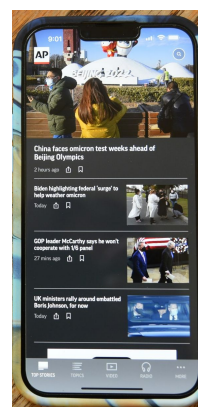


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Connecting

Oct. 10, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Oct. 10, 2023,

The family of our colleague **Otto Doelling** shares his obituary in today's Connecting – recounting the remarkable life of a journalist who served The Associated Press for 43 years before retiring in 2004.

We also include comments received from Otto's former AP colleagues. One of them, **Robert Reid**, noted:

“After so many years, Otto's death may not have rung as many bells among AP veterans as the passing of a 'big byline' writer or Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer. Such is the price of a long life. For those of us who do remember him, Otto was among the premier AP news leaders of his era.”

Condolences to the family can be sent to: odoelling@hotmail.com

USING THE WORD 'WAR' - [John Daniszewski](#), Vice President for Standards and Editor at Large, in a note to AP staff Monday:

The Associated Press has decided to call the present conflict between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza a war, given the widespread and ongoing nature of military operations in Israel and Gaza, now in their third day.

The decision was taken in consideration of the high number of casualties, the mobilization of armies, the organized, cross-border fighting and bombardments, and Israel's declaration of war and announcement that Gaza will be under siege. The fighting has already resulted in more deaths than earlier conflicts that we have called war.

For the time being, it can be called the latest war between Israel and Hamas, the Israel-Palestinian war, the latest Israel-Hamas war or the latest Gaza war. Note that we capitalize war only as part of a formal name, which as of now does not exist.

Finally, a Happy Heavenly Birthday to my dad, **Walter Stevens**, on this 107th anniversary of his birth in the northeast Nebraska community of Hartington. Dad, a WWII veteran and a newspaperman for more than a half century, died 10 years ago.

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

Paul

Otto Doelling – who helped cover the world for The Associated Press– dies at 89



1988 photo by AP photographer Richard Drew.

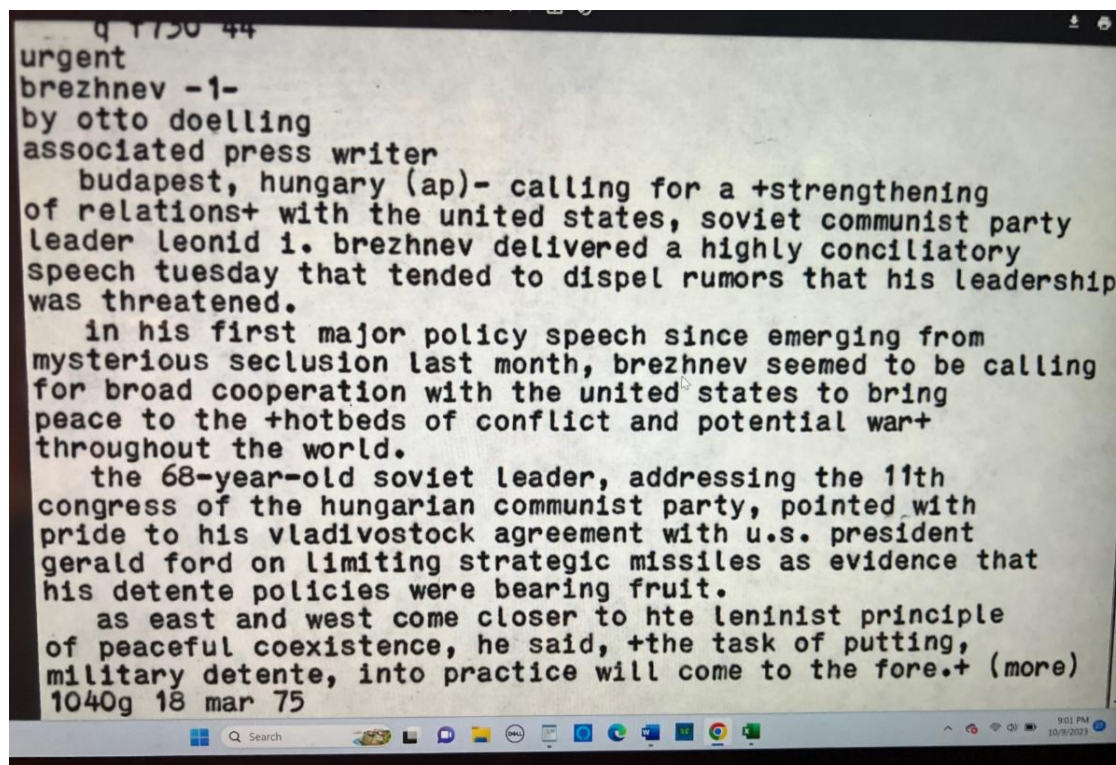
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Otto Doelling. Otto, who was 89, quietly passed away Friday evening at Shangrila Home Care, in Lynnwood, Washington. He is survived by his wife, Ingrid Doelling, aged 87, and two children Christine and Marco, aged 57 and 55 respectively.

While we mourn Otto's passing, we also wish to remember the man he was and the indelible impact he had on other people's lives.

Otto was born on Dec. 22, 1933, in the Bronx, New York, during the height of the Depression. He joined the ROTC while enrolled at City College, N.Y., and enlisted in the Army as an officer in 1955. As fortune would have it, he missed the Korean War by two years. He ended up being stationed in Gelnhausen, Germany, near Frankfurt-am-Main. During this time he met Ingrid, his future wife. Otto returned to the U.S. to complete his formal education at Columbia University where he would earn his Masters in Journalism. After a brief stint as a reporter at the Gainesville Sun in Florida, he was able to find a position at the U.S. Army Times. Having earned his wings as a reporter, Otto returned to Germany for work and to marry Ingrid.

It was either due to ambition or longing that Otto and Ingrid decided to return to the U.S. in the early 1960s. Otto went on the work at The Associated Press for the first time both in Syracuse and Albany, New York.

By the mid-1960s, Otto and Ingrid would find themselves back in Germany. Otto had by then established himself as a well-respected news correspondent at the Associated Press, first in Frankfurt and then in Bonn. He would go on to report on constantly changing events in Europe, including The Cold War, the fall of dictators, the Olympics, and terrorism. In 1977, Otto was appointed AP bureau chief, first in Cairo, Egypt, and then in Nicosia, Cyprus. Otto would cover the turmoil in the Middle East including the Lebanese Civil War and the return of the Ayatollah to Iran after years in exile. His assignments were often wrought with danger, but it was perhaps because of his quiet demeanor or charm that he was able to stay out of harm's way.



Courtesy, AP Corporate Archives

Otto, feeling homesick, decided to return to the U.S. with his family in 1980. There they settled in the small borough of Fanwood, New Jersey. Otto continued working for the AP, first as a correspondent at the United Nations and ultimately as an executive manager in World Services. He retired at the age of 70, in 2004. He and his wife decided to move to Washington State to live out their final years and to be closer to their children who live in the Seattle area.

Those who knew Otto saw him as someone they could rely on and trust no matter the circumstance. He was a man of innumerable talents, a kind father, a loving husband, a generous friend, an incredible artist, and, not least, a gifted writer and reporter. Otto also possessed a delightful sense of humor, a penchant for entertaining others, and an amazing grasp of history, literature, and classical music. He was a real Renaissance man.

Otto will forever rest in our hearts and be in our thoughts.

- Marco, Ingrid, Christine and Fatoumata

Remembrances of Otto Doelling

Peter M. Gehrig - The news about Otto Doelling's passing filled me with sadness. We first met 1968 in the AP hub in Frankfurt, Germany, where he was the news editor üulling the strings. He was pivotal in my move from boy Friday in the teletype operation to young whipper snapper in the newsroom. We had spirited discussions whether it was appropriate then for an AP employee to sport "Free Angela Davies" or "Justice for the Chicago Seven" buttons. He convinced me, not only by the power of rank but by showing me the necessity for a news reporter to appear impartial.

Otto was a straight-forward person with a great heart. He was a top-notch newsperson with no room for frills or fancies who led his gang in Germany's restless outgoing 60s and dawning 70s. I remember his last laughing words to me, when he left Germany after plenty of years working together: Peter, when are you going to shave? - I have to admit, after an interim the beard is still around.

-0-

Steve Graham - Otto was always a pleasure to work with back in pre-internet days in New York when Otto was in World Services marketing and AP carried third-party, non-English news back and forth across oceans and every country presented a new technical challenge.

-0-

Tom Kent - Otto Doelling was a wonderful leader and colleague. Although he did many things in his AP career, I remember him most as a rock of stability in one of the world's least stable places ... the Middle East. When Bob Reid, other AP staffers and I were covering the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Otto –Chief of Middle East Services at the time – was right there on location with us in Tehran. He calmly directed the coverage, kept our hastily assembled team in sync, and ran interference for us with New York

when, uh, headquarters' perspective on coverage occasionally differed from ours. Otto also pulled reporting assignments out in the streets, covering his share of demonstrations that often led to gunfire. Through it all, he was calm, thoughtful, and always eager to see bylines go to members of his team. A great reporter, a great leader, and a true gentleman.

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David Minthorn - My favorite memory of Otto Doelling is the day he hired me 54 years ago at the AP bureau in Frankfurt, West Germany. In 1969 I was an ex-GI dreaming of a career as a foreign correspondent, finishing up a German language course at a small town in Bavaria after 2 1/2 years in the 3rd Infantry Division. Otto was the AP news editor under COB Dick O'Malley, looking to fill a desk opening with a local hire at Moselstrasse 27.

To get the job I had to prove I could turn AP German service copy into wire-ready English. One of the test stories was about a jet fighter with mechanical problems. I described it as a "controversial" aircraft. Otto red-penciled the term, saying it was editorializing -- a no-no in AP's objective journalism.

Still, I landed the job and benefited greatly from Otto's patient mentoring and friendship in Frankfurt and then in Bonn, West Germany, where the AP bureau moved in 1974. We covered a lot of big stories in Germany, including the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, homegrown terrorist attacks and the spy scandal that brought down Chancellor Willy Brandt. Otto went on to AP leadership roles in the Mideast and then became a senior executive at AP World Service in New York. We worked together on AP Olympics teams in the 80s and 90s after I was transferred to World Services in New York. After our retirements, we both moved to Washington state and met a couple times in Seattle.

I'll remember Otto as a consummate AP writer, editor and news manager. He was forthright, witty and a man of his word -- rock solid in every aspect of his life. I admired him immensely and I'm heartbroken by his passing.

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Robert Reid - The sad announcement of Otto Doelling's passing unleashed a flood of memories of a time long ago when the man saved my skin and helped make my career.

Nearly 45 years ago, two young reporters were thrown into a journalistic crucible -- the chaotic climax of the Iranian Revolution against Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. Tom Kent and I were supposed to nursemaid the story while a crew of veteran Middle East journalists went home for a brief break.

With Christmas approaching and the worst of the riots subsiding, AP managers gambled that the story would cool down so that two inexperienced hands, with little or no background in the complexities of the Middle East, could handle it.

Surprise! AP was wrong.

The streets of Tehran erupted into rioting, international flights were cancelled, borders were closed. The greenhorns were on their own – except for one Iranian office manager, one part time translator with a taste for funny weed and a teletype operator who worked a few hours a day.

Add to that a shaky phone line that rarely functioned internationally, an unreliable telex system that the Shiite Muslim revolutionaries would periodically cut, no bureau files, and no reliable transport. And, of course, there were no cell phones, no satellite television, no text. Compared to modern communications, we were only a couple of steps away from smoke signals.

As for the complex social, political and religious forces at play, we literally didn't know our "Shiites from Shinola" in the biggest story in the world. The copy coming into the foreign desk from Tehran showed it.

Enter Otto Doelling, the former news editor for Germany and Central Europe and at the time AP's director of Middle East Services. Otto managed to score a rare Iranian visa and, more importantly, a seat on a TV network charter flight from Amman, Jordan.

He was certainly the man for the moment. With an unflappable, self-effacing manner, and decades more experience, Otto brought order to the Tehran office. Egos are embedded in the DNA of all journalists, but there was no question: Otto was in charge.

As the revolution intensified, we were flooded with rumors and reports – commercial airliners forced down in the north, an American consulate overrun in the east, American contractors seized in the south, mass shootings across Tehran to cite just a few. Otto knew instinctively how to prioritize, which were likely bogus, and which would be the next bulletin.

His dry humor helped relieve the stress. Once he joked that because of his Germanic name and long service with AP in Germany, half the New York staff thought he was a German local hire. ("I should have changed my byline to Charles Doelling," using his middle name.) In dealing with New York, he would talk up our successes but never point the finger at our failures.

Otto went on to serve for years as an executive in World Services, dealing with international clients. Tom Kent became Moscow bureau chief, International Editor and AP Standards Editor among other posts. I bounced around the world and retired in 2014 as bureau chief for Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Through the years, Otto was always among my role models.

After so many years, Otto's death may not have rung as many bells among AP veterans as the passing of a "big byline" writer or Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer. Such is the price of a long life.

For those of us who do remember him, Otto was among the premier AP news leaders of his era.

Aging

[Jim Spehar](#) - While I've yet to reach the point of full appreciation of Henry Bradsher's observations about turning 80, then 90. I've often been heard offering the following; "If 60 was the new 50, it seems 70 might be the new 80." At 77. I have the bionic knees, bifocals, capped teeth and hearing aids to prove it. At least all that keeps me looking forward to adventures like elk hunting with my son and niece at 10,000 feet in Colorado's high country next month.

Journojive

[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - I thought I was mishearing "pundit" as "pundint" on TV news (the love of my life says I need an audiologist appointment).

This morning, however, "pudent" shows up in a letter to the editor in the daily local paper.

To paraphrase a line in a folk song from my adolescence, "Where have all the copy editors gone?"

Some linguists defend this transmogrification as natural change in language.

How about you, Connecting colleagues?

Spain's artist Dali draws U.S. visitors



Photos by Peter Arnett

[Peter Arnett](#) - Barcelona remains a popular destination for early autumn American visitors. Most of the passengers in the minibus, my son Andrew and I traveled the other day to the Salvador Dali Museum at Figueras north of Barcelona were from the US. Our travel guide said many American visitors were among the crowd lining up for tickets to the museum, featuring a monumental Surrealist portrait of a woman's upper body, the 1947 work signed by Dali's artist wife Gala, and the painter himself.

For more adventurous visitors, including those in our minibus, there was the drive over a narrow, winding mountainous road to the small Costa Brava community of Cadaques near where Dali's house, still packed with art works and odd architectural details, is available to visit. The photo below was taken from the third story of Dali's voluminous summer house where it sits beside a small, dazzling bay. Dali died in 1989 at age 85.

Stories of interest

News networks 'scrambling' to get journalists to Israel (Washington Post)

By Jeremy Barr

Not long after arriving at Israel's main airport Saturday night, CNN's Nic Robertson and his fellow passengers hit the tarmac as alarms sounded.

"We literally just got off the plane here at Ben Gurion Airport," Robertson told viewers. "The sirens have gone off, people are taking cover."

Robertson, international diplomatic editor for CNN, is among the many television journalists who flew in to cover the deadly attacks, which represent one of the most serious escalations in a long-running conflict in the region. But it was "really remarkable" he had even made it into the country, as his colleague Dana Bash noted on-air, considering that many airlines had canceled flights into Israel.

Since Saturday, networks have been "scrambling" — in the words of one veteran television journalist — to get correspondents and producers to Israel, to augment existing personnel or, in some cases, serve as lone representatives. Although most television networks still maintain a presence in Israel, staffing levels have broadly declined in the past two decades.

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

Click [here](#) for Poynter story: Journalists rush into danger to cover the Israel-Hamas war.

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'You are in the line of fire': What it's like to be an Israeli reporter covering the unfolding war (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy, CNN

Esther Solomon, the editor-in-chief of Haaretz, Israel's oldest daily newspaper, was trying to observe the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday in Tel Aviv when her daughter, a member of the Israeli Air Force, brought some alarming news to her attention: Israel was under serious attack from Hamas.

Solomon quickly realized that the assault was far more grave than the usual round of rocket fire, which Israelis have grown accustomed to. She sprung to action, swiftly mobilizing her 400-some strong newsroom to begin reporting out the rapidly developing — and horrifying — story.

"The news seeped out, and then it flooded out," Solomon told CNN by phone on Monday, recalling the initial moments after the assault had begun.

Solomon said that while the wave of attacks caught everyone by surprise, shattering the celebration of the Simchat Torah holiday, the newsroom had in recent months built an infrastructure to seamlessly communicate for coverage of the pro-democracy protests that have gripped the country. The well-rehearsed processes allowed editors and reporters to gather in WhatsApp groups and publish critical reporting at a breakneck speed.

Read more [here](#).

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An old-fashioned newspaper war inspired by modern politics is raging in Westcliffe and dividing readers (Colorado Sun)

By Jennifer Brown

WESTCLIFFE — Main Street of this postcard-pretty town not far from the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains is just six blocks long.

Yet there are two weekly newspapers — both thriving, both making money, both all in on a newspaper war.

The Wet Mountain Tribune, its rose-red door in a line of art galleries and coffee shops, has been around for more than 100 years, dating back to the days when the town was bustling with silver miners. The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is written in what was once a home on the opposite side of Main Street, where a banner proclaims the 10-year-old newspaper offers "a different view from the same mountains" and a "Trump Won" sign is staked in the grass.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh.

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Press Gangs - Four recent books wrangle with threats to — and from — the American news media.

(New York Times)

By Richard Stengel

According to a recent poll, trust in the media to “fully, accurately and fairly” report the news is at an all-time low. And no wonder: A former president has tried (often successfully) to make the term “fake news” synonymous with, well, news. This comes amid traditional media’s economic decline.

Theories — and questions — abound. What is the role of a free press in a democracy? Is objectivity possible, or even desirable? What is the responsibility of journalists to protect democracy or expose those who undermine it? Some see the press as under threat; to others, it is itself the threat.

In UNCOVERED: How the Media Got Cozy With Power, Abandoned Its Principles, and Lost the People (Center Street, 201 pp., \$29), Steve Krakauer floats a number of reasons as to why the news media has shifted from “reality to reality show”: proximity to power, doom narratives and a Trump addiction.

But Krakauer doesn’t blame ideology for what he regards as flawed coverage. It is, rather, geography — the insularity of echo-chamber “Acela media,” most of whom, he asserts, don’t own a gun or know anyone who does. Instead, they practice “helicopter” journalism — swooping into red states like amateur anthropologists. At least the right-wing media, he says, is open about its biases.

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

-0-

Politicians say this Florida news site lets them buy coverage. Is your state next? (NPR)

By Miranda Green, David Folkenflik

This story was reported by NPR’s David Folkenflik and Miranda Green of Floodlight, a nonprofit newsroom that investigates the powerful interests stalling climate action.

Political strategist Eunic Epstein-Ortiz arrived in Florida from New York in 2017 to help a major labor union turn out voters for the following year. She recalls being pleasantly surprised by the positive coverage the campaign received from Florida Politics.

The website is Florida's answer to Politico: It illuminates developments on politics and policy for insiders and news buffs, and it influences what other outlets report about the state. And it reflects the drive of its founder, Peter Schorsch.

"He will determine whether or not something is news in the state of Florida," Epstein-Ortiz says.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Kaczor.

-0-

Leonard Woolsey honored in Chicago as E&P's 2023 Publisher of the Year

Editor & Publisher Magazine (E&P) has selected as their 2023 Publisher of the Year Leonard Woolsey, president of Southern Newspapers and publisher of the company's Galveston County Daily News. Today's announcement was made live at the America's Newspapers' Senior Leadership Conference in Chicago. Woolsey was among numerous reader-generated nominees evaluated by a committee of E&P's editorial department.

Mike Blinder, E&P publisher, took to the stage during a lunchtime awards program, knowing that Woolsey was in the audience of 150 plus media executives and revealed the selection by presenting a large mock-up poster depicting Woolsey on the magazine's November 2023 cover.

During the presentation, Blinder cited Woolsey's over 40 years of news publishing management experience, joining Southern Newspapers in 2014 after working 20 years in publisher positions at Paxton Media Group

Read more [here](#).

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Dick Preston retiring after 55 years at KRCG-TV, Jefferson City, Mo.

KRCG-TV announced that KRCG anchor Dick Preston will retire after 55 years on the air.

Preston has served as an announcer, continuity writer, news reporter, anchor, and producer in those years.

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

Today in History - Oct. 10, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2023. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 10, 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

On this date:

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising that led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-Black cast, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 124 performances.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy, responding to the Thalidomide birth defects crisis, signed an amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requiring pharmaceutical companies to prove that their products were safe and effective prior to marketing.

In 1964, entertainer Eddie Cantor died in Beverly Hills, California at age 72.

In 1966, the Beach Boys' single "Good Vibrations," written by Brian Wilson and Mike Love was released by Capitol Records.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion, and resigned his office.

In 1981, a funeral was held in Cairo for Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, who had been assassinated by Muslim extremists.

In 1985, actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70, and actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

In 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jody Williams, were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2001, a month after the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. jets pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul while President George W. Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden.

In 2012, football star-turned-actor Alex Karras died in Los Angeles at age 77.

In 2013, Scott Carpenter, the second American to orbit the Earth and one of the last surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, died at age 88.

In 2014, Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye), a 17-year-old Pakistani girl, and Kailash Satyarthi (KY'-lash saht-YAHR'-thee), a 60-year-old Indian man, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for risking their lives for the right of children to receive an education and to live free from abuse.

In 2017, the U.S. soccer team failed to qualify for the World Cup, eliminated with a 2-1 loss to Trinidad and Tobago; it ended a run of seven straight U.S. appearances at soccer's showcase event.

In 2021, after more than 18 months of pandemic delays, Daniel Craig's final James Bond film, "No Time to Die," was the top earner at the box office on its opening weekend, grossing \$56 million in North America.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Coyote is 82. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 77. Actor Charles Dance is 77. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 75. Actor Jessica Harper is 74. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 73. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 70. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 69. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 65. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 65. Actor Julia Sweeney is 64. Actor Bradley Whitford is 64. Musician Martin Kemp is 62. Actor Jodi Benson is 62. Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 60. Actor Rebecca Pidgeon is 58. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is 56. Rock musician Mike Malinin (mah-LIHN'-ihn) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 56. Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre is 54. Actor Manu Bennett is 54. Actor Joelle Carter is 54. Actor Wendi McLendon-Covey is 54. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 50. Retired race car driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 49. Actor Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 45. Singer Mya is 44. Actor Dan Stevens is 41. Singer Cherie is 39. MLB outfielder Andrew McCutchen is 37. Actor Rose Mclver is 35. Actor Aimee Teegarden is 34.

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.

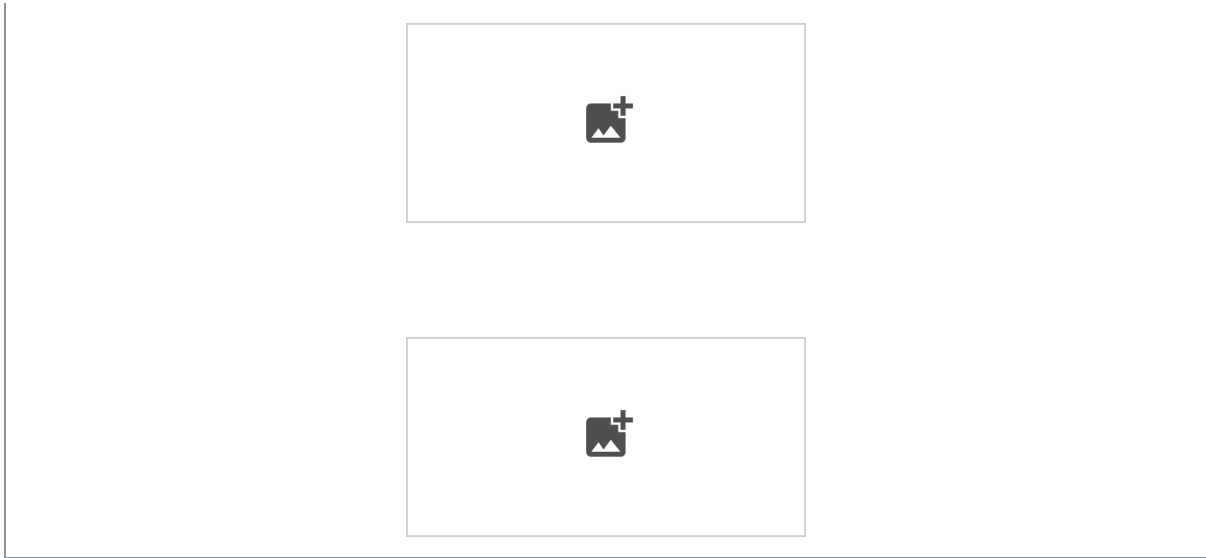
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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