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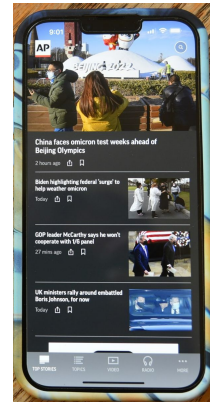
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Connecting

May 30, 2023

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Memorial Day scene at Los Angeles National Cemetery. Photo/Nick Ut

Good Tuesday morning on this May 30, 2023,

Today's Connecting leads with your thoughts on the Memorial Day special edition displaying names of the 37 Associated Press journalists who died in the line of duty and are remembered on the AP Wall of Honor at headquarters in New York.

We also bring you stories and photos relating to the Memorial Day weekend.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest!

Paul

On the AP Wall of Honor

[Joseph Galianese](#) - Thank you for compiling and sharing the Connecting Memorial issue. Reading over the lives of these individuals had me wondering what the requirements are to be placed on the wall. Most of the honorees left us when covering a News Event but I noticed that Franklin Reyes Marrero and Anthony Mitchell were lost while returning from assignment.

The reason for asking is I remember Jim Gaines who worked for R&D passed while returning from assignment/meetings in DC when his Amtrak derail. I was unsure if we lost any technical staff (could be one of your Connecting assignments) while on the job?

-0-

[Arnold Zeitlin](#) - Thanks for helping me remember Dennis Royle, Paul. He and I worked together in Nigeria during the Biafra civil war in the mid-60s. He was a delight, never losing his cool and de-escalating tough moments with a keen sense of humor.

Missing from the Wall of Honor is another photographer with whom I worked. He is Michel Laurent, who earned a Pulitzer Prize for AP with Horst Faas for their photographs of alleged collaborators being tortured in newly independent Bangladesh in 1972. He joined me in Dhaka in 1971, a bit nervous because I think this was his first overseas assignment. He was a skinny 25-year-old, a gutsy Frenchman.

The night of 25 March 71, when the Pakistan army ordered all foreign journalists to leave Dhaka as it staged a bloody crackdown on so-called Awami League secessionists, Michel, like other journalists in the Intercontinental hotel, went to his room to pack. But unlike the other journalists, he never came down to board the buses to the airport. Instead, he hid in the hotel kitchen and spent the night outside shooting photos and recording the army attacks. I missed the journalists' roundup because I was away that night from the hotel at dinner with the Pakistan information secretary. I found Michel two days later in his room that connected to mine, which had been ransacked. We left that day on a plane the Pakistanis arranged for foreigners, Michel

hid rolls of film all over, including on his body. Some rolls were confiscated when we were searched at the airport, but he managed to save some that he used after we put him on a plane for Bangkok with orders to dictate a story of the crackdown.

Sadly, Michel was killed 28 April 1975 covering a final battle before the Vietnam war ended, the last photojournalist to die in that conflict. When I visited Hanoi years later, I teared up to come across his work exhibited in a museum. He had left AP in 1973 to work for the French photo agency, Gamma, but I always have felt he had a place on the AP Wall of Honor.

I've also always felt the same honor was due another photographer with whom I worked. He was Priys Ramrakha, a 33-year-old Indian who lived in Kenya when he came to the civil war in Nigeria in 1968 to string for Time-Life and AP. While covering for me and Time-Life, Priya was caught in a crossfire between Nigeria troops and Biafran rebels. A CBS-TV camera crew caught his final moments. After he was shot, CBS correspondent Morley Safer tried to carry him to safety but he bled out and died in Safer's arms. A cache of his finest photos was found in 2018 buried in a garage in Niarobi. They were published in a book, "Priya Ramrakha: The Recovered Archive." A Priya Ramrakha Foundation promotes his work.

Memorial Day, 2023 in Black Mountain, NC



Hank Ackerman - Some 400 veterans, active duty military and families and friends attended the Memorial Day ceremony Monday at the Western North Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, N.C. where more than 5,700 veterans' graves were decorated with American flags.

Memorial Day 2023 was celebrated in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 designating effective as of 1971 the final Monday of May as a federal holiday for the celebration of the lives of American Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard soldiers who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Originally, according to many accounts, the celebration was termed Decoration Day after the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union

army fraternal organization. Gen. John A. Logan, in May 1868, called for people to strew flowers or otherwise decorate the graves of comrades who died defending their country. Similar celebrations occurred in the South for Civil War dead. From 1868 to 1970, the celebrations were largely celebrated as Decoration Day or Memorial Day on May 30 and held in many states and hundreds of communities and gained momentum after WWI and WWII.

Some 5,700 veterans and family members are buried in the Black Mountain cemetery. The ceremony included Presentation of the Colors, National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, Presentation of a Memorial Wreath and the Ceremony of 13 folds -- folding the American Flag -- as well as speeches. Lt. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin of the U.S. Marine Corps (retired) spoke as Secretary of the NC Department of Veterans Affairs. He invoked sentiments of President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg in 1863, and President John F. Kennedy in his 1961 inaugural address and of William Ernest Henley's poem. *Invictus*, penned in 1875.

VOA's Steve Herman delivers keynote at Front Royal

[Malcolm Barr Sr.](#) - Two former Associated Press journalists, Malcolm Barr Sr. (retired) and [Steve Herman](#) (Voice of America) who each served AP for roughly a decade at different times in vastly different areas of the world, participated on a rare shout out to the dogs of war the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

In our small civil war town of Front Royal, just 70 miles west of Washington D.C. to which Herman traveled to keynote a ceremony at the town's animal shelter, a goodly crowd of onlookers - dog lovers - where Barr had last year established a memorial garden for law enforcement and military dogs. It was at this site that local police led the Memorial Weekend observance and where a blessing of all service dogs was offered and their exploits described. A floral wreath was laid by a former U.S. Army dog handler, a town councilman, accompanied by a police honor guard and watched by Front Royal's police dog, Marley, and her handler.

A piper played and a local choir sang to a relatively large crowd, many of them military veterans, all of them dog lovers.

Footnote: Barr and Herman met through this newsletter two years ago, which was when Herman appeared interested in Barr's efforts at establishing a lasting memorial to the war dog, the first of which in 1942 entered WWII from their training ground in Front Royal. While on AP assignment in Guam in the 1960s, Barr's interest in war dogs was piqued by a visit to a dog cemetery on the distant island.

"It took a while, but finally I was able to establish a memorial garden, thanks to the local humane society," Barr, who turned 90 last March, said in a media interview.

Visiting cemeteries

STAPPERT, CHARLES E. - ARMY
 STAPPERT, JAMES V. - ARMY
 STEFFEN, ALFRED E. - ARMY
 STEFFEN, DANIEL F. - ARMY KIA
 STEFFEN, DONOVAN E. - ARMY
 STEFFEN, GORDON W. - ARMY
 STEFFEN, PHILIP J. - AIR FORCE
 STEFFEN, RALPH F. - ARMY AC
 STEFFEN, RUSSELL J. - NAVY
 STEFFEN, RUSSELL R. - ARMY
 STEFFEN, TRISTAN T. - MARINES
 STEFFEN, WALTER - ARMY
 STERLING, JANET - ARMY AUX
 STEVENS, ALBERT A. - ARMY
 STEVENS, BILL A. - ARMY
 STEVENS, DENISE M. - AIR FORCE
 STEVENS, EDWARD S. - ARMY
 STEVENS, ESTHER M. - ARMY
 STEVENS, FRANK H. - ARMY
 STEVENS, FREDERIC J. - ARMY
 STEVENS, GERALD A. - NAVY
 STEVENS, MICHAEL D. - AIR FORCE
 STEVENS, RICHARD "DICK" S. - ARMY
 STEVENS, ROBERT L. - ARMY
 STEVENS, WALTER B. - ARMY
 STOCKWELL, BENJAMIN W. - MARINES
 STOCKWELL, CALE J. - ARMY NG
 STOCKWELL, CAROLYN B. - MARINES
 STOCKWELL, FORREST J. - ARMY
 STOCKWELL, HARRY A. - ARMY
 STOCKWELL, JAMES A. - NAVY
 STOCKWELL, JERE W. - NAVY
 STOCKWELL, JEREMY "JAY" - NAVY
 STOCKWELL, JOHN H. - AIR FORCE
 STOLPE, CLARKE C. - ARMY
 STOLPE, CLIFTON B. - ARMY
 STOLPE, CONLEY K. - ARMY
 STOLPE, ELDON V. - ARMY AC
 STOLPE, PAUL A. - AIR FORCE



Paul Stevens – Linda and I visited Hartington, Neb., over the Memorial Day weekend to pay respects at four cemeteries where Stevens relatives are laid to rest and to attend the opening ceremony of the community’s Veterans Memorial honoring Cedar County veterans who served. Engraved on a granite wall are the names of five (of the 10) Stevens siblings who served in WWII – my dad Walter, his brothers Edward, Frederic (Fritz) and Al, and his sister, Esther. In nearby Yankton, we visited the gravesite of another of their family, Sister Denise Stevens - at Mount St. Marty College where she was longtime librarian.



[Ed Williams](#) – I like visiting cemeteries.

I like looking at the tombstones, reading the epitaphs, and thinking about the people resting there. Sometimes I take flowers.

Recently I made a visit to Fort Crawford Cemetery in East Brewton, Alabama. A dear departed friend from my days at The Brewton Standard is buried in this beautiful old cemetery in Escambia County.

I paused for a little while and remembered friend and newspaper woman extraordinaire Doris Bruner. Many good memories and thoughts of this fine woman. Doris was smart, fun and funny. How lucky I was to get to work with her at the weekly newspaper.

Not many people know that Doris was a World War II veteran.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States.

I will be taking a moment this weekend to honor those who served our nation and are no longer with us.

A tribute to Elise Amendola at Boston's Auerbach Center



Amy Sancetta - Boston AP staff photographer Elise Amendola, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer, did not want a service to note her passing. Instead, the avid basketball player asked that her friends, colleagues and loved ones shoot a basket from the baseline in her honor. It was her favorite shot.

On Friday, the Boston Press Photographers Association made just that happen for Elise's home-base community. They arranged with the Boston Celtics to have one hour of court time at the team's practice facility within the Auerbach Center.

Dozens of the Elise's community in Boston came to shoot a hoop in her honor, including AP Boston staffers Charlie Krupa, Winslow Townson, Steve Senne, Mike Casey, Jimmy Golen and AP Freelancers Ken Petok, and Elise's wife and former AP photo editor Mary Schwalm.

Mary said that it was such a joyous time, seeing all those people celebrating Elise in a way she would have loved the most.

On Ed Staats

Jim Bagby – on Paul Stevens' reunion with the bureau chief who hired him, Ed Staats - Fascinating! Heart-warming! Delightful! And having known both of you, not surprising.

My 33 years in Kansas City, first under COB Fred Moen and then the inimitable editor-to-be of Connecting, were certainly the most rewarding time of my professional life.

Saying I know Ed is a little stretch. One year when I was in Louisville for a convention, I dropped by the AP office unannounced. Ed immediately invited me into his office and took time to chat with me for almost half an hour. I didn't know until then that it was he who hired Paul, but it's pretty obvious he is as good a judge of talent as he is accomplished and personable.

It turned out we had an additional connection: I have been known to sing a barbershop chord on occasion, and Ed's wife was a Sweet Adeline – then the largest women's counterpart to the Barbershop Harmony Society. Ed and I have exchanged a little correspondence since then, and he has always made me feel like an old friend.

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Mark Neikirk - Enjoyed Friday's piece on Ed Staats, who was in KY's AP bureau when I was ME at The Cincinnati Post/The Kentucky Post.

Ed unfailingly mentored many of us working in Kentucky news and lifted us up.

A special man.

Using a Teletype as his printer - but tech help needed



Brendan Riley - I have an old all-caps teletype (Model 19, I think) that I brought home from the Carson City bureau years and years ago when all the teletypes were scrapped. A friend figured a way to hook it up to a laptop so that I can type using the teletype as a printer -- and listen to that deafening clatter many of us remember. It's jamming up on the right-hand side and not returning.

Click [here](#) to view video.

Any suggestions from Communications, aka Traffic?

On privacy concerns over use of facial recognition

Steven Paulson - Regarding [the AP story](#) on privacy concerns over the TSA use of facial recognition, world travel has always been one of my passions, so I got one of those travel maps to put on my living room wall to document the places I have visited. I also framed two of my passports with the two dozen extra pages they had to add to include all the passport stamps for almost all 67 countries where my wife, Torrey, and I have traveled. Sadly, many countries no longer stamp your passport.

During a recent trip to the Caribbean, not one stamp was added to our passport. Instead, they had us smile at a camera and they waved us through at every stop, including our return to the United States. The only people who even asked for it were the immigration officials in Antigua. They did not open our passports and just waved us through. It does have its benefits. There were no lines at U.S. immigration and when I offered my passport, they told me to put it away and look at the camera and we breezed through in five seconds. Privacy concerns over the use of biometrics that map your facial features are moot. The government already has your fingerprints if you got a passport and in most states, they have them if you have a driver's license.

They can also get biometrics from your passport or driver's license photos. Companies are scraping them off the Internet.

In my case, they have a picture of my eyeballs from a story I did for the AP on a classified military base that converted two supercomputers from Star Wars development to track Mideast rocket launches. The military also weighed me going in and coming out. As for privacy concerns, that ship has sailed.

The end of an era

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Many Connecting colleagues were around in 1980 when Ted Turner launched CNN, criticized as a pipe dream that would never work.

In the 80s, the AP office moved to CNN Center at its heyday when it was also the home of The World of Sid and Marty Kroft, an indoor amusement park, and a restaurant owned by Burt Reynolds.

It was a great place to work because we were able to design the space to house all of us and the new generation of computers. Moving on a Saturday night was hairy, but we made it.

An iconic place even now but not for long. Click [here](#).

Greetings from Media

[Henry Bradsher](#) - What? No, not greetings from our journalistic media, from newspapers and broadcasters, or even so-called social media (or anti-social, as is warned particularly about use by teens).

These greetings are from Media, Pennsylvania.

My wife and I have been staying in a hotel in this town while attending her college's 60th reunion in nearby Swarthmore, PA.

Swarthmore College was founded in the 19th century by Quakers when this area was settled by many of them. It is a more diverse college now, very highly regarded among small colleges.

But how did nearby Media get its non-journalistic name? A couple of versions.

One we heard from a nearby resident is that early Quakers in the area were divided into several communities but decided to meet mid-way between – at the median.

Another is that in Delaware County this place is about in the middle, so media.

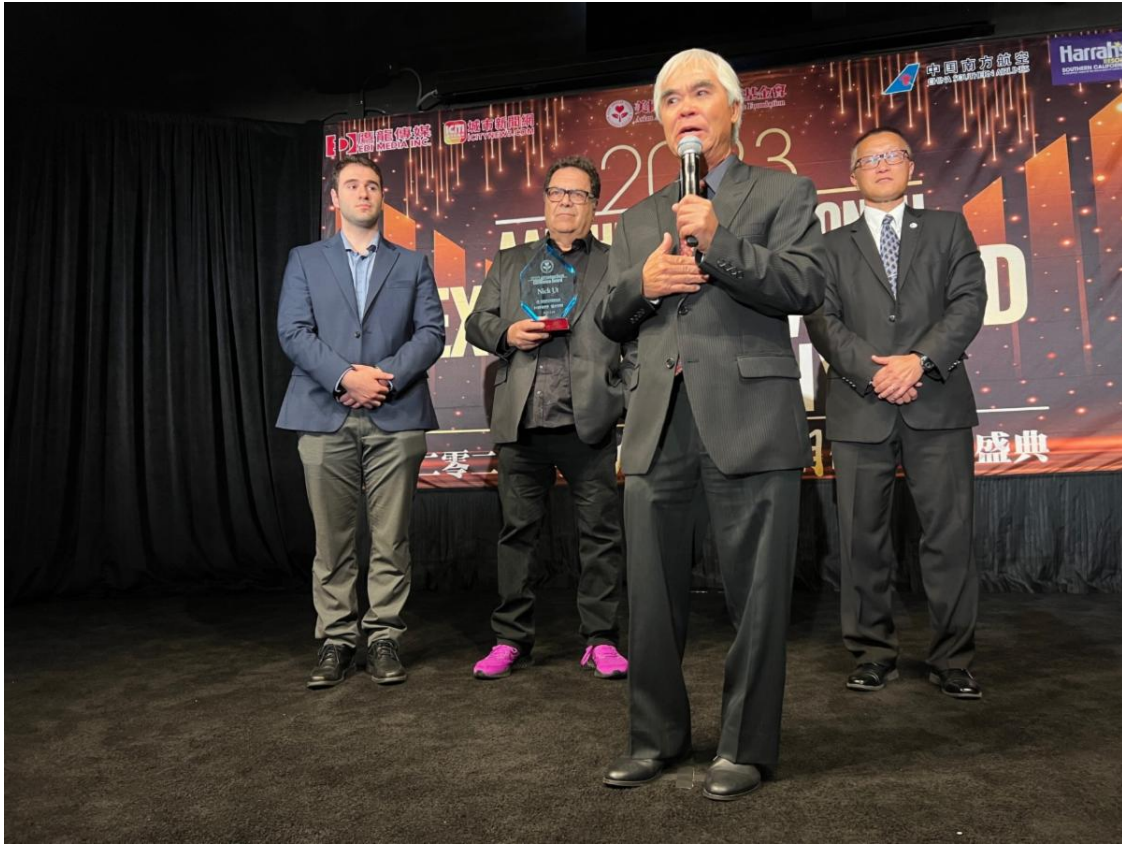
Whatever, a nice little town of 6,000 people with mainly stone buildings and homes, but no newspaper or broadcasting media.

Connecting sky shot – Loch Creran



[Ellen Nimmons](#) – My favorite photo from Scotland. Full credit goes to Ross Hutton, a Highlander-photographer-tour guide who knows where to stop, and told us to kneel to get the best angle. It is Loch Creran. I was on a 20-day tour of Scotland. (A very photogenic subject.)

Nick Ut honored



[Nick Ut](#) received the 2023 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Excellence Award Ceremony at the USC Pacific Asia Museum on Friday.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

The secret networks that circumvent Honduras' abortion ban: How an AP team documented the invisible



For years, AP Mexico photo stringer Ginnette Riquelme was aware of clandestine networks helping women obtain abortions in Honduras, where they are banned under all circumstances.

The locations were hidden, the phones untraceable, the contacts used code words to communicate. But Riquelme had a vision of how — and why — to document something that is both illegal and heavily stigmatized in Honduras. In July 2022, she made her pitch and received a grant from the International Women's Media Foundation.

It would take many more months and intense teamwork with Honduran journalist Iolany Pérez in El Progreso to build the trust needed. In March, she traveled to Honduras to begin making contacts and looking for the locations where women ended their pregnancies.

Mexico City reporter María Verza joined, and together they crisscrossed the country from the mountains to the coast, from banana plantations to urban export-oriented production zones. Riquelme listened to women's stories and focused on how to illustrate them.

Bit by bit, they pieced together the story of the networks of advocates secretly helping women who were seeking abortions. But the networks — created to protect their members and the women they helped by employing aliases, burner phones and code words — were extremely difficult for the journalists to access.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

China's loans pushing world's poorest countries to brink of collapse



Bernard Condon spent weeks reporting, digging through arcane records and working with academic “loan sleuths” to uncover the emerging threat to poor countries from the burden of foreign debt, much of it from the world’s biggest and unforgiving lender, China.

Condon’s investigation looked systematically at the dozen poor countries most indebted to China — including Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia, Laos and Mongolia. He found they had as much as 50 percent of their foreign loans from China, and most were devoting more than a third of government tax revenue to pay off foreign debt, forcing deep cuts to such basic services as keeping schools open, providing electricity, and paying for food and fuel.

Condon found that debt is draining the foreign currency reserves these poor countries use to pay interest on those loans, calculating that some countries have just months left before that money is gone. And perhaps most significantly, Condon found China’s reluctance to forgive debt, its extreme secrecy about how much money it has loaned and tactics to put itself at the front of the line to be paid are all working to hinder other major lenders from stepping in to help.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

How the media is covering ChatGPT (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JEM BARTHOLOMEW AND DHRUMIL MEHTA

With advancements in AI tools being rolled out at breakneck pace, journalists face the task of reporting developments with the appropriate nuance and context—to audiences who may be encountering this kind of technology for the first time.

But sometimes this coverage has been alarmist. The linguist and social critic Noam Chomsky criticized “hyperbolic headlines” in a New York Times op-ed. And there have been a lot of them.

In order to better understand how ChatGPT is being covered by newsrooms, we interviewed a variety of academics and journalists on how the media has been framing coverage of generative AI chatbots. We also pulled data on the volume of coverage in online news using the Media Cloud database and on TV news using data from the Internet TV News Archive, which we acquired via The GDELT Project’s API, in order to get a sketch of the coverage so far.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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A food critic’s week: Eating highs and lows, with workouts in between (Washington Post)

Perspective by Tom Sietsema

If there’s a buzzword in the restaurant world these days, it’s transparency, especially as it relates to how workers are treated and what’s behind the many new service and other fees on diners’ checks.

The attention to clarity prompted me to think about my unusual occupation and what goes into it, details readers and strangers at parties often ask me about. Instead of a formal restaurant review this week, I’m pulling back the curtain on a week in my life — chewing and telling, if you will.

Sunday, May 7

A coffee pot, timed to go on around 6 a.m., is typically the only alarm I need. The scent of Peet’s wafts through the house. There are better brews, I know, but I’ve been loyal to the California-based Peet’s since my writing days in San Francisco.

Off to the Bethesda Central Farm Market, where I’m in search of sour cherries for my partner, and where a grower tells me it’s too early in the season. Our dog — Henry, a whippet — makes out with some snacks made from every conceivable part of a pig, and I find Mesi Samuel dispensing Ethiopian takeout under a burgundy awning. I’m keen on the entrepreneur’s vegetarian preparations, which I keep on hand as snacks

and sometimes for breakfast. Otherwise, the market is a tease. If only there were more time in my life to cook!

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

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Using digital screens to grow your audience and build a new revenue stream (Reynolds Journalism Institute)

By Walter Pritchard

If your audience won't come to you, maybe it's time to think about going to your audience. That's one of the guiding principles for a new pilot project from RJI, Dynasty Media and Minnesota Digital.

The project, which builds on a successful experiment at the Minneapolis Spokesman-Recorder last year, involves using digital screens strategically located throughout St. Louis that will offer news and information along with advertising messages.

"Our goal is to give Black media a bigger voice and some type of competitive advantage in the larger mass communication landscape," said David Beckford, Creative Director, and Founder of Dynasty Media.

As the audience for printed products continues to slowly decline, black-owned newspaper publishers have struggled to transition their readers to digital products, Beckford said. Trying a different strategy just makes sense, he added.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 30, 2023



Today is Tuesday, May 30, the 150th day of 2023. There are 215 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On May 30, 1989, student protesters in Beijing erected a "Goddess of Democracy" statue in Tiananmen Square (the statue was destroyed in the Chinese government's crackdown).

On this date

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen, France.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1935, Babe Ruth played in his last major league baseball game for the Boston Braves, leaving after the first inning of the first of a double-header against the Philadelphia Phillies, who won both games (Ruth announced his retirement three days later).

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1968, the Beatles began recording their "White Album" at EMI Recording Studios in London, starting with the original version of "Revolution 1."

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1972, three members of the Japanese Red Army opened fire at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing 26 people. Two attackers died; the third was captured.

In 1994, Mormon Church president Ezra Taft Benson died in Salt Lake City at age 94.

In 2002, a solemn, wordless ceremony marked the end of the agonizing cleanup at ground zero in New York, 8 ½ months after 9/11.

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden's son, former Delaware attorney general Beau Biden, died at age 46 of brain cancer.

In 2020, tense protests over the death of George Floyd and other police killings of Black people grew across the country; racially diverse crowds held mostly peaceful demonstrations in dozens of cities, though many later descended into violence, with police cars set ablaze.

Ten years ago: Syria's President Bashar Assad said in an interview with Lebanese television that he was "confident of victory" in his country's civil war, and he warned Damascus would retaliate for any future Israeli airstrike on his territory. Arvind Mahankali, a 13-year-old from Bayside Hills, New York, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling "knaidel," a small mass of leavened dough, to win the 86th version of the competition.

Five years ago: Harvey Weinstein was indicted in New York on rape and criminal sex act charges, furthering the first criminal case stemming from sexual misconduct allegations against the former movie mogul. Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko stunned colleagues by appearing at a news conference in Kiev less than a day after police in the Ukrainian capital said he'd been assassinated; authorities said his death was staged to foil a plot on his life by Moscow's security services. A senior House Republican, Trey Gowdy, said there was no evidence that the FBI planted a "spy" on Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, as Trump had alleged. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian West visited the White House to appeal to Trump on behalf of a woman serving a life sentence for drug offenses. (Days later, Trump granted clemency for Alice Marie Johnson, freeing her from prison.) Gaza's Hamas rulers said they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the two sides since a 2014 war.

One year ago: After the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas that killed 19 elementary school students and two teachers, President Joe Biden said the "Second Amendment was never absolute" and that there may be some bipartisan support to tighten restrictions on the kind of high-powered weapons used by the gunman. Russian troops pushed farther into the eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk and fought street by street with Kyiv's forces. French journalist Frederic Leclerc-Imhoff was killed by shell shrapnel while covering the conflict. Jeff Gladney, a defensive back for the NFL's Arizona Cardinals, died in a car crash in Dallas at age 25.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ruta Lee is 88. Actor Keir Dullea is 87. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 79. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 72. Actor Colm Meaney is 70. Actor Ted McGinley is 65. Actor Ralph Carter is 62. Actor Tonya Pinkins is 61. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 59. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 59. Actor Mark Sheppard is 59. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 58. Actor John Ross Bowie is 52. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 52. Actor Idina Menzel is 52. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 48. Rapper Remy Ma is 43. Actor Blake Bashoff is 42. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 41. Actor Javicia Leslie is 36. Actor Jake Short is 26. Actor Sean Giambrone is 24. Actor Jared Gilmore is 23.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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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