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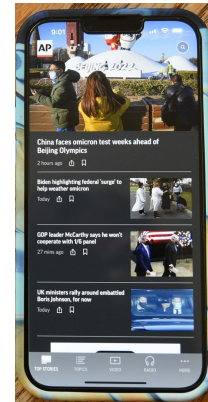
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# Connecting

March 3, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this March 3, 2023,

More memories of martial law in Poland are shared in today's Connecting. Thanks to **Bryan Brumley** for a great account that includes the detention and questioning of the AP coverage team by Polish secret police.

Ever the newsman, one of Bryan's biggest concerns at the time - getting beat by the competition while they were unable to file their stories.

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

Paul

## Martial Law in Poland



### Lech Walesa after his release

**Bryan Brumley** - All this talk about martial law Poland brings back memories of time in spent in jails in Gdansk, Katowice and Warsaw. I arrived in Poland just in time for the first anniversary of martial law, declared by Communist authorities on Dec. 13, 1981, under pressure from the Soviet Union. I was the sole AP correspondent in Poland, coming off a two-year stint in Moscow, capped by the funeral of Leonid Brezhnev, the 75-year-old Kremlin leader. Soviet authorities, spooked by the unrest in Poland, had lined the inner ring road with troops for the ceremonies. But all was quiet. Not so much in Poland. Martial law authorities had released Solidarity leader Lech Walesa (Va-WEN-sa) from internment, although they kept most of the other leaders in prison.

Walesa planned to attend a demonstration near the Gdansk shipyard to mark one year since the martial law declaration. Solidarity had formed in August 1980 after Walesa, a shipyard electrician, led a strike there. Gdansk was long a hotbed of resistance to Communist rule. Early on the morning of Dec. 13, 1982, the AP team approached Walesa's apartment building on the city's outskirts, only to see police bundle him into a black sedan. No other journalists were in sight. I followed in our car at a distance. A squad car peeled off and pulled us over. Rats.

We were escorted to a police station not far from the shipyard and held in a grim, windowless room. But not behind bars. After about two hours, members of AP team were led separately to an interrogation room where we were questioned by two plainclothes policemen wearing clingy blue suits. Me first. They knew a lot about me, including some details of my assignment to Moscow. I guessed they had been briefed by their KGB buddies about my extensive contacts with dissidents there and the Baltic republics. The Polish secret police were much more polite than the Russians, who had manhandled me and offered to rearrange my teeth. The Poles assured me they were nothing like the Russians.

By this point, I was frantic about not being able to file. I was sure that the dozen or so other Western journalists who had journeyed from Warsaw to Gdansk had reported Walesa's detention and that AP editors in New York would be screaming.

At last, the police let us go, and I bolted from the building. On the steps, we encountered the rest of the Western press corps, who also were being detained. They were about three hours behind AP. They had only one question: Where was Walesa? He had not shown up at the shipyard. No one else, apparently not even Walesa's associates, knew that he had been detained. I did not share the news of Walesa's detention with my journalistic colleagues as they were led into the police station. Although I did mention in my reports that they had been detained en masse. I hoped they would be released soon. Thankfully, none of them were injured. The shipyard workers and ZOMO riot police did clash later that afternoon. Police released Walesa after the dust settled. He later told us the cops had driven him around all day.

At its peak, Solidarity had 10 million members, one third of the country's working population. The movement destabilized the Soviet bloc, which collapsed in 1989. In December 1990, Walesa became the first democratically elected Poland since 1926. A year later, the Soviet Union collapsed.

## Customers, not members?

**Paul Albright** - Although I left AP employment 50 years ago, some wording in Thursday's (March 2) issue of Connecting jarred me a bit. In the announcement of "Upcoming AP Technology Milestones," Gianluca D'Aniello, AP senior VP and chief technology officer, mentioned "AP customers" several times.

Stuck in my mind was that we were instructed to refer to "AP members" and never as "customers." We were reminded that the AP was an "association" of media members rather than a business-customer relationship.

Probably, that instruction has changed over the years just as the media landscape has evolved along with AP's business model. Does the AP now have "customers" rather than "members," and, if so, when did that transformation take place?

## How about banning icon, iconic?

**Frank Aukofer** - Re the "most disgraceful word in journalism."

I have another, though it should be labeled "the most misused cliché in journalism"—icon and its adjective, iconic, which should be banned in every stylebook everywhere.

An icon is a statue or other representation in an orthodox Christian church. It is therefore a copy of someone or something, not anything outstanding in its own right. As I once wrote in describing a Chevrolet Corvette, "It is not iconic or an icon. It is an American original."

## AP wins 2 Royal Television Society awards

By Lauren Easton

AP field producer Vasilisa Stepanenko and AP video journalist Mstyslav Chernov were honored at the Royal Television Society's 2023 Television Journalism Awards on Wednesday in London.

Stepanenko was on hand to accept the Young Talent of the Year award. Chernov was named Camera Operator of the Year.

Both were part of the AP team that spent nearly three weeks in Mariupol, Ukraine, at the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, the only international journalists to remain inside the besieged city.

At great personal risk, the journalists showed the world the atrocities that took place within the city limits, from dying children to mass graves to the shelling of a maternity hospital and more.

Derl McCrudden, AP's vice president of global news production, said:

Through these awards, the RTS recognized the work of the AP in Ukraine and the people behind it.

Vasilisa Stepanenko has had a remarkable year, covering the siege of Mariupol, the effects of the war on the people of Ukraine, and contributing and driving some of our groundbreaking investigative journalism in Ukraine. She is a deserving winner.

Mstyslav Chernov is one of the outstanding camera operators and field journalists of his generation. Leading our team in Mariupol, he and his colleagues set the pace for coverage of the opening weeks of the war. His camera work and sensitivity to the people Mstyslav films is extraordinary.

The team's reporting has garnered several international journalism awards, including the George Polk Award for War Reporting, Bayeux Calvados-Normandy awards, and the Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award. It is also the subject of the AP-Frontline documentary "20 Days in Mariupol," which was awarded the Sundance Film Festival's World Cinema Documentary Competition Audience Award.

The awards from the Royal Television Society recognize journalism by organizations that broadcast on a UK-based platform or create online video content from a UK production base.

## A soldier and his Jujufruits break



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Bob Borchester)  
**A 1st Cav infantryman lives it up as he gets his share of a sundry pack, wraps himself in a makeshift raincoat and leans on a 'goodie box' from home.**

Evocative Vietnam War photo from the 1st Cavalry Division newspaper, August 1969, showing Pfc. Denis E. Sullivan, Co C, 2d Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div, wolfing down Jujufruits from a sundry pack while dressed in a makeshift plastic poncho during the rainy season in northern III Corps. (Shared by Erik Villard, digital military historian serving the Army.)

## Updated registration for May 19-21 AP Connecting Reunion in Texas

*Note: Includes plans for Friday night BBQ group dinner!*

Please join us for the May 19-21, 2023, AP Connecting Reunion in the Dallas area. Co-hosts are:

Joel Bohr of the Atlanta area [JoelABoehr@gmail.com](mailto:JoelABoehr@gmail.com)

Mike Holmes of Omaha [imikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:imikeholmes@cox.net)

and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

Please pay your own way to all events. A list of people planning to attend is at the end of this registration advisory (will be updated). Two group meals are planned, Friday night May 19 (cost \$25 per person) and Saturday night May 20 (\$40 per person). You are invited to attend either meal or both (total cost: \$65).

The reunion hotel is the Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine (details below), with free parking, free airport shuttle and free breakfast. This hotel also has a bar, restaurant and outdoor pool. Please reserve your hotel room by May 1. AP Reunion check-in will begin, with your co-hosts, on Friday afternoon, May 19, in the hotel lobby.

### **GROUP SCHEDULE:**

Friday night, May 19: BBQ dinner (\$25 per person) at Meat-U-Anywhere in Trophy Club, operated by former AP journalist David Seden & his family.

Saturday night, May 20: Tex-Mex dinner (\$40 per person) at the reunion hotel: Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine.

Sunday afternoon, May 21: Limited number of tickets (\$15 per person) available for Texas Rangers vs. Colorado Rockies game at Globe Life Field in Arlington. Join Diana & Paul Heidgerd at the game!

### **REUNION REGISTRATION (deadline May 1):**

Email the name(s) of those attending & a contact phone number to Diana Heidgerd: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

How many for group dinner Friday night, May 19 (\$25 per person) at Meat-U-Anywhere in Trophy Club, 91 Trophy Club Drive, Trophy Club, TX 76262. Includes BBQ meal, soft drink or tea, plus dessert. Restaurant is BYOB, no alcohol sold on the

premises. Convenience stores are nearby. Please coordinate with Mike Holmes if you wish to donate funds/beverages for a 5 p.m.-6 p.m. happy hour [imikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:imikeholmes@cox.net) Dinner 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Note: We have to confirm the number of paid meals, so if you commit to attending BBQ dinner please be prepared to pay for your spot. You can reserve a spot but cancel no later than May 1, at no cost to you. More details later on paying.

How many for group dinner Saturday night, May 20 (\$40 per person), from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the **Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine**. Includes Tex-Mex buffet, iced tea, plus dessert. Beer, wine & mixed drinks available for sale at hotel bar. Note: We have to confirm the number of paid meals, so if you commit to attending Tex-Mex dinner please be prepared to pay for your spot. You can reserve a spot but cancel no later than May 1, at no cost to you. More details later on paying.

How many Texas Rangers tickets for Sunday afternoon, May 21, at 1:35 p.m. vs Colorado Rockies? (limited number available at \$15 each). Diana has tickets for Sections 217 & 208. [Globe Life Field Seating Map](#) | [Texas Rangers \(mlb.com\)](#).

**GROUP HOTEL/RESERVE A ROOM:** Includes free shuttle to/from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and within 5 miles of hotel.

**Residence Inn DFW Airport North/Grapevine**

**2020 State Highway 26**

**Grapevine, TX 76051**

**972-539-8989 (call this hotel number to request the free airport shuttle)**

**Use this link to book (by May 1) at the AP Reunion rate: [Book your group rate for AP Reunion](#)**

**Would you like an accessible/special needs room? Call the hotel directly & ask for the "AP Reunion" rate. 972-539-8989.**

Some possible individual outings:

Main Street Fest in nearby Grapevine, all weekend. Free shuttle from hotel.

Fort Worth cowboy history & museums, including Fort Worth Stockyards.

History of 1963 JFK assassination. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

Current presidential history, on SMU campus in Dallas. The George W. Bush Presidential Center. Bush & his wife live in Dallas.

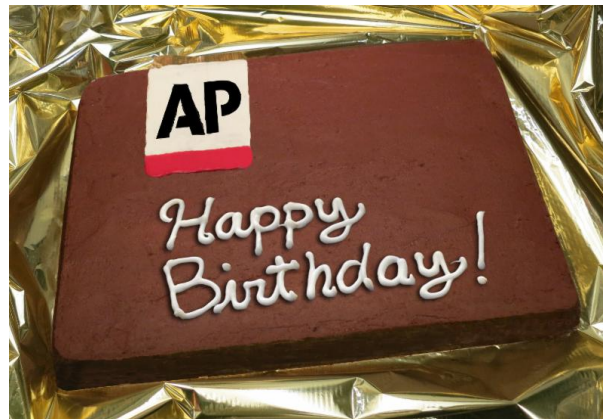
Reminder: please register by May 1: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

Attendance list (will be updated):

- Amanda Barnett
- Joei Bohr & Mark Woolsey
- Katie Fairbank
- Steve Graham
- Diana & Paul Heidgerd
- Mike Holmes
- John McFarland
- Charles & Barbara Richards
- Linda & Ed Sargent
- Terry Wallace & Liz Eaton

-- Sylvia & Will Wingfield

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Tom Goodman](#)

*On Sunday to...*

[David Lawrence](#)

## Stories of interest

### *DeSantis takes aim at prosecutor after TV crew attack* (AP)

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Fresh off removing one Democratic prosecutor, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis is eyeing another over how she handled cases involving a suspect charged with fatally shooting a TV reporter, a 9-year-old girl and a woman last week.

DeSantis' general counsel sent a letter earlier this week to State Attorney Monique Worrell seeking documents and emails about the prior arrests and prosecution decisions involving 19-year-old Keith Moses, both as juvenile and an adult. Juvenile records are typically kept private in Florida.

The request from the governor's office comes as DeSantis fights against what he calls "woke" prosecutors, bolstering his conservative criminal justice platform ahead of an expected run for president.

DeSantis last year removed State Attorney Andrew Warren, a twice elected Democrat in Tampa, over his signing of pledges that said he would not pursue criminal charges



against seekers or providers of abortion or gender transition treatments, as well as policies about not bringing charges for certain low-level crimes.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Dallas Journalist Fired For Calling Mayor 'Bruh' On Twitter*** (Huffington Post)

**By Ben Blanchet**

A Dallas journalist said her use of the word “bruh” to address the mayor has left her without a job.

Meghan Mangrum said she was sacked as Dallas Morning News education reporter after she responded to a Feb. 11 tweet from Mayor Eric Johnson claiming local media had “no interest” in reporting a drop in violent crime.

Multiple media outlets — including The Dallas Morning News — had covered the crime trend, and Mangrum called Johnson out.

“Bruh, national news is always going to chase the trend. Cultivate relationships with quality local news partnerships,” Mangrum wrote in her Twitter response.

“Standing up for my colleagues and the work that we do, when I know we’re doing good and honest work, is something I pride myself on and something that I look for in my colleagues and in my workplace as well,” the reporter later told D Magazine.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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## ***OU Gaylord College dean to step down, citing need for younger leadership*** (OU Daily)

**Alexia Aston**

Ed Kelley announced Wednesday he will step down as dean of OU Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Kelley told OU Daily his decision was based on his upcoming 70th birthday later this spring.

In an email to Gaylord faculty, he wrote his resignation will be effective June 30, the end of OU’s fiscal year.

"It's important the program ... (is) represented by someone who's younger, who can come in with new ideas and fresh perspective to take our program ... and take it and make it even better going forward," Kelley said.

Kelley was named dean of Gaylord College in March 2016 after serving about eight months as interim dean. Kelley received a bachelor's degree in journalism from OU in 1975 and has contributed to news organizations including Deseret News in Salt Lake City, The Washington Times and The Oklahoman.

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

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## ***High-quality Texas weekly quitting a week early: 'We have done what could be done . . . there seems little more to say'*** (Rural Blog)

By AL CROSS

When Laurie Ezzell Brown announced last week that she would publish only two more editions of The Canadian Record, one of the nation's best weekly newspapers, she did it in the middle of the third column of a three-column opinion piece and acknowledged that she had buried the lede, as her newspaper friends had accused her of doing recently. This week, she did it again, announcing in the second half of her column that it was her last:

We have decided to suspend publication with this issue, a week earlier than we had announced, having felt we have done what could be done, and that there seems little more to say. As we promised, we will continue to search for someone worthy of carrying on this 75-year Ezzell family legacy, and hope you will help us.

Tonight, I will wonder what my parents would think of the job we've done, the changes we've made, and this final, difficult decision that really made itself. Deep in my heart, though, I believe we have done the job given us to do, and have honored them in word and deed.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Florida bill would require bloggers who write about governor to register with the state*** (News Channel 8)

by: Sam Sachs

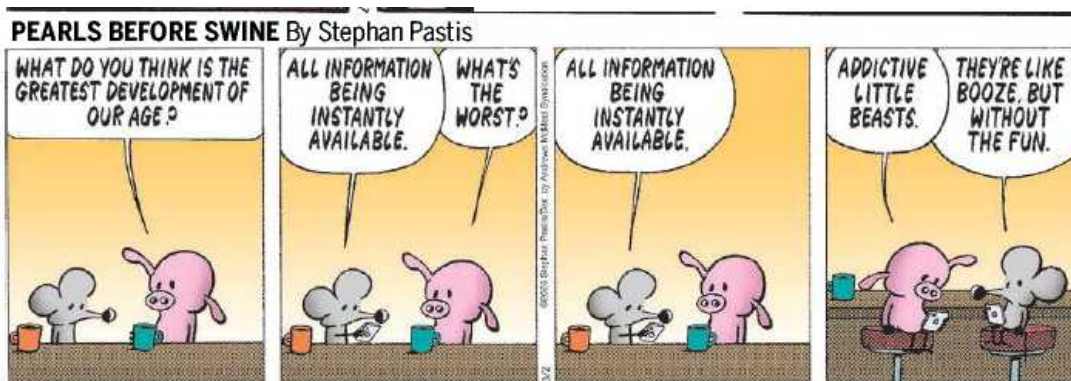
TAMPA, Fla. (WFLA) — Florida Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) wants bloggers who write about Gov. Ron DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody, and other members of the Florida executive cabinet or legislature to register with the state or face fines.

Brodeur’s proposal, Senate Bill 1316: Information Dissemination, would require any blogger writing about government officials to register with the Florida Office of Legislative Services or the Commission on Ethics.

In the bill, Brodeur wrote that those who write “an article, a story, or a series of stories,” about “the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, a Cabinet officer, or any member of the Legislature,” and receives or will receive payment for doing so, must register with state offices within five days after the publication of an article that mentions an elected state official.

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

## The Final Word



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

## Today in History - March 3, 2023



Today is Friday, March 3, the 62nd day of 2023. There are 303 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On March 3, 1974, a Turkish Airlines DC-10 crashed shortly after takeoff from Orly Airport in Paris, killing all 346 people on board.

**On this date:**

In 1791, Congress passed a measure taxing distilled spirits; it was the first internal revenue act in U.S. history.

In 1845, Florida became the 27th state.

In 1849, the U.S. Department of the Interior was established.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1931, "The Star-Spangled Banner" became the national anthem of the United States as President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution.

In 1943, in London's East End, 173 people died in a crush of bodies at the Bethnal Green tube station, which was being used as a wartime air raid shelter.

In 1945, the Allies fully secured the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1960, Lucille Ball filed for divorce from her husband, Desi Arnaz, a day after they had finished filming the last episode of "The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Show."

In 1966, death claimed actors William Frawley at age 79 and Alice Pearce at age 48 in Hollywood.

In 1969, Apollo 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a mission to test the lunar module.

In 1991, motorist Rodney King was severely beaten by Los Angeles police officers in a scene captured on amateur video. Twenty-five people were killed when a United Airlines Boeing 737-200 crashed while approaching the Colorado Springs airport.

In 2017, The Nintendo Switch, a hybrid game machine that works as both a console at home and a portable tablet on the go, made its debut.

In 2020, in a surprise move, the Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by a half-point, its largest cut in more than a decade, to support the economy in the face of the spreading coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden led civil rights leaders and national political figures in a ceremonial crossing of a Selma, Alabama, bridge where voting rights marchers were beaten by law enforcement officers in 1965. The SpaceX company's Dragon capsule made good on its latest shipment to the International Space Station, overcoming earlier mechanical difficulty to deliver a ton of supplies. Bobby Rogers, a founding member of Motown group The Miracles and a songwriting collaborator with Smokey Robinson, died at his suburban Detroit home at age 73.

Five years ago: Actor David Ogden Stiers, best known for playing a surgeon on the “M.A.S.H.” television series, died at his Oregon home at the age of 75. Coastal communities in the northeastern United States saw damaging high tide flooding and the lingering effects of powerful, gusting winds in the aftermath of a vicious nor’easter. Roger Bannister, the British athlete who, while a medical student, became the first person to run a mile in under 4 minutes, died in Oxford, England at the age of 88.

One year ago: Amid a wave of cultural protest to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, an Amsterdam museum cut its close links to the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, and the Swedish Academy that hands out the prestigious Nobel Prize in Literature broke its long tradition of not making political statements and condemned the invasion. In New York, soprano Anna Netrebko withdrew from her future engagements at the Metropolitan Opera rather than repudiate support for Russian President Vladimir Putin, costing the company one of its best box-office draws. OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma reached a nationwide settlement over its role in the opioid crisis, with the Sackler family members who own the company boosting their cash contribution to as much as \$6 billion in a deal intended to staunch a flood of lawsuits.

Today’s birthdays: Singer-musician Mike Pender (The Searchers) is 82. Movie producer-director George Miller is 78. Actor Hattie Winston is 78. Singer Jennifer Warnes is 76. Actor-director Tim Kazurinsky is 73. Singer-musician Robyn Hitchcock is 70. Actor Robert Gossett is 69. Rock musician John Lilley is 69. Actor Miranda Richardson is 65. Radio personality Ira Glass is 64. Actor Mary Page Keller is 62. Olympic track and field gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey is 61. Former NFL player and College Football Hall of Famer Herschel Walker is 61. Actor Laura Harring is 59. Contemporary Christian musician Duncan Phillips (Newsboys) is 59. Rapper-actor Tone Loc (lohk) is 57. Actor Julie Bowen is 53. Country singer Brett Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 52. Actor David Faustino is 49. Gospel singer Jason Crabb is 46. Singer Ronan Keating (Boyzone) is 46. Rapper Lil’ Flip is 42. Actor Jessica Biel is 41. Rock musician Blower (AKA Joe Garvey) (Hinder) is 39. Musician Brett Hite (Frenship) is 37. Pop singer Camila Cabello is 26. Actor Thomas Barbusca (TV: “The Mick”) is 20. Actor Reylynn Caster is 20.

## 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)



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