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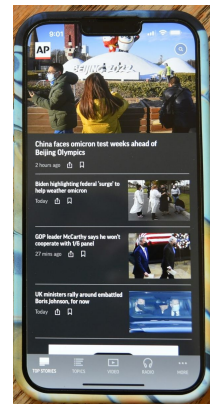
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# Connecting

June 21, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this June 21, 2023,

Say it isn't so – please, say it isn't so.

That's the reaction of the many friends and former colleagues of **Jack Stokes** when we got the news that the beloved Associated Press newsman and administrator had died suddenly at his home in Briarwood, Queens, on Sunday at the age of 73.

Few employees of the AP touched more people in a positive way than Jack during his 39-year AP career that concluded in 2012 with his retirement, and we devote much of today's issue to memories shared about him.

"Jack of All Trades" was the headline in an AP World story about Jack - and it fit well.

Jack wore many hats in his AP career after joining the New York City bureau in 1973 after interning with AP for two summers. He joined Broadcast the following year and moved with AP Broadcast to Washington, before returning to his beloved New York City, in Corporate Communications and Human Resources. Jack was director of recruiting, ran the AP's internship program and was an AP spokesman.

Rare was the AP employee who didn't come in contact with Jack. He made all of us better.

On his own time near the end of his career, Jack produced an email publication for AP retirees called Connections. His retirement prompted me to take up the mantle with this Connecting newsletter that began in 2013.

Jack had many interests in retirement including bike riding, but he kept a low profile. A few years ago, I tried to get Jack to write a Connecting profile of his career and his life after AP – noting recent profiles done by colleagues Kathy Gannon and Charlie Hanley.

Jack's response was vintage Jack Stokes:

*Geesh, Paul, I'm flattered. Of course, you just made me cry in admiration by citing two of the most fascinating journalists I've ever had the pleasure of meeting -- Kathy Gannon and Charlie Hanley.*

*But even their awesome star power can't get me to break my key retirement promises: maintain a low profile, hit my open jumpshots and daily continue honing what I've always been best at doing -- absolutely nothing.*

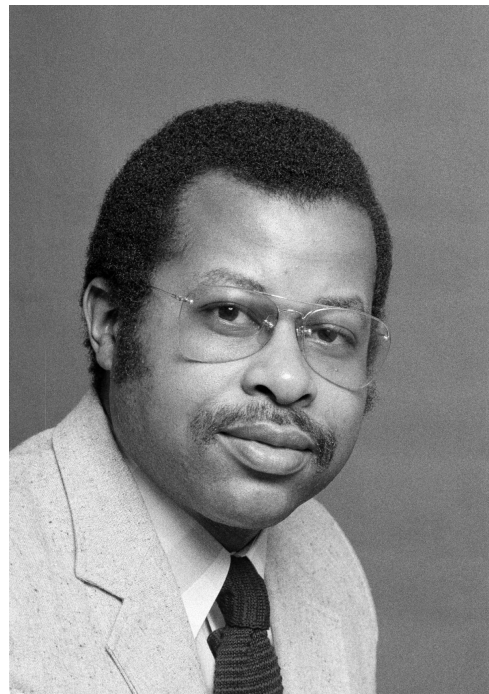
*My cat, who is capable of sleeping 23 hours a day, notes with professional courtesy that for a non-feline I'm really, really good at doing nothing.*

*Since I wish to maintain my cat's hard-earned respect, I am politely begging off.*

If you would like to share your own favorite memories of Jack, please send along.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest (like Jack would want...)

Paul



## Jack Stokes, one of AP's most beloved people, dies at 73



Management team for the AP Network in this 1983 photo includes, from left: Mark Huffman, assistant managing editor, programming; Jack Stokes, deputy general broadcast editor; James Limbach, assistant managing editor, news; James R. Hood, deputy director, news, AP Broadcast Services, and Sue Cunneff, general broadcast editor. (Photo from AP World, courtesy of Corporate Archives)



AP Broadcast alumni gather in Connecticut in September 2019. From left, Andy Katell, Cammy Bourcier, Jack Stokes, John Davidson, Solange De Santis, Fred Yager.

**Solange De Santis** - A 39-year AP veteran who made significant contributions to the Metro desk, Broadcast News, Media Relations and Human Resources departments,

Jack Stokes died suddenly at his home in Briarwood, Queens, N.Y. on June 18. He was 73.

He retired in 2012 and pursued serious cycling, including the RAGBRAI ride across Iowa. He particularly loved travel and the theater, and reunions of AP Broadcast friends. He never held a driver's license.

A longer obituary will be forthcoming from the AP news desk.

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His former Broadcast colleagues remembered Jack with great affection:

**Jim Hood** - Jack was a calming influence on everyone around him. I never saw him flustered or angry and never saw him be anything but helpful and supportive to everyone he worked with. He had a very subtle sense of humor and gave the impression that he was always secretly amused by the turmoil that was the everyday atmosphere in AP Broadcast's corner of 50 Rock.

When the decision to move the broadcast wire to Washington was reached, Jack was one of the first people we turned to in hopes of easing the transition both for those moving to D.C. and those who wanted to remain in New York. Jack was the consummate New Yorker and had no desire to leave (like many of us) but agreed to come along for the ride in the hope that he would find his way back to Gotham at some point, as he in fact did a year or so later, moving back in New York to work in the Personnel Department and later as AP's spokesman.

Jack and Sue Mosher (then Cunneff) handled many of the nagging details of the move, dealing with a maze of obstacles both real and imagined, including a rather hostile reception from some of the staff at AP Radio. Both Jack and Sue are the kind of people you can't be mad at and they successfully smoothed ruffled feathers.

As the move drew nearer, we decided to establish a beachhead in D.C. and a few regulars on the overnight (or "early") shift were deployed to Washington, with Jack leading the charge. They set up shop in a hallway while the newly designed joint newsroom was completed. Everything went more smoothly than we had hoped it would. The wire was filed from New York during the day and overnight from D.C. for a few weeks.

Jack and Sue returned briefly to New York for a farewell dinner with the 50 Rock staff. We convened in a private dining room atop the World Trade Center and at the appropriate moment, Jack dimmed the lights and lit a candle establishing himself as the Keeper of the Broadcast Flame. (He relinquished the title when he retired and the position is currently vacant if anyone is interested).

There aren't many people like Jack Stokes in the world, and that's a shame.

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**Mark Meinero** - It's hard to fathom a world without Jack Stokes.

Kind. Thoughtful. Witty. Intelligent. Strong. Loyal. None of those adjectives - individually or collectively - carry the weight of what Jack meant to everyone whose

life he touched.

It was my privilege to know Jack for 46 years, since the day in the AP Broadcast newsroom when he introduced himself to a 22-year-old starting his first full-time job in journalism.

Since then, we have shared a lot. I mean a lot. From editing my copy to bonding with my family to playing softball to going to concerts to sleepovers to heart-to-heart talks to holiday get-togethers.

And the thing is everyone else who knows him would say something similar.

I saw Jack last week. I was looking for someone to go to the Mets-Yankees game at Citi Field and, because he lived (Ed. note: I originally used "lives" there because the past tense still seems strange) close by, it was convenient for him.

We talked about all the things we normally talk about. TV shows - especially "Succession," which we both loved. People we knew. My kids' latest adventures. The awful game unraveling before us. Getting onto the scoreboard screen when the crowd sang "Piano Man."

After the Mets lost, we took the picture that accompanies this.

And now I'll never see him again.

Except in my mind. Except when I write something with the hope it matches his confidence in my ability. Except when I think of all the journalists he mentored. Except when I watch something on TV and want to hear a smart, witty take. Except when I hear a doo-wop song.

Except for thousands of things that will remind me of him every day - and remind me how blessed I and all of us were to know him.

Congratulations, Jack, on a life lived extraordinarily well.

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**Charles Monzella** - I am deeply saddened to hear the news of Jack's sudden death. He was so talented and a great addition to the Broadcast Department. Our AP family has lost a wonderful man.

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**Oscar Wells Gabriel** - The news is certainly shocking and sad, but it is also churning up some very fond memories of a very good and talented man.

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**Mike Hammer** - Such sad news. I can't add much more to what others have said so well about Jack, except that he was a valued friend and colleague from my first days at AP Broadcast in 1980, and during the move to DC in 1983. I always appreciated his

support and encouragement and enjoyed his quick wit. He was a pleasure to be around, inside and outside the office.

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**John Kreiser** - He was a wonderful co-worker (and later, a boss) -- and I, for one, learned quite a bit from him.

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**Carol Pauli** – No! Such terribly sad news! Such a genuine good friend to us all. It seems impossible that we won't get to enjoy that wit and that smile again.

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**Vicki Barker** - That brilliant, witty, supremely decent man ... he was the keeper of the flame. It was always such a treat to see him, however infrequently. Still haven't processed the fact that he'll never be at another AP gathering.

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**Solange De Santis** - I remember an AP Broadcast gathering to celebrate Jack's retirement in a noisy bar near Grand Central that got more and more crowded with young office workers so that the decibel level finally had us yelling down the table, "I REMEMBER WHEN JACK ..." Jack sent his thank-you email all in capital letters – "I CAN'T THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR HONORING ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE ..." Jack, we can't thank YOU enough for honoring us with YOUR presence.

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**Marianne Pryor** - So very sorry to hear this sad news. Jack was the best. Just the best. A truly decent human being. Full of life. Unflappable.

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**Ed Golden** - There are no words at this moment. Just great great memories.

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**Fred Yager** - Jack was the best of us.

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**Charlie Reina** - It seems disingenuous to say that Jack was one of my best friends. After all, he and I saw each other maybe twice a year for the past 40 years, at AP Broadcast reunions and occasional holiday get-togethers and Met games. But those are just numbers. They don't add up to what Jack meant to me or explain his presence my life despite whatever physical distance there was between us. This does: Five years ago, I underwent cardiac surgery at NYU Medical Center. When they wheeled me out to the recovery room, three people were there waiting for me — my wife Karen, my daughter Elizabeth, and my dear, selfless friend Jack Stokes. He was back the next day

to spend a few hours at my bedside and to cheer me on as I took my first post-op steps. I'll never be able to thank Jack adequately for the simple acts of kindness that he has performed for me and, I have no doubt, for all of us lucky enough to have known him. I will remember always his smiling face and unabashed laughter — and the wicked sense of humor that brought forth his “Rosie Ruiz”/Oscar scorecard, the cleverest of all pranks ever witnessed by the Broadcast staff.

Jack, I love you and will miss you dearly. I hope I have been as good a friend to you as you've been to me.

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**Andy Katell** - As others, I've been struggling to imagine a life without Jack. From my very first days in 1980 at Broadcast, he was a gentle, funny and helpful colleague. Then, my mind goes to my collaboration with Jack in writing a regular AP Broadcast feature, “SpaceWatch,” sharing our passion.

May the heavens embrace Jack as we keep his spirit alive in our minds and hearts.

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**Warren Levinson** - Jack was among the best of us. Serious when he needed to be, but mostly really funny, and a good cycling partner. I rode with him only once, 40 years ago, but that was all the way across Iowa. I am stunned and deeply saddened by this news.

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**Jerry Cipriano** - This is heartbreaking. Jack was a writer on the overnight (The Early) when I started in the mid '70s and the Deputy Broadcast Editor when I left in the mid '80s. Such a great guy.

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**Gloria Sturzenacker** - I worked in Broadcast for only the last five months before it moved to D.C., so my work memories of Jack are limited; our long and close friendship began while he was in D.C. Others have mentioned how he provided support and loyalty in so many small and large ways. That was my experience, too, from my decision to not to make the move, to some crazy-making jobs after that, to my intensive development of an independent project. His mastery of office politics was a mystery I never came close to emulating. But Jack's characteristic I cherish above all others is his sense of unabashed, playful delight (what other middle manager in the 1990s would adorn his office in wooden cutouts of cats frisking on the door lintel?), and the little-kid-cute smile that often went with it.

## And these memories from:

**Pat Fergus** - Jack Stokes was a good newsman, a good manager and a wise and patient mentor to the young broadcast staff I joined in 1983. Most importantly, Jack was an



all-around good person.

Jack took his role very seriously and led by example. What I remember most about him is how much he cared about his staff, and the feeling was mutual. We especially appreciated how hard he would try to accommodate our schedule requests. When he couldn't make it work, he had no problem covering a vacant shift himself (until one day he was told to stop doing that).

Jack was an asset to the AP, and to the human race. The world needs more people like him.

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**Brad Kalbfeld** - Writer. Editor. Newsroom administrator. Human Resources executive. Corporate spokesman. Jack Stokes was all of those things in his AP career. But he was more: a constant advocate for integrity and for listening to and understanding the needs of the reporters, writers, and editors who produce the AP report.

I knew Jack when he was a colleague, a boss, and a subordinate, and in every role, he was the same. He was always the calmest voice in the room, and he led with humor and a light touch.

We first met in 1977, when I joined the Broadcast newsroom at 50 Rock. I worked with him as a fellow writer and for him when he was editing my copy, and he worked for me when he was assistant managing editor for administration at the Broadcast News Center in Washington. He was a person you could not help but like.

The breadth of his roles at AP speak to his professional abilities. But the thing I hope Jack is best remembered for were his qualities as a man.

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**Andy Lippman** - The fact that Jack wasn't much on Connecting was kind of the way he worked. I know however that he was prouder of his interns as anyone could be, and they loved him in return. And he kept in touch with any of those interns who wanted to be in touch with him.

I knew him as compassionate, with a wonderful sense of humor and of life.

If there is a celebration of his life, it will either be filled with people who have stories to tell, or he'd want no part of such a thing-which he'd want to be remembered but not extolled.

He'll be both.

## Mark Grant named VP of global security and safety

In a memo to staff on Tuesday, Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Julie Pace announced that Mark Grant has been named AP's new vice president for global security and safety:

Each day, AP journalists and staff around the world face risks in doing their jobs, both in the field and online. So there is nothing more important than ensuring we are providing you with the support you need to stay safe amid these ever-evolving threats.

That's why I'm very pleased to announce that Mark Grant will be joining the AP later this year as our vice president for global security and safety. Mark will be based in London and report to me, as we work toward putting security at the heart of our decision-making in News, from story planning to publication. Mark will oversee AP's global security staff and the SAFE program for combatting online harassment, and will also work closely with colleagues across the AP, including in Human Resources, Legal and Technology.



Mark brings deep experience to this role, and a passion for the mission of keeping journalists safe. He's spent the last decade developing safety and security programs that enable journalists to cover breaking news stories in high-risk environments, most recently at Sky News, where he's served as head of high risk, safety and security. While at Sky, Mark has worked closely with teams on the ground in Ukraine, Afghanistan and other hot spots. He's also taken the view that security extends beyond physical threats, ensuring that journalists have the resources they need to protect themselves against online harassment and cyber threats.

Prior to joining Sky, Mark supported and managed risk, safety and security for the BBC, CNN and Netflix. Earlier in his career, Mark spent six years in the Royal Marines, with tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, and then worked in corporate and NGO security across the Middle East, Asia and Africa. He holds a master's degree in risk management and a doctorate in security risk management, with a specific focus on journalism security and risk mitigation strategies when operating in areas of conflict. He recently joined the board of the International News Safety Institute (INSI), an organization we work closely with at AP.

Mark will officially join AP in September after wrapping up work at Sky. Please join me in congratulating him and welcoming him to the AP.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

# Play ball! AP team in Central Park



This photo was taken Monday, June 19, when the AP softball team played New York Public Radio in Central Park. Shown are, left to right, Bill Pilc, Peter Banda, (back) Paul Memoli, Danielle Dunne, Maggie McNish, David Wilkison, David Smith, Nick Flanders, Lyndsey Regis, (middle) Dwayne Desaulniers, Jake Kreinberg, (front) Meghan Gwilt, Ivett Chicas, Melissa Montero, John Khin. (Shared by Leanne Italie, AP Entertainment & Lifestyles Writer)

## Stories of interest

### ***Gannett sues Google, Alphabet claiming they have a monopoly on digital advertising*** (AP)

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Gannett has filed a civil lawsuit against Google and its parent company Alphabet, claiming that they unlawfully hold monopolies in the advertising technology tools that publishers and advertisers use to buy and sell online ad space.

The largest U.S. newspaper publisher by total daily circulation alleges in the suit that Google controls how publishers sell their ad slots and forces them to sell an increasing amount of ad space to Google at lower prices. This in turn results in less revenue for publishers and Google's ad-tech rivals and more money for Google.

In January the Justice Department and eight states filed an antitrust lawsuit against Google, seeking to shatter its alleged monopoly on the entire ecosystem of online advertising as a hurtful burden to advertisers, consumers and even the U.S. government. The suit accused the company of unlawfully monopolizing the way ads are served online by excluding competitors.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***E&P's exclusive interview with Gannett CEO Mike Reed on today's Google antitrust lawsuit*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Robin Blinder | Editor & Publisher**

Gannett Co., Inc. filed a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York against Google for “monopolization of advertising technology markets and deceptive commercial practices.” According to Gannett’s press release, “The lawsuit seeks to restore competition in the digital advertising marketplace and end Google’s monopoly, which will encourage investment in newsrooms and news content throughout the country.”

Others have filed similar lawsuits. A bipartisan group of 17 State Attorneys Generals filed a similar lawsuit against Google for ad-tech monopolization in December 2020. Then, the U.S. Department of Justice, joined by a bipartisan group of 17 additional states, filed an ad-tech lawsuit against Google earlier this year. Both lawsuits are ongoing.

Last week, the European Union’s competition authority filed an ad-tech lawsuit against Google, citing similar circumstances. Both the DOJ and EU suits are seeking monetary damages and fines, as well as the breakup of Google’s ad-tech business. Gannett, as the largest publisher in the U.S. — with USA TODAY and more than 200 local news publications — has now thrown its hat in the ring with today’s filing.

Mike Reed, Gannett’s chairman and chief executive officer, spoke with E&P this morning in an exclusive interview about the lawsuit and his thoughts about the future possibilities of news media and journalism.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***How to Use Artificial Intelligence in Journalism Without Losing Audience Trust*** (ICFJ)

**By: Héloïse Hakimi Le Grand**

At Media Party Chicago, a conference exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence and journalism, attendees debated and learned about the opportunities and dangers of AI. Ethics experts proposed frameworks for responsible use of powerful new technologies, developers taught journalists how to use AI to bring customized content to their readers and reporters wrestled with how to maintain audiences' trust while AI-aided disinformation abounds.

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) helped organize the three-day event, bringing together entrepreneurs, journalists, developers and designers from five continents to work together on the future of media. They all joined to devise solutions using AI at a hackathon.

Here are some of the key takeaways from the event:

What questions should newsrooms ask themselves before using AI?

In a discussion with ICFJ's Senior Director of Innovation Maggie Farley, Dalia Hashim of Partnership on AI presented questions newsrooms should ask themselves before even starting to use generative artificial intelligence, the AI system capable of generating text and images in response to prompts. Communicating how and why you're using AI, Hashim said, is also important for building trust with audiences. "The more open and transparent you are about it, the more ready the audience is to accept that [AI] is being used," she explained.

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

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## ***Opinion Can an unbiased cable news channel succeed? Not while Trump is around.*** (Washington Post)

**By Gary Abernathy**

In recent days, Fox News viewers have repeatedly been told that the federal indictment of former president Donald Trump is another witch hunt perpetrated by a deep-state cabal to protect a corrupt establishment.

Meanwhile, tuning in to MSNBC will largely lead viewers to the conclusion that Trump represents a long-standing threat to democracy finally facing a day of reckoning thanks to a fearless prosecutor upholding the principle that no one is above the law.

It's the latest example of the predictable narratives that emanate daily from the cable news leaders — and it's the kind of coverage that prompted recently ousted CNN chief executive Chris Licht to attempt to rebrand his network as a source of detached and balanced reporting that followed the facts and encouraged viewers to make up their own minds.

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

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## ***ProPublica asked about Alito's travel. He replied in the Wall Street Journal.*** (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. took issue with questions raised by the investigative journalism outlet ProPublica about his travel with a politically active billionaire, and on Tuesday evening, he outlined his defense in an op-ed published by the Wall Street Journal.

Yet Alito was responding to a news story that ProPublica hadn't yet published.

Alito's Journal column, bluntly headlined "ProPublica Misleads Its Readers," was an unusual public venture by a Supreme Court justice into the highly opinionated realm of a newspaper editorial page. And it drew criticism late Tuesday for effectively leaking elements of ProPublica's still-in-progress journalism — with the assistance of the Journal's editorial-page editors.

An editor's note at the top of Alito's column said that ProPublica reporters Justin Elliott and Josh Kaplan had sent a series of questions to Alito last week and asked for a response by Tuesday at noon. The editor's note doesn't mention that ProPublica hadn't yet published its story — nor that Alito did not provide his answers directly to ProPublica.

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

## **Today in History - June 21, 2023**



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 21, the 172nd day of 2023. There are 193 days left in the year. Summer begins today.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On June 21, 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

**On this date:**

In 1377, King Edward III died after ruling England for 50 years; he was succeeded by his grandson, Richard II.

In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.

In 1942, an Imperial Japanese submarine fired shells at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, causing little damage.

In 1954, the American Cancer Society presented a study to the American Medical Association meeting in San Francisco which found that men who regularly smoked cigarettes died at a considerably higher rate than non-smokers.

In 1964, civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney were slain in Philadelphia, Mississippi; their bodies were found buried in an earthen dam six weeks later. (Forty-one years later on this date in 2005, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was found guilty of manslaughter; he was sentenced to 60 years in prison, where he died in January 2018.)

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Miller v. California*, ruled that states may ban materials found to be obscene according to local standards.

In 1977, Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) of the Likud bloc became Israel's sixth prime minister.

In 1982, a jury in Washington, D.C. found John Hinckley Jr. not guilty by reason of insanity in the shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three other men.

In 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

In 1997, the WNBA made its debut as the New York Liberty defeated the host Los Angeles Sparks 67-57.

In 2010, Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD'), a Pakistan-born U.S. citizen, pleaded guilty to charges of plotting a failed car bombing in New York's Times Square. (Shahzad was later sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration announced that cigarette packs in the U.S. would have to carry macabre images that included rotting teeth and gums, diseased lungs and a sewn-up corpse of a smoker as part of a graphic campaign aimed at discouraging Americans from lighting up.

Ten years ago: A one-page criminal complaint unsealed in federal court accused former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden of espionage and theft of government property in the NSA surveillance case. President Barack Obama nominated James Comey, a top Bush-era Justice official, to head the FBI, succeeding Robert Mueller. The Food Network said it was dropping Paula Deen, barely an hour after the celebrity cook posted the first of two videotaped apologies online begging forgiveness from fans and critics troubled by her admission to having used racial slurs in the past.

Five years ago: First lady Melania Trump visited with migrant children during a brief stop at a Texas facility housing some children separated from their parents at the border; she caused a stir when she left Washington wearing a green, hooded military jacket with lettering that said, "I REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?" Pulitzer Prize-winning conservative columnist and pundit Charles Krauthammer died at 68; he had said a year earlier that he was being treated for a tumor in his abdomen.

One year ago: The House Jan. 6 committee heard testimony that Donald Trump's relentless pressure to overturn the 2020 presidential election led to widespread threats against local workers and state officials. A month after the Uvalde, Texas school massacre, the state's public safety chief testified that police had enough officers on the scene to have stopped a gunman three minutes after he entered the building and killed 19 students and two teachers. Officers with rifles instead stood and waited in a hallway for more than an hour before they finally stormed the classroom and killed the gunman. Józef Walaszczyk, a member of the Polish resistance who rescued dozens of Jews during the Nazi German occupation of Poland during World War II, died at age 102.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Lalo Schifrin is 91. Actor Bernie Kopell is 90. Actor Monte Markham is 88. Songwriter Don Black is 85. Actor Mariette Hartley is 83. Comedian Joe Flaherty is 82. Rock singer-musician Ray Davies (The Kinks) is 79. Actor Meredith Baxter is 76. Actor Michael Gross (Baxter's co-star on the sitcom "Family Ties") is 76. Rock musician Joe Molland (Badfinger) is 76. Rock musician Don Airey (Deep Purple) is 75. Rock musician Joey Kramer (Aerosmith) is 73. Rock musician Nils Lofgren is 72. Actor Robyn Douglass is 71. Actor Leigh McCloskey is 68. Cartoonist Berke Breathed is 66. Actor Josh Pais is 65. Country singer Kathy Mattea is 64. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is 63. Actor Marc Copage (koh-PAJ') is 61. Actor Sammi Davis is 59. Actor Doug Savant is 59. Country musician Porter Howell is 59. Actor Michael Dolan is 58. Writer-director Lana Wachowski is 58. Actor Carrie Preston is 56. Rapper/producer Pete Rock is 53. Country singer Allison Moorer is 51. Actor Juliette Lewis is 50. Actor Maggie Siff is 49. Musician Justin Cary is 48. Rock musician Mike Einziger (Incubus) is 47. Actor Chris Pratt is 44. Rock singer Brandon Flowers is 42. Britain's Prince William is 41. Actor Jussie Smollett is 41. Actor Benjamin Walker is 41. Actor Michael Malarkey is 40. Pop singer Kris Allen (TV: "American Idol") is 38. Pop/rock singer Lana Del Rey is 38. Actor Jascha Washington is 34. Country musician Chandler Baldwin (LANCO) is 31. Pop singer Rebecca Black is 26.

## 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.

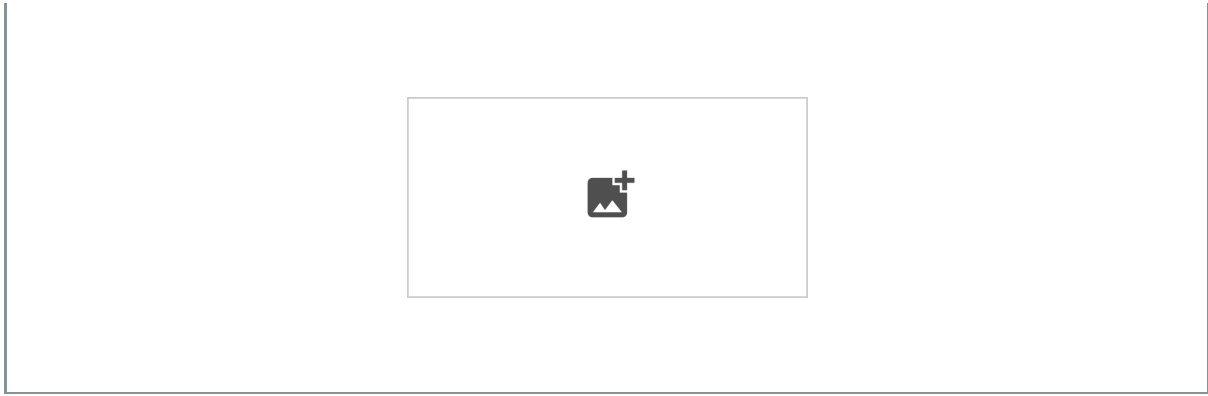


Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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