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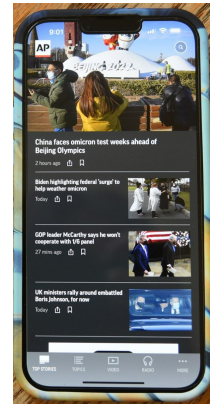
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Connecting

Jan. 30, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 30, 2023,

We're sorry to report the death of **Craig Ammerman**, an AP veteran of bureaus in West Virginia, Boston and New York who died last Friday at the age of 74.

Our colleague **Joyce Rosenberg**, a close friend, shared the news from Craig's wife Esther.

From the AP, which he left in 1979 as New York City bureau chief, Craig went on to the New York Post and was the last editor of The Philadelphia Bulletin. "He was a brilliant journalist, went on to found his own health information business, was one of the smartest and wittiest people I've known, and was dearly loved by his family and good friends," Joyce said.

"**20 Days in Mariupol**," a first-person account of the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, won the audience prize for world cinema documentary. A joint project

between The Associated Press and PBS "Frontline," the film utilizes 30 hours of footage AP journalist Mstyslav Chernov and his colleagues shot in the besieged Ukrainian city before they were extracted. See story in today's issue.

PARDON OUR FRENCH - An AP tweet from The Associated Press Stylebook put the company in the limelight for all the wrong reasons: "We recommend," the tweet said, "avoiding general and often dehumanizing 'the' labels such as the poor, the mentally ill, the French, the disabled, the college educated." Read on to see what followed from around the world.

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

Paul



Craig Ammerman, a 'one of a kind' AP journalist, dies at 74



Craig Ammerman and his family

[Joyce Rosenberg](#) - Sad news for our colleagues who worked for the AP in the 1960s and '70s: Craig Ammerman has passed away at the age of 74. A native of Kentucky, Craig began working for the AP in West Virginia, went on to Boston and then to New York, where he worked on the General Desk and then, something of a wunderkind, became New York City bureau chief. "One of a kind" is how Lou Boccardi described Craig, and Jerry Schwartz described him as "playful and funny and a brilliant journalist," and one of the fastest writers Jerry has ever known.

Craig's first stop after the AP was the New York Post and then he became the last executive editor of The Philadelphia Bulletin, which folded in 1982. Ten years later, a remembrance of The Bulletin in the American Journalism Review said Craig "was widely praised for his tireless efforts to inject energy and verve into the paper."

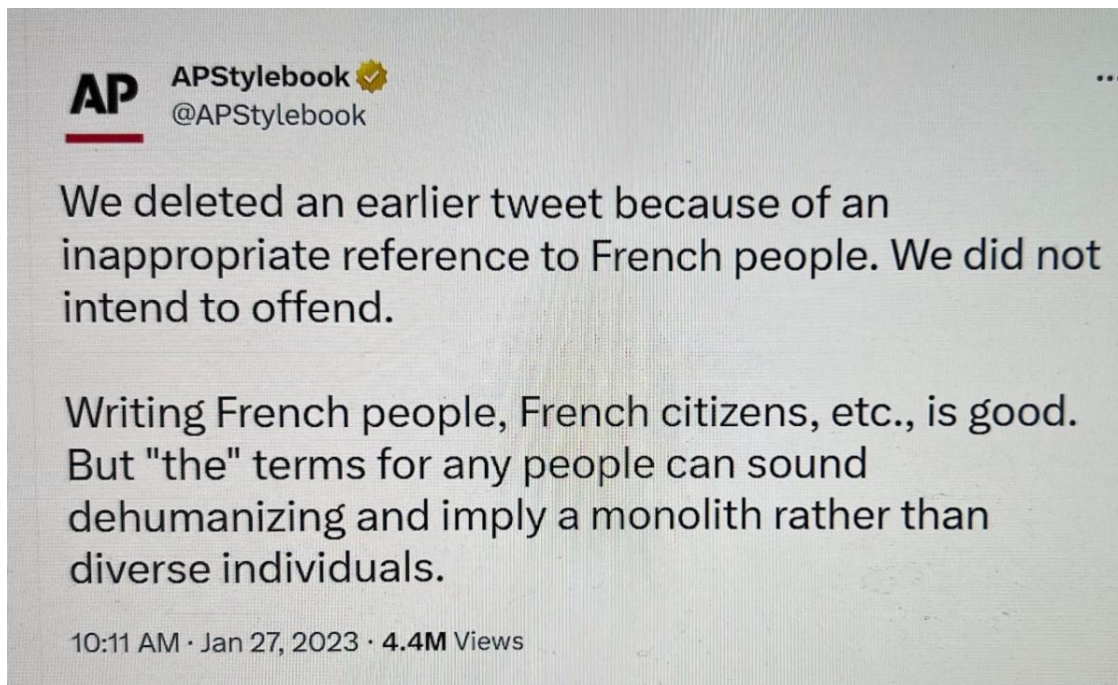
Craig then co-founded a publishing company about medical issues, Health Ink, and, following another of his passions, joined the executive committee of the United States Golf Association. He and his wife Esther divided their time between Cherry Hill, N.J. -- where they were Eagles season ticket holders and huge fans of the Phillies -- and Tequesta, Fla.

Craig went into cognitive decline before the pandemic and suffered a fatal heart attack last Friday at a memory care facility in Florida. Besides Esther, he is survived by their daughters Lauren and Sarah and three grandchildren. The family hasn't decided yet about holding a memorial.

I didn't work with Craig, but he was a good friend to my husband, Marty Sutphin, and we spent many wonderful evenings with Craig and Esther, and other AP friends including Jim Willse and Sam Boyle and their wives, and GG LaBelle and Eileen Alt Powell. I found him so intelligent, insightful and wickedly funny. I don't know anyone who wasn't grateful that they knew him.

You can drop a note to Craig's wife Esther through Joyce Rosenberg - psyjourn313@gmail.com

**The French Want to Remain the French:
*The Associated Press offends French sensibilities and
retreats from a piece of descriptive advice.***



By Roger Cohen
The New York Times

PARIS — As an exercise in style, the tweet from The Associated Press Stylebook appeared to strain taste and diplomacy: “We recommend avoiding general and often dehumanizing ‘the’ labels such as the poor, the mentally ill, the French, the disabled, the college educated.”

At least it looked offensive to the French, or perhaps rather to people of Frenchness, or people with Gallic inclinations, or people under the influence of French civilization. The French noted that they had been placed between the “mentally ill” and the “disabled.”

Certainly, the French Embassy in the United States reacted with indignation on Thursday to the A.P. tweet. It published a spoof on Twitter suggesting that it had renamed itself “the Embassy of Frenchness in the United States.”

“We just wondered what the alternative to the French would be,” said Pascal Confavreux, the embassy spokesman. “I mean, really.” Perhaps, as Ben Collins, an NBC journalist, suggested, “people experiencing a croque-monsieur.”

With the A.P. tweet registering 23 million views, 18,000 retweets and cascades of mockery, the news agency decided Friday to reverse course. It issued a statement calling its recommendation an “inappropriate” suggestion that had “caused unintended offense.”

A second A.P. tweet removed the reference to “the French” without explaining why writing “the college educated,” for example, could be construed as “dehumanizing.”

The AP stylebook, a compilation of best writing practices, is a reference for many American journalists and other writers. But the point it appeared to be laboring to

make about facile stereotyping of large groups of people seemed lost in this instance.

Lauren Easton, the vice president of A.P. corporate communications, told the French daily newspaper *Le Monde* that “the reference to ‘the French,’ as well as the reference to ‘the college educated’ is an effort to show that labels shouldn’t be used for anyone, whether they are traditionally or stereotypically viewed as positive, negative or neutral.”

How “the French” constitutes a “label” left many French people mystified. It is simply who they are. Paula Froke, the editor of the A.P. stylebook, did not respond to a request for comment.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes, Arnold Zeitlin, Alan Flippen, Iaine Hooker, Michael Rubin, Mike Feinsilber.

And from other news sources:

[Le Monde](#), shared by Campbell Garrett,

[BBC](#), shared by Len Iwanski, Peggy Walsh.

[Guardian](#), shared by Bob Daugherty.

[Huffington Post](#), shared by Peg Coughlin.

[New York Post](#), shared by Paul Albright.

[Washington Free Beacon](#), shared by Doug Tucker.

Tweet, shared by Richard Drew, Larry Blasko, Kevin Walsh.

Wishing you and yours **HAPPY AND HEALTHY** **LUNAR NEW YEAR**

WHAT IS LEFT TO SAY?

By [Lelieu Browne](#)

I toss and turn in the middle of the night,
Hope after hope not to think,
Not to go back to the past,
Not to visualize the future.
All I want is to sleep.

Perched up in bed, I implore,
Meditate, irritate, finally suffocate with
the sight of decorative cabinets lining
before my eyes, cementing all spare spaces
with multiple bric-a-bracs of the golden time.
I shudder and panic with the thought
Of committing myself between the four walls of
A prison in which I can’t escape.
Anxiety and mental torments are nightly visitors.

All I want is to sleep.

The sense of isolation, loneliness and senility
 Wrap around me and squeeze out all
 My self-confidence only to leave me doubts and insecurity.
 What is left to say but to endure?
 All I want is to sleep.

Connecting mailbox

Praise for Portland's Matt Kramer

[Michael Doan](#) - I was pleased to see Brian Brumley's post about the plaque honoring Matt Kramer for his work promoting the bill that opened the entire Oregon coastline of beaches to the public. I was working in the Portland bureau at the time in 1967 and can vouch for his tireless efforts through excellent articles. Though this was surely advocacy journalism, I will give him a break on this one after seeing other states' beaches closed off.

-0-

An invitation to join Tony Winton's podcast



Mark Hamrick (left with red vest) joined his former AP Radio colleague Tony Winton (red arrow) on his radio show and podcast titled "Anti-Social" out of South Florida.

[Tony Winton](#) - We have a weekly public affairs podcast that mixes the serious with a bit of fun. It usually has a local and national segment. For a segment on the latest economic news, we invited Mark Hamrick (who has been on before). It's great to have ex-AP folks on and have some insight and a bit of fun with some former colleagues and indeed the AP tribe is wide, and bonds are deep. We've had Thelma LeBrecht and

Scott Applewhite (after Jan 6) and we'd love to do more, so if there a folks in the Connecting universe who'd like to come on, drop me a line.

Mark was our first 'video' guest as we added cameras to the show in our 7th season this year, and we had a bit of fun about that.

Click [here](#) for video of the show. Click [here](#) for podcast.

(TONY WINTON, Editor-in-Chief, Key Biscayne Independent, Anti-Social Radio & Podcast)

-0-

Your photo work ever impact a game?

[Doug Pizac](#) – An ESPN Sports Sports telecast clip from last night's Lakers-Celtics game showed an uncalled foul against LeBron James that would have won the game. The highlight was Laker's Patrick Beverley going to the ref with the still camera of a baseline photographer showing that the contact foul occurred. Did that convince the ref? Nope. Beverley was given a T.

My own similar experience...share yours:

Back in the late '70s early '80s I was assigned to shoot a Rose Bowl game in the stands with the longest lens the AP-Los Angeles bureau had. The game was mostly just another game until at the end when a player launched himself over the front line to score the game winning touchdown. The problem was he did it without the ball which the photographers and referees on the field couldn't see because of all the bodies, but I could from my elevated position and captured it on my roll of Tri-X. The refs ruled he lost control after crossing the line. But my angle clearly showed him going up and over with ball slipping out of his grip BEFORE the goal line ahead of him that was in the picture.

We transmitted it from our makeshift darkroom at the stadium and some of the common headlines the next day were basically The Touchdown That Wasn't.

AP earns first place in 2022 Philip Meyer Journalism Award

A partnership between The Associated Press and PBS FRONTLINE that dug deeply into evidence of war crimes in Ukraine earned the first-place prize in the 2022 Philip Meyer Journalism Award.

Other top honors go to The Los Angeles Times for its project "Extreme Heat's Deadly Toll," and a collaboration between The Marshall Project, WOJU 95.9 FM Our Voices United and Cleveland Documenters that gives a comprehensive assessment of multiple systems that have bolstered inequities in a marginalized community.

The judges have also given a special citation to independent journalist Emily Corwin for exposing how tax credits meant to help marginalized workers get permanent jobs are instead used to subsidize temp work.

"This year's entries proved yet again that social science methods raise the ante on what it takes to be a journalist," said Sarah Cohen, a contest judge and the Knight Chair in Data Journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University. "The judges paid special attention to the projects and partnerships that highlighted the groundbreaking work Meyer pioneered 50 years ago."

The Meyer Award recognizes the best uses of empirical methods in journalism. The winners will be honored during the 2023 NICAR Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 2-5. The award is administered by the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting, a joint program of Investigative Reporters and Editors and the Missouri School of Journalism.

The 2022 winners are:

First place: "War Crimes Watch Ukraine," The Associated Press and PBS FRONTLINE

The Associated Press: Erika Kinetz, Lori Hinnant, Cara Anna, Mstyslav Chernov, Evgenyi Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko, Oleksandr Stashevskiy, Michael Biesecker, Beatrice DuPuy, Serginho Roosblad, Marshall Ritzel, Sharon Lynch, Larry Fenn, Sarah El-Deeb, Richard Lardner, Juliet Linderman, Jason Dearen

FRONTLINE: Tom Jennings, Annie Wong, Carla Borrás, Miles Alvord, Anthony DeLorenzo, Priyanka Boghani, Dan Nolan, Aasma Mojiz Chantelle Lee

Judges' comments: AP and Frontline partnered with organizations to collect evidence of war crimes in Ukraine and store the information in an updated public database to tell stories about attacks on venues such as hospitals, schools and a theater. For the story "AP evidence points to 600 dead in Mariupol theatre strike", the AP used two sets of floor plans, photos and video taken before and after the Russian strike on the Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theater to create an animated model. Witnesses and survivors walked the journalists through the building virtually, pointing out where people were sheltering room by room and how densely crowded each space was. The analysis determined 600 died. The attack remains the greatest known single loss of human life in the war. This was a riveting piece of journalism detailing unspeakable atrocities that continue to this day. Outstanding work!

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright, Sheila Norman-Culp.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

AP's Boone spearheads 20-outlet legal challenge to Idaho college stabbings gag

order



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

The fatal stabbings of four college students at the University of Idaho campus in Moscow, Idaho, in November 2022 were initially shrouded in mystery and misinformation.

As Boise, Idaho, Supervisory Correspondent Rebecca Boone worked to untangle all of this, a judge put up yet another barrier to getting the story to the public: a sweeping gag order prohibiting law enforcement agencies, attorneys or anyone else associated with the case from discussing it publicly.

While working long hours to cover one of the biggest stories in the nation unfolding six hours away, Boone suddenly had a new task on her plate: singlehandedly spearheading a legal challenge to the gag order — ultimately recruiting a coalition of 22 print and TV media outlets, including The New York Times, to join the cause.

Boone relied on her excellent relationships with Idaho's AP members to organize the coalition. She also leveraged her deep knowledge of Idaho's courts and extensive source network to suggest attorneys to the AP. She even helped negotiate the cost with AP members and the firm that was ultimately selected. The New York Times belatedly learned of the effort and asked to join on the very day the coalition went public.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Census data highlights angst of Native Hawaiians priced out of their home



Doreen Hall Vann walks with son Zaiden after tryouts for a club baseball team, Jan. 21, 2023, in Las Vegas. In 2019 Vann moved from Hawaii to Las Vegas to be closer to her daughter in Seattle. AP PHOTO/JOHN LOCHER

Honolulu newswoman Jennifer Kelleher had noticed Native Hawaiians leaving for cheaper locales for years, and she finally found a hook to write about it in the 2020 Census. It showed the biggest population growth for Native Hawaiians in the past decade has been in Las Vegas and Sacramento, not Hawaii.

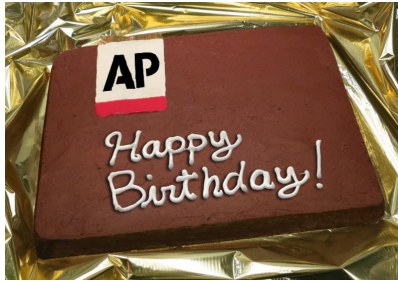
Kelleher knew something important was happening in the place where she was born and raised: Time and again, Native Hawaiians she knew were packing up for cheaper locations on the U.S. mainland.

Kelleher, who is not Native Hawaiian but was born and raised on Oahu, worked for months in between other assignments to find the right families to communicate the angst and despair of people uprooted from their homeland by median home prices that surpass \$1 million.

She spent hours listening to their stories, and she said that after every interview, she cried -- but she continued until she talked to an aide to a Hawaiian lawmaker, who was the perfect main character for her narrative.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Rich Oppel](#)

Story of interest

George Zimbel, Photographer of Marilyn Monroe and J.F.K., Dies at 93 (New York Times)

By Richard Sandomir

George Zimbel, a genial photographer who had empathy for ordinary people, but whose two best-known subjects were megastars, Marilyn Monroe and John F. Kennedy, died on Jan. 9 in Montreal. He was 93.

His son Andrew confirmed the death, in a care facility.

Mr. Zimbel (rhymes with “thimble”) captured people in the act of living: A sailor reading in his lower bunk on a submarine. A small boy dwarfed by a Great Dane in Harlem. A little girl playing hopscotch in the street. A baby pulling on a doctor’s stethoscope. A boy pointing a toy gun at a friend. Musicians and exotic dancers in New Orleans nightclubs.

In 1954, Mr. Zimbel entered an Irish dance hall in the Bronx and found a scene that he cast in noirish light: a young man, in the foreground, his hair tousled and his tie loose, turns toward five young women in the background who appear hopeful that they will be asked to dance — but who do not seem to be hoping that he’s the one who will ask.

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

Today in History - Jan. 30, 2023



Today is Monday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2023. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In 1911, James White, an intellectually disabled Black young man who'd been convicted of rape for having sex with a 14-year-old white girl when he was 16, was publicly hanged in Bell County, Kentucky.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine torpedoed the German ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea with the loss of more than 9,000 lives, most of them war refugees; roughly 1,000 people survived.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse (neh-too-RAHM' gahd-SAY'), a Hindu extremist. (Godse and a co-conspirator were later executed.)

In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

In 1969, The Beatles staged an impromptu concert atop Apple headquarters in London; it was the group's last public performance.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker tape parade honoring the American hostages freed from Iran.

In 1993, Los Angeles inaugurated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

In 2005, Iraqis voted in their country's first free election in a half-century; President George W. Bush called the balloting a resounding success.

In 2006, Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, at age 78.

In 2020, health officials reported the first known case in which the new coronavirus was spread from one person to another in the United States. The World Health Organization declared the virus outbreak, which had reached more than a dozen countries, to be a global emergency. Russia ordered the closure of its 2,600-mile-long land border with China in an effort to limit the spread of the virus. President Donald Trump described the handful of U.S. cases of the virus as a "very little problem" and said those people were "recuperating successfully." The State Department advised U.S. citizens against traveling to China.

Ten years ago: In a dramatic appeal before the Senate Judiciary Committee, wounded former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords urged Congress to enact tougher curbs on guns, saying, "too many children are dying" without them. Israel conducted a rare airstrike on a military target inside Syria amid fears President Bashar Assad's regime could provide powerful weapons to the Islamic militant group Hezbollah. Patty Andrews, 94, the last surviving member of the singing Andrews Sisters trio, died in the Los Angeles suburb of Northridge.

Five years ago: In his first State of the Union address, President Donald Trump called on Congress to make good on long-standing promises to fix a fractured immigration system and issued ominous warnings about deadly gangs, the scourge of drugs and violent immigrants living in the country illegally; the speech also included calls for optimism amid a growing economy. In the Democratic response, Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy III said soaring stock prices had boosted investor portfolios and corporate profits but had not eased the anxieties of middle-class families. The body of 35-year-old actor Mark Salling, a former cast member on the TV show "Glee," was found in a riverbed area of Los Angeles in what a coroner determined was suicide by hanging; Salling's death came a few weeks after he pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography.

One year ago: Matching the biggest comeback in an AFC championship game, the Cincinnati Bengals rallied from an 18-point hole to stun the Kansas City Chiefs 27-24 in overtime. The Los Angeles Rams rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to secure a spot in the Super Bowl at their home stadium with a 20-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC championship game. (The Rams would beat the Bengals 23-20 in the Super Bowl two weeks later.) Spotify said it would add content advisories before podcasts discussing the coronavirus; the move followed protests of the music streaming service that were kicked off by singer Neil Young over the spread of COVID-19 vaccine misinformation.

Today's birthdays: Actor Gene Hackman is 93. Actor Vanessa Redgrave is 86. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 86. Country singer Norma Jean is 85. Horn player William King of The Commodores is 74. Musician Phil Collins is 72. Actor Charles S. Dutton ("Roc") is 72. Actor Ann Dowd ("The Handmaid's Tale") is 67. Comedian Brett Butler ("Anger Management," "Grace Under Fire") is 65. Singer Jody Watley is 64. Actor Wayne

Wilderson ("Veep") is 57. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 51. Actor Christian Bale is 49. Guitarist Carl Broemel of My Morning Jacket is 49. Actor Olivia Colman is 49. Singer Josh Kelley is 43. Actor Wilmer Valderrama ("That '70s Show") is 43. Actor Mary Hollis Inboden ("The Real O'Neals") is 37. Actor Kylie Bunbury ("Big Sky," "Pitch") is 34. Actor Jake Thomas ("Lizzie McGuire," "Al") is 33. Actor Danielle Campbell ("Tell Me A Story," "The Originals") is 28.

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.

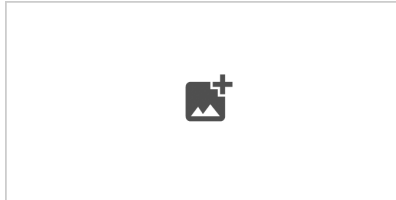
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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