went to Prudhoe Bay. There was two vans for photos. We got in one. Went off the road and crashed. Jack yelled the AP won't be happy about this.

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**Roch Thornton** - Boy do I have memories of Jack Smith! He taught me nearly all of what I know about photo editing, mostly by loudly pointing out my mistakes, failures

and errors in judgment. And he taught me the importance of showing stories through pictures as well as telling them through words.

My best Jack Smith story happened when the Rajneeshee cult was descending into chaos out in Wasco County. They scheduled a big announcement at a news conference on the ranch. In the scramble to cover the event, Jack and I wound up on a chartered plane with some other reporters headed for central Oregon.

As we lined up to land on the Rajneeshpuram air strip, Jack yelled in my ear, "Let's hope this isn't another Jonestown!"

I don't even remember the news conference, but I'm never going to forget going into (potential) combat with Jack.

## Nate Thayer was one of best field reporters

Denis Gray - I am very proud to have hired Nate Thayer for the AP when he was a young freelancer riding around in a motorcycle along the then embattled Thai-Cambodian border to gather news. He became our "border stringer" but also helped us out with big stories in Bangkok and graduated to being our chief reporter in Cambodia, based in Phnom Penh.

Nate was one of the best field reporters I have ever worked with, and he was a very good man. But he had his demons, including alcohol. And being a free spirit, he did not take to some of the routine and procedures of a news agency. I think he made the right move, and we remained good friends. Working for The Far Eastern Economic Review allowed him more freedom to pursue a single story and he did with real passion, climaxing in one of the great scoops of that era - the interview with the murderous Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

He did other fine investigative reporting thereafter but regretfully he never finished his book on the Khmer Rouge titled Sympathy for the Devil.

Health and other problems plagued him in recent years but as always, he faced them bravely.

## Congratulations to Roger Schneider, Amy Forliti

Jim Carlson - What a great day -- learning two wonderful former colleagues have been named as new assistant news directors for the AP. (See Thursday's Connecting)

I worked with Roger Schneider when he led the Milwaukee bureau as news editor and have seen him go on to leadership jobs at Detroit and Chicago since my retirement in 2009. With his newspaper experience and knowledge, he was a great person to work with on the job. Now he's heading coverage for the Great Lakes region.



And Amy Forliti from the Minneapolis bureau becomes the leader for the Midwest region. After we worked in adjoining states and sometimes consulted on coverage, I've seen what a great job she has done over the years.

Congratulations.

## Indira Lakshmanan named global enterprise editor

By Nicole Meir

In a memo to AP staff on Thursday, Ron Nixon, vice president for news, investigative, enterprise and grants and partnerships, announced that Indira Lakshmanan will lead AP's global enterprise team:

I am pleased to announce that Indira Lakshmanan, an award-winning journalist who has reported from more than 80 countries, is joining the Associated Press to lead the global enterprise team.



Indira, who was most recently the senior executive editor and vice president for news and features at National Geographic Media, will lead AP's multimedia global enterprise team and collaborate with bureaus and verticals around the world, including data, investigative and beat reporters, to produce deeply reported narratives, ambitious accountability journalism, visually arresting magazine-style packages, surprising immersive storytelling and sophisticated explainers and analyses for all platforms. She will start on Jan 9th and will be based in Washington, D.C.

Indira has reported from six continents and Washington for newspapers, a wire service, magazines, radio, television and podcasts. For The Boston Globe and Bloomberg News, she interviewed and profiled newsmakers from Fidel Castro and Benazir Bhutto to Hillary Clinton, hit the campaign trail with four U.S. presidential candidates and crisscrossed the world with three U.S. presidents and two secretaries of state. She has covered elections, coups and crises from the fall of the Taliban and the Bosnian War to the SARS epidemic in China, embedding with pirates in the Philippines, Maoist rebels in Nepal and Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. As The Boston Globe's regional bureau chief in Asia and then Latin America, her reporting exposed child labor in Bolivian mines, illegal logging in Brazil's Amazon and collusion between Philippine authorities and Abu Sayyaf terrorists, and helped end the incarceration of innocent children in Nepal. She was also a columnist for the International Herald Tribune and The Boston Globe.

Read more [here](#).

# Great newspaper lines

**Larry Margasak** - I just watched Inherit The Wind, the movie version of the Scopes Monkey Trial in the fictional town of Hillsboro. While Frederic March and Spencer Tracy were fantastic actors, Gene Kelly, playing Baltimore reporter E.K. Hornbeck, had the great lines:

Townswoman: You're the stranger, ain'tcha? Are you looking for a nice, clean place to stay?

E. K. Hornbeck: Madam, I had a nice clean place to stay... and I left it, to come here.

E. K. Hornbeck: Mr. Brady, it is the duty of a newspaper to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

E. K. Hornbeck: Evolution is a tricky question, which is hungrier, my stomach or my soul? Hot dog.

Bible salesman: Are you an evolutionist? An infidel? A sinner?

E. K. Hornbeck: The worst kind, I write for a newspaper.

E.K. Hornbeck: I do hateful things for which people love me, and I do loveable things for which they hate me. I'm admired for my detestability. Now don't worry, little Eva. I may be rancid butter, but I'm on your side of the bread.

E. K. Hornbeck: He that sups with the devil must have a long spoon.

## Friends celebrate with Dallas AP retiree Terry Wallace



ADDISON, Texas - Some current and former Dallas AP staffers and other friends gathered Jan. 4, 2023, to celebrate Terry Wallace's recent retirement after his Associated Press career that began in 1991 at Charleston, West Virginia.

In the group photo (left side): Dallas AP journalist Jamie Stengle, sports writer Schuyler Dixon, Terry Wallace's wife Liz Eaton and Terry Wallace; (right side):

Dallas-based AP aviation writer David Koenig, Paul Heidgerd, AP retiree Diana Heidgerd and retired Texas radio/TV journalist Susan Palmarozzi Haley.

Terry's email - [tdwalla1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdwalla1@sbcglobal.net)



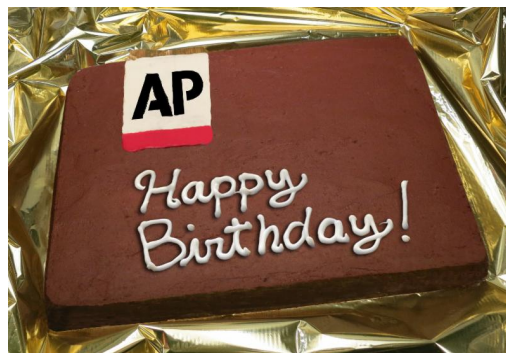
## Urban Hunter





[Jim Carlson](#) - Here's a photo of a hawk that was out hunting in Milwaukee during some light snow Thursday. It stopped in our front cherry tree. I believe it's a Cooper's hawk.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Tim Bovee](#)



[Paula Froke](#)

*A day late to...*

[Lee Balgemann](#)

*On Sunday to...*

[Latrice Davis](#)

[Brian Skoloff](#)

## Stories of interest

***Hearst Newspapers increases subscribers and adds benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Alyssa Choiniere | for Editor & Publisher**

Focusing on high-quality journalism that is essential to the communities it serves has sustained Hearst Newspapers and enabled it to grow through challenging times, said Jeff Johnson, the company's president.

Hearst Newspapers includes 24 daily and 52 weekly newspapers, including the Houston Chronicle, San Francisco Chronicle, Connecticut Media Group and the Times Union in Albany.

The newspaper company was Hearst's original business venture, and Johnson said the parent company embraces the role of the Fourth Estate.

"The mission of serving the readership and holding the powerful accountable and giving a voice to the powerless — those are important statements, and we believe in them sincerely," he said. "Sometimes there are tough days in the newspaper business. Right? And you've got to work through that, and it helps us quite a bit to have the support of Hearst."

Johnson said that no Hearst Newspaper employees were laid off or fired due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the company instead added benefits for its employees.

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

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# Phoenix PD handcuffed, detained Wall Street Journal reporter (ABC 15)

By: Dave Biscobing

Phoenix police are conducting an administrative investigation into the detainment of a Wall Street Journal reporter, according to the department's first public statement about the incident.

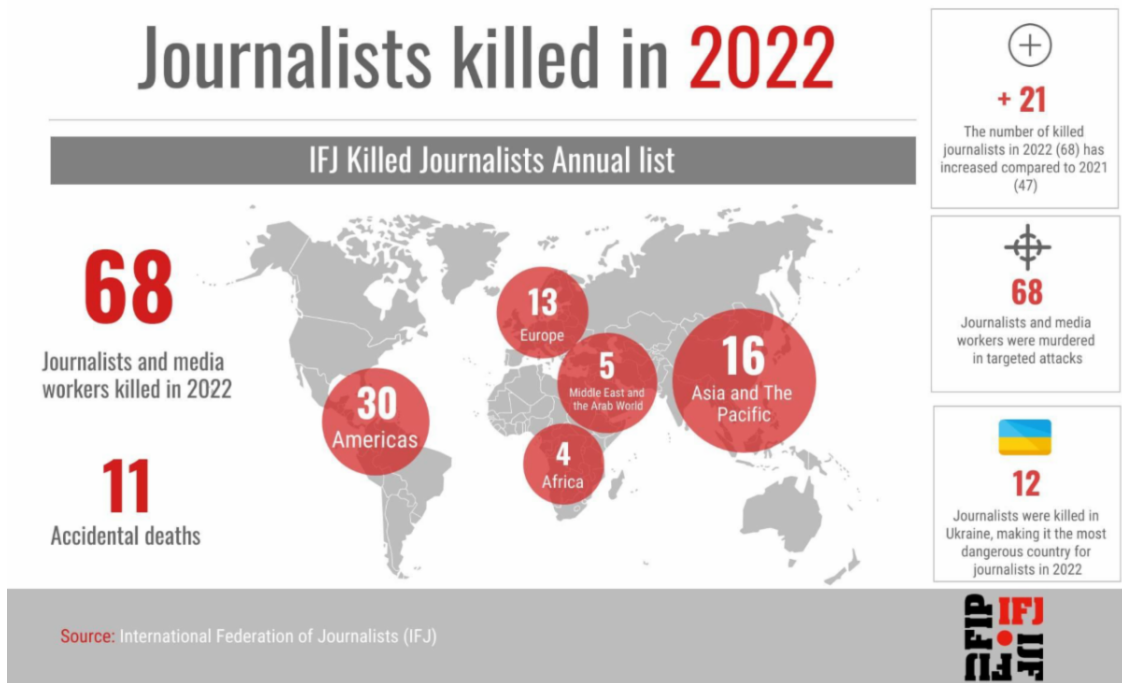
The emailed statement did not specify the date that Phoenix launched the internal probe.

Weeks after the incident, Journal reporter Dion Rabouin told ABC15 that he received a call from a police official saying they had reviewed what happened and found nothing wrong. The newspaper's top editor also sent a letter on December 7th to Phoenix Chief Michael Sullivan and the department's media relations unit seeking a review of the matter.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

### Journalists killed in 2022



Shared by George Arfield.

## Today in History - Jan. 6, 2023



**Today is Friday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2023. There are 359 days left in the year.**

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 6, 2021, supporters of President Donald Trump, fueled by his false claims of a stolen election, assaulted police and smashed their way into the Capitol to interrupt the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's victory, forcing lawmakers into hiding; most of the rioters had come from a nearby rally where Trump urged them to "fight like hell." A Trump supporter, Ashli Babbitt, was shot and killed by a police officer as she tried to breach a barricaded doorway inside the Capitol. Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, injured while confronting the rioters, suffered a stroke the next day and died from natural causes, the Washington, D.C., medical examiner's office said. (In the weeks that followed, four of the officers who responded to the riot took their own lives.) Congress reconvened hours later to finish certifying the election result.

### **On this date:**

In 1412, tradition holds that Joan of Arc was born this day in Domremy.

In 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph in Morristown, New Jersey.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, New York, at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1974, year-round daylight saving time began in the United States on a trial basis as a fuel-saving measure in response to the OPEC oil embargo.

In 1982, truck driver William G. Bonin was convicted in Los Angeles of 10 of the "Freeway Killer" slayings of young men and boys. (Bonin was later convicted of four other killings; he was executed in 1996.)

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution, but denied any advance knowledge about the assault.)

In 2001, with Vice President Al Gore presiding in his capacity as president of the Senate, Congress formally certified George W. Bush the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 presidential election.

In 2005, former Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen was arrested on murder charges 41 years after three civil rights workers were slain in Mississippi. (Killen was later convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 60 years in prison; he died in prison in 2018.)

In 2006, velvet-voiced singer Lou Rawls died in Los Angeles at age 72.

In 2020, throngs of Iranians attended the funeral of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who'd been killed in a U.S. airstrike in Iraq; Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wept while praying over the casket. Former White House national security adviser John Bolton said he was "prepared to testify" if subpoenaed by the Senate in its impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. (The Senate voted against calling witnesses.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama returned to Washington after a winter vacation in Hawaii that was interrupted by the "fiscal cliff" crisis. In his first public speech in six months, a defiant Syrian President Bashar Assad rallied a cheering crowd to fight the uprising against his authoritarian rule, dismissing any chance of dialogue with what he called "murderous criminals." The NHL and the players' association agreed on a tentative pact to end a 113-day lockout.

Five years ago: Pushing back against a new book that said his own aides questioned his competence, President Donald Trump defended his mental fitness in a series of tweets, saying that he is "like, really smart" and "a very stable genius." Japanese air bag maker Takata said it was recalling an additional 3.3 million faulty air bag inflators, expanding the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. About 100 million Americans were faced with a gusty deep freeze that followed a whopping East Coast snowstorm; the wind chill was close to minus 100 on New Hampshire's Mount Washington.

One year ago: On the anniversary of the deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol, President Joe Biden forcefully blamed Donald Trump and his supporters for holding a "dagger at the throat of democracy" with election lies that sparked the attack; Biden spoke in the Capitol's ornate Statuary Hall, where rioters had laid siege, and called on Americans to remember what they saw on Jan. 6 with their own eyes, amid what he said were efforts of Trump supporters to "rewrite history." Actor Sidney Poitier (PWAH'-tee-ay) died at his Los Angeles home at 94; he was the first Black actor to win an Oscar for best lead performance and the first to be a top box-office draw. Peter Bogdanovich, director of 1970s black-and-white classics including "The Last Picture Show" and "Paper Moon," died in Los Angeles at 82.



Today's Birthdays: Country musician Joey Miskulin (Riders in the Sky) is 74. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 73. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 72. Singer Jett Williams is 70. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 68. World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez is 66. Actor Scott Bryce is 65. R&B singer Kathy Sledge is 64. TV chef Nigella Lawson is 63. R&B singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 63. Actor Norman Reedus is 54. Food writer and blogger Ree Drummond is 54. TV personality Julie Chen is 53. Actor Danny Pintauro (TV: "Who's the Boss?") is 47. Actor Cristela Alonzo is 44. Actor Rinko Kikuchi (RINK'-oh kih-KOO'-chee) is 42. Actor Eddie Redmayne is 41. Retired NBA All-Star Gilbert Arenas is 41. Actor-comedian Kate McKinnon is 39. Actor Diona Reasonover is 39. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 37.

## 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.

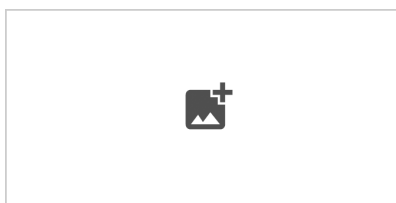
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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