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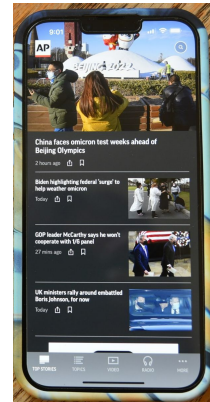
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# Connecting

March 10, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this March 10, 2023,

"I'm going to kill you, but before I do I want to tell you why." His gun was at the right side of my head.

Our colleague **John Wylie** was a reporter for The Kansas City Star when this happened to him, in 1978. It all came back to him recently when he and his wife Faith watched the March 2 return of ABC's long-delayed second semester of *Alaska Daily*. In that episode, *Alaska Daily* reporter Eileen (Hillary Swank), a one-time big market TV superstar, is taken hostage.

John shares his memories of that day 45 years ago in today's issue.

Ever been held hostage or placed in similar danger in your reporting career? Share your story.

**GEORGE GEDDA IN HOSPICE** - Sharing this sad news about our colleague George Gedda, who covered the U.S. State Department for the Associated Press for more than 40 years, is known for his expertise in U.S.-Cuban relations and was influential in the opening of the AP's first Havana bureau. According to his good friend Ellen Martin, George (who retired to central Florida in 2007) is now in hospice. She said he would welcome cards and letters from friends and former colleagues. If you wish to reach out, please do so through his daughter: Sara Gedda, 25809 Timuquana Dr., Sorrento, FL 32776. Email: [sgedda76@yahoo.com](mailto:sgedda76@yahoo.com)



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

Paul

## Alaska Daily episode on journalist attacks sparks chilling memories

**John M. Wylie II** - The March 2 return of ABC's long-delayed second semester of *Alaska Daily* was bittersweet for those of us who've faced death for writing the best, most balanced account possible of events which urgently need public exposure.

"Enemy of the People" depicts violence aimed at *Alaska Daily* reporter Eileen (Hillary Swank), a one-time big market TV superstar who departed to help an old friend in Anchorage build a newspaper housed in a strip-mall.

Her editor is striving for old-fashioned, hard-hitting balanced, fair and accurate journalism while keeping the overworked staff safe and sane.



He, she and her colleagues score big stories, but also face viral vultures.

When one named "Concerned Citizen" thinks she's alone in the office, he takes her hostage at gunpoint to air his grievances.

He's unaware that young staffer Gabriel is in the Archives room, able to relay developments to the remaining staff at a nearby bar and grill via online links.

Police decide to order a SWAT sniper to fire the first time Concerned Citizen's head becomes a clear target.

Eileen can't tell those outside that she was making progress towards on a peaceful solution.

When Citizen moves, still brandishing his handgun, the sniper makes a split-second head shot. Only then did SWAT and Eileen discover the weapon was empty, unable to harm anyone.

The episode ends with Eileen composing an email about her sorrow because he had died and her anger about the growing practice of putting red targets on journalists doing their best to sort out the real facts and share them with the public--without risking injury or death.

It will be fascinating to see how the series handles this conundrum. So far, it is depicting local journalism about as accurately is possible on the big or small screen.

I've been there, and the similarities and differences between drama and reality are chilling.

In August 1978 I covered an Operation 100 (armed barricaded individual threatening others) for *The Kansas City Star*.

Ronald was a despondent 28-year-old Black Vietnam War veteran who'd been honorably discharged with a huge toolbox of skills in high tech aircraft repair, diagnosis, fine tuning and other highly sought skills.

Kansas City was then TWA's world headquarters and had many other technical aviation maintenance, and repair opportunities.

He applied for many, was always passed over, and blamed his race and perhaps treatment for war stress following his discharge had caused.

To end the Operation 100, police agreed that he would not have any recorded arrest or charges filed, which meant his firearms were returned.

That final detail was not disclosed to the public or those who covered the situation.

Days later, I was working at an odd hour in the *Star's* square-block, wall-less, cavernous square-block newsroom, which was almost vacant, when a man in an overcoat (despite the August heat) walked to my desk saying he was looking for John Wylie.

I asked what I could do for him and was rising to shake hands when he drew a .45-automatic military handgun from his pocket and told me to sit down.

"I'm going to kill you, but before I do I want to tell you why." His gun was at the right side of my head.

Pretty stunning for a third-year journalist at *The Star* who normally worked as one of the nation's first full-time energy/environment writers.

But I also handled some major police assignments including Ronald barricading himself in an inner-city apartment building with a gun.

He remained there for 16 hours, Aug. 22-23, before surrendering to a team of KCPD officers trained to defuse such situations without any civilians, perpetrators, or officers being hurt or killed.

He was taken to a VA hospital in nearby Topeka, Kan., and released a few weeks later after treatment for mental health issues. No charges were filed and thus his firearms, including the .45, were returned.

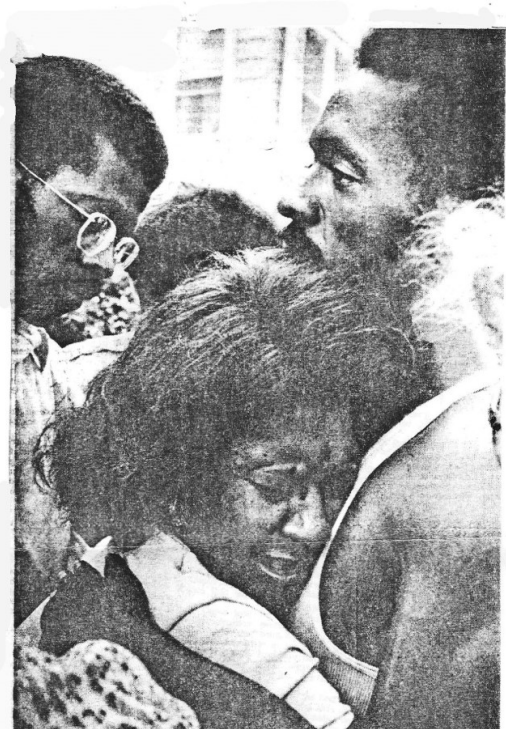
There was no public notice or advisory to those involved in the coverage of the Operation 100, so when he came to *The Star*, security had no reason to question why he wanted to see me at an odd hour. I often worked between shifts.

With no training in negotiating freedom from being slain, I managed to get him to let me pull out a notebook with a copy of the story which so upset him. I asked him to point out the specific words which so upset him and, as suspected, all were spoken by the KCPD public information officer, a sergeant who'd seen almost everything.

I persuaded Ronald that the way to get the public apology he sought was for him to talk directly to the sergeant, who I quickly got on the phone and told I had someone who needed to speak to him very urgently about the Operation 100.

Somehow I conveyed without Ronald realizing it that I was likely endangered and asked questions softly to get officers enroute while he and Ronald talked. I managed to guide his questions so he could get people in the right places before giving Ronald the phone.

The Sergeant kept him talking, building a rapport, while specially trained officers found a way to surround my desk without Ronald seeing them and again took him into



Ray Corey/staff

**Ordeal Ends**

who spent 16 hours after surrendering to police about 11:15 a.m. today. family said the Vietnam veteran had grown despondent after losing a job recently.

lost night and today holed up in the apartment of his father, is hugged by his mother,

### Despondent War Veteran Holes Up in Apartment

By John M. Wylie II

A 28-year-old Vietnam War veteran whose life went sour after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, surrendered peacefully to police at 11:15 a.m. today after holding officers at bay for 16 hours from a basement apartment at

taken to the Veterans Hospital here, then probably transferred to the VA mental hospital in Topeka.

Lt. Col. Fred Guenther, commander of the field services bureau, said an earlier promise that no charges would be filed against will be honored. Asked how had been coaxed from the building, Guenther replied, "I think we just out-waited him. I suppose he got as tired of waiting inside as we were outside."

armed with a shotgun and a 22-caliber rifle, had been holed up in the apartment since 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said who had been living with his father, at the

See POLICE on Page 2A



custody without incident. He went back to the same hospital, with the same outcome of no charges and return of his guns.

Newspaper security was hardened, but so did his hatred for *The Star* and me.

When he couldn't get into the building, he hand-delivered increasingly disturbing letters alleging the newspaper and I were part of a racist conspiracy against him.

The one triggering a high-level meeting among me, police and Star management was headlined "Societies Con Game White Wash." Despite its rhetoric, police and journalists reluctantly concluded Ronald's actions avoided any prosecutable offenses.

Our home in suburban Johnson County, Kan., was under police protection for a time until a planned promotion moved me to the newest *Star* bureau as its founder and chief covering southern Jackson, all of Cass and adjoining counties giving them a local weekly *Star* edition for the first time ever as well as daily local coverage.

Sadly, we lost track of Ronald after that. My mother was among the founding members of what was then Women in Communications' Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project, which produced *Veterans Voices*, a place for veterans to explore their literary talents in a widely distributed magazine.

While rough-edged and sometimes profane, his threatening letters suggested he had writing skills and not-yet-recognized intellect. The program could well have helped him escape his demons and perhaps build new skills.

Eileen at *Alaska Daily* never had the chance to even consider that. Her broken subject was killed with no chance to try to explain his views to the public in an acceptable way.

She wrote and voiced her soliloquy on a laptop under the covers as she sought to sleep in the wee hours. She talked of the need for journalists to be protected from becoming murder targets for simply reporting the closest thing to truth they could find about the world around their communities:

*"It has become fashionable for people in power, right up to those in the White House to demonize reporters and calling what we write as fake news and designating reporters as enemies of the people.*

*"There are armies of talking heads and bloggers in the mainstream and on the fringe echoing that message, not just demonizing reporters but dehumanizing them too. These attacks put a bullseye on our backs.*

*"And if we don't stand up against it as a society and remind our harshest critics that liberty depends on a fair and free press, the bullseye will wind up on the back of democracy itself. Pursuit of a common truth is a responsibility I cherish and will never, ever abandon even if you put a gun to my head."*

For any of us who have faced a gun to our heads, those are poignant words. She wondered if she had done enough to protect the life of the man who came to kill her

but who had begun to understand the power of true, factual reporting and likely no longer posed a threat.

If you didn't see this or earlier episodes, please find and watch them and if you agree it represents a view of the calling we love, and that the world should see, write ABC and urge that it be renewed for another season. Write your local ABC station. Spread the word among friends.

The episode marked a great first full day for me as a just-minted 70-year old journalist.

*John M. Wylie II is semi-retired after over 50 years as a newspaper publisher, editor, print and broadcast journalist. He is a 2012 inductee into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.*

## An update on U.S. democracy coverage

**Note sent Thursday to AP staff by Julie Pace, Senior Vice President and Executive Editor:**

Last year, we announced plans to bolster our coverage of democracy in the U.S., backed by funding from several philanthropic organizations. This week, we'll be posting a dozen democracy-focused jobs spanning several departments in News. These new positions will enhance our reporting on misinformation, voting access and election-related policy. They will also allow us to step up our explanatory journalism around U.S. elections across multiple formats and increase our efforts to provide information and tools to local newsrooms.

All of the jobs will be open to both internal and external candidates. Positions range from text reporters and VJs to data visualization developers and designers. We'll also be hiring a localization reporter to cover democracy at the state and local level, and a Spanish language translator to help bring our coverage to a broader audience.

If you're interested in any of the positions or have candidates to recommend, please be in touch with the hiring managers: Anna Johnson for reporting roles across formats, Emily Swanson for explanatory coverage, Katie Oyan for localization, Eduardo Castillo for Spanish translation, and Troy Thibodeaux for digital roles. Our directors of talent, Corinne Chin and Karen Mahabir, are also great points of contact for these and other opportunities.

As we build out our coverage of democracy in the U.S., we're also continuing to explore opportunities to expand our focus on threats to democracy around the world. We believe that we can use AP's global footprint to tell this story in a way no other news organization can match. So stay tuned for more to come in this space in the coming months.

## Member or customer?

**Ed McCullough** - My years as CoB or regional business director were in Latin America and Europe during 1993-2008, so this wasn't exactly an existential issue.

Every client was a customer.

None - except possibly and for reasons I don't recall, La Nacion newspaper of Buenos Aires - was a member.

I (read: AP) treated them all the same: the best I could. Every client had my phone numbers - work, home, cell - and could call anytime. They all knew how to call AP tech support, or the editing desk, or wherever else. But also to use me as a dispatcher who could take any service call or complaint, route it internally, and respond promptly. I had their direct numbers, too.

AP usually was outmanned on the business side much as on the news side, by Reuters, AFP and others. That editorial and business competition - for example, lower prices - was sharp and we all had to work a little harder. Which made us a little more agile, and better.

There were no rate cards to refer to nor commitments to share news, among other obligations. Generally, we were free to negotiate AP rates in line with what we knew they were capable of and probably already paying another agency. Sometimes it felt like walking a tightrope with no safety net, but usually it worked fine because AP produced quality news products.

From 2009 until my departure from AP eight years later, I co-managed LatAm business from Miami. When "domestic" colleagues would fret about members balking at paying the rate card, my response was: Negotiate!

**Doug Pizac** - Thanks to Adolphe (Bernotas) for sharing a great find: Five Star Final which was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Picture category. [Here's the link](#) for its two-minute trailer. It is interesting that Edward G. Robinson and two other actors I've never heard of are featured in the 1931 credits as the top cast. Left off the trailer credits was Boris Karloff who played a supporting role as an unethical newspaper reporter. He made nine films in 1931 with probably his most notable one being Frankenstein later in the year.

## Print and pinatas

**John Rice** - Another peculiar fallout of the shift away from print to digital: It's a blow to the cottage pinata industry. A pinata maker a few blocks from here in Mexico City says he's been struggling to get the old newspapers he needs to make his paper mache creations. We took him a load of our old papers yesterday and he was grateful.

## Connecting sky shot – Florida



Punta Gorda (FL) paradise. Photo by Laura Tobias.

## Registration for May 19-21 AP Connecting Reunion in Texas – more attendees!

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 [JoelABohr@gmail.com](mailto:JoelABohr@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 (\$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 Sedeno & 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 [mikeholmes@cox.net](mailto:mikeholmes@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? (\$15 per ticket). There are 8 tickets left, Sections 208. [Globe Life Field Seating Map](#) | [Texas Rangers \(mlb.com\)](http://TexasRangers.mlb.com). Two game promotions: **Rangers Powder Blue Visor (first 15,000 guests) & Blue Bell Ice Cream Sunday treats for \$1 (kids 13 & under)**.

**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:

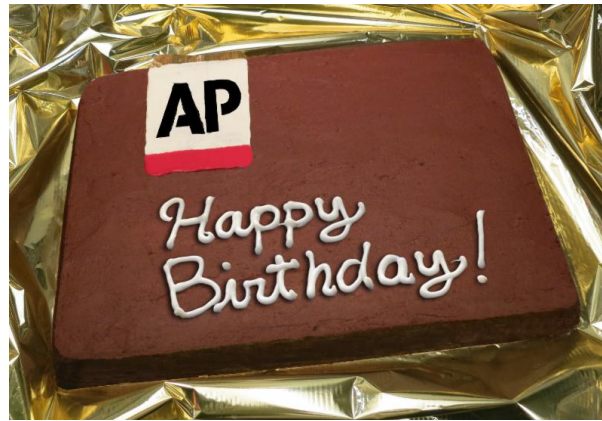
Main Street Fest in nearby Grapevine, all weekend. Free shuttle from hotel. [Mainstreet Fest – Grand Prairie Parks, Arts & Recreation](#)  
Fort Worth cowboy history & museums, including Fort Worth Stockyards.  
History of 1963 JFK assassination. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas.  
Current presidential history, on SMU campus in Dallas. The George W. Bush Presidential Center. [Home | George W. Bush Presidential Center \(bushcenter.org\)](#)  
Tour AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. [Attstadium.com](#)

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

People planning to attend: (will be updated)

- Amanda Barnett
- Joei Bohr & Mark Woolsey
- Katie Fairbank
- Steve Graham
- Diana & Paul Heidgerd
- Mike Holmes
- Mark Lambert
- Dale & Linda Leach
- John McFarland
- Michelle Mittelstadt
- Charles & Barbara Richards
- Linda & Ed Sargent
- David & Ellen Sedeno
- Ed & Barbara Staats
- Terry Wallace & Liz Eaton
- Sylvia & Will Wingfield

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Adolphe Bernotas](#)

[Molly Gordy](#)

[Tena Haraldson](#)

*On Saturday to...*

[Kernan Turner](#)

## Stories of interest

*The scale of local news destruction in Gannett's markets is astonishing* (Nieman Lab)

By JOSHUA BENTON

Gannett, America's largest newspaper chain, should wake up each morning thankful for the existence of No. 2 Alden Global Capital.

After all, who could ask for a better point of comparison? Alden is the perfect industry villain, a faceless private equity fund dedicated to nothing but cost-cutting and cashflow-draining. Its corporate website contains a total of 21 words, nine of which are "Alden," "Global," or "Capital." It's run by a secretive billionaire who last gave an interview in the 1980s — the sort of person who can own 15 mansions in Palm Beach and still think: I could really use a 16th.

It's the type of company that inspires debates over whether "vulturous" is too kind of an adjective. If you're writing an Atlantic cover story on "Who Killed America's Newspapers?" Alden Global Capital will hand you the murder weapon, already dusted for prints.

Gannett, meanwhile, is at least a newspaper company, one more than a century old. It's rarely been considered a particularly good one, mind you — its reputation for cheapness and cookie-cutter products go back decades. (As The New York Times described it in 1986: “a chain of mostly small and undistinguished, though highly profitable, newspapers.”) But it was at least a familiar name, run by news people and with at least some dedication to its civil role in hundreds of communities.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Paul Albright, Mike Holmes.

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## ***A fake news frenzy: why ChatGPT could be disastrous for truth in journalism*** (Guardian)

**Emily Bell**

It has taken a very short time for artificial intelligence application ChatGPT to have a disruptive effect on journalism. A technology columnist for the New York Times wrote that a chatbot expressed feelings (which is impossible). Other media outlets filled with examples of “Sydney” the Microsoft-owned Bing AI search experiment being “rude” and “bullying” (also impossible). Ben Thompson, who writes the Stratechery newsletter, declared that Sydney had provided him with the “most mind-blowing computer experience of my life” and he deduced that the AI was trained to elicit emotional reactions – and it seemed to have succeeded.

To be clear, it is not possible for AI such as ChatGPT and Sydney to have emotions. Nor can they tell whether they are making sense or not. What these systems are incredibly good at is emulating human prose, and predicting the “correct” words to string together. These “large language models” of AI applications, such as ChatGPT, can do this because they have been fed billions of articles and datasets published on the internet. They can then generate answers to questions.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sonya Zalubowski.

## **Today in History - March 10, 2023**





**Today is Friday, March 10, the 69th day of 2023. There are 296 days left in the year.**

**Today's highlight in history:**

On March 10, 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tennessee, to assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)

**On this date:**

In 1496, Christopher Columbus concluded his second visit to the Western Hemisphere as he left Hispaniola for Spain.

In 1785, Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln assigned Ulysses S. Grant, who had just received his commission as lieutenant-general, to the command of the Armies of the United States.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, heard Bell say over his experimental telephone: "Mr. Watson — come here — I want to see you" from the next room of Bell's Boston laboratory.

In 1906, about 1,100 miners in northern France were killed by a coal-dust explosion.

In 1913, former slave, abolitionist and Underground Railroad "conductor" Harriet Tubman died in Auburn, New York; she was in her 90s.

In 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

In 1985, Konstantin U. Chernenko, who was the Soviet Union's leader for 13 months, died at age 73; he was succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

In 1988, pop singer Andy Gibb died in Oxford, England, at age 30 of heart inflammation.

In 2015, breaking her silence in the face of a growing controversy over her use of a private email address and server, Hillary Rodham Clinton conceded that she should have used government email as secretary of state but insisted she had not violated any federal laws or Obama administration rules.

In 2019, a Boeing 737 Max 8 operated by Ethiopian Airlines crashed shortly after taking off from the capital, Addis Ababa, killing all 157 people on board; the crash was similar to one in October 2018 in which a 737 Max 8 flown by Indonesia's Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea minutes after takeoff, killing all 189 people on the plane. (The aircraft would be grounded worldwide after the two disasters, bringing fierce criticism to Boeing over the design and rollout of the jetliner.)

Ten years ago: The president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeze), accused the Taliban and the U.S. of working in concert to convince Afghans that violence would worsen if most foreign troops left — an allegation the top American commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Joseph Dunford, rejected as “categorically false.”

Five years ago: Syrian government forces made their deepest push yet into the eastern suburbs of the capital Damascus in a major blow to opposition fighters. Campaigning in western Pennsylvania for a Republican House candidate, President Donald Trump told a rally that his new tariffs were saving the steel industry.

One year ago: Civilians trapped inside Mariupol desperately scrounged for food and fuel as Russian forces kept up their bombardment of the Ukrainian port city amid international condemnation over an airstrike a day earlier that killed three people at a maternity hospital. “Black Panther” director Ryan Coogler was handcuffed by Atlanta police after he was mistaken for a robber when he passed a teller a note while trying to withdraw a large amount of cash from his account.

Today's birthdays: Bluegrass/country singer-musician Norman Blake is 85. Actor Chuck Norris is 83. Playwright David Rabe is 83. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 83. Actor Katharine Houghton (Film: “Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?”) is 81. Actor Richard Gant is 79. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 76. Former Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell is 76. TV personality/businesswoman Barbara Corcoran (TV: “Shark Tank”) is 74. Actor Aloma Wright is 73. Blues musician Ronnie Earl (Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters) is 70. Producer-director-writer Paul Haggis is 70. Alt-country/rock musician Gary Louris is 68. Actor Shannon Tweed is 66. Pop/jazz singer Jeanie Bryson is 65. Actor Sharon Stone is 65. Rock musician Gail Greenwood is 63. Magician Lance Burton is 63. Actor Jasmine Guy is 61. Rock musician Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam) is 60. Music producer Rick Rubin is 60. Britain's Prince Edward is 59. Rock singer Edie Brickell is 57. Actor Stephen Mailer is 57. Actor Philip Anthony-Rodriguez is 55. Actor Paget Brewster is 54. Actor Jon Hamm is 52. Rapper-producer Timbaland is 51. Actor Cristián (kris-tee-AHN') de la Fuente is 49. Rock musician Jerry Horton (Papa Roach) is 48. Actor Jeff Branson is 46. Singer Robin Thicke is 46. Actor Bree Turner is 46. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shannon Miller is 46. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Barnes (Red) is 44. Actor Edi Gathegi is 44. Actor Thomas Middleditch is 41. Country singer Carrie Underwood is 40. Actor Olivia Wilde is 39. R&B singer Emeli Sandé (EH'-mihl-ee SAN'-day) is 36. Country singer Rachel Reinert is 34. Country musician Jared Hampton (LANCO) is 32. Actor Emily Osment is 31.

# 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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