

## IT Legacy Project, since 2005

- **Goal:** Engineering Research Associates (ERA) began a remarkable story of technological innovation and contributions to the computer industry in 1946. We aim to relate this 77-year+ story as many of us have lived parts of it—most history book entries have limited defense industry information among the commercial computer system development stories.
- **Objectives:** First, is to **capture** whatever remaining material and information available; Second is to **catalog and archive** all the material collected; and Third is to **publish/publicize** our history and heritage in ways that interest industry and our fellow Minnesotans via the web and local institutions.
- **Accomplishments:** 1) Over 400 people have contributed to our Legacy Anthology, [www.vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html](http://www.vipclubmn.org/Legacy.html). 2) Provided info for Dr. Tom Misa's *Digital State* book. 3) Established an exhibit at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. 4) In 2017 helped move 1100 series shadowboxes to Unisys, Eagan. 5) Supported an ERA memorial plaque commemoration at 1902 Minnehaha Ave. W. in St. Paul.

## History Tidbits

- Since 2007, former employees and systems users have contributed stories to our IT Legacy Anthology with monthly articles, <http://www.vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html>.
- In 2008 more than 75 volunteer members participated in several Minnesota Sesquicentennial activities, chronicled in the Minnesota 2058 bi-centennial time capsule, [vipclubmn.org/Articles/It'sAWrap.pdf](http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/It'sAWrap.pdf).
- Eight of the 27 interviewees for the 2019 Twin Cities Public Television documentary; MN Solid State, High Tech History, [vipclubmn.org/Articles/TPTclips.pdf](http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/TPTclips.pdf).

P.O. Box 21903 Eagan, MN 55121  
<http://vipclubmn.org>

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## Lawshe Memorial Museum Volunteerism Leads:

Keith Myhre, [kmyhre@lightblast.net](mailto:kmyhre@lightblast.net); Bob Pagac, [rpagac@hotmail.com](mailto:rpagac@hotmail.com); and Jon Simon, [jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net](mailto:jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net);

[Tuesday AM help is always welcome!](#)

# VIP CLUB

Established in 1980

The **VIP CLUB** is a non-profit, social and services organization of retired and former employees from **Unisys**, Lockheed Martin, and their legacy companies illustrated below.



*We are proud of our Information Technology (IT) Legacy preserved for future generations at the Lawshe Memorial Museum in S. St. Paul, at the Charles Babbage Institute - U of MN in Minneapolis, MN, and in our hearts and minds!*



MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

**VIP Club** P.O. Box 21903  
Eagan, MN 55121

**APPLICATION/Renewal FORM:** Dues: \$7, 1 year \_\_\_\_ \$ 18, 3 years \_\_\_\_ . Free if ≥90.  
Member (≥55) \_\_, or Associate (<55) \_\_: Address Change \_\_, New \_\_, Renewal \_\_; Friend \_\_.

Name	First	M.I.	Spouse's Name
Street Address or P.O. Box	City	State	Zip Code
( ) -	@		
Primary Telephone Number	E-mail address		
Newsletter delivery preference is: Electronic ____ or U.S. Mail ____.			
Employer is/was: UNISYS __, Lockheed Martin __, and/or predecessor company. ____.			

**Include my data in the Club's Directory?** Yes \_\_ No \_\_. *DIRECTORY is only available to Members and Associates!*



**VIP Club Member Eligibility:** Retirees and spouses from **Unisys**, Lockheed Martin, their MN legacy and successor companies. Active vested employees [and spouses] are also eligible.

**Associate Member Eligibility:** Former employees of Lockheed Martin, **Unisys**, and their heritage or successor companies. **Life Members (seniors)** Former employees aged 90 and above pay no dues!

**Friends:** Not an ex-employee but a legacy history supporter.

### Club Origination

The VIP Club concept began in 1979 when our founder, Millie Gignac, was conducting pre-retirement interviews with Sperry employees. She saw that most employees were reluctant to rapidly break their ties with the company and in particular friends with whom they had many shared memories.

The first general meeting was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1980 with about 75 people in attendance. Officers were elected, plans were made for monthly meetings, and a constitution and by-laws were drawn up. Al Mueller, retired Antenna Coupler engineering manager, was elected the first President.

### Membership Benefits

- Annual events participation; Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Annual June Picnic, and January Holiday party & dinner.
- Contacts with former co-workers via the planned social activities and the Club Directory.
- Contact/site information for monthly periodic group breakfasts, lunches, and a dinner.
- Links to recreational activities; i.e. golf leagues, MN senior centers, etc.
- Opportunities to nurture friendships via Club committees and other volunteer activities.
- Periodic newsletters with event reports, new member recognition, obits, forms, program announcements, Legacy articles, etc..

### Club Planned Social Activities

- January—Winter Party; Dinner and Holiday Gathering at the Lost Spur Event Center.
- April—Volunteers' Recognition Luncheon;
- May—Syttende Mai luncheon at Casper's in Eagan.
- June— Reunion picnic in Eagan; beer, brats, burgers, and great friendship stories.
- 'September—Roseville Good Old Days' gathering in the northern suburbs.
- November - Annual UNIVAC Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur in Eagan
- Other specialty programs such as the river cruises, open houses, Unihogs, ... , etc.

### Encouraged Social Activities

- Numerous group meetings at breakfasts, lunch, and dinner venues around the Twin Cities; see web site Activities page.
- Recreation League combinations of retirees and current Unisys employees—i.e. Golf, PC & Electronics Club, Bowling, etc.

