

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

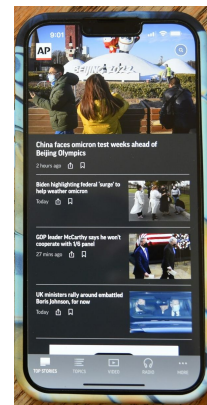
[View as Webpage](#)



# Connecting

Jan. 17, 2024

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Newsletters](#)

[AP Books](#)

[AP News Tips](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Jan. 17, 2024,

Today's Connecting brings you a focus on fond memories:

Of our colleague **Le Lieu Browne**...of **Fay Clark**, beloved teammate of longtime AP bureau chief **Gary Clark**...and of former Tallahassee correspondent **John Van Gieson**.

Fay and Gary, who died in May 2022, were beloved by those who knew them. Said **[Dan and Vickii Sewell](#)** - "We're saddened to learn of the passing of Fay Gomarlo Clark, whose friendliness, sense of humor and inner strength were a benefit to The AP and many of us who worked for or with longtime COB Gary Clark. She made sure I always felt welcome in their home, including when I needed a place to crash when I wasn't married, and later, my wife Vickii and I had good times hanging out with her and Gary. Hoping they're reunited now and playing 18 holes while sharing their smiles and love again."

**AP NEWS TIPS:** Our colleague [Steve Loeper](#) wrote to say: "Great query by fellow ex-news ed Steve Graham about retirees quickly sharing breaking news with the AP — especially visual content. I think we've all had similar fantasies and, in my case, I had foolishly figured I'd determine delivery in the moment. Yeah right."

**CONNECTING SUPPORT:** Every 2-3 years, Ye Olde Editor reaches out to his Connecting readers for assistance in covering expenses involved with the daily production of our newsletter. The chief expenses involve payment to Constant Contact, the newsletter carrier, and online subscriptions to several newspaper publications whose material regularly appears in Connecting.

If you would like to make a contribution, modest please, it can be mailed to me at: Paul Stevens, 14719 W 79<sup>th</sup> Ter., Lenexa, KS 66215. Your generosity in past requests for support has been much appreciated. Your editor is a Luddite when it comes to online banking – so a contribution in the form of a check is best. And that's all I have to say about that, other than, Thank You.

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

Paul

## Le Lieu Browne faced illness with strength, courage, grace

[Tom Herman](#) - I was struck with sadness when I learned that Le Lieu Browne had died, although I knew from Valerie Komor that Le Lieu was ill and was facing her illness, typically of her, with strength, courage, and grace.

Le Lieu and I (and Mal) got to know each other and became friends during the filming of "Dateline-Saigon"; my friendship with Le Lieu and Mal grew in subsequent visits with them in New York and Thetford and continued with Le Lieu after Mal's death with regular emails, phone calls, and visits.

I particularly remember with great fondness accompanying Le Lieu and Mal to Amsterdam for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the World Press Photo Awards, of which Mal was the first winner for his chilling "Burning Monk" photograph. The clip of the two of them kissing (screen shot, below) after Mal was honored at the awards ceremony is one of my favorite images in the film.

One afternoon during that visit as the three of us walked around central Amsterdam, Mal reminisced about his trip there 50 years earlier to collect the award and its \$5,000 prize. "I'd never before had \$5,000 at one time in my life," he recalled. "I immediately went out and spent it to buy this engagement ring for Le Lieu and gave it to her as soon as I landed back in Saigon," he said holding up Le Lieu's hand to show the ring to me. A few minutes later, as we were crossing a canal bridge, Mal suddenly stopped and pointed at a building across the water, "And there's the shop where I bought it!"

## Services for Fay Clark to be held Saturday



### Fay and Gary Clark, at Christmas 2021

Fay Gomarlo Clark, an educator known for her humor as much as her dedication, died on Dec. 23, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Fay was born in Keene, N.H., and was raised in nearby West Swanzey, where her father owned and operated the general store. She graduated from Keene High School in 1961. During high school, she met a young Gary Clark while playing golf. The two famously made a friendly wager on the round: loser buys lunch. Both were already accomplished golfers but it was Fay who enjoyed a free hamburger that day. The couple spent the next 56 years together, sharing meals and playing golf around the world.

As an educator, Fay began her career in 1965 in Winchester, N.H., after receiving her education from Endicott College and Keene State College. Fay and Gary married in 1966 and spent the next decades relocating for Gary's 40-year career with The Associated Press and raising three children. They moved nine times around the continental United States and Hawaii before finally settling in Woodstock, Ga., where they both retired. Gary was Atlanta chief of bureau in his last AP assignment.

Fay made a profound impact in the lives of her students, most notably at Pompano Beach Middle School (Florida), where she taught for eight years, and Mountain Road Elementary School (Georgia) where she taught for almost 20 years. Her area of instruction focused on middle school math and at Mountain Road, she was known to use "Fifth Grade Humor" to keep her students motivated and interested. While there, she was awarded Teacher of the Year.

In April of 2020, Fay and Gary moved to Tallahassee to be closer to family.

Fay was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. She is preceded in death by her husband, Gary Wayne (on May 9, 2022), her mother, Clara Hart Gomarlo, and her father, Stanley J. Gomarlo. She is survived by her three children: Chadwick W. Clark (Karen), Shannon Clark Whitley (Mark), and Jason G. Clark, her brother, J. Michael Gomarlo (Jennifer), her sister, Jaqueline Bevins, and grandchildren, Victoria, Clark, Hanah, Madeline, Nathan, Camryn, Zachary and Lauren, as well as many dear cousins, nieces and nephews.

There will be a funeral mass at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Tallahassee on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at 11 am. Her remains will be laid to rest next to Gary's in Keene, N.H.

(Obituary written by Fay and Gary's daughter, [Shannon Whitley](#))

## Colleagues of John Van Gieson bid a farewell



AP attendees at the memorial, from left: Marty Merzer, Brent Kallestad, Madelyn (Miller) Skene, Adam Yeomans and Bill Kaczor.

**Bill Kaczor** - The AP was well represented at a memorial service on Monday for former Tallahassee Correspondent John Van Gieson that also was attended by many other current and former Capitol Press Corps reporters.

The speakers included Brent Kallestad, one of John's successors, and John's two surviving sons, one of whom read a heartfelt statement by David Powell, another former Tallahassee correspondent and close friend. Powell recalled Van Gieson's competitive nature and outside-the-box thinking that earned him the nickname "Gonzo." Van Gieson once got his UPI counterpart to withhold filing about a legislative committee being appointed to investigate wrongdoing by state officials until it met that night. Van Gieson then immediately filed and the UPI guy got a call from his desk after John's story hit the wire. In another instance, John got wind of UPI's plans for an upcoming exclusive interview and had Powell, then new to Tallahassee, track down the subject and beat the competition again. He had Powell do the interview instead of doing it himself because getting beat by a rookie would rub additional salt into the wound.

## Truth-telling

**Norm Abelson** - Bravo to Frank Aukofer for his piece on Tuesday. Never have I seen a more open and honest telling by a reporter of being sent totally unprepared into strange territory to cover a world-level story.

For the Connecting series "Story That Stayed With Me," Frank told of being sent to Memphis – a city he didn't know – to cover events on the day after the Martin Luther King assassination, which he also had not covered.

As he made his way through the unknown and surprisingly empty streets and buildings, he told of feeling “numb...sweating and shaking...didn't have the courage...” It was like a dream where one is lost in a scary place among strangers speaking a foreign language. He said he finally put together what he termed “a lame story.” Well, the re-telling of Frank's experience is anything but lame; it's a great piece.

I am certain I am not the only other one who can remember that awful feeling of wishing you were anywhere other than the middle of a big story, filled with uncertainty and anxiety. And, more likely than not, with an impatient editor waiting on the other end.

## Thanks to Michigan's victory, Shawn and Rob are enjoying Washington salmon



**ABOVE:** The prize from Washington.  
**RIGHT:** Rob and Ryan in their Michigan gear.

When Michigan battled Washington for the College Football Playoff national championship in Houston on Jan. 8, two children of the late Wick Temple Jr. (longtime AP vice president and bureau chief who died in 2003) decided a bet was in order:

If Michigan won, [Wick III](#) and his wife Colleen would send [Shawn Temple](#) and her husband Rob Wilson (a 1994 Michigan law grad) a salmon dinner from Seattle's Pike

Place Fish Market. If Washington won, Shawn and Rob would ship meats and cheeses from Zingerman's Deli, an Ann Arbor staple (or as its website says "an Ann Arbor Institution").

The Wolverines won 34-13 and a week later there was some mighty good eating to be had in the Wilson-Temple household in Somerville, N.J.

Shawn says she married into the Michigan world: "Rob says that (our 3-year-old daughter) Ryan is our good luck charm because since she was born, they have beaten Ohio State three times, won three Big Ten Championships and now the National Championship! We all have our Michigan gear."

Notes her brother, "My UW Huskies had just won the Sugar Bowl against the Texas Longhorns, and I had just won Texas BBQ from my Austin-based cousin and Longhorn fan, so I was being pretty sure of myself for the National Championship against the Michigan Wolverines. The last Husky National Championship was 1991, the first year I started to go back to school, and I graduated in 1994 from the UW, so, I was really hunting for a 'sucker' Michigan fan to bet with. Now of course I look like the 'sucker'.

"I do want to say that sometimes losing is not such a bad thing when you get to make someone else quite happy with a 6 pound salmon Coho Salmon (Silver) - Whole Fish, Wild, USA, 6 lbs (goldbelly.com)."



## '20 Days in Mariupol' longlisted for BAFTAs, shortlisted for Oscars

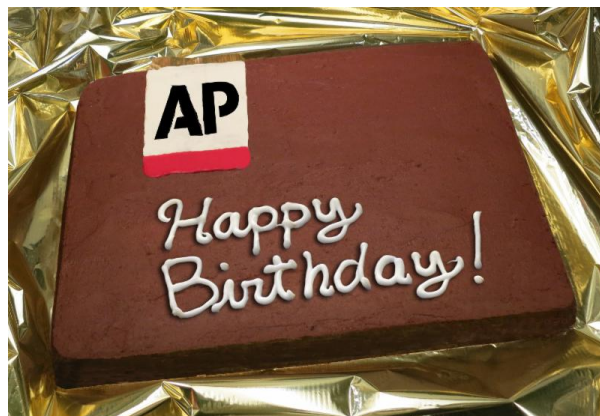


The AP-Frontline documentary “20 Days in Mariupol” advanced in rounds of voting in multiple categories for both the Academy Awards and the BAFTA Film Awards. Official BAFTA and Oscar nominations will be announced this month.

Here’s [the link](#) to the Academy Awards shortlist announcement (nominees announced next Tuesday).

(Shared by Lauren Easton)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jim Salter](#)



# Stories of interest

## ***The Baltimore Sun is returning to local ownership — with a buyer who has made his politics clear*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

A local buyer taking over a struggling newspaper in the 21st century is normally cause for some celebration. But The Baltimore Sun's newly announced owner has a very specific political background, and some are concerned about what the 187-year-old publication could become.

David D. Smith, executive chairman of the Sinclair broadcasting chain and an active contributor to conservative causes, has bought Baltimore Sun Media from the investment firm Alden Global Capital. The purchase price was not disclosed.

Smith met with Sun employees on Tuesday to talk about his plans, saying he hopes to make the newsroom more profitable. He was not made available for an interview with The Associated Press.

In a Sun story announcing the sale a day earlier, Smith said that he was in the news business because he believes "we have an absolute responsibility to serve the public interest." He also criticized the city's "mainstream media" while acknowledging that he began reading the paper regularly only a few months ago.

"Have no fear of me," Smith told the Sun newsroom on Tuesday, according to someone who was there and relayed the statement on condition of anonymity because it was a private meeting. "What you should fear is the marketplace."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

-0-

## ***Howard Weaver, Who Helped an Alaska Newspaper Win 3 Pulitzers, Dies at 73*** (New York Times)

By Sam Roberts

Howard Weaver, a self-described "poor kid from a shabby neighborhood," was 24 years old and terrified when he was assigned by the floundering Anchorage Daily News to expose a rapacious chapter of the Teamsters union that was corruptly profiting from Alaska's oil pipeline boom.

"Any way you sliced it," he recalled, "the odds were against us, a mismatch of Goliathian proportions."

But Mr. Weaver was hungry. Hungry enough that after months of investigative reporting, he and his colleagues exposed “a complex maze of political, economic and social power,” which, they wrote, “challenges at times both mighty industry and state government itself.”

Three weeks before The Daily News declared that it was on the brink of bankruptcy, the scrappy newspaper with a circulation of about 13,000 was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for public service in 1976 for its reporting on Teamsters Local 959. It was the smallest paper and the first in Alaska to win the coveted medal.

The Daily News survived, and Mr. Weaver eventually became its editor. In 1989, he mobilized almost half the paper’s 75-member news staff to investigate the twin plagues of alcoholism and suicide among Native Alaskans. The resulting nine-part series, “A People in Peril,” documented how “among a growing percentage of Alaska Natives, life has become equal parts violence, disintegration and despair,” and traced the cause to “the constant assault of Western institutions, Western diseases and Western economies” that were “destroying the fabric of Native life.”

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Monetizing video. The next opportunity and challenge.*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Bob Sillick | for Editor & Publisher**

If a picture is worth a thousand words, newspapers have delivered both types of content for over a century. Television took content one step further with motion, sound and color. Today, video content has exploded across multiple TV platforms and escaped from the TV environment to be available almost everywhere and created by almost anyone.

“Content is the king of marketing and video is the king of kings. It’s quick and easy to consume, and it’s gender, age and lifestyle agnostic,” said Billy Garland, regional marketing director for the State of Virginia for Lee Enterprises and Virginia Video Network.

Mike Sax, performance marketer and owner of Sax MKTG in Colorado, agrees with Garland.

“Video is royalty. It delivers information in a very viable way, considering most people are always on internet-connected devices. If you’re not currently leveraging video, there is much low-hanging fruit as a starting point. In terms of creating video content, everyone’s on a level playing field, which means your video content, its creativity, how you present it and your consistency is critical. The uniqueness of your video content is the only differentiator between you and your competitors,” Sax said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

## ***Thomson Reuters buys World Business Media*** (Reuters)

Jan 16 - Thomson Reuters (TRI.TO), opens new tab said on Tuesday it acquired World Business Media Limited, a subscription-based provider of news and analysis on the insurance and reinsurance market.

The London-based company of about 25 employees will join the Reuters News division of Thomson Reuters. Its products include The Insurer, a digital news operation for editorial and data, Insurer TV and an events business, reaching 45,000 professionals.

Financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

"We plan to invest in this business to increase its coverage and reach, and we believe we will be able to bring services of greater value to our customers in this sector," said Paul Bascovert, president of Reuters, in a prepared statement.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

-0-

## ***The Baltimore Sun explores the question of whether there can be a worse newspaper owner than Alden Global Capital*** (Nieman Lab)

By JOSHUA BENTON

It's a question only the bravest have dared contemplate: Is there something worse for a newspaper than being owned by Alden Global Capital?

The vulturous hedge fund has, after all, been traditionally seen as an end-stage owner. In the old days, newspaper owners existed in an ersatz great chain of being. Family-owned papers worried about being bought by McClatchy; McClatchy papers feared being scooped up by Gannett; Gannett papers recoiled at the thought of being bought by Alden Global Capital. But Alden papers — despite all the associated indignations — could at least rest easy that there was no worse owner to worry about. There's a certain stoic grace to recognizing rock bottom.

Well, what has until now been a philosophical thought experiment is about to hit reality in Baltimore. From Lorraine Mirabella's story in this morning's Baltimore Sun:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

# Today in History - Jan. 17, 2024



Today is Wednesday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2024. There are 349 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 17, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

## On this date:

In 1917, Denmark ceded the Virgin Islands to the United States for \$25 million.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces launched the first of four battles for Monte Cassino in Italy; the Allies were ultimately successful.

In 1950, the Great Brink's Robbery took place as seven masked men held up a Brink's garage in Boston, stealing \$1.2 million in cash and \$1.5 million in checks and money orders. (Although the entire gang was caught, only part of the loot was recovered.)

In 1955, the submarine USS Nautilus made its first nuclear-powered test run from its berth in Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Connecticut.

In 1966, the Simon & Garfunkel album "Sounds of Silence" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

In 2016, Iran released three Americans, former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati, Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian and pastor Saeed Abedini, as part of a prisoner swap that also netted Tehran some \$100 billion in sanctions relief.

In 2020, U.S. health officials announced that they would begin screening airline passengers from central China for the new coronavirus; people traveling from Wuhan, China, would have their temperature checked and be asked about symptoms.

In 2022, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov angrily rejected U.S. allegations that Moscow was preparing a pretext to invade Ukraine, as Russian troops who were stationed near Ukraine's border launched more drills.

Today's birthdays: Actor James Earl Jones is 93. Talk show host Maury Povich is 85. Pop singer Chris Montez is 82. Actor Joanna David is 77. Actor Jane Elliot ("General Hospital") is 77. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 76. Singer Steve Earle is 69. Singer Paul Young is 68. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 67. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 65. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Koppelman is 63. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 62. Actor Denis O'Hare is 62. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 60. Actor Joshua Malina is 58. Singer Shabba Ranks is 58. Actor Naveen Andrews is 55. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 55. Rapper Kid Rock is 53. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 49. Actor-writer Leigh Whannell is 47. Actor-singer Zooey Deschanel is 44. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 44. Singer Ray J is 43. Actor Diogo Morgado is 43. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 42. Former NBA player Dwyane Wade is 42. Actor Ryan Gage is 41. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 40. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 38. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 36. Actor Kelly Marie Tran (Film: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") is 35. Actor Kathrine Herzer is 27.

## 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.

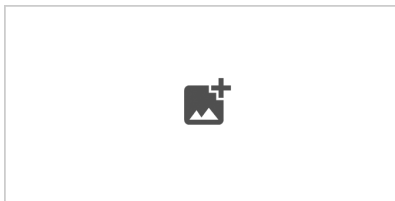
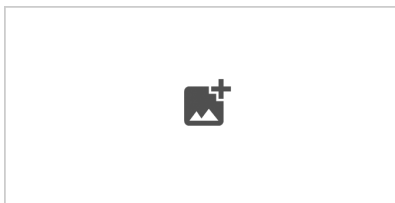
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)



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

[Unsubscribe \[stevenspl@live.com\]\(mailto:unsubscribe\_stevenspl@live.com\)](mailto:unsubscribe_stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!