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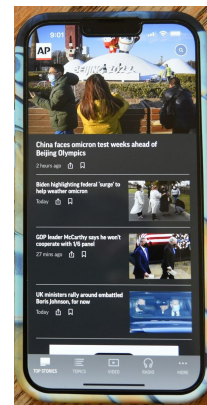
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# Connecting

Jan. 5, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Jan. 5, 2024,

Connecting’s list in Thursday’s issue of colleagues who died in the past year touched a chord with most all of us, I would guess.

“It took my breath away to scroll down the list,” shared [Chris Connell](#). “Thanks once again, Paul, for your unstinting, selfless efforts in creating and sustaining this community of ours, this band of brothers and sisters.”

[Cliff Schiappa](#) wrote to say: “The list of those who passed away in 2023 is a sobering reminder of how precious time, health and fellowship is to each of us. Every year there are more names of fellow colleagues, those with whom I worked directly appearing on the list, making me realize the aging process affects us all despite the thoughts of youth and invincibility. And yes, when I see my friends’ names on that list it confirms Dr. Seuss’s statement... A smile does come to my face in memory of them. Thank you, Paul, for keeping us connected in life and beyond.”

In the listing of names was that of **Val Corley** of the Des Moines bureau – whose death in June 2023 was not known until Connecting received a listing of retirees who had died during the year from AP Human Resources. Our colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** shares thoughts on Val in our lead for today's Connecting.

And we bring you in this issue the first monthly listing of 2024 of those colleagues in the Connecting 90s and 80s clubs – a juxtaposition with the listing of deaths yesterday that reminded me of the saying, "Tomorrow is never promised." So we celebrate those who have achieved those age marks and wish them and all of us good health and happiness in the coming year.

Here's to a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy and live each day to your fullest.

Paul

## Remembering Val Corley - an early mentor



**Mark Mittelstadt** - Last year shouldn't become too distant in the mirror without a mention of the passing of Valiant Corley.

Val was a long-time newsman and desk supervisor in the Associated Press Des Moines bureau in the 1970s and '80s. I met him on my first day with the company in January 1981. He had a near permanent assignment as night supervisor, a shift that began at 1 p.m. In that role he was responsible for editing and coordinating movement of stories produced by the bureau's writers. He also handled content received from other bureaus around the country and national stories that needed to be tailored for Iowa or even local member use.

While I received formal orientation and training from the news editor and others, Val familiarized me with the "real AP," warts and all: the personalities, danger points, pitfalls (when and how to do a BULLETIN KILL and when and how not to, for example), the best ways to get Iowa stories on national wires and the surest route to get them spiked. You felt assured when Val was on the desk and news broke. He knew the state, Iowa broadcast editors and newspaper desk editors who could help the news cooperative when all heck was breaking loose. He kept cool when severe weather moved across the state and it was necessary in the years before automation and the internet to literally drop everything and manually transmit to AP broadcasters all advisories, watches and warnings from the National Weather Service. And he knew from memory the consolidated names of the hundreds of high schools when football and basketball (girls and boys) scores were called in by stringers.

He was a master taking dictation from AP reporters in the field. He edited and corrected on the fly, asking the necessary questions without frustrating the harried caller. By the time they hung up he had near perfect prose ready to be transmitted. Better than anyone else in the bureau he knew how to file stories on AP's former multi-state "hub" computer system. He also knew how to revive the bureau's Mouse routing computer when it crashed or how to manually plug cords into a myriad of jacks so at least a bureau terminal or two would still work when "Desi" died.

Val had what his daughter, Jennifer Corley, called "a goofy fun sense of humor" and that he was a "sarcastic know it all (in a good way)." She thought he was with AP for 37 years, retiring around 2008.

While most of his time was spent supervising the work of others, Val occasionally wrote his own stories. One of his proudest was a first-person account in August 1972 and distributed nationally of being among 1,200 families around the country selected to track their television viewing and report it to Nielsen Research. "If Dinah Shore's morning television program had a jump in its Nielsen rating a few weeks ago, she may have my five-year-old daughter to thank," he began.

Val died June 27, 2023 at the age of 83 in Mesa, Az.

## Meeting Tony Bennett, a fellow former AP staffer...if only I'd known



**Steve Hindy** - A few years ago, my company, Brooklyn Brewery, made a special beer Tony Bennett on his 90th birthday. When the legendary vocalist came to the brewery, I was tongue-tied upon meeting him. What do you say to a legend without sounding like a total schmuck? I wish I had known (Connecting Jan. 4, 2023) that Tony once worked for AP at 50 Rock, like I once did!

Tony toured the brewery and insisted on seeing everything, including the warehouse. Everyone, from the oldest to youngest employee, recognized the iconic singer.

## Memories spurred by Tokyo-Haneda crash





The plane came to rest right up against the tennis courts behind a beach resort. (Jeff Barske)

**Jim Carrier** - On June 7, 1971, in my first week at the AP in New Haven, an Allegheny Airlines plane crashed on approach to the New Haven airport. I was useless in the bureau - just learning the ropes - so the staff dug into their pockets for dimes, for pay phones, and sent me to the scene where I found a priest standing on a set of athletic field bleachers giving last rites. I climbed up beside him. The fuselage had come to rest in front of the bleachers. The roof was gone, and I could see rows of people still in their seats. They were roasted black. The crash led to regulations on fabric fire control, evacuation, and crew training—evident in the miraculous evacuation in Japan today. The NYTimes piece has a bit about those regs and Japan Airlines' admirable training.

From Wikipedia:

The New Haven accident “was notable in that all but one person survived the initial impact, however 27 people died in the subsequent fire, after failing to open the emergency exit. Only the first officer and 2 passengers survived. Poor visibility in the cabin, a lack of emergency lighting, unclear emergency door instructions, and a lack of additional crew personnel to assist in evacuation were all cited as factors in the high death toll.”

My single contribution from the scene was the death count. By the time I got back to office, I saw my first AP byline on the A wire. To this day, I sit as close as possible to airplane exits and read the instructions.

## Update: Sanborn Weekly Journal & Woonsocket

[Diana Heidgerd](#) - I've received some very nice responses to last week's AP Connecting item I shared about small-town journalism and my relatives owning the Sanborn Weekly Journal in Woonsocket, South Dakota. Thank you!

As I mentioned, I love the stories about how railroad executives, as the lines were being built, apparently named some South Dakota cities for their hometowns. One example: Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

AP's Chris Lehourites raised some interesting questions about pronouncing the South Dakota town's name:

"I saw your story in Connecting today and loved it. I'm from Rhode Island, but not Woonsocket.

But it made me wonder, how do they pronounce it there? Here in Rhode Island, if you are NOT of French heritage, you say wuhn-SOCK-it.

But if you are of French heritage you say wuhn-sock-ET.

How about in South Dakota where all you Scandinavians live?

Chris"

From Diana:

Thanks Chris! Good call on the Scandinavian half of me. As I mentioned my maiden name was Jensen and my father's side was Danish and Norwegian.

That meant Lutheran for me and most of my South Dakota relatives. We attended tiny Bethany Lutheran Church in Woonsocket, pronounced WOON'-sock-it.

Thus my ties to the town.

My mother was born to Greek immigrants who were proud to become U.S. citizens. They raised their first-generation American children, two sons and a daughter, in South Dakota.

## Paid in full



**Charlie Arbogast** - Well, after the announcement that my Ohio State Buckeyes were scheduled to play the Missouri Tigers in the Cotton Bowl, I sought out two AP friends, Missouri alums, for a wager. Shawn Marsh was MIA, so AP executive Kia Breaux was next in line. The bet was on. As you can see the loser had to wear and post on social media the other team's sweater. PAID IN FULL!!!! LOL.

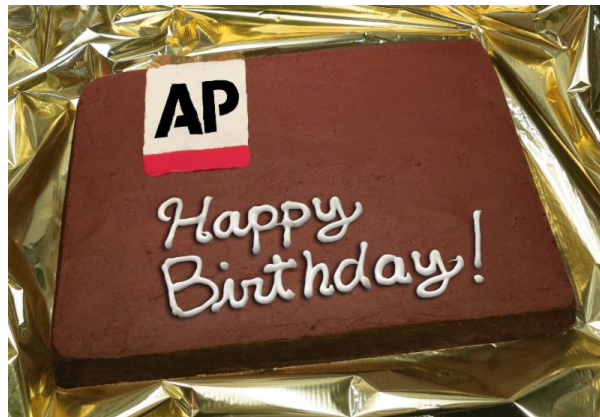
**That's right, 25 bags of Milk Bones**





If our colleague [Marjorie Miller](#) gets a bill from Amazon for 25 bags of Milk Bones, she'll know who's responsible. Her family recently adopted Ollie, a 16-pound cockapoo who's a year and a half old, and it didn't take him long to find her iPad and his window to the world. Next, he'll be writing a column for dogs. And then lobby his mom, the Pulitzer Prize administrator, for a category to enter it.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Colleen Barry](#)

[David Bauder](#)

[Bill Brown](#)

[Steve Kent](#)

[John Solomon](#)

[Adam Yeomans](#)

*On Saturday to...*

[Tim Bovee](#)

[Paula Froke](#)

## Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

**90s:**

**Norm Abelson  
Malcolm Barr  
Henry Bradsher  
Hal Buell  
Joseph Carter  
Phil Dopoulos  
Albert Habhab  
Hoyt Harwell  
Gene Herrick  
Joe McGowan  
Charlie Monzella  
Bob Petsche  
Arlon Southall**



**Lou Uchitelle  
Sal Veder  
Doris Webster  
Joe Young**

**80s:**

**Hank Ackerman  
Paul Albright  
Rachel Ambrose  
Peter Arnett  
Harry Atkins  
Frank Aukofer  
Jim Bagby  
Myron Belkind  
Ed Bell  
Dan Berger  
Adolphe Bernotas  
Brian Bland  
Lou Boccardi  
Hal Bock  
William Roy Bolch Jr.  
Ed Breen  
David Briscoe  
Ben Brown  
Charles Bruce  
Ford Burkhart  
Harry Cabluck  
Sibby Christensen  
Shirley Christian  
Norm Clarke  
Steve Crowley  
Don Dashiell  
Bob Daugherty  
Linda Deutsch**

**Mike Doan**  
**Bob Dobkin**  
**Bob Dubill**  
**Harry Dunphy**  
**John Eagan**  
**Claude Erbsen**  
**Mike Feinsilber**  
**Dodi Fromson**  
**Joe Galu**  
**Bill Gillen**  
**Steve Graham**  
**Bob Greene**  
**Jerry Harkavy**  
**Paul Harrington**  
**Mike Harris**  
**Chick Harrity**  
**Merrill Hartson**  
**Frank Hawkins**  
**Monte Hayes**  
**Jerry Jackson**  
**Spencer Jones**  
**Doug Kienitz**  
**Dean Lee**  
**Pierce Lehmbeck**  
**Warren Lerude**  
**Edie Lederer**  
**Carl Leubsdorf**  
**Jim Limbach**  
**Bruce Lowitt**  
**David Liu**  
**Jim Luther**  
**Larry Margasak**  
**John Marlow**  
**Dave Mazarella**  
**Chuck McFadden**  
**Yvette Mercourt**  
**Reid Miller**

**Karren Mills**  
**David Minthorn**  
**Peggy Mooney**  
**Bill Morrissey**  
**Harry Moskos**  
**Ron Mulnix**  
**Bruce Nathan**  
**Greg Nokes**  
**Larry Paladino**  
**Jay Perkins**  
**Lyle Price**  
**Charles Richards**  
**Bruce Richardson**  
**Carl Robinson**  
**Mort Rosenblum**  
**Frank Russell**  
**Denis Searles**  
**Richard Shafer**  
**Susanne Shaw**  
**Mike Short**  
**Victor Simpson**  
**Rick Spratling**  
**Ed Staats**  
**Karol Stonger**  
**Barry Sweet**  
**Mark Thayer**  
**Marty Thompson**  
**Hilmi Toros**  
**Kernan Turner**  
**Jeffrey Ulbrich**  
**Jack Walker**  
**Mike Waller**  
**Bob Walsh**  
**Dean Wariner**  
**Don Waters**  
**Lew Wheaton**  
**Jeff Williams**

**William Winter**  
**Byron Yake**  
**Johnny Yost**  
**Kent Zimmerman**

## Stories of interest

### ***Three years on, little justice for press assaulted on Jan. 6*** (US Press Freedom Tracker)

By Kirstin McCudden from Freedom of the Press Foundation

Three years after the failed attempt to halt the democratic process of counting electoral votes on Jan. 6, 2021, the Department of Justice has charged more than 1,100 people with criminal activity that day. Yet it has charged only a few of those who committed assaults on journalists, attacked as they covered the rapidly escalating events in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 20 journalists were assaulted — dragged over a wall, punched in the face or had a camera stolen. Tens of thousands of dollars in news equipment was also destroyed in the riot.

Of the six people who were charged with assaulting journalists, most were for the mob assault of Associated Press photojournalist John Minchillo, who was pushed, punched, dragged through the crowd and thrown over a wall. Four people have been charged with his assault — two pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison; two others are working their way through the justice system.

One of the men charged in the assault of photographer Minchillo was also charged in the assault of documentary journalist Nick Quested. Quested was filming the riot from the steps of the West Plaza when the man grabbed his camera and attempted to pull him down the stairs.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch, Sally Stapleton.

-0-

### ***Harvard resignation is a win for conservative Washington Free Beacon*** (Washington Post)

By Will Sommer

The resignation of Harvard University's president this week marked a major win for the Washington Free Beacon, the rare conservative media outlet that does significant

reporting of its own — and plenty of it, this past month in particular on the plagiarism accusations against Claudine Gay.

Free Beacon reporter Aaron Sibarium helped keep the Gay story fresh for nearly a month, regularly uncovering new allegations, posting social-media-ready graphics comparing her work against the sources from which she allegedly lifted text, and interviewing academics who argued it was a clear-cut case of plagiarism.

On Tuesday, less than a day after Sibarium published a new list of six more alleged instances of plagiarism, Gay resigned.

Asked whether he thought his article prompted Gay's resignation, Sibarium replied in an email that "it certainly didn't help."

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

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## ***Wall Street Journal Editor Says He 'Wouldn't Be Totally Surprised' if Journalist Evan Gershkovich Was Still in Russian Prison in 2025*** (The Messenger)

Aysha Qamar

A Wall Street Journal editor working on efforts to release reporter Evan Gershkovich said he wouldn't be surprised if Gershkovich was still in prison in 2025.

In an interview with Fox News Digital Paul Beckett said the case to bring Gershkovich home is "extremely complicated," and he wouldn't be surprised if he is still incarcerated in the next two years.

"We've said from the beginning we would hope for a quick solution and brace for the long term, so I think we're still bracing for that," Beckett said. "There's... optimism and just what's happened in the last couple of weeks, but he'll be in pretrial detention until the end of January. We expect that to go another two months to the end of March. That will be one year. The Russians have elections in March, and we haven't even been told when there would be a trial, so you can just see the timeline stretching. And so, no, I wouldn't be totally surprised, unfortunately."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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## ***How did world media view the war in Vietnam*** (HistoryNet)

By ZITA BALLINGER FLETCHER



This formerly classified analysis of media coverage on the Vietnam War was prepared by famed journalist and war correspondent Edward R. Murrow for U.S. National Security Advisor McGeorge “Mac” Bundy in 1963.

In the document, Murrow arrived at the conclusion that major media in most other countries around the world displayed virtually no support or sympathy for the government of Ngo Dinh Diem, with the exception of the staunchly anti-communist South Korea, the Philippines, and to a lesser extent Thailand. Bundy served as a presidential advisor until retiring from the role in 1966.

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

-0-

## ***Kevin M. Jones, St. Louis American COO, passes***

By Alvin A. Reid | The St. Louis American

Kevin M. Jones, a 31-year employee of the St. Louis American and for many years its chief operating officer, has passed away. He was 57. An honors graduate of St. Louis University High School, Jones also graduated with honors from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Journalism.

While attending the University of Missouri, Jones worked for three newspapers at the same time: the Columbia Daily Tribune, Columbia Missourian and The Maneater.

Following his work as an advertising manager with the Suburban Journals, Jones joined The St. Louis American staff. During his tenure he helped create many innovative initiatives to better serve the newspaper’s readers and advertisers.

Jones was an active member of the Missouri Press Association throughout his professional career and served as its president from 2010-11. He held several of its executive offices, was an MPA board member and chaired the organization’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Jones was a past president of the Missouri Advertising Managers’ Association and received that group’s Old Pro Award. He was a member of the Advertising Club of St. Louis, the Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis and served as a St. Louis Sports Commission board member.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Kristi Fortier, Kia Breaux.

## **The Final Word**

***Photographer Waits Three Years to Capture Stealth Bomber Flying Over College Football Game*** (PetaPixel)





Tyler Leipprandt of Michigan Sky Media hangs out a helicopter above the Rose Bowl and a B-2 stealth bomber to capture his incredible shot.

MATT GROWCOOT



A photographer captured an epic shot of a B-2 stealth bomber flying over a college football game which he says is the most special shot of his career so far.

Tyler Leipprandt of Michigan Sky Media caught the epic site of the B-2 bomber flying above 100,000 people packed into the Rose Bowl stadium as he hovered 4,000 feet above ground in a helicopter.

“This is a shot that has been at the TOP of my bucket list for the past three years,” Leipprandt tells PetaPixel. “I have taken similar photos of big game flyovers at Big Ten football games, but when I heard a B-2 was scheduled to fly over the Rose Bowl, I knew that was the shot I needed to get.”

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Jan. 5, 2024



Today is Friday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2024. There are 361 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1953, Samuel Beckett's two-act tragicomedy "Waiting for Godot," considered a classic of the Theater of the Absurd, premiered in Paris.

### On this date:

In 1896, an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse, reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen (RENT'-gun) of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays.

In 1914, auto industrialist Henry Ford announced he was going to pay workers \$5 for an 8-hour day, as opposed to \$2.34 for a 9-hour day. (Employees still worked six days a week; the 5-day work week was instituted in 1926.)

In 1925, Democrat Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming took office as America's first female governor, succeeding her late husband, William, following a special election.

In 1933, construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge. (Work was completed four years later.)

In 1943, educator and scientist George Washington Carver, who was born into slavery, died in Tuskegee, Alabama, at about age 80.

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression in what became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon announced that he had ordered development of the space shuttle.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960s pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing at the Heavenly Ski Resort on the Nevada-California state line; he was 62.

In 2004, foreigners arriving at U.S. airports were photographed and had their fingerprints scanned in the start of a government effort to keep terrorists out of the country.

In 2011, John Boehner (BAY'-nur) was elected speaker as Republicans regained control of the House of Representatives on the first day of the new Congress.

In 2022, Australia denied entry to tennis star Novak Djokovic, who was seeking to play for a 10th Australian Open title later in the month; authorities canceled his visa because he failed to meet the requirements for an exemption to COVID-19 vaccination rules.

In 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his armed forces to observe a unilateral 36-hour cease-fire in Ukraine for the Orthodox Christmas holiday, the first such sweeping truce move in the nearly 11-month-old war.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Duvall is 93. Juan Carlos, former King of Spain, is 86. Singer-musician Athol Guy (The Seekers) is 84. Actor-director Diane Keaton is 78. Actor Ted Lange (Ianj) is 76. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 74. Former CIA Director George Tenet is 71. Actor Pamela Sue Martin is 71. Actor Clancy Brown is 65. Singer Iris Dement is 63. Actor Suzy Amis is 62. Actor Ricky Paull Goldin is 59. Actor Vinnie Jones is 59. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 58. Actor Joe Flanigan is 57. Talk show host/dancer-choreographer Carrie Ann Inaba is 56. Rock musician Troy Van Leeuwen (Queens of the Stone Age) is 56. Actor Heather Paige Kent is 55. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 55. Actor Shea Whigham is 55. Actor Derek Cecil is 51. Actor-comedian Jessica Chaffin is 50. Actor Bradley Cooper is 49. Actor January Jones is 46. Actor Brooklyn Sudano is 43. Actor Franz Drameh is 31.

# 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!

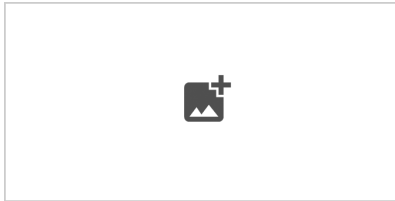
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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