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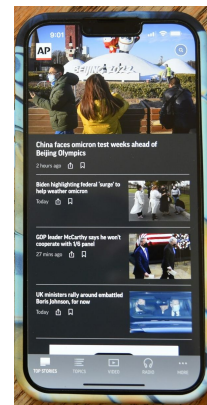
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Connecting

Nov. 13, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Nov. 13, 2023,

I have been writing a Spotlight column for my hometown newspaper for eight years, but few have impacted me more than the privilege of telling the story of **Doug Slotten**.

He is a native of the Fort Dodge, Iowa, area – and was an Army veteran whose life was changed forever one December day in 1970 when he stepped on a landmine in Vietnam while on a reconnaissance patrol and lost his eyesight and his right leg. Undaunted, he earned a law degree at Arizona State University and went to work as a lawyer for the Federal Communications Commission in Washington for 45 years. He and his wife raised twin girls who are quite successful today. Slotten is shown with them in the picture at right when they took him to St. Louis to watch his beloved Cardinals play.

Doug died in late September of prostate cancer – a cancer often attributed to exposure by US Vietnam veterans to chemicals such as Agent Orange – and so I told

his story in The Messenger through the eyes of his family and friends. His was a remarkable life indeed, one of strength, courage and accomplishment.

Click [here](#) to read the story, which appeared Friday in The Messenger of Fort Dodge.

Today, following the Veterans Day weekend, we bring you more stories from Connecting colleagues on their military service.



Here's to the week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

AI has arrived – and it will test and push all boundaries, and then some...

[Jim Gerberich](#) - Undoubtedly, there will be healthy discussions, debates, experimentation, and litigation around AI over the coming months and years. Love it or hate it, this emerging technology with revolutionary capabilities will most certainly test and push all the boundaries and then some.

AI and machine learning aren't new, but AI is under a microscope with Chat GPT and the new generative / illustrative programs becoming commercially available. It's a good thing in as much as scrutiny like this typically moves things in a positive way, even though there will be pitfalls to navigate along the way. Cliché perhaps, but the genie is out of the bottle; we're not returning.

I left AP with a group of colleagues last year, but before I did, I was exposed to AI employed in a manner that was nothing short of revolutionary. In 2021, former AP colleagues David Tenenbaum and Pete Leabo from MerlinOne reached out to me and said they had something they wanted me to see. David's team had been working for a few years in the AI space and developed an AI-based visual search technology.

I knew both well. Pete and Marty Thompson hired me in San Francisco. I transferred to Boston and found myself courtside at the Boston Garden shooting Celtics basketball with David. There was no pressure; Pete and David were rock stars.

When they reached out, I was working with a team at AP that was consolidating several legacy, single-format content silos into one gateway to provide AP's customers a better multiformat experience with one login.

David showed me what he and his team were working on when we connected. As cool as it was, I was skeptical at first. And at the same time, after that first look, I thought, if this works with editorial content like it did in the demo, it's a game changer and we needed to be there.

Their AI-based search tool, NOMAD™ (NO MetADData) would allow an editor, producer, researcher, etc. to type a natural language descriptive search query to find what they were looking for regardless of the information in the caption or video shot list that was part of the media.

Think about that. It's totally counterintuitive, it breaks all the long-standing approaches to searching for content.

Simple, accurate search has bedeviled us for as long as I can remember. If the content wasn't tagged properly, it could not be easily found. Editors, producers, and the like learned how to craft Boolean-style searches (hammer, chisel, crow bar) to try and find what they were looking for. Rarely did one's first search yield what they were looking for. Video editors would craft searches and then scrub clip after clip in an attempt to find their topic. Research took hours.

When AP was piloting MerlinOne's software (now Canto), a video producer's jaw dropped when they saw the capability. They had spent five hours the previous day doing a three-minute piece. A senior photo editor remarked that we can start to search the way we think, and a video researcher began using the prototype to help customers find content.

Think of it like this. Imagine standing in the main reading room of the New York Public Library working on a historical retrospect of past political campaigns asking a librarian for a photo and video clip of Richard and Pat Nixon waving from the roof of a car. A split second later, [it's on your screen](#) or at your fingertips. Importantly, for the video, the technology delivers the precise waving moment from the master clip without the need for scrubbing through minutes of clips to find the moment you are looking for. In another example, search for: [a close up of Queen Elizabeth smiling wearing a blue hat](#). And how about this one: [George Clooney wearing a beard, waving and walking with Amal Clooney in a yellow dress](#). The common thread, today's conventional search engines wouldn't find these results in the fast pace of news, content is generally not annotated well enough contextually to respond to visual searches.

How cool is this?

The explosion in the volume of content created and consumed in recent years has made it impossible from a human or economic standpoint to apply the proper contextual metadata to ensure that it's simple to surface that needle in a haystack. Not only does this help to solve that challenge, but it also allows editors and producers to find historical content they didn't know was there. Think "B" roll that you're pretty sure was shot but can't pin it down.

To be sure, we're at the beginning of the AI journey, there's much more ahead. And this isn't the end of metadata; it will always play a role in archiving content. For sure, AI is imperfect, and it can and will be used in questionable ways.

As you might have gathered by now, I'm a big fan. It reminds me of the early days of digital photography when most thought it would never take off, so why invest. For those born of the internet, teaching them how media were put away years ago, the idiosyncrasies of IPTC and all the related fields is no small undertaking. This opens a new world for content discovery.

Full disclosure: After leaving AP, I took some time off and then joined MerlinOne this spring to help their team evangelize AI search. In August, MerlinOne was acquired by Canto.

AP launched this capability on its content platform, newsroom.ap.org in May of this year. Please don't take my word for it; take it for a spin yourself.

Connecting veterans and their stories of service

Jim Carlson - U.S. Army 1968-70 - Months after graduating from UW-Madison with a journalism degree, I got hired to work for the Wausau Daily Herald in Wisconsin, but when I returned home from interviewing, I learned that day's mail included a "Greetings" letter from Uncle Sam, with directions to take my draft physical.

Then came basic training, advanced infantry training, APC driver's school and a week's leave before shipping out for Vietnam. Along the way, I went to the various information offices to see if they needed a journalist. It never did any good until I got to my infantry unit in Vietnam's Central Highlands and eventually got the chance to serve as my battalion's stringer for the 4th Division information office, doing stories and photos for various Army publications, as well as hometown newspapers.

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Joe Krovisky - In June 1958, I was "ship's company" aboard the aircraft carrier Saratoga anchored off Cannes, France, when suddenly we pulled anchor about 4 a. m. and got under way, which was strange since we were scheduled to remain there for several more days.

At mid-morning, the captain announced a threatening development in the Middle East had prompted President Eisenhower to order the Sixth Fleet to the eastern Mediterranean Sea to patrol the coast, adding we would be on "wartime steaming:" four hours on watch and four hours off watch plus our regular duties. As a fire controlman and radar operator, I monitored a radar screen.

The change complicated matters for me. I had made plans to enroll in a university for the fall semester under the G. I. Bill. Instead, my four-year enlistment was extended several days beyond my scheduled August discharge date. My discharge was an adventure: first, I was "high-lined" from the Saratoga to a tanker in the middle of the night during a refueling operation, then dropped off at Crete and flown to Naples (my first airplane ride) and boarded a troop ship to the Brooklyn naval yard and discharged. I managed to enroll for the fall semester.

I recalled those events about a month ago after reading President Biden had ordered a naval fleet to patrol those same waters upon the outbreak of the Gaza war and wondered if there was a 21-year-old fire controlman on one of those ships intently scanning a radar screen for four hours as I had 65 years ago.

In the interim, hostilities rage on, which, to me, is sad.

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Lew Wheaton - I served in the Navy from 1965-1970. Campus recruiters only wanted to know students' draft status. So, I enlisted, tested well, went to OCS and wound up supply officer on the USS Wexford County, LST 1168. It was a small ship, about 115-125 ship's crew and, depending on the mission, 100-150 Marines and their vehicles and equipment.

So I got to know men from very different backgrounds. There was a college grad on the management fast track at Sears who found himself scrubbing decks and chipping paint. And the guy who said a local judge gave him a choice: Enlist or spend six months in the county jail.

Then there was the captain, who regularly grilled me about what was for dinner, one of my responsibilities. Once, when the cooks didn't produce what I told him to expect, he ordered me confined to quarters for two days, allowed to leave only to stand watch.

After that, I found I could get off the ship by extending my active duty for an extra 18 months, which led to the Navy Purchasing Office in Brooklyn.

Overall, I enjoyed and learned a lot from my service. I thought seriously about making it a career if I could get my preferred next duty station. The Navy would be happy to grant me another shore duty stint – back in Danang. I opted for Columbia J school and 32 exciting years with AP.

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Paul Stevens – Five of my dad’s family of 10 served during World War II. All 10 were born in Bow Valley, Neb., just north of Hartington in the northeast corner of the state. Al, Fritz, Esther, Walt (dad) and Ed are gone from our world, as are their siblings, but their service is never forgotten.

The car in Malcom Browne’s Pulitzer-winning photo





Frank Hawkins - A footnote on the Malcolm Browne story:

During a 2008 trip to Vietnam, I shot these pictures of the infamous car in a Buddhist temple complex near Quang Ngai. I suspect it is still there. I thought your readers would be interested in seeing them.

BTW, Mal had a real impact on my career. As a new AP reporter in New York in the fall of 1967, I met him while covering a teachers' union story. At that time, he was working as a reporter for the NYT. That day, he had a similar assignment to mine, so we spent most of the day together traveling around Manhattan following teachers' union president, Albert Shaker.

My goal at that time was to get as quickly as possible into the AP foreign service. Mal gave me some outstanding guidance on what to do, what levers to pull. By late summer 1969, I was in New Delhi working for Myron Belkind, grateful in part to Mal for the help and encouragement he gave me.

AP sighting

Dick Lipsey - From "Saving the World Through Science Fiction: James Gunn, Writer, Teacher and Scholar," by Michael R. Page (2017)

James Gunn was a highly regarded science fiction writer from the 1940s until his death in 2020 as well as a professor of English and founder of the Center for the Study of Science Fiction at the University of Kansas. His book "Crisis" is a collection of stories written mostly in the 1980s involving a time traveler who saves the world from various

crises. In the first story, "End of the World," Gunn's protagonist meets a female reporter, a graduate of the University of Kansas, whose contacts help prevent a nuclear war. In the last story, "Will-of-the-Wisp," the woman has become managing editor of the Associated Press. At one point, Gunn was administrative assistant to the university's chancellor. "Gunn wrote a series of articles about Chancellor Franklin Murphy's trip to the Soviet Union to visit Russian universities that got picked up by the Associated Press and distributed across the country."

From the US-Mexico border





Nick Ut – On Saturday, I traveled to the US and Mexico Border near Jacumba, San Diego. Hundreds of people entering from Mexico mountains to US.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Peter Arnett](#)

Stories of interest

Trump joins media outlets in pushing for his federal election interference case to be televised (AP)

BY ALANNA DURKIN RICHER

Donald Trump is pushing for his federal election interference trial in Washington to be televised, joining media outlets that say the American public should be able to watch the historic case unfold.

Federal court rules prohibit broadcasting proceedings, but The Associated Press and other news organizations say the unprecedented case of a former president standing trial on accusations that he tried to subvert the will of voters warrants making an exception.

The Justice Department is opposing the effort, arguing that the judge overseeing the case does not have the authority to ignore the long-standing nationwide policy against cameras in federal courtrooms. The trial is scheduled to begin on March 4.

“I want this trial to be seen by everybody in the world,” Trump said Saturday during a presidential campaign event in New Hampshire. “The prosecution wishes to continue this travesty in darkness and I want sunlight.”

Read more [here](#).

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Washington Post deletes editorial cartoon criticized as racist (Washington Post)

By Elahe Izadi and Will Sommer

The Washington Post took down an editorial cartoon Wednesday that depicted a Hamas leader using civilians as human shields, after the drawing was criticized as racist and dehumanizing toward Palestinians.

In a note to readers, David Shipley, editorial page editor of The Post, said the cartoon was initially meant to caricature a specific Hamas spokesman. But the backlash to the cartoon convinced him that he had “missed something profound, and divisive.”

“Our section is aimed at finding commonalities, understanding the bonds that hold us together, even in the darkest times,” Shipley wrote. “In this spirit, we have taken down the drawing.”

The opinions section also ran several letters criticizing the decision to run the cartoon.

(The newsroom, overseen by Executive Editor Sally Buzbee, operates independently from the opinions section.)

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

Today in History - Nov. 13, 2023



Today is Monday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2023. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris at the national stadium, in a crowded concert hall, in restaurants and on streets, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

On this date:

In 1775, during the American Revolution, the Continental Army captured Montreal.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote, in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1979, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination in New York.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 2017, the Oakland Raiders broke ground on a 65,000-seat domed stadium in Las Vegas.

In 2019, the House Intelligence Committee opened two weeks of public impeachment hearings, with a dozen current and former career foreign service officials and political appointees scheduled to testify about efforts by President Donald Trump and others to pressure Ukraine to investigate Trump's political rivals.

In 2020, speaking publicly for the first time since his defeat by Joe Biden, President Donald Trump refused to concede the election.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 89. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 82. Blues singer John Hammond is 81. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 77. Actor Joe Mantegna is 76. Actor Sheila Frazier is 75. Actor Tracy Scoggins is 70. Actor Chris Noth is 69. Actor-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 68. Actor Rex Linn is 67. Actor Caroline Goodall is 64. Actor Neil Flynn is 63. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde (tehs-teh-VUR'-dee) is 60. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 59. Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 56. Actor Steve Zahn is 56. Actor Gerard Butler is 54. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 54. Actor Jordan Bridges is 50. Actor Aisha Hinds is 48. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 45. Former NBA All-Star

Metta Sandiford-Artest (formerly Ron Artest and Metta World Peace) is 44. Actor Monique Coleman is 43. Actor Rahul Kohli is 38. Actor Devon Bostick is 32.

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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