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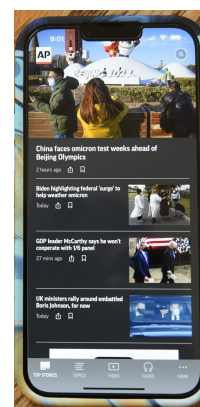
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Connecting

Oct. 5, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Oct. 5, 2023,

The AP's 2023 25-Year Club celebration honored 63 AP employees who joined those with a quarter of a century of service to the cooperative – and in all, honored 254 employees who reached various plateaus of years of service.

It was held by Zoom with AP active-duty employees looking on – and although we're a little bit late in bringing this to you (the celebration occurred a month ago), such milestones deserve wide recognition and we bring you the names of those honored - some of whom are readers of our newsletter.

AP President/CEO **Daisy Veerasingham** took part in the Zoom celebration and Vice President **Lauren Easton** handled narration.

Richard Drew SPJ honor – Connecting received this note from **Marc Humbert** on New York photographer **Richard Drew's** honor by the Society of Professional Journalists as a Society Fellow: "Just finished reading Richard's wonderful speech to SPJ. As any reporter who has ever had the privilege to work with Drew must think: If only my

writing could be as powerful as his images. Thank you SPJ for honoring our great colleague.”

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest.

Paul

David Ake – ‘the guy is silent but deadly’



Associated Press Executive Editor Julie Pace, left, Director of Photography David Ake, center, and Paul Haven, director of global newsgathering, celebrate on Monday, May 8, 2023, in New York after it was announced that the AP won a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography. (AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

Jim Gerberich - David Ake. Wow. AP is losing one of the most talented individuals that I know. We met as competitors, and my first thought then and remains true today, this guy is silent but deadly. It's difficult to describe how much he's contributed to AP and the shaping of visual journalism to meet today's market. Julie Pace's note yesterday was a good start.

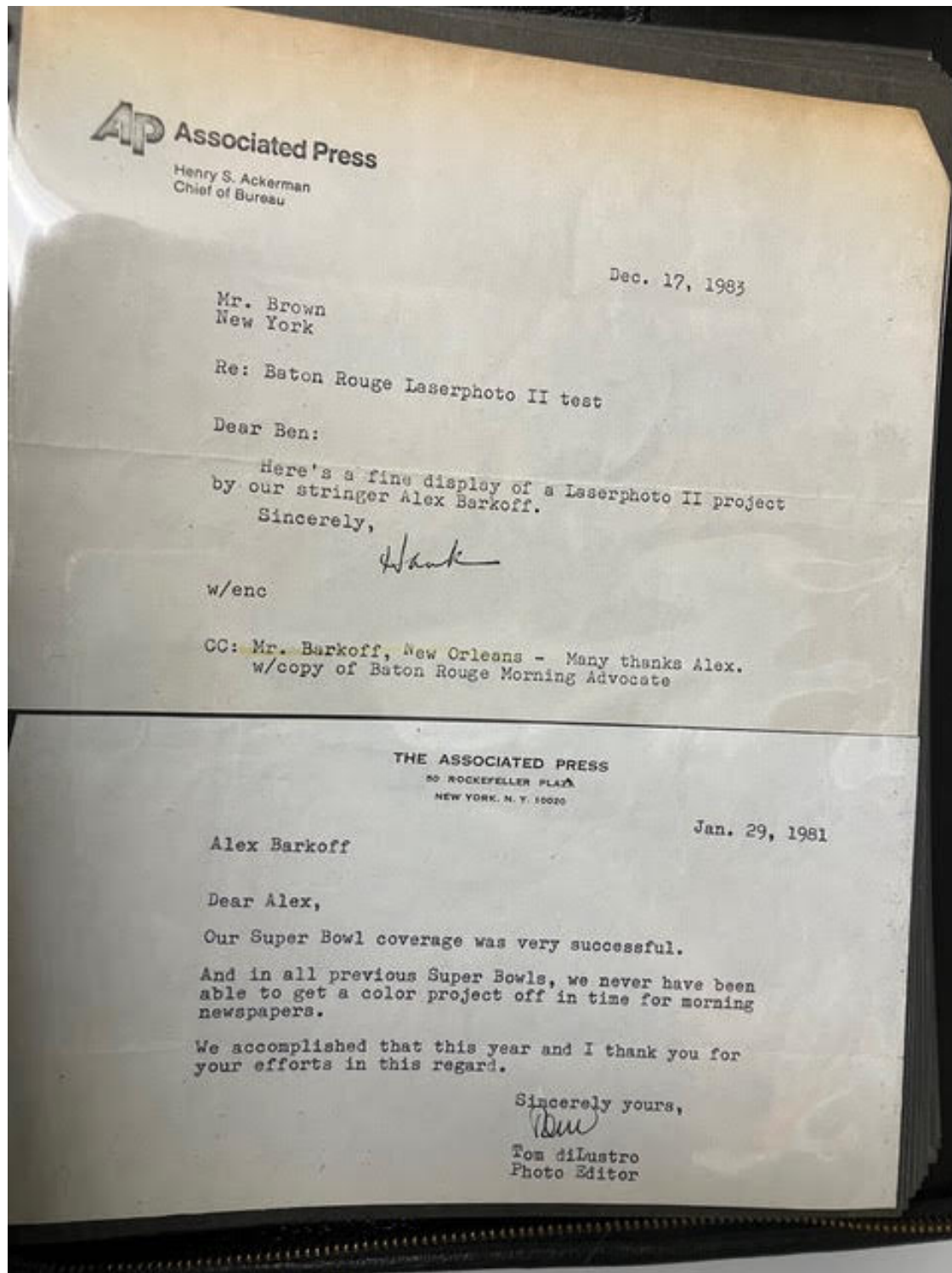
I was with the late Madge Stager, legendary photo editor in NY (RIP), and David's name came up many years ago. I don't remember why, but if you knew Madge, you knew she was about as transparent as it comes, with no sugar coating or mincing of words. She recalled a story, laced with a few invectives that went something like this: on 9/11, many of us thought the world was ending, all hell's breaking loose, staff were in danger, lots of chaos, uncertainty, and stress, and goes on to say here's Ake - calm, not flustered, collected and totally in control. She went on about how much of a difference his leadership made for many of the people covering and managing the story of their lifetime.

David landed in NY from Chicago a few years before I did. When I got to NYC, we would get together for the occasional beer, trade notes about who knew what about what, and try to read the tea leaves and forecast the future. We traded ideas, complained about this and that, and often lamented there were more meetings than we could stomach. Despite whatever headwind, David was constantly pushing to improve things, caring about his team and driven to win the story.

Some say he's a man of few words. I think he's like the famous E.F. Hutton slogan: When David talks, people listen.

Congratulations on a fantastic run; we're all looking forward to your next career and anxiously awaiting those landscapes.

Working for Bill Haber, Jack Thornell – two of finest I know



Alexander Barkoff - And speaking of Directors of Photography, one of these days I'm going to write up a piece about my years as a stringer in the New Orleans bureau under one of my oldest friends, Bill Haber but before Bill, the one and only Jack Thornell. Two of the finest people I know.

I eventually landed a staff position at the Times Picayune but prior to that, I ran a B&W custom photo lab. The photography who really taught me about sports photography let me tag along to the Tulane and eventually N. O. Saints games where I met Jack and other staffers.

I really knew how to make a good print, which Jack was a stickler for, and that's how I made an impression on him with an image I showed him. From that point he brought me into the darkroom at the dome to work and eventually string for AP.

Above is a grab shot of two letters from Hank Ackerman and another great guy, Tom di Lustro that I have been saving since the 80's.

Let me live as long as I can fish...

[Kevin Noblet](#) - I'm thrilled to see Bill Kole's book on longevity catching on. He's a great journalist and a better guy. I know this because we've fished together.

Still, I'll challenge his contention that living past 100 is akin to winning the lottery. Or at least I'll put a condition on it: It's a win only if you still have your physical and mental health.

My father died at 82, but it seemed a perfect age for him to go: He could pilot his small aluminum skiff into Rhode Island's Block Island sound and fish on his own for stripers and blackfish into his 81st year. Then his health (which he was pretty bad at tending to) rapidly declined. When he couldn't fish any more, he didn't last long.

My mother outlived him by a decade but the last couple of years were spent in significant cognitive decline. A former psychiatric and geriatric nurse, she recognized what was coming and she handled it with breathtaking grace. But I think she would have opted to check out at maybe 87 or 88 if she'd had a choice. She lived to 91.

I hear people adjust their expectations as they get old, although of course I have no experience of this myself. ;-) When and if getting old happens to me, let me live as long as I can fish. Then, my lottery win would be a quick exit, whatever my age.

How I stumbled into a national story ...



Photos by Chris Carola

Chris Carola - Around 5:15 pm Monday, I logged off my work laptop (Mondays and Fridays are work from home days for the organization I work for). Then I heard a helicopter approaching. It was quite loud. Police choppers fly by every now and then over our townhouse development in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., but not usually that low, but I figured it had something to do with the ongoing search for that 9-year-old girl who was abducted Saturday evening from a state park a few miles away.

I looked out an upstairs window in time to see a New York State Police chopper banking over our development, catching a glimpse of camo in the right-side door before it dipped below the tree line to land in one of the two big parking lots next door at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Thinking maybe they had extended the search to this state park or police were using the lots for a staging area, I got in my car and drove over.

A cop waved me away from the entrance to the main lot next to the entrance to the amphitheater. As I drove away, I saw many unmarked cop cars, lots of plainclothes types, uniformed troopers, guys in camo, tactical vehicles, etc. in the corner of the lot closest to the road. I drove around to a park public entrance and parked then walked along a side path we locals use while walking, running or biking to get to the main lot, where I took some pictures and videos before another cop asked me to leave.

I drove back toward our house, then pulled into the other SPAC parking across the road, which wasn't closed by cops. I parked, walked over the pedestrian bridge spanning the road and took more photos and video of the gathering in the main lot just below me, including video of a second NYSP chopper landing and camo-clad SWAT team members getting out.

I had contacted some of my acquaintances at local media outlets to let them know about the large police gathering and emailed them photos and videos. Not long after, a TV reporter I had tipped off went live on the air to report that sources tell him the girl had just been found alive and safe. That reporter called me not long afterward to thank me and say my info had led him to a source who confirmed the girl had just been found safe. Another reporter later told me my info helped him convince a source to divulge that the rescue operation was underway right then. That source told him soon after that they found the girl alive at a home just a few miles from SPAC, and a suspect was in custody.

The NYSP press release says one of the agency's SWAT teams rescued the girl around 6:30. I took photos and video of the police in the lot between 5:40 and 6 p.m. The guys getting off the second chopper may have been part of the rescue.

As far as I can tell, these are the only photos and videos of the police staging area and the SWAT team members involved in the operation.

Awarding funds to expand reporting programs

Ted Bridis - The new president at the University of Florida announced this week he is awarding \$300,000 to the College of Journalism and Communications to expand in-

the-field reporting programs by journalism students covering natural disasters, business, environment and politics. The money came from a pool appropriated by Florida's Legislature and is part of a university-wide program aimed at advancing the student experience and interdisciplinary scholarship. Two other professors and I will oversee the expanded journalism programs here at UF. Click [here](#) for the announcement.

Brand X

[Steve Graham](#) - My son points out that the AP style for "X, formerly known as Twitter" is inadequate in that despite the efforts of Elon Musk, the world continues to call it "Twitter."

He suggests "Twitter, officially named "X."

'I've got to speak up'

[Steve Hendren](#) – Well, Paul, I thought I could let this go but several days after reading the story about working in a radio station I've got to speak up. While my radio career was limited to 12 months as a solo announcer, news editor (think rip and read), and technician at KSMU, I would have been fired if I'd hit the transmitter tubes with plate voltage before waiting 15 minutes for the filaments to warm them sufficiently to reduce the thermal shock. Five minutes was just not enough in those days.

Our station manager, always listening from home, was already crabby enough after allegedly being fired from the University of Alabama for driving a media truck through the end zone of Bear Bryant's beloved playground. He already had enough reasons to fire me. I sometimes left the station unattended to get ice cream across the street. I still have nightmares about the phonograph needle reaching the end of its long circular journey before I could get back. No reason to give him another reason to cut me loose...

Plaudits for David Koenig: Explaining AP's aviation, election coverage



AP aviation writer David Koenig and retired radio/TV sports journalist Susan Palmarozzi Haley attended the Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, at the historic Aldredge House in the Swiss Avenue neighborhood of Dallas. Photo by Diana Heidgerd.

Diana Heidgerd - I'd like to recognize Dallas-based AP aviation writer David Koenig for his great job Wednesday as featured speaker at the nonprofit Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation luncheon. [DCMSAF.org](https://www.dcmsaf.org) | Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation.

David was invited by my friend retired Texas radio/TV sports journalist Susan Palmarozzi Haley of Dallas. Susan's ties to medicine include two physicians in her immediate family -- her cardiologist husband and their daughter, a recent medical school graduate now doing her residency in Dallas.

It was wonderful to hear David outline his AP duties ranging from covering airlines (American Airlines and Southwest Airlines are based in the Dallas-Fort Worth area) to stories on the current UAW strike. David also explained the meticulous process of how AP calls election races and his involvement in helping analyze the voting numbers.

Well done David Koenig!



25 YEAR CLUB CELEBRATION

SEPT. 7, 2023

25 YEAR HONOREES

News

Fisnik Abrashi

Shir Ahmad

Frank Augstein

Margery Beck

Susan Bryan

Alan Clendenning

Aaron Favila

Mead Schaeffer Gruver Jr.

Binaj Gurubacharya

Tony Gutierrez

Barry Hatton

Josh Hoffner

Achmad Ibrahim

Kamran Jebreili

Josphat Kasire

David L. Koenig

Johnson Lai

Edwin Lee Keath

Brian Mahoney

Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Jeffrey C. McMurray

Geir Moulson

John O'Connor

Wayne Parry

Mark Pratt

Lisa Rathke

Michael Rubinkam

Dana Schimmel

Amy Shafer

Jamie Stengle

Iain Sullivan

Tatan Syuflana

Michael Tarm

Vincent Thian

Mark Thiessen

Ronald Todt

Alex Veiga

Eduardo Verdugo

Michael Warren

Robert Weston

Andy Wong

John Zenor



25 YEAR HONOREES

Technology

Bilal Badran
Robert Fudge
Sebastian Ippolito
Kitjawat Pandumrong
Daniel Shanahan

Revenue

Paul Caluori
Veronique Foucault
Rebecca Ip
Andrei Klassin
Serguei Natlitch
David Pentlow
Ralf Poppe
Rawhi Razem
Gloria Sullivan

Workflow Solutions

Brian Hopman
Anthony Prangley



25 YEAR HONOREES

Corporate Finance

Syed Kazmi
Luzia Liharzik
Malgorzata Rosinska
Ludovic Schima

Human Resources

Julie March



30 YEAR HONOREES

News

Robert Bukaty
Vin Cherwoo
Armando Franca
Ken Guggenheim
Diunny Hermoso
Robin Kimmins
Sakchai Lalitkanjanakul
Marta Lavandier
John Leicester
Eddie Pells

David Phillips
Niko Price
Gary Robertson
James Salter
Michael Schneider
Patrick Sison
Timothy Sullivan

Corporate Finance

Bernadine Jimenea
Herbie Rana



30 YEAR HONOREES

Technology

Masaki Ambo
Drew Kieffer
Ralph Ramirez
Errol Spencer
Jose Zambrano

Revenue

James Clarke
Ava Tang
Adam Yeomans



35 YEAR HONOREES

News

Frank Baker
Allen Breed
John Carucci
Kieran Eustace
Joe McDonald
Dave Modrowski
John Nicholson
Scott Sonner
Arnie Stapleton
Darlene Superville
Mari Yamaguchi

Technology

Shmuel Chen
Jorge Nunez
Brian Ouellette
William Pilc
Deborah Rusolo

Revenue

Haitham Hamad
Yvette Reyes
David Rizzo
David Wilkison

Corporate Finance

Palmet Ellis
Earl Hinton



40 YEAR HONOREES

News

Shelley Adler
Frank Bajak
Karin Laub
Victoria Cacioppo
Kevin McGill
Maria Jose
Stephanie Nano
Steve Pollock
John Raby
Bruce Schreiner
Eva Duran

45 YEAR HONOREES

News

Elaine Ganley
Victor Huanca

Revenue

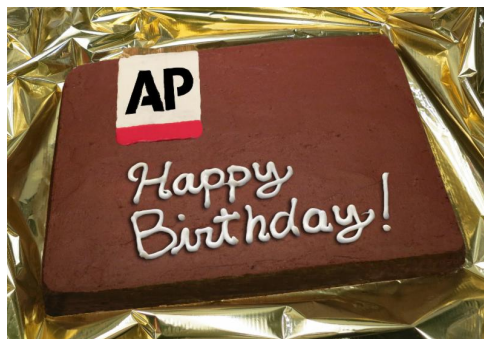
Ruth Gersh

50 YEAR HONOREES

News

Robert Furlow

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Diana Heidgerd](#)

[Gary Nyhus](#)

Stories of interest

Capitol rioter who attacked Reuters cameraman and police officer gets more than 4 years in prison (AP)

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

A man who attacked a police officer and a Reuters cameraman during the U.S. Capitol riot was sentenced on Wednesday to more than four years in prison.

Shane Jason Woods, 45, was the first person charged with assaulting a member of the news media during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

Woods, of Auburn, Illinois, took a running start and tackled the Reuters cameraman “like an NFL linebacker hunting a quarterback after an interception,” federal prosecutors wrote in a court filing.

Woods also attacked and injured a Capitol police officer who was 100 pounds (45 kilograms) lighter than him, according to prosecutors. He blindsided the officer, knocking her off her feet and into a metal barricade. The next day, the officer was still in pain and said she felt as if she had been “hit by a truck,” prosecutors said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

-0-

Marion police chief's resignation is not the end of First Amendment fights in Kansas towns (Kansas City Star)

BY KATIE BERNARD AND CHANCE SWAIM

Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody's Monday night resignation was a victory for the Marion County Record. It marked the first measurable consequences against anyone involved in the August raid of the small town newspaper.

But the victory is likely to be relatively short-lived as The Record continues to fight for a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding the raid, and accountability for more of the people involved.

“Obviously, this wasn't just a rogue cop acting alone,” Eric Meyer, editor and publisher of The Record said in a phone interview. “Whether Cody was encouraged by or people just latched on to his efforts to do their own dirty work, whatever it might be, I don't know.”

Read more [here](#).

-0-

SPJ elects 2023-24 board of directors and regional coordinators

Press Release | Society of Professional Journalists

The Society of Professional Journalists swore in its 107th president, Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins, and its membership has elected the 2023-24 board of directors and regional coordinators.

Most election winners were sworn in at the SPJ23 Journalism Convention Closing Business Meeting by 2022-23 National President Claire Regan. She also swore in Blaize-Hopkins, who is the first Black woman to become SPJ president. Blaize-Hopkins is a journalism professor at Santa Monica College and became vice president of SPJ in 2022.

Blaize-Hopkins selected two appointees to join the SPJ Board of Directors as at-large directors serving for one year. They were sworn in at the SPJ Board meeting on Sunday by Blaize-Hopkins, along with the other winners who were not at SPJ23.

Additions to SPJ's 2023-24 Board of Directors:

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

-0-

Preparing for and reporting on wildfires (Editor and Publisher)

Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher

This year, wildfires threatened land, homes, businesses — lives and livelihoods — worldwide. Greece, Chile, Italy, Mexico, Spain, the UK, the Canary Islands, Kazakhstan and Turkey experienced wildfires in 2023.

Wildfires in western Canada ravaged over a million acres and displaced tens of thousands of residents. In early summer, Quebec calculated more than 160 active forest fires. Fires raging in Nova Scotia and Quebec sent a blanket of smoke across Canada and the United States, as far south as the Carolinas.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, from Jan. 1, 2023, to Sept. 8, 2023, 40,683 recorded wildfires in the United States have impacted more than 2.1 million acres. At press deadline, there were 67 active fires. In the past year, at least 14 U.S. states have contended with wildfires: Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Texas,

Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Florida, Oklahoma, Nevada and Hawaii.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

What They Don't Tell You About Getting Old (New York Times)

By Roger Rosenblatt

Mr. Rosenblatt is the author of several novels and memoirs, including "Cataract Blues: Running the Keyboard."

I recently turned 83, and while there are many joys to getting older, getting out of taxis is not one of them.

What you don't want to do is get your left foot caught under the front right seat before you try to swing your right foot toward the door; otherwise, you'll topple over while attempting to pay the fare, possibly injuring your ankle, and causing the maneuver to go even more slowly. If you make it past the taxi door, there is still the one-foot jump to the street. You're old. You could fall. Happens all the time.

And that's when it's just you in the taxi. If some other old person is with you — a friend, a spouse — there's a real possibility of never getting out of the vehicle. You might live out the rest of your days in the back seat, watching Dick Cavett do real estate ads on a loop.

"Old People Getting Out of Taxis." I was thinking of making a film with that title, if I knew how to make a film. Figure it would run four hours. I asked an actor friend, also old, if he'd star in it. His response: "If I can get out of my chair."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hal Spencer.

Today in History – Oct. 5, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2023. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

On this date:

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kansas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1958, racially-desegregated Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, was nearly leveled by an early morning bombing.

In 1983, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina, convicted former P-T-L evangelist Jim Bakker of using his television show to defraud followers. (Sentenced to 45 years in prison, Bakker was freed in December 1994 after serving 4 1/2 years.)

In 1994, 48 people were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide carried out simultaneously in two Swiss villages by members of a secret religious doomsday cult known as the Order of the Solar Temple.

In 2001, tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens died from inhaled anthrax, the first of a series of anthrax cases in Florida, New York, New Jersey and Washington.

In 2005, defying the White House, senators voted 90-9 to approve an amendment sponsored by Republican Sen. John McCain that would prohibit the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" against anyone in U.S. government custody.

In 2011, Steve Jobs the Apple founder and former chief executive who'd invented and master-marketed ever sleeker gadgets that transformed everyday technology from the personal computer to the iPod and iPhone, died in Palo Alto, California at age 56.

In 2015, the United States, Japan and 10 other nations in Asia and the Americas reached agreement on the landmark Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

In 2017, Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein announced that he was taking a leave of absence from his company after a New York Times article detailed decades of alleged sexual harassment against women.

In 2018, a jury in Chicago convicted white police officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder in the 2014 shooting of Black teenager Laquan McDonald.

In 2020, President Donald Trump made a dramatic return to the White House after leaving the military hospital where he was receiving an unprecedented level of care for COVID-19.

In 2021, a former Facebook employee, data scientist Frances Haugen, told a Senate panel that the company knew that its platform spread misinformation and content that harmed children, but that it refused to make changes that could hurt its profits.

In 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the final papers to annex four regions of Ukraine while his military struggled to control the new territory.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Glynis Johns is 100. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 86 R&B singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 82. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 80. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 80. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 76. Blues musician Rick Estrin is 74. Actor Karen Allen is 72. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 71. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 69. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 65. Memorial designer Maya Lin is 64. Actor Daniel Baldwin is 63. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 59. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 58. Actor Guy Pearce is 56. Actor Josie Bissett is 53. Singer-actor Heather Headley is 49. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 49. Actor Parminder Nagra (pahr-MIHN'-da NAH'-grah) is 48. Actor Scott Weinger is 48. Actor Kate Winslet is 48. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 45. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 43. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 40. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 40. Actor Azure Parsons is 39. R&B singer Brooke Valentine is 38. Actor Kevin Bigley is 37. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 29. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 17.

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 Central Region 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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