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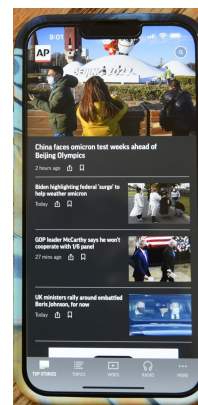
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# Connecting

Feb. 23, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Feb. 23, 2023,

First responses are in for Connecting’s call for your experiences as a pool reporter or photographer. I know there are more of you out there who have performed such a function during your career, and I hope you’ll share your story.

**Norm Abelson’s** treatise in Wednesday’s Connecting was enjoyed by many, including retired longtime Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editor **George Stanley** who encouraged him to offer it to a major op-ed page. And colleague **Doug Pizac** said: “Ditto to Norm Abelson’s take on ageism -- today’s new catch phrase. Unfortunately, that ‘too old’ belief has been around for decades and still is. It was called being ‘overqualified’ for the job.”

**FLYING FROM MID-SIZE CITIES HAS ITS ADVANTAGES:** From colleague [Molly McMillin](#), managing editor of business aviation for the Aviation Week Network, who writes:

"Only in Wichita. I slept through my alarm and didn't wake up until 4:45 this morning for a 5:30 flight. Threw on my suit, grabbed my bag and headed out the door. Thanks to little traffic, TSA precheck and a carry-on, I incredibly made it. Did my makeup in the aircraft's restroom. Boarded in Atlanta for DC. Landed there and took taxi to the National Press Club for my 1 p.m. meeting. I did forget my earrings, though. At what other airport could that ever happen, I ask. Thank you ICT. Whew."

Got a similar flight (or travel) experience to share? Send it along.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Your experiences as a pool reporter



**Mike Graczyk** - My first experience as a pool reporter was at the first Texas execution I covered: JD "Cowboy" Autry in the early morning hours of March 14, 1984.

Executions were a big deal back then. Autry was only the second condemned killer put to death in Texas and the 14th nationally in what's become known as the modern era of capital punishment and only the second to receive lethal injection. Five reporters were, and still are, allowed in the Texas death chamber and among their responsibilities is to deliver a pool report to all the media who weren't able to be inside to watch the prisoner die.

Among my assignments was also to write a first-person account of what happened inside so I knew I had to take extensive notes. The pool reporting, however, was the first duty.

Fortunately, I had terrific help from my predecessor as Houston correspondent, Charles Hill, who covered the first lethal injection in December 1982 before moving to Dallas as ACOB.

I recall being fairly calm inside the chamber as Autry was executed and more intimidated at the prospect of speaking before more than two dozen TV cameras about 1 a.m. from the steps of the prison administration building in Huntsville, Texas.

It's become much easier over the ensuing 40 years as capital punishment has become more common and accepted and the media interest has waned. The five media spots often are not completely filled now and there even have been a few instances where I've been the only reporter in the Texas death chamber. So we've come full circle, from being a pool reporter to having an exclusive.

I also recall pool reporting duty during Queen Elizabeth's visit to Texas in 1986 during the celebration of the Texas sesquicentennial. Prince Phillip may have been with her but I know she was accompanied by their son, Prince Charles, and I had the pool duty as he visited the San Jacinto Monument, an obelisk that closely resembles the Washington Monument except in typically Texan fashion is 15 feet taller. The San Jacinto Monument is on the grounds of the battlefield outside Houston where the Sam Houston-led Texans defeated the Mexican army under Gen. Santa Anna in just 18 minutes, securing Texas' independence from Mexico. And that's what we were celebrating all year.

Charles walked in alone as I recall while I was waiting for him inside the museum at the base of the monument. He glanced at some of the exhibits and remarked about the Texas heat. It was April but in the 80s, not unusual for us but clearly hot for him. I probably broke all kinds of protocol when I told him to come back in August if he wanted some real Texas heat. I was prepared to deliver a pool report but when we left the museum there was no media outside and no one else seemed to care. It was the best pool report I never gave.

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**Ken Herman** - I did many tours of duty as pool reporter, in various locations around the nation and planet, during my stint as Cox Newspapers White House Correspondent. Sometimes (and sometimes to the chagrin of colleagues who favored just-the-facts pool reports) I was among the pool reporters who'd take some liberties with our reports from less-weighty presidential events. Here's one from GWBush at opening night for what was then DC's new baseball team.

## Area man tosses ceremonial first pitch - April 14, 2005

by Ken Herman, Cox Newspapers

In our daily reminder of just how funny life can be, a Texan who eventually profited from the demise of Washington's old baseball team tossed the ceremonial first pitch Thursday night for Washington's new baseball team.

George W. Bush, now a Washington-area resident living in government housing while working as a president, threw the first pitch (a ball, high and perhaps inside, assuming a righty hitter) to Washington Nationals catcher Brian Schneider (.250, two RBIs coming into last night's home opener) at 6:55 p.m.

Bush arrived at the stadium at 6:08 p.m. after an uneventful motorcade from White House. Upon arrival, Bush went to each locker rooms to chat with the teams. Pool was in place along third-base line at the time.

Bush, wearing a red Nationals' warm-up jacket, strode to the mound from the third-base side and got a strong ovation (amid a smattering of drowned-out boos) from a crowd so enthusiastic that it also had given Javier Castro, the Nats' assistant clubhouse manager, a strong ovation.

We are told that the president warmed up at the stadium, out of sight, with catcher Schneider prior to the ceremony.

Biggest boos of the evening greeted City Council Member Linda Cropp, whose efforts almost derailed the team's move here from Montreal.

After the first-pitch ceremony, Bush went to a bunting-draped presidential box on the second level, just to the third-base side of the plate. Guests in box included Mrs. Bush, daughter Jenna. Marvin and Margaret Bush, Walker Bush, brother-in-law Robert Koch, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig and wife, Nationals President Tony Tavares and friends.

Schedule called for Bush to leave stadium en route home at 8:35 p.m.

Bush, a right-winged hurler, is 2-0 in presidential elections. One of the wins was unsuccessfully appealed. It was his fourth appearance as presidential first-pitch thrower, previously having performed the honor at home openers in Milwaukee in 2001 and St. Louis in 2004, and at Yankee Stadium on Oct. 30, 2001, at Game Three of the Yanks-Diamondbacks World Series.

The ball used for the first pitch at the Nats' home opener was handed to Bush by former Washington Senators hurler Joe Grzenda (14-13 with a 4.00 ERA during an eight-year Major League career that ended with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1972). Grzenda, among MLB's all-time leaders in consonant-to-vowel ratio, played with six teams in his eight MLB seasons, an impressive number in the pre-free agency days.

The ball was the same one Grzenda used to throw the last pitch at RFK Stadium on Sept. 30, 1971, at the last game of the Washington Senators before the team moved

to Arlington, Texas. The Senators, who led 7-5 at the time, had to forfeit that game to the New York Yankees when fans interrupted play.

Several ownership changes after the Senators became the Texas Rangers (see chronology below), Bush became the team's managing general partner. He enjoyed a nice profit, about \$15 million ("more money than I ever dreamed possible," he wrote in his 1999 book "A Charge to Keep") when his group sold the team in 1998.

At the time, Bush was living in government housing in Austin while temporarily employed as a governor, a job he quit in 2000 to take another government post.

The new Nationals were a foreign-based entity (known as the Montreal Expos) until taken over by American interests, sent briefly to a Caribbean island (where they played "home" games in Puerto Rico) before being transferred to Washington.

## The 80s – they're not so old

[Dan Sewell](#) - Re Norm Abelson's "How Old is Too Old?" I recently wrote this column on how many 80-year-olds are prominent these days.

Of course, one reader commented that it was time for me to retire.

Check out [this article](#) from Cincinnati.com, leading with:

**Opinion: From Tom Brady fans to the White House, 80 doesn't seem so old  
Is 80 the new 60?**

**By DAN SEWELL**

The new hit movie "80 For Brady" features four female actors ranging from 76 to 91 years old in their real lives who bust some dance moves with Billy Porter, party late with gummie-sharing youngsters, and flirt with Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski. Distinguished Hollywood stars Sally Field, Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda and Rita Moreno obviously know how to act, but they certainly are believable as rowdily active older women.

Of course, the United States has an 80-year-old president in Democrat Joe Biden. If current Republican front-runner Donald Trump wins a second term, he would turn 80 while in office. Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, will be 80 when he completes his second term in four years.

And Hey, Jude! Paul McCartney turned 80 while on tour last summer.

## Meeting up with former AP photo editor Ami Vitale



Retired AP staff - Photo Editor Brian Horton, left, and photographer Amy Sancetta, right, had the thrill of meeting up with and hearing former AP photo editor Ami Vitale speak as part of the National Geographic Speakers Series in Cleveland. Ami has become one of the world's most well-respected conservation photojournalists - work she has done for the last 10 years. Prior to that, Ami photographed war and conflicts across the globe. She has traveled to more than 100 countries, is a Nikon Ambassador, National Geographic photographer, writer, speaker and documentary filmmaker.

Ami began her journalism career in the early 1990's as a photo editor at AP in Washington under the guidance of Bob Daugherty. She transferred to AP NYC and worked on the international photo desk until Brian Horton spotted her as a special talent and brought over to the NY sports photo desk. Ami said that she learned so much in those years about juggling stories and finding the holes that needed filling to complete a full report.

Amy and Brian, along with some family and friends, had the chance to visit with Ami before and after her wonderful presentation. Her quiet nature, and her philosophy of kindness, hope and curiosity, were all completely inspiring. Her work at the panda nursery in China and her images of the death of the world's last male white rhino, have received world-wide acclaim.

Check out more about Ami, including upcoming appearances and workshops, her non-profit work, and links to her documentary films, by clicking [here](#).

## Your memories of covering Jimmy Carter



AP newswoman Ann Blackman interviews President Carter in the Oval Office in this photo from the early 1980s.

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[Hank Ackerman](#) - Jimmy Carter before and after his presidency resided in the Atlanta AP bureau's coverage zone. His Carter Center presidential papers library was in Atlanta. He lived in Plains, near Americus in southwestern Georgia. At least on a weekly basis and often many times in a week he made our state wires if not our national distribution. Stories often were in connection with the Carter Center's monitoring of elections in distant lands or about his books or family or just his personal trajectory.

Coverage of a president or former president has one of the perks-thrills of just being an AP reporter in a local bureau. Coverage usually has a team effort, and our national writers held a big responsibility backed up by our local staffs.

The first time I was to report on Carter was in Peru. But he didn't show up. His wife did.

Carter loved to travel the world, as is evident from the Connecting notes of Greg Nokes and Hoyt Harwell. At one point in 1978, Carter and Rosalyn were scheduled to visit Peru where I was in the Lima AP bureau. In preparation for the visit, and as sort of a scene setter, I found through a housekeeper that her father was a peanut farmer in the Central Valley near Lima. I interviewed him and shot a photo of him smiling

widely with his plants. The story -- before Carter's projected arrival -- received good play in the U.S. and Europe newspapers.

Alas, at the last moment, Carter's trip was cancelled. Rosalyn arrived anyway.

In the reports of our traveling correspondent, Jurate Kazickas, Rosalyn seemed to charm the nation's military rulers who were preparing to hold elections and return government to civilians.

The second time I was to help report on President Carter was in Cleveland in October 1980 when he debated California Gov. Ronald Reagan. I didn't see him there either - in person. I remained in the Cleveland AP office, as a backup of sorts for Walter Mears. The debate captured the nation's attention when Reagan chided Carter with the phrase "There you go again" after Carter had intimated that Reagan opposed a Medicare solution to the nation's health issues.

The succeeding instances I was near Carter were in Atlanta (1991-1993), and I actually interacted with him in person.

(Connecting's Carolyn Carlson, Michael Giarrusso and others in the bureau at the time, as Dan Sewell and Bob Ingle signal, probably wrote dozens if not hundreds of stories about him during their careers both when he was governor and later during and after his presidency. She and others could add many other memories. Just as Marc Wilson and Tim Harper wrote in their notes, I too came away impressed. He did not live his life only as a politician.)

In May 1992, Mikhail Gorbachev came to Atlanta to give an Emory University commencement address when my daughter was studying there. Gorbachev was on a tour of various presidential libraries in order to learn how to fashion his own in Russia. That evening Carter invited Gorbachev to the Carter Center for a reception. Gorbachev and Carter were not surprisingly all smiles and their spouses radiant. As Gorbachev ascended the staircase near the Oval Office replica room and talked with guests, Carter accompanied him and then sat down on a table. I noted that Carter, freed from the presidency, was wearing cowboy boots!

Later in 1992, Rudy Hayes, longtime editor of the Americus Times-Recorder, a hearty AP member, invited me to his retirement party weekend. The community held an afternoon function at the local country club in Sumter County. Dozens of Rudy's friends and fellow Times-Recorder reporters, editors, front office workers and pressmen were gathered in the club's entrance rotunda. A black limousine pulled up, and Jimmy Carter and Rosalyn stepped out. Asked to say a few words, Carter said with his south Georgia cracker voice, "I've known Rudy Hayes for 40 years, and if anything good happened in Sumter County during that time, Rudy Hayes was at the center of it."

I decided that afternoon to spend the night in Americus and to drive over to Plains the next day. Carter was scheduled to host the Sunday school lesson at the Maranatha Baptist Church less than a mile and across acres of peanut plants from his home. The Fellowship Hall where he normally gave the lesson was too crowded as several hundred people showed up (from a dozen or more states, I noted).



Carter suggested we all walk to the church sanctuary where Carter calmed the group and read from John 1:45-50 a passage about Jesus telling Nathanael, until that time a non-believer, that he saw him while he was "still under the fig tree." Carter stopped and asked the audience: "What do you think Nathanael was doing under the fig tree?" No one answered immediately. Carter looked up to the balcony and said: "Millard, what do you think Nathanael was doing over there under the fig tree?"

I do not recall his answer. But I did recognize that "Millard" was Millard Fuller who founded Habitat for Humanity.

Carter was a faithful friend and supporter of Habitat from 1984 in Americus, only about 10 miles from Plains, where Fuller had the organization's headquarters. The Carter Work Project has been an annual week-long working mission spearheaded by Carter and Rosalyn. Carter, with his carpenter's belt, and Rosalyn helped build Habitat houses. Thousands of volunteers in places all over the world participated each year during the past four decades.

Fast forward to Naples as of 13 years ago when Mell and I started traveling here fairly regularly. I had an interest in writing about volunteerism in high-income Collier County. I talked with the head of the Naples Habitat organization. He told me there were 3,000 people on their volunteer rolls, more people than in any other Habitat area.

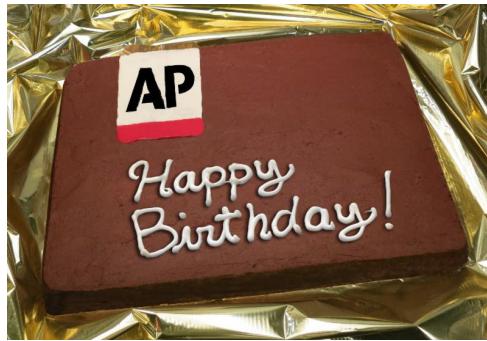
Probably much as a number of Connecting members, and largely because of admiration for Carter's Work Project, I volunteered to help in a Habitat Project -- one in Detroit -- after I retired....Also, when asked to give a valedictory comment about a colleague, I shamelessly have repurposed the Carter quote at the Americus club to describe a deserving person at one or another retirement function.

## Connecting water shot



Nick Ut - Con Dao Island, Vietnam.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Warren Levinson](#)

### Stories of interest

#### *Florida TV reporter killed while covering a fatal shooting* (AP)

By DAVID FISCHER and FREIDA FRISARO

A Florida television station identified Thursday a 24-year-old reporter who was fatally shot while covering a shooting death in an Orlando area neighborhood, as well as its photojournalist who was critically injured in the rampage.

Spectrum News 13 reporter Dylan Lyons and photojournalist Jesse Walden were in their unmarked news vehicle on Wednesday afternoon when a man approached and shot them, Orange County Sheriff John Mina said in a news conference. The man then went to a nearby home where he fatally shot a 9-year-old girl and critically injured her mother.

The sheriff said they've detained Keith Melvin Moses, 19, who they believe is responsible for both shootings.

"I want to acknowledge what a horrible day this has been for our community and our media partners," Mina told a room full of reporters. "I work closely with all of you and know many of you and know the very difficult job that you do and also the very important job that you do for our community and for law enforcement. No one in our community — not a mother, not a 9-year-old and certainly not news professionals — should become the victim of gun violence in our community."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Doug Pizac, Adolphe Bernotas.

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## ***They risk it all to cover war in Ukraine. Are people still watching?*** (Washington Post)

By JEREMY BARR

When CBS News correspondent Charlie D'Agata finished a recent report about Ukrainian and Russian troops fighting "close enough to throw grenades" on the front lines in eastern Ukraine, morning show co-host Gayle King sought to put things in perspective — and may have inadvertently spoken for American viewers who have followed the conflict since it began in late February 2022.

"Boy, Charlie, the one-year anniversary [this] week and it's still going on," King said. "No end in sight."

As some American news consumers scroll past updates about Ukraine in relentless news cycles filled with mystery balloons and 2024 presidential politics, correspondents for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and Fox News who are covering the war — and executives overseeing that coverage — said they have an obligation to find and broadcast stories that resonate with the audience back home.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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## ***NPR to Cut 10% of Its Staff*** (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

NPR will lay off 10 percent of its staff to make up for a \$30 million gap in its budget, the company's chief executive said on Wednesday.

In an email to the staff, John Lansing, the news organization's chief executive, said the public radio network's financial outlook "has darkened considerably over recent weeks."

"At a time when we are doing some of our most ambitious and essential work, the global economy remains uncertain," Mr. Lansing wrote in the email, which was obtained by The New York Times. "As a result, the ad industry has weakened and we are grappling with a sharp decline in our revenues from corporate sponsors."

Mr. Lansing said the budget shortfall this year, once estimated to be \$20 million, had grown to at least \$30 million. He said NPR, a nonprofit with a work force of about 1,100 people, had already cut \$14 million in expenses through eliminating open positions, restricting nonessential travel and suspending internship programs. But those moves, he said, are no longer enough to prevent job cuts.

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

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## ***A Puerto Rican journalist is helping crowdfund independent journalism on the island*** (Nieman Lab)

By HANAA' TAMEEZ

When Camille Padilla Dalmau decided to study journalism in the United States, it was with the intention of later returning home to Puerto Rico.

After graduating from the Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism in 2014, Padilla Dalmau, who was born and raised in San Juan, landed a job as a metro reporter at El Diario, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the United States. The years on the job covering crime and the New York City Police Department were emotionally grueling. But Padilla Dalmau learned Puerto Rican history through the diaspora communities she was covering, which she had never learned about in school. She then went on to become an associate producer for NowThis en Español. But the longer she worked in the U.S., the more she started to feel news stories about Puerto Rico tended to focus on problems, without explaining how colonialism contributed to them.

"[The news media covers] Puerto Rico through this lens of 'poor Puerto Ricans going through another hurricane,'" Padilla Dalmau said. "The problem is not [just] the hurricanes. We've been dealing with hurricanes for centuries. The problem is the slow response, because of the bureaucracy of the local, state, and federal governments. The biggest problem is that the [news media] shows breaking news without contextualizing the historical and socio-political reality that makes our lives here challenging."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Madelyn Jennings, Sibby Christensen.

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## ***Shocking animal farm conditions revealed thanks to photojournalism grant*** (Digital Camera World)

By Hannah Rooke

Growing up, animal rights activist, photographer and lecturer Seb Alex identified as an animal lover. He would never knowingly do anything to harm an animal, and yet he consumed them as part of his diet. It wasn't until Seb's friend showed him graphic images of a slaughterhouse that he made the connection between his diet and the welfare of animals.

This realization not only changed Seb's attitude towards food but, in time, it directed his entire career to focus on animal rights advocacy and documenting the harrowing, harsh conditions found in animal farming industries. Seb made the switch from a corporate job to work full-time on animal rights, and started documenting the atrocious farming conditions that animals were kept in all over the world.

On his journey to create a better world for animals, Seb founded the Middle Eastern Vegan Society, he's given lectures on animal rights all over the world, and recently he was awarded the We Animals Media (opens in new tab) Photojournalism Fellowship, which has enabled him to dive deeper into animal farming to uncover the devastating conditions animals are kept in up until slaughter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

## The Final Word

*World War II on Deadline*

### Joe Rosenthal and the flag on Iwo Jima



**By Marc Lancaster**

The man who captured what is to many the defining image of World War II -- and one of the great news photographs in history -- was rejected for military service due to poor eyesight.

With two brothers in the U.S. Army, though, Joe Rosenthal wasn't content to let an impediment like his notably thick eyeglasses keep him from contributing to the war effort one way or another.

"They wouldn't let me carry a gun," he said, "but I can pack my camera right with the boys in the front lines and show they're fighting."

Rosenthal was a photographer in the Associated Press' San Francisco bureau when the U.S. entered the war, and after his initial efforts to join the fight went for naught, he settled for a photography assignment with the U.S. Maritime Service. That duty saw him travel to the Mediterranean and England, but he was never in the midst of the action.



He rejoined the AP in 1944 and secured a war correspondent's assignment, shipping out to the Pacific that spring. Rosenthal followed the campaign from island to island, and on Feb. 19, 1945, he went ashore on the first day of fighting on Iwo Jima.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Robert Meyers.

## Today in History - Feb. 23, 2023



Today is Thursday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2023. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

**On Feb. 23, 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.**

**On this date**

In 1685, composer George Frideric Handel was born in present-day Germany.

In 1822, Boston was granted a charter to incorporate as a city.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

In 1998, 42 people were killed, some 2,600 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, by tornadoes in central Florida.

In 2007, a Mississippi grand jury refused to bring any new charges in the 1955 slaying of Emmett Till, the Black teenager who was beaten and shot after being accused of whistling at a white woman, declining to indict the woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, for manslaughter.

In 2011, in a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

In 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was fatally shot on a residential Georgia street; a white father and son had armed themselves and pursued him after seeing him running through their neighborhood. (Greg and Travis McMichael and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan were convicted of murder, aggravated assault and other charges and were sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2021, golfer Tiger Woods was seriously injured when his SUV crashed into a median and rolled over several times on a steep road in suburban Los Angeles.

Ten years ago: Some 30 NASCAR fans were injured when rookie Kyle Larson's car was propelled by a crash into the fence at Daytona International Speedway, and large chunks of debris flew into the grandstands. The Ultimate Fighting Championship held its first women's bout as Ronda Rousey beat Liz Carmouche on an armbar, her signature move, with 11 seconds left in the first round of their bantamweight title fight at UFC 157 in Anaheim, California.

Five years ago: Rick Gates, a former senior adviser to Donald Trump's election campaign, pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and false-statements charges, becoming a cooperating witness in the probe of Trump's campaign and Russia's election interference. Florida Gov. Rick Scott announced plans to put more armed guards in schools and make it harder for young adults and some with mental illness to buy guns. Teachers and staff returned to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, for the first time since the shooting that left 17 people dead.

Canada's Olympic men's hockey team failed to reach the final at the Winter Olympics in South Korea, losing to Germany 4-3 in the semifinals.

One year ago: The Kremlin said rebel leaders in eastern Ukraine asked Russia for military assistance to help fend off Ukrainian "aggression" while Ukraine declared a nationwide state of emergency amid growing fears of an all-out invasion by Russian troops. (The invasion would become a reality a day later.) Gary Brooker, the Procol Harum frontman who sang one of the 1960s' most enduring hits, "A Whiter Shade of Pale," died at age 76.

Today's birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 80. Author John Sandford is 79. Actor Patricia Richardson is 72. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 72. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 71. Singer Howard Jones is 68. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 61. Country singer Dusty Drake is 59. Actor Kristin Davis is 58. Former tennis player Helena Sukova is 58. Actor Marc Price is 55. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 54. Actor Niecy Nash is 53. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 52. Country singer Steve Holy is 51. Rock musician Lasse Johansson (The Cardigans) is 50. Film and theater composer Robert Lopez is 48. Actor Kelly Macdonald is 47. Rapper Residente (Calle 13) is 45. Actor Josh Gad is 42. Actor Emily Blunt is 40. Actor Aziz Ansari is 40. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 37. Actor Dakota Fanning 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!



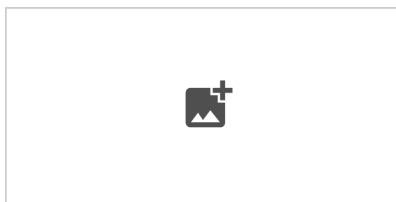
Here are some suggestions:

- **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.

**Paul Stevens**  
 Editor, Connecting newsletter  
 paulstevens46@gmail.com



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

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