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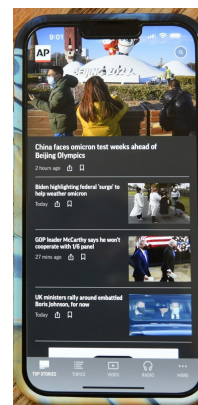
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Connecting

April 13, 2023

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A copy of *The New York Times* published May 8, 1945, bearing Ed Kennedy's scoop (AP/Rick Bowmer)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this April 13, 2023,

On May 7, 1945, veteran AP journalist **Edward Kennedy** bypassed military censorship to break the news of the German surrender he had just witnessed in Reims, France. He did so after authorities had prohibited release of the story for at least another day at the behest of their Russian allies.

A newly released book by our Connecting colleague **Richard Fine** - *The Price of Truth: The Journalist Who Defied Military Censors to Report the Fall of Nazi Germany* - recounts the drama surrounding the German surrender and Kennedy's controversial scoop.

The Paris press corps was furious at what it took to be Kennedy's unethical betrayal; military authorities threatened court-martial before expelling him from Europe. Kennedy defended himself by insisting that the news was being withheld for suspect political reasons unrelated to military security, and that the American public were entitled to know that the war had ended as soon as possible. No action by an American correspondent during the entire war proved more controversial. When the dust settled after prolonged national debate, Kennedy's career was in ruins.



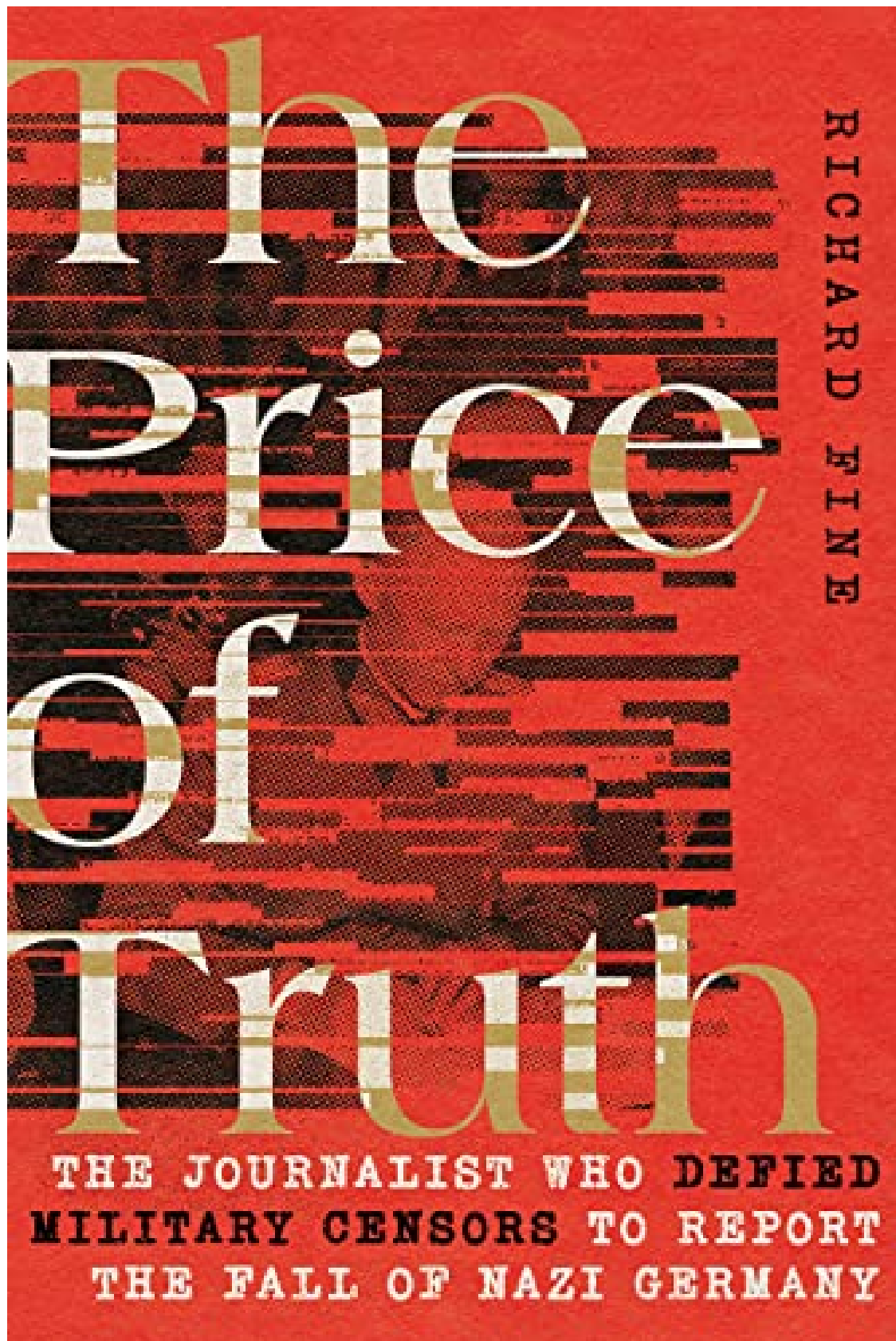
Connecting asked Fine, professor emeritus in the Department of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, to let his colleagues know more about the book – and we lead with a Q-and-A in today's issue.

We welcomed this comment from colleague **John Brewer** on Wednesday's lead story on AP Corporate Archives' 20th anniversary: "Really enjoyed the stories today about AP Corporate Archives -- and their importance. Great stuff."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

The story behind 'The Price of Truth'



AP Connecting Q&A with [Richard Fine](#)

What prompted you to write the book?

A.J. Liebling's war reporting on D-Day and thereafter for the *New Yorker* is what first stoked my interest in the press's relationship with the military, that and a year teaching in Normandy as a Fulbright Fellow. That research ultimately brought me to the AP Corporate Archives, where Valerie Komor and Francesca Pitaro alerted me to the Kennedy story. This was a decade ago when Kennedy's own account of his wartime career was finally published, and when Tom Curley, then the AP's president, publicly apologized for the agency's treatment of its reporter in 1945. Once I began looking into it, it struck me that the controversy over Kennedy's surrender story provided a terrific platform to discuss what I had been investigating—the process by which events on the front line filtered back to American newspaper readers and radio listeners, and just how those filters operated in World War II.



A brief synopsis of the book

There is a brief description of the book (the jacket copy) on the CUP website page for the book: [Price of Truth](#)

In *The Price of Truth*, Richard Fine recounts the intense drama surrounding the German surrender at the end of World War II and the veteran Associated Press journalist Edward Kennedy's controversial scoop.

On May 7, 1945, Kennedy bypassed military censorship to be the first to break the news of the Nazi surrender executed in Reims, France. Both the practice and the public perception of wartime reporting would never be the same. While, at the behest of Soviet leaders, Allied authorities prohibited release of the story, Kennedy stuck to his journalistic principles and refused to manage information he believed the world had a right to know. No action by an American correspondent during the war proved more controversial.

The Paris press corps was furious at what it took to be Kennedy's unethical betrayal; military authorities threatened court-martial before expelling him from Europe. Kennedy defended himself, insisting the news was being withheld for suspect political reasons unrelated to military security. After prolonged national debate, when the dust settled, Kennedy's career was in ruins.



Ed Kennedy buying cigarettes in this Signal Corps photo from early 1945 at the press headquarters at the Hotel Scribe in Paris.

This story of Kennedy's surrender dispatch and the meddling by Allied Command, which was already being called a fiasco in May 1945, revises what we know about media-military relations. Discarding "Good War" nostalgia, Fine challenges the accepted view that relations between the media and the military were amicable during World War II and only later ran off the rails during the Vietnam War. The Price of Truth reveals one of the earliest chapters of tension between reporters committed to informing the public and generals tasked with managing a war.

Your most surprising takeaway from writing the book?

The story of Kennedy's surrender story revises what we *think* we know about media-military relations, challenging the accepted view that those relations were amicable during World War II only later to run off the rails during the Vietnam War. The actual archival evidence reveals that when shorn of "Good War" nostalgia, relations in World War II resemble those in Vietnam far more than most accounts would have it.

Your thoughts on the campaign for a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for Kennedy?

This effort, which I think peaked about a decade ago, was commendable, and the journalists and scholars behind it built a strong case. I don't know much about Pulitzer deliberations, but I recall reading that such posthumous awards are rarely if ever given, so the campaigners faced a high bar. I also took part in a symposium at the AP about the Kennedy affair at the time of (AP President/CEO) Tom Curley's apology in which at least one reporter expressed doubt about the wisdom of Kennedy's actions. Certainly, at the time Kennedy was a hero to many but a villain to many others. History, actuality, is most often nuanced and contradictory. All this to say that the Kennedy case may not have been as compelling to the Pulitzer committee as it is to his champions.

What was your reaction to Tom Curley's apology, on behalf of the AP, for its treatment of Ed Kennedy in 1945?

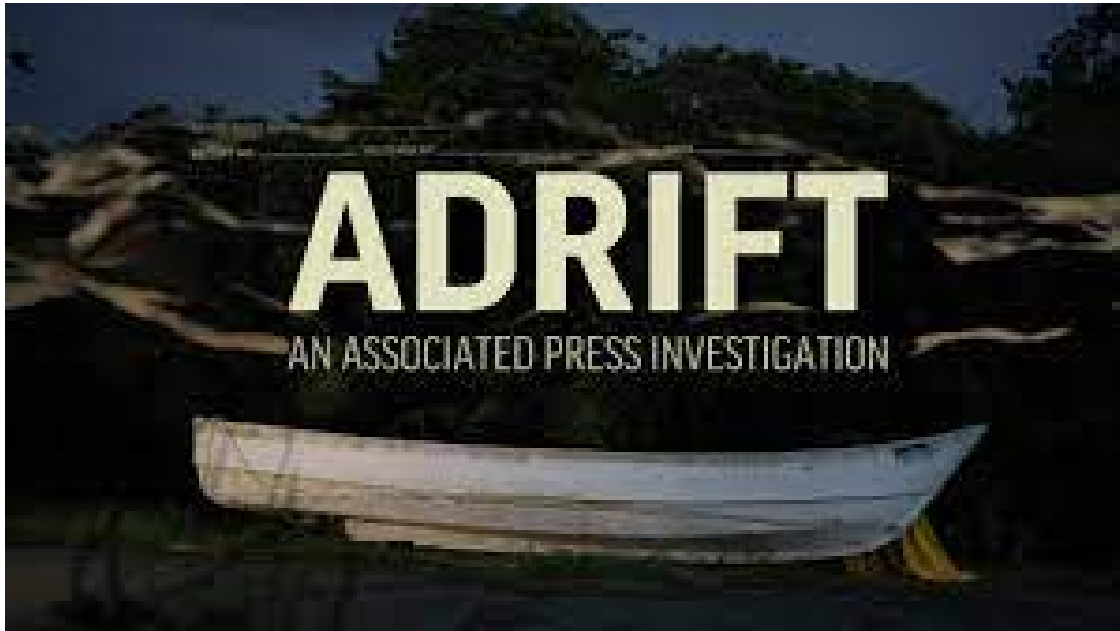
I recall thinking that Curley must have had strong feelings on the subject and that he must have been convinced that the AP had acted in bad faith. He may also have felt that Kennedy's daughter, herself a journalist, deserved that apology. It's laudable that the AP would criticize itself, even at such a distance. As I recall, Curley had thoroughly researched the case with the help of the AP's archivists, an instance of the value of maintaining the AP's archives for researchers. The Price of Truth, for the first time in print, pieces together the chain of events that led to Kennedy's departing the AP. At the time, Kent Cooper had refused to confirm (or deny) that Kennedy had been fired, even as he engineered his dismissal (as some digging in the archives revealed). Kennedy himself was vague on the subject and so a bit of a mystery has lingered over Kennedy's fate.

What is your impression of the Associated Press at the time?

Three things stand out. First, as a naive outsider, I was startled by the ferocity of the competition between the major news agencies at the time. Beating the other agencies on a story by seconds, let alone minutes, was highly prized and rewarded, and this led to some unseemly scrambles to file first. Second, the AP's own archives reveal Kent Cooper, its long-serving general manager, to have been an absolute control freak, a micro-manager involved in even the minor details of personnel issues and stories as they developed. I suspect he tried the patience of his staff on more than one occasion. Finally, even as an avid consumer of news for most of my life, I had not known just how many journalists resented the power and reach of the Associated Press at mid-century, and to learn of the tensions between newspapers at the time and the news agencies, especially the AP.

An AP investigation:

Adrift in the Atlantic, a boat of death and lost dreams



By **RENATA BRITO** and **FELIPE DANA**

BELLE GARDEN, Tobago (AP) —Around 6:30 a.m. on May 28, 2021, a couple of miles from Belle Garden Beach on the Caribbean island of Tobago, a narrow white-and-blue boat drifted onto the horizon.

As it wobbled back and forth, fish gathered, feeding on the barnacles that had grown below the surface.

From a distance, it seemed no one was aboard. But as fishermen approached, they smelled death.

Inside were the decomposing bodies of more than a dozen Black men. No one knew where they were from, what brought them there, why they were aboard — and how or why they died. No one knew their names.

What is clear now, but wasn't then, is this:

For nearly two years, The Associated Press assembled puzzle pieces from across three continents to uncover the story of this boat — and the people it carried from hope to death.

The vessel that reached Tobago was registered in Mauritania, a large and mostly deserted country in northwest Africa nearly 3,000 miles (4,800 km) away. Evidence found on the boat — and its style and color as a typical Mauritanian “pirogue” — suggested the dead were likely African migrants who were trying to reach Europe but got lost in the Atlantic.

In 2021, at least seven boats appearing to be from northwest Africa washed up in the Caribbean and in Brazil. All carried dead bodies.

These “ghost boats” — and likely many others that have vanished — are in part an unintended result of years of efforts and billions of dollars spent by Europe to stop crossings on the Mediterranean Sea. That crackdown, along with other factors such as economic disruption from the pandemic, pushed migrants to return to the far longer, more obscure and more dangerous Atlantic route to Europe from northwest Africa via the Canaries instead.

Arrivals on the Atlantic route jumped from 2,687 in 2019 to more than 22,000 two years later, according to Spain’s Interior Ministry. But for those to arrive, many more must have departed, said Pedro Vélez, an oceanographer at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography. Vélez wasn’t surprised to learn of migrant boats appearing in the Caribbean — that is where floating devices dropped by scientists on the West African coast naturally drift.

“The sea conditions there are extremely harsh,” he said. “Extremely harsh.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Marc Humbert

After retirement, your next chapters

[Mike Feinsilber](#) - Here’s my experience at keeping a finger in journalism. A friend told me about a non-profit outfit, Report for America, and I applied and became an email mentor to a young recent University of Pennsylvania graduate who had zero experience in journalism. Here’s how RFA describes itself on its website, reportforamerica.org :

Report for America is a national service program that places journalists into local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities. An initiative of the nonprofit media organization, The GroundTruth Project, it is structured to harness the skills and idealism of an emerging group of journalists plus the creative spirit of local news organizations.

RFA recruits young people eager to become journalists and matches them with news organizations eager to fill a gap in their coverage. The news agency pays half the intern’s \$40,000 salary and RFA pays the other half, largely, I gather, by soliciting gifts from foundations. RFA mentors work for large and small outfits — papers, websites, broadcasters. I’ve noticed that AP employs some RFA people, often to help cover state legislatures.

My mentee (what an unattractive word) signed on with the Detroit Free Press, a Gannett paper, as its fact-checker, chiefly for the paper’s internet edition. She did well, and soon was assigned to cover Michigan’s redistricting commission. Redistricting turned out to be a raucous process and generated a lot of news.

The arrangement I worked out with my intern was that she’d send me her stories, but, since I didn’t want her to be caught between my suggestions and her desk’s editing, I’d see her stuff only after it had been published. I’d read it, critique it word-for-word

and send it back with my comments, suggestions, occasional praise, sometimes just commentaries on how journalism does things and how it is changing.

That was about two years ago, and our arrangement continues. After retiring from AP Washington, I returned for three years as the bureau's part-time writing coach, so I had lots of experience as a post-publication critic.

The experience has been rewarding — for me, satisfying that itch to do something journalistic, and for her, offering close editing. With pleasure I watched her progress from stories that read too much like term papers to stories that read like news. We've become friends. She's felt the thrill of seeing her stuff on page one, sometimes leading the paper. And the Free Press ("Freep" to its staff) is likely to keep her on after her ties to RFA end. I think she's hooked on journalism.

I acknowledge I was lucky in getting such a smart and enthusiastic intern. RFA makes a thoughtful effort in selecting both mentees (sigh) and mentors. But I've heard of one instance where the arrangement just didn't work out.

But if Connectors want to make a real contribution to today's needful news business, here's one way to do it. [The website](#) will provide guidance for signing on.

Irony in Today in History

[Steve Hendren](#) - Kinda interesting that the polio vaccine was declared safe and effective the same day ten years after one of our most famous polio victims died.

From Wednesday's Today in History

On this date:

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

A favorite Nick Ut shot



One of my favorite photos from Nick Ut's recently completed trip to his home country of Vietnam.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Marcus Kabel](#)

Stories of interest

Look who's back: Donald Trump's big return to Fox News (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — For several months, Fox News treated Donald Trump like yesterday's news. But now the former president has come roaring back at the popular network for conservative viewers, most notably since his indictment in New York on hush-money charges.

The Trump revival was on display Tuesday night, when Tucker Carlson devoted his entire prime-time program to a "historic interview" with him, promising more excerpts on Wednesday. It was two weeks after Sean Hannity similarly gave Trump extensive airtime.

Left unmentioned were Carlson's two-year-old private text messages, revealed in a defamation case against the network, in which he disparaged Trump and talked eagerly of putting the former president behind him. In one of the exchanges, from Jan. 4, 2021, Carlson wrote that "we are very, very close to being able to ignore Trump most nights" and "I truly can't wait."

Trump's return reverses what some had been calling a "soft ban" by Fox News, which had no on-air interviews with him between Sept. 22, 2022, and Hannity on March 27.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Judge admonishes Fox lawyers over evidence gap in libel case (AP)

By RANDALL CHASE

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — The judge presiding over a defamation case against Fox News admonished its attorneys Wednesday for potentially withholding evidence and said he is inclined to order an independent review by a special master that could lead to sanctions.

The move by Delaware Superior Court Judge Eric Davis came amid a burst of fresh revelations in the \$1.6 billion defamation case filed by Dominion Voting Systems against the conservative network and its parent company, Fox Corp.

The judge expressed anger and frustration during a pretrial hearing after learning that Fox only recently turned over recordings of Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo talking with two lawyers for then-President Donald Trump, Sidney Powell and Rudy Giuliani. That came after the disclosure a day earlier that Fox lawyers had withheld critical information about the role company founder Rupert Murdoch, who is chairman of Fox Corp., played at Fox News.

Read more [here](#).

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NPR quits Twitter after being falsely labeled as 'state-affiliated media' (NPR)

By David Folkenflik

NPR will no longer post fresh content to its 52 official Twitter feeds, becoming the first major news organization to go silent on the social media platform. In explaining its decision, NPR cited Twitter's decision to first label the network "state-affiliated media," the same term it uses for propaganda outlets in Russia, China and other autocratic countries.

The decision by Twitter last week took the public radio network off guard. When queried by NPR tech reporter Bobby Allyn, Twitter owner Elon Musk asked how NPR functioned. Musk allowed that he might have gotten it wrong.

Twitter then revised its label on NPR's account to "government-funded media." The news organization says that is inaccurate and misleading, given that NPR is a private, nonprofit company with editorial independence. It receives less than 1 percent of its \$300 million annual budget from the federally funded Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

By going silent on Twitter, NPR's chief executive says the network is protecting its credibility and its ability to produce journalism without "a shadow of negativity."

Read more [here](#).

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America's Top Hostage Envoy Pledges to Secure Evan Gershkovich's Release From Russian Prison (Wall Street Journal)

By Louise Radnofsky, Gordon Lubold and Ann M. Simmons

The U.S.'s top hostage negotiator called on Russia to allow American Embassy officials to visit detained Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and pledged to find a way to secure his release and that of another American, Paul Whelan.

Roger Carstens, the special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, made the remarks in a series of morning television interviews, appearing across ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and MSNBC.

Mr. Gershovich has yet to receive a visit from U.S. Embassy officials two weeks after he was detained while on a reporting trip and accused of espionage, an accusation the Journal and the U.S. government have vehemently denied. The U.S. considers him wrongfully detained, putting Mr. Carstens in charge of his case.

“The Russians owe us a consular visit and we have yet to have consular access to Mr. Gershovich, and the Russians owe that by international law and by consular convention,” Mr. Carstens said on CNN.

“We’re continuing to press for it and we haven’t received it. This is like ones and zeros in computer language: you either get consular access, or you don’t,” he said in that appearance.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 13, 2023



Today is Thursday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2023. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 13, 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)

On this date:

In 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., on the 200th anniversary of the third American president's birth.

In 1953, "Casino Royale," Ian Fleming's first book as well as the first James Bond novel, was published in London by Jonathan Cape Ltd.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first Black performer in a leading role to win an Academy Award for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

In 1997, Tiger Woods became the youngest person to win the Masters Tournament and the first player of partly African heritage to claim a major golf title.

In 1999, right-to-die advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian was sentenced in Pontiac, Michigan, to 10 to 25 years in prison for second-degree murder in the lethal injection of a Lou Gehrig's disease patient. (Kevorkian ended up serving eight years.)

In 2005, a defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta.

In 2009, music producer Phil Spector was found guilty by a Los Angeles jury of second-degree murder in the shooting of actor Lana Clarkson (he was later sentenced to 19 years to life in prison; he died in prison in January 2021).

In 2011, A federal jury in San Francisco convicted baseball slugger Barry Bonds of a single charge of obstruction of justice, but failed to reach a verdict on the three counts at the heart of allegations that he'd knowingly used steroids and human growth hormone and lied to a grand jury about it. (Bonds' conviction for obstruction was ultimately overturned.)

In 2016, the Golden State Warriors became the NBA's first 73-win team by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 125-104, breaking the 1996 72-win record of the Chicago Bulls. Kobe Bryant of the Lakers scored 60 points in his final game, wrapping up 20 years in the NBA.

In 2020, Charles Thacker Jr., a crew member on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, died at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam, becoming the first active-duty military member to die from the coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Francine Wheeler, the mother of a 6-year-old boy killed in the Connecticut school shooting, used the opportunity to fill in for President Barack Obama during his weekly radio and Internet address to make a personal plea from the White House for action to combat gun violence. All 108 passengers and crew survived after a new Lion Air Boeing 737 crashed into the ocean and snapped in two while attempting to land on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Hundreds of opponents of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher partied in London's Trafalgar Square to celebrate her death, sipping champagne and chanting, "Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead."

Five years ago: President Donald Trump announced that the United States, France and Britain had carried out joint airstrikes in Syria meant to punish President Bashar Assad for his alleged use of chemical weapons. Trump issued a pardon to I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, suggesting that the former top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney had been "treated unfairly" by a special counsel. Responding to a stinging new memoir from

former FBI Director James Comey, Trump laced into Comey, describing him as an “untruthful slime ball.”

One year ago: Frank James, a 62-year-old man accused of shooting and wounding 10 people on a Brooklyn subway train was arrested about 30 hours later and charged with a federal terrorism offense after calling police to come get him. (James would plead guilty months later.) The presidents of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, four countries on Russia’s doorstep, visited Ukraine and underscored their support for the embattled country, where they saw heavily damaged buildings and demanded accountability for what they called war crimes carried out by Russian forces.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 90. Actor Edward Fox is 86. R&B singer Lester Chambers is 83. Movie-TV composer Bill Conti is 81. Rock musician Jack Casady is 79. Singer Al Green is 77. Actor Ron Perlman is 73. Actor William Sadler is 73. Singer Peabo Bryson is 72. Bandleader/rock musician Max Weinberg is 72. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 71. Rock musician Jimmy Destri (Blondie) is 69. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 66. Actor Saundra Santiago is 66. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa., is 63. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 60. Actor Page Hannah is 59. Actor-comedian Caroline Rhea (RAY) is 59. Rock musician Marc Ford (The Black Crowes) is 57. Reggae singer Capleton is 56. Actor Ricky Schroder is 53. Rock singer Aaron Lewis (Staind) is 51. Actor Bokeem Woodbine is 50. Singer Lou Bega is 48. Actor-producer Glenn Howerton is 47. Actor Kyle Howard is 45. Actor Kelli Giddish is 43. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 42. Pop singer Nellie McKay (mih-KY’) is 41. Rapper/singer Ty Dolla \$ign is 41. Actor Allison Williams is 35. Actor Hannah Marks is 30.

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.

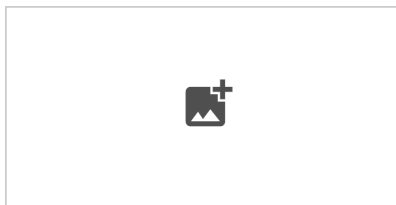
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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.

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