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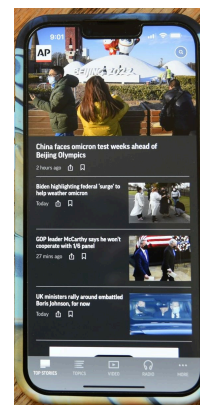
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Connecting

April 26, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this April 26, 2024,

The Associated Press released its 2023 Annual Report on Friday.

You can access it by clicking [here](#).

The report leads with a review by AP Board Chair **Gracia Martore** and President/CEO **Daisy Veerasingham** of AP's accomplishments and an update of its business position.

Among the factoids: The AP has reporters in 231 locations worldwide, in 93 countries, and a reporter in every U.S. statehouse.

Today's issue also brings more memories of our colleague **Terry Anderson**.

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

Paul

A review of 2023



AP Board Chair Gracia Martore and President/CEO Daisy Veerasingham

Two ground wars, a devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, wildfires in Hawaii, the coronation of King Charles III and much more defined a tumultuous 2023. Associated Press journalists were there, often at great personal risk, to tell these stories and so many others as we advanced the power of factual journalism.

AP's mission is more important today than perhaps it ever has been in AP's 178-year history. Our staff in nearly 100 countries and every U.S. state work to support the accurate, fact-based, nonpartisan AP journalism that reaches more than half the world's population every day.

With the 2024 U.S. presidential election fast approaching, we are preparing to once again carry out our indispensable role in the American democracy. On Nov. 5, AP will perform the single largest act of journalism there is — counting the vote, declaring winners and reporting the results of 7,000 races across the U.S., including for

president, Senate, U.S. House and statewide and local races. This is a unique and essential role the AP has played since 1848.

We enter this super election year — with elections in more than 50 countries — as misinformation and generative AI continue to fuel mistrust. To help combat this, AP has redoubled its commitment to transparency. AP's democracy news team, now in its second year, will work alongside our politics team and journalists in Washington to explain topics central to American democracy, including election systems, institutions and processes. Importantly, we have placed explanatory journalism — including how we have arrived at our race calls — at the heart of our coverage. It's crucial that, as a news organization, we show our work.

Transparency and standards are especially crucial as we grapple with generative AI, a technology that presents both challenges and opportunities for the news industry. Our position remains the same as it was one year ago: intellectual property must be protected and content creators must be fairly compensated for their work. AP continues to work with technology companies to license our content while we work with industry groups to push for a regulatory framework that respects these principles.

Last year was full of innovation around AI at AP. We unveiled generative AI standards, including how and when to use it, and published guidance for journalists on how to cover the technology. We shared the results of our Local News AI initiative, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which helped local newsrooms across the U.S. identify and adopt AI-based solutions. And we launched a unique AI-powered search experience on AP Newsroom, unlocking our vast visual archives through conceptual searches rather than just traditional metadata.

Our innovations continued as we launched in 2023 redesigned AP News website to better showcase our journalism and help provide digital-ready content to our member news organizations and customers. And, for the first time, we made it possible for members of the public to donate to the AP in support of independent, fact-based journalism. These efforts are key to our revenue diversification as a digital news organization.

AP's transformation also extended to our news production capabilities and our content offerings. Last year we completed the setup of our global 24/7 editing desks that follow the sun. We created a new social video team that reaches audiences where they are, and we debuted a live blog feature that benefits our customers and engages our audiences with real-time updates and behind-the-scenes details. We fortified our role as a partner for local news outlets through our localization guides, AP StoryShare and new collaborations, including training other newsrooms on climate and other timely topics. We increased our production of digital videos substantially in 2023, and downloads of these videos by our customers were up 53%. We also had a record year on YouTube, gaining over a half million subscribers.

When it comes to the journalism AP produced last year, our core role as the definitive source for global breaking news is clear. During a year of extreme weather events, including the devastating Maui wildfires and unprecedented heatwaves across the globe, AP was there to document the toll. In Israel and Gaza, AP staff worked tirelessly to cover the war and delivered deep, impactful coverage since the start of the conflict

in the early hours of Oct. 7, working through incredibly challenging conditions. AP's education team produced an exclusive investigation on chronically absent students, revealing the scope of the U.S. crisis in school attendance. In "Adrift," an investigation that took nearly two years and spanned multiple continents, AP retraced the voyage of 43 people lost in the Atlantic as they tried to reach Europe. These are but a few examples of standout AP journalism.

Philanthropic funding has been essential in providing greater depth in key coverage areas like climate, democracy, health and religion. We grew our funding substantially in 2023, receiving grants from The Chronicle of Philanthropy and The Conversation to bolster coverage of philanthropies, and from the Outrider Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of New York to deepen our reporting on nuclear security issues. As always, AP retains complete editorial control in these and all collaborations with outside groups.

2023 was an unprecedented year of industry wide recognition for AP journalism. AP received its first-ever Academy Award for the documentary we produced with Frontline, "20 Days in Mariupol," in addition to the BAFTA for best documentary, two Critics Choice Documentary Awards, a Cinema Eye Honors Award, a duPont-Columbia Award, and dozens more. The reporting on which the film was based earned AP the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

AP also received a Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography for coverage of the Ukraine War. We also were honored with a Polk Award, two Overseas Press Club Awards, a Peabody Award, the World Press Photo of the Year Award, a Cabot Prize, five Emmy Award nominations, and more.

We accomplished all of this by remaining steadfast in our mission to report the facts. As we have for the better part of two centuries, AP again provided audiences around the world with unbiased, factual journalism. No matter the changes 2024 may bring to our industry and our world, AP will be there as it has been for 178 years.

Memories of Terry Anderson



This photo from Terry Anderson's 75th birthday dinner Oct. 29, 2022.

Edie Lederer - What gives me the most comfort after the shock of learning that my dear friend and AP colleague Terry Anderson had died suddenly was knowing that he had found as much peace as possible after his ordeal in captivity, living in a small town in upstate New York.

I know this because I sat next to him at Don and Jeanne Mell's 25th anniversary celebration in September 2022 and we talked about his move to Greenwood Lake, and how he had gotten involved and been welcomed by the community. He was happy – and so was I that after a tumultuous life he had found a quiet niche to make his own.

Terry and I met in the South Korean capital, Seoul, when we were both assigned to cover the aftermath of the assassination of its president, Park Chung-hee, in October 1979 by the director of his intelligence service. His wife had also been assassinated, and his two young daughters were left alone, as orphans.

Terry was based in Tokyo and I was based in Hong Kong, and those days of trauma for the country and covering his funeral cemented our friendship. It turned out we also had a Vietnam link. He had been a Marine, reporting on the Vietnam War, and I was the first woman assigned to cover the war full-time for The Associated Press.

Whenever our paths crossed in Tokyo, Hong Kong and later in London we would get together, almost always for Chinese food which we both loved. I knew his first wife and daughter, and a few weeks before he was kidnapped in March 1985 Terry brought Madeleine Bassil to London from Beirut, and we had a fabulous Chinese dinner.

His captivity lasted nearly seven years and when he came to London soon after his release in December 1991 we went for Chinese dinner, and he told me that during those unimaginably difficult and traumatic times he thought and occasionally dreamed about that 1985 dinner -- his last taste of Chinese food for so many years.

Terry and Madeleine came to my 50th birthday dinner in New York – at a Chinese restaurant – in late March 1993, and I went to their wedding the following month at Terry’s home in Yonkers, just north of New York City.

In the years that followed we saw each other in New York, in Florida where my parents lived, at a Vietnam journalists’ reunion in 2000 in old Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, and elsewhere. We were last together at the small dinner that Madeleine hosted for his 75th birthday.

I always felt that Terry was still looking for himself, trying to figure out what he could do, and especially how he could make the world a better place.

Terry leaves a wonderful legacy, his two daughters Sulome and Gabrielle and his former wife Madeleine, whom he called his best friend.

And his charitable work lives on: The Vietnam Children’s Fund which he co-founded has built more than 50 schools in Vietnam, and the Father Lawrence Jenco Foundation supports people who do charitable and community service projects in Appalachia. Jenco, who ran Catholic Relief Services in Beirut and died in 1996, was also kidnapped in Lebanon, and the two met in captivity.

As a former war correspondent, I know those experiences never leave you. And throughout his life after being freed in December 1991, Terry had to deal not only with his years during the Vietnam war but the many years of torture, isolation, loneliness and the daily question as a hostage of whether he would live to see his friends and loved ones again.

I started this tribute saying I believe Terry had finally found the inner peace he needed. And I hope that when he joins his late family, friends and colleagues in that big newsroom in the great beyond he finds the joy, happiness and true peace he so richly deserves.

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[Dennis Anderson](#) - *in the Antelope Valley Express of Palmdale, Calif.* - A time in living memory happened when media we consumed was not a matter of deep political division, and Terry Anderson of the Associated Press was one of the most honorable examples of such a time.

A Marine Corps combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Anderson was serving as AP Chief Middle East Correspondent when he was abducted by Hezbollah terrorists in Beirut in April 1985.

Turned out I had just been hired by AP's Los Angeles Bureau Chief John Brewer within weeks of Terry Anderson's kidnapping. Terry's daughter, Sulome, and my son, Garrett, were born within weeks of each other. Though not related, we were tied by two kinship families, military veterans and frontline journalism.

Anderson and Brewer died this past week, and it leaves a hole in my heart for what it was all of us tried to do, to report news without fear or favor, and report stories of the world that needed telling.

Anderson was held, often chained, in Beirut terrorist dungeons for more than seven years. Bureau Chief Brewer had a sign in the LA bureau with words to the effect, "Have you thought about Terry Anderson today?"

Anderson was the last of eight American hostages to be released, their captivity triggered the mostly forgotten but notorious "Iran Contra Affair," the Lt. Col. Oliver North rogue White House operation to trade arms for hostages. It was a fiasco that caused greater troubles for President Ronald Reagan's White House.

In the AP bureau, my Navy vet brother Jeff Wilson, and a couple of us held Terry's memory close, sending boxes of Christmas stuff to his little girl Sulome who was growing up. She was 7 when he was released in 1992 and had never met him.

Sulome grew up to be a first-rate journalist, her story told in her fine book "The Hostage's Daughter." My little boy grew up to be a combat Marine, like Terry, serving in Fallujah, and he also is an excellent writer and storyteller.

A couple of years after Terry's release, I brought Antelope Valley college students to a Journalism Association of Community College conference in Fresno where Terry Anderson spoke about his ordeal recounted in his own book, "Den of Lions."

On National Public Radio this morning I heard his daughter in a 2016 interview say that Terry suppressed his own post trauma stress disorder from captivity until years later when she began working on her book about the family tragedy and dysfunction after his release.

Sulome and Terry's books, written from separate perspectives, recounted the vindictiveness, and pointless venality of the kidnappers and their failure to understand even their own goals, other than to somehow try to punish "The Great Satan," meaning, us, and profit from their malice.

On our conference night, after the student talk, Terry just wanted to go for a quiet beer. At the table, we were joined by AP alumni brother Steve LeVine, recovering from wounds sustained in Chechnya reporting for The New York Times. We were also visited by Mark Arax of the Los Angeles Times, and there was me, the other Anderson from AP.

We talked about war, conflict reporting and hazards of service. AVC students Bart Weitzel, who joined the Navy after 9/11, and Gulf War veteran Greg Botonis were with us. We were all survivors of a certain kind.

John Brewer, consummate AP journalist, died Friday in a boating accident during a Montana fishing trip. He was 76 and aged better than Ernest Hemingway, that other Montana fisherman who reported about war and told real stories. Terry Anderson of AP died Sunday, complications from heart surgery, also 76.

These newsmen were giants of telling the story, and telling it true. We needed as many of them as we could get, and only need more of their kind right now.

-0-

Mort Rosenblum – *in his Mort Report, Extra: Terry and the Pirates* – PARIS - Terry Anderson and Don Mell drove home after tennis on the Beirut corniche, a beautiful seafront by bombed-out rubble in a city where in 1985 it was hard to hear the penny drop. That green Mercedes reappeared yet again. Don said, “I don’t like the look of this.”

Too late. Men bundled Terry into the Merc. One stuck a gun in Don’s face and waved him back. He chased them in his own car but lost them. In any case, what could he do with a wooden racket against assault weapons? Then he called Hassan Nasrullah to plead for his close friend.

Don, an AP photographer, asked why he was spared. “Do you fish?” the Hezbollah leader replied. “If you catch a big one, you throw the other ones back.” He wanted prisoners freed in Kuwait, and AP’s Middle East bureau chief was a bargaining chip.

Terry spent 2,454 days in dank cells, often chained to a radiator. Like so many hostages who were eventually freed — and survivors of those who weren’t — he saw the fast-worsening risk to reporters as the reason it is so essential for them to stay at their jobs.

Read more [here](#).



Join us May 4 – what would have been Mason McFarland's 25th birthday – for a day of celebrating Mason's generous spirit by helping people who are homeless.

Mason was a sweet, caring young man who worked at Frisco RoughRiders stadium since he was 15, but he lost his life at the age of 21. Join our celebration of Mason as we collect food and supplies at the Ballpark from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mason supported his friends who deliver essentials to people who are homeless, and we're supporting them by gathering the below items:

- Water bottles
- Nutrigrain bars
- Peanut butter and crackers
- Nature Valley bars
- Oatmeal
- Ramen noodles
- Bags of chips
- Lightly used clothing, shoes and backpacks

If you can't make it May 4, please consider donating to the charity of your choice in Mason's honor, or:

Mason's Friends — supporting people who are homeless (donate at 214ea.org.)

Vogel Alcove — helping families who are homeless (vogelalcove.org). Needs include children's clothes, children's swimwear, sun screen, water bottles

The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center — offering shelter and resources for homeless people (bridgehrc.org). Needs include water bottles, drawstring bags, large bath towels, bed sheets, can openers

The Mason McFarland Memorial Scholarship — awarded to a Frisco student with autism or learning disabilities (Frisco Educational Foundation at friscoisd.org; select Donate Online, then under the Gift Designation area, select "In Memory of" and add Mason's name below.)

UNT ELEVAR — helps University of North Texas students who have intellectual and developmental disabilities as they pursue a career and independent living. You can help at (<https://one.unt.edu/eleva>).

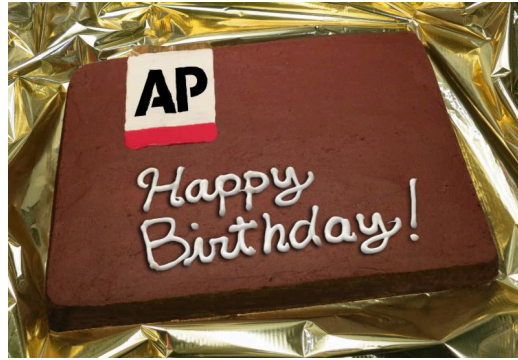
Or do an act of kindness for someone.

Thank you for making a difference in Mason's memory.

For more information, email mcfarland7802@gmail.com. Read more about Mason's life at ForeverMissed.com and visit the Mason's Gift page on Facebook.

Mason was the son of our colleague [John McFarland](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

[Jim Carrier](#)

[Sally Hale](#)

[Larry McDermott](#)

[Dan Sewell](#)

On Sunday to...

[Amanda Barnett](#)

[Elijah Decious](#)

[Betsy Brown Kraft](#)

Stories of interest

Journalists critical of their own companies cause headaches for news organizations (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — This spring, NBC News, The New York Times and National Public Radio have each dealt with turmoil for essentially the same reason: journalists taking

the critical gaze they deploy to cover the world and turning it inward at their own employers.

Whistleblowing isn't unique to any industry. Yet the contrary outlook baked into many journalists — which can be a central part of their jobs — and generational changes in how many view activism have combined to make it probable these sort of incidents will continue.

In the past few weeks, NBC reversed a decision to hire former Republican National Committee chief Ronna McDaniel as a political contributor following a revolt by some of its best-known personalities. An NPR editor was suspended and then quit after critiquing his company's willingness to tolerate diverse viewpoints and an internal probe provoked by Gaza coverage ended at the Times.

Journalism as a profession attracts people who are anti-authoritarian, who see themselves as truth-tellers. Many believe the way to make an organization better is by criticizing it, said Tom Rosenstiel, co-author of "The Elements of Journalism" and a professor at the University of Maryland.

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

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The National Enquirer was the go-to American tabloid for many years. Donald Trump helped change that (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Catch and kill. Checkbook journalism. Secret deals. Friends helping friends.

Even by National Enquirer standards, testimony by its former publisher David Pecker at Donald Trump's hush money trial this week has revealed an astonishing level of corruption at America's best-known tabloid and may one day be seen as the moment it effectively died.

"It just has zero credibility," said Lachlan Cartwright, executive editor of the Enquirer from 2014 to 2017. "Whatever sort of credibility it had was totally damaged by what happened in court this week."

On Thursday, Pecker was back on the witness stand to tell more about the arrangement he made to boost Trump's presidential candidacy in 2016, tear down his rivals and silence any revelations that may have damaged him.

Read more [here](#).

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Leaving CNN Was How I Found My Voice (Vanity Fair)

BY BROOKE BALDWIN

“I want to punch you in the face.”

Yes, those words actually came out of my mouth. Like, out loud. A couple months ago. I’m slightly embarrassed to admit I was talking to my loving partner, Peter. He had just flown across the country and was set to wake up with me at four-something in the morning so that he could accompany me to my appearance on Good Morning America. I was going back on national TV for the first time since I’d signed off from my CNN show. I would be talking about the debut of my new Netflix show, *The Trust*. This was a big deal. In many ways, it felt like a rebirth. But that night before, I hadn’t been in a celebratory mood.

I was pissed off. I felt violent. I felt like I was going to explode. I am now in the process of understanding why, and this deep knowing has enabled me to change everything in my life.

I am not an angry person. Or maybe I am. There I go, silencing myself again.

When I signed off from CNN Newsroom on April 16, 2021, I couldn’t tell the whole truth. I wasn’t allowed to—and probably still am not. But I’m now on the other side of a profound life moment, of my unraveling.

Read more [here](#).

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NewsGuild-CWA Achieves Historic Legislative Win (CWA)

The New York Assembly and Senate last week passed a first-of-its-kind journalism jobs tax credit in the 2025 budget. The credits will become law when New York Governor Kathy Hochul signs the state budget.

The job tax credits were first introduced as the Local Journalism Sustainability Act (S.625-Hoylman-Sigal/A.2958-Woerner). The final budget language provides \$30 million in tax credits each year over three years, covering half of a journalist’s salary up to \$50,000 each year. Publishers will only be able to use these employment tax credits to rebuild their newsrooms by hiring new reporters and retaining current staff.

The organizing effort for this initiative has been spearheaded by the Albany Newspaper Guild, New York News Publishers Association, the New York State AFL-CIO, NewsGuild-CWA, and the Communications Workers of America.

NewsGuild-CWA President Jon Schleuss said, “Journalists are the watchdogs of democracy’s flame and we have to support them. The NewsGuild-CWA applauds New York state for leading the country and passing first-of-its-kind legislation to support

journalism jobs and recognizing the important role journalists play by shining a light and protecting our democracy.”

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Today in History – April 26, 2024



Today is Friday, April 26, the 117th day of 2024. There are 249 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 26, 1986, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. (Dozens of people were killed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster while the long-term death toll from radiation poisoning is believed to number in the thousands.)

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Virginia, on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Port Royal, Virginia, and killed.

In 1913, Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old worker at a Georgia pencil factory, was strangled; Leo Frank, the factory superintendent, was convicted of her murder and sentenced to death. (Frank's death sentence was commuted, but he was lynched by an anti-Semitic mob in 1915.)

In 1933, Nazi Germany's infamous secret police, the Gestapo, was created.

In 1964, the African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania.

In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar."

In 1977, the legendary nightclub Studio 54 had its opening night in New York.

In 1984, bandleader Count Basie, 79, died in Hollywood, Florida.

In 1994, voting began in South Africa's first all-race elections, resulting in victory for the African National Congress and the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president.

In 2000, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

In 2009, the United States declared a public health emergency as more possible cases of swine flu surfaced from Canada to New Zealand; officials in Mexico City closed everything from concerts to sports matches to churches in an effort to stem the spread of the virus.

In 2012, former Liberian President Charles Taylor became the first head of state since World War II to be convicted by an international war crimes court as he was found guilty of arming Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for "blood diamonds" mined by slave laborers and smuggled across the border. (Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in prison.)

In 2013, singer George Jones, believed by many to be the greatest country crooner of all time, died in Nashville at age 81.

In 2018, comedian Bill Cosby was convicted of drugging and molesting Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. (Cosby was later sentenced to three to 10 years in prison, but Pennsylvania's highest court threw out the conviction and released him from prison in June 2021, ruling that the prosecutor in the case was bound by his predecessor's agreement not to charge Cosby.)

In 2022, Russia pounded eastern and southern Ukraine as the U.S. promised to "keep moving heaven and earth" to get Kyiv the weapons it needed to repel the new offensive, despite Moscow's warnings that such support could trigger a wider war.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Carol Burnett is 91. R&B singer Maurice Williams is 86. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 86. Actor Nancy Lenahan is 71. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 66. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 64. Actor Joan Chen is 63. Rock musician Chris Mars (The Replacements) is 63. Actor-singer Michael Damian is 62. Actor Jet Li (Lee) is 61. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 59. Author and former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey is 58. Actor Marianne Jean-Baptiste is 57. Rapper T-Boz (TLC) is 54. Former first lady Melania Trump is 54. Actor Shondrella Avery is 53. Actor Simbi Kali is 53. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 53. Rock musician Jose Pasillas (Incubus) is 48. Actor Jason Earles is 47. Actor Leonard Earl Howze is 47. Actor Amin Joseph is 47. Actor Tom Welling is 47. Actor Pablo Schreiber is 46. Actor Nyambi Nyambi is 45. Actor Jordana Brewster is 44. Actor Stana Katic is 44. Actor Marnette Patterson is 44. Actor Channing Tatum is 44. Americana/roots

singer-songwriter Lilly Hiatt is 40. Actor Emily Wickersham is 40. Actor Aaron Meeks is 38. New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge is 32.

Got a photo or story 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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