

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The VIP Club Board continues to believe there is a light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, and we are proceeding to schedule VIP Club social events beginning in June. Barring any major setbacks, outdoor weather, greater distribution of vaccine, and modest safety precautions should allow us to gather safely, beginning with our traditional picnic in June.



Last year, we postponed our 40th anniversary bash to September 14, 2021, and that reschedule looks like a go. Watch for future newsletters and check the website (www.vipclubmn.org) for the latest.

One event that we are regretfully missing this year is the Volunteer Recognition lunch. After some deliberation, the feeling of the board was that April was just a little too soon to have an indoor event. This lunch has been traditionally scheduled to coincide with National Volunteer Month, and April 18-24 has been designated National Volunteer Week. Volunteerism is an under-appreciated component of the U.S. economy—about 25 percent of our population volunteers, with an estimated dollar value in the hundreds of billions of dollars. But the dollars and hours are only part of the story. Volunteers are more than free workers; they accomplish so many good things that wouldn't happen if it were left to the for-profit sector or Government sector. In my experience, these achievements really help other people and a great diversity of worthwhile organizations.

Minnesota is right up there nationally in volunteerism, and the Twin Cities are the top participating area of Minnesota. I know many of our members are a strong part of this record of achievement. VIP Club members have contributed tens of thousands of hours every year supporting churches, social agencies, civic organizations and friends and neighbors. Many of you have indicated that you don't want recognition, but the fact is that this world would be a much less nice place without your efforts. Our club get-together is a small way to collectively say Thank You and we all look forward to better times in 2022.

Meanwhile, everyone should stop for a moment in April and give volunteers a virtual pat on the back.

Last issue I mentioned the commissioning ceremony of LCS 21, the Minneapolis-St Paul, originally planned for May in Duluth. Well, things have changed—the ship class has been found to have a design flaw in the system that combines the power output of two gas turbine engines (think jetliner engine) and two diesel engines. Until they get a handle on this, the commissioning is on hold for an indeterminate time. If any of you are interested in going when it does happen, however, I recommend you go ahead now and request tickets at <https://navyleaguemn.org>. They will forward requests to the U.S. Navy, who will issue free official tickets when the commissioning actually occurs. This will be a great event and summer in Duluth will be a better time.

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President

2021 ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED

NOTE:

VIP Club social activities are being temporarily scheduled as follows, if the pandemic abates:

- **Roseville Good Old Days May 7th REUNION CANCELLED** due to current COVID guidelines. We will send an update if things change. Watch the website and your e-mail/evites for updates from coordinator paul.dickson@comcast.net.
- **Syttende Mai CANCELLED!** With regrets the annual event at Casper's in Eagan has been cancelled. There are just too many unknowns to proceed safely with our popular great tradition. *Dale Torgerson, Dale Phelps, Dave Carter and Dick Lundgren.*
- **Annual Reunion Picnic** Tentatively planned for **June**. Watch the website and your e-mail/evites for updates.
- **VIP Club 40th (41st?) Anniversary Dinner Party** at the Royal Cliff, Eagan, **RESCHEDULED to September 14th**. Watch the website and your e-mail/evites for updates. Coordinators are VIP Club board members *Keith Behnke and Harvey Taipale.*



- **VIP Club Board Elections, and Unihogs & Technologists and Old Timers' Reunions** TBD in November and December.

VIP Club 2021 scheduled Board Meetings: April 7, June 2 & August 4. The board meets via Zoom due to COVID-19. Meetings will resume at Unisys, Eagan TBD. Club members may sit in if curious about club business. Contact the President 2 days prior for access.

SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

Volunteerism is the sharing of one's time and talents for the benefit of others. In the spirit of April as national volunteer recognition month, your VIP Club Board thanks each of you for the time you have freely given to charitable and non-profitable organizations. In light of social distancing, we have not surveyed your 2020 volunteer activities nor planned a 2021 recognition luncheon. Most volunteers seek no limelight, then just nod or smile when an occasional thank you is offered by observers and recipients. In past surveys, about 10 percent of members have submitted their "donated hours." For example, the June 2009 newsletter printed: "146 survey responders reported 27,576 donated hours to our communities during calendar year 2008:

- 5,747 to Community and Related Services
- 3,247 to Meals, Food and Housing Services
- 3,638 to Health and Disaster Services
- 5,886 to Religious Support and Related Services
- 2,239 to Schools, Museums, and Educational Services
- 934 to Music and Theatrical Services
- 5,885 to Other Services, including the VIP Club and LEGACY project."

At the 2012 breakfast Bernie Jansen noted "the estimated value of the reported volunteer services contributed by VIP Club members for the year 2011 was over \$550,000." Just imagine the hours and value if we had 100 percent survey responses. Read <http://vipclubmn.org/Social.html#volunteering> for our volunteer recognition luncheon history. Again, a sincere thank you to all volunteers!
LABenson.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- James Adams, Williamsburg, VA
- Michael & Anne Adelman, Ocean Pines, MD
- David & Karen Buendiger, Shoreview, MN
- Judy Drenth, Burnsville, MN
- Clifford & Evelyn Ecklund, White Bear Lake, MN
- Fredrick Hall, Blue Bell, PA
- Donald & Tica Hanson, Mendota Heights, MN
- Joe & Laura Kriscunas, Dover Canyon, CA
- Paul & Holly Peirson, Columbus, MN
- Walter Peterson, Roseville, MN
- John Reed, Jr., North Little Rock, AR
- Gary & Laura Robeck, Albertville, MN

- Thomas & Brenda Sandberg, Park City, UT
- Paul & Florence Sandve, Rosemount, MN
- Steven & Aimee Selbitschka, Shoreview, MN
- Steven & Ruth Strum, Sun City, AZ
- Tom Teresi, New Brighton, MN
- Leland (Lee) & Linda Todd, Minneapolis, MN
- Richard & Michele Williams, Vadnais Heights, MN

LEGACY TIDBITS

How did it Happen?

Many of you read the January 10th Star Tribune article, <https://www.startribune.com/at-99-computer-pioneer-looks-back-at-early-minnesota-tech/600008677/>.

During the December club board meeting, we discussed how to publicize the ERA 75th anniversary in January 2021. Director Gish Devlaminck suggested that we contact Curt Brown, Minnesota history author for the Strib. After exchanging a few e-mails with Lowell Benson, Mr. Brown talked with Don Weidenbach and wrote the article. Brown agreed to share any feedback that he received from readers. We have posted the article, communications trail and feedback as our March 2021 article for the month (see http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/75-Years_Ago.pdf).

Interestingly, one of the people responding to the article was Connie Hill, daughter of John 'Jack' Hill. Hill was on the ATLAS installation team in the fall of 1950, and had been a regular at the 1st Friday luncheons (see Our Stories from March 2008: [A Gagggle of Geeks](#) by James P. Lenfestey). Connie Hill's input has been added to <http://vipclubmn.org/deceased.html#Hill> and <http://vipclubmn.org/PeopleInterview.html#Hill>.

We also received feedback from former ERA engineer Jerry Williams; his story will be our April 2021 article (see <http://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#2021>).

Old Software!

How many of you VIP Club newsletter readers had your first on-line experience with *The Oregon Trail*, a game originated at the University of MN in the 1960s? Now there is an *Oregon Trail* emulator at <https://museum.syssrc.com/artifact/software/1020/> that functions on home PCs! Most old DOS software won't run on modern computers; however, for more nostalgia, the System Source Computer Museum also has a JavaScript library to emulate early IBM PC, XT or AT, thus site visitors can download a DOS package for several applications such as EasyWriter, WordStar, VisiCalc, MultiPlan and other classic programs. Many other museums have bits of our legacy; view their introductions at <http://vipclubmn.org/Exhibits.html#Others>. Back from the future to the software of the 70s is an occasional enjoyable browsing evening. TPT, our PBS affiliate, occasionally airs "*Trailheads: The Oregon Trail's Origins*." Enjoy!
Lowell

YOUR STORY



Eagan Facility Irony

Dan Carlson, former Lockheed Martin Security Officer-Supervisor and Resource Protection Manager, shared the following when renewing his VIP Club membership:



Thanks so much for offering the free membership year! I still miss my Sperry/Burroughs/Unisys/Paramax/Loral/Lockheed Martin days (6/25/79 – 6/13/2013), just 12 days short of 34 years! Work was fun—so were all of you—you were like a family to me. The Eagan facility had a major impact on my life, in more ways than just a place to work—let’s just say it presented a few ironic opportunities!

In 1974 a divorced gentleman from California, Paul Cline, accepted a position as a systems analyst at the Sperry Univac facility in Eagan. His daughter, Yvonne, came to visit that year and she must have liked our great winter weather, because she returned to live with her father in Eagan in the fall of 1975. I met Yvonne at a church youth group that November in Apple Valley, of all places, where we have resided since 1992. She was 16 and I was 18.

Yvonne and I married in 1978. A few months prior I had applied for a position as a Facilities Protection Guard at Sperry Univac. I had just graduated with a two-year degree in law enforcement, but, ironically, my timing was suspect as police officer jobs were scarce—and knowing I was getting married soon added to the pressure! My timing continued to be a bit off when Jim Bailey from the Security Department called me a couple days before I got married to ask me to come in and interview for the Facilities Protection Guard job I had applied for months before. Unfortunately, I had to turn down the opportunity as I already made plans to move to Bemidji for my wife’s last year of college after we married. Jim Bailey told me to call him again if I was interested in reapplying in the future.

In May of 1979, we returned to the Twin Cities. I contacted Jim Bailey, interviewed with Jim and the Security Manager, Tom Kunz, at the Eagan facility, and was offered a job on the spot. I accepted and began my employment on June 25, 1979 (another irony as my first son was born on June 25, 1985!).

I had an amazing 34-year career based at the Eagan facility. As a Security Officer I got to work in all the local defense system locations and meet many employees in the process. Ironically, on February 1, 2013, I was at the facility on the last day of what I would call formal operations. I sent the last shift of security officers home around noon, and had my wife, Yvonne, stop by; we walked the Eagan facility from sub-basement to the second floor.

I think the boiler operator was the only other person in the entire 614,000 sq. ft. facility. I have to admit that last walk was tough—many memories and emotions flooded my mind. I had quite a lump in my throat. It was the oddest feeling walking out and locking the doors, knowing that for the first time since the facility opened in 1967, there would no longer be a guard force there to watch over it.

To think my career, my wife—my family—came about because of Sperry Univac—this Eagan facility! Yvonne and I will have been married 43 years this August 2021; we also have a small family of now seven adult children and five grandchildren. My oldest son, Jacob, is a tech sergeant in the U.S. Air Force where he has served for 13 years; I believe his military service is a result of his exposure to his many visits during Holly Daze, Bring your Kid to Work Days and the Explorers Club. In fact, when two of my boys were little, one was convinced Santa Claus lived at the Eagan facility, not the North Pole, and another son was convinced we built the SR-71 in Eagan! I also have a son-in-law in the U.S. Navy and another in the U.S. Coast Guard; yes, two of my daughters married military men. It was a privilege and an honor to work among so many brilliant and talented individuals over all those years and to share you with my family at these events or just by stories I might have shared at home at night. You taught me so much; mostly that you and I are part of a wonderful and unique work family with a proud and long heritage.

My last ironic twist: I wanted to start my career as a police officer, but my life plans changed when I became employed at Sperry Univac. After my layoff, I became employed as an asset protection supervisor, embedded with investigations performing video forensics, among many other tasks at Metro Transit Police Department. My once-future law enforcement career took a 34-year detour, but I miss working at the Eagan facility with all of you and I always will! Thank you for letting me share my story.

We found Dan Carlson’s name on our website as well, having contributed to an IT Legacy Project Paper covering the Plant 8 closure (see pages 5 & 6):
<http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/PLANT8CLOSED.pdf>

Retirement Status and Benefits:

Numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need an SSN and a PIN.

- ♦ **UNISYS:** 1-877-864-7972
- ♦ **Lockheed Martin:** 1-866-562-2363

****LMCO retirees:** If you have health care as part of your retirement package, you must contact **VIA Benefits** annually at **1-844-596-0460** to get the \$1,800.00 refund.

Accordian to current studies, 90% of you did not realize that this sentence started with a musical instrument.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

When They Left Us:

Have you looked at our departed coworkers on-line list? (See <http://vipclubmn.org/PeopleDocImg/AlphabeticDeceasedEmployees.pdf>.)

When Marv Brown initiated the Roseville 2nd Wednesday luncheons in 1991, the monthly agenda had a few jokes and announcements of those who had recently passed. Even before the VIP Club started, the annual Unihogs luncheons recognized the departed by reading an informal list. When the Legacy Anthology started in 2007, we made obituary log files of employee and spouse names that had been reported in our newsletter (see section 2 links in <http://vipclubmn.org/deceased.html>).

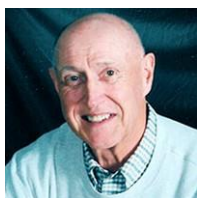
A year ago when Paul Dickson was updating the Roseville Good Old Days contact list, he made a spreadsheet of Marv Brown's "when deceased" notes. Lowell Benson then merged the newsletter lists with Paul's Roseville persons' listing to make an alphabetic listing for the website. Now the list is up to date as of the Jan/Feb issue, and there are more "to be verified" names in a pending file. Our intent is to update twice a year. If you know of a deceased coworker whom we've missed, please e-mail paul.dickson@comcast.net and/or la.gj.benson@comcast.net with the specifics.

The obits hereunder are redacted from funeral home postings or Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, or applicable local listings.

The VIP Club board extends its sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones.

*We will grieve not,
rather find strength in what remains behind.
~William Wordsworth~*

John A. Bonnes – Age 78, passed away December 27, 2020. John was born in Austin, MN and graduated from the University of Minnesota, preparing for a 30-year career as an engineer, mostly with Sperry Univac.



He also met his wife, Judy, at the U in a Psych 101 class. John was a doer, rooted in faith and practicality. He and Judy were active in their Lutheran churches, remodeled and rented apartment buildings, interacted with neighbors (who often found John snow-blowing their driveways) and travelled, including in John's beloved Corvette. John transitioned to caregiver when Judy suffered a stroke in 2003, but stayed active, readopting tennis as a hobby. The couple also stayed connected to dozens of lifelong friendships born from their activities and fostered by John's hard-working and generous manner. John is survived by his wife Judy, two sons and Bones four grandchildren.

Calvin "Cal" Buck M.J. – Age 92, of Eagan, MN, passed away peacefully December 17, 2020 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital; information provided by his surviving wife, Jeanette Buck.

Charles J. "Chuck" Cermak – Age 76, of Mission, TX, formerly of Lauderdale, MN, passed away unexpectedly July 24, 2020. Chuck retired from the Roseville facility in the Traffic Department. He was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, father-in-law, big brother and all-around good guy. Full notice will be at a later date.



Allan James Domoradzki – Age 66, of Chaska, Minnesota, passed peacefully December 11, 2020 after a 14-month battle with cancer. Al, born in Chicago, Illinois, was employed as a software engineer at Sperry Univac/Lockheed Martin for 36 years until the company relocated, then at US Bank for 8 years. He enjoyed his job and his coworkers. Al will always be remembered for his sense of humor, his heartfelt laugh, and his willingness to help others. His family will miss being able to call him for help or advice, but they rest knowing he is no longer in pain. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Majella (Marie) Domoradzki, two daughters, four grandchildren, siblings and in-laws.



Darrell J. Drumm – Age 77, of Golden Valley, passed away on June 10, 2020 at home with his wife, Dianne, by his side. Darrell was a quiet man of few words and many adventures. Darrell was born at home in Green Lake, WI and developed his passion for fun and the outdoors growing up in Mankato and Watertown, SD. Darrell attended Northern State University where he met Dianne, his spouse of 55 years and dedicated caregiver through his final months as well as many of the other years. Together they moved to Minneapolis to raise their sons and mentored their grandsons in the in love of hunting, fishing, camping, and the importance of friendships and family. Darrell is survived by his wife, Dianne Selzle Drumm, two children, four grandchildren, siblings and in-laws.



Robert A. Englund – Age 91, of Burnsville, passed away December 22, 2020. Bob was a U.S. Army veteran and had a hard work ethic; he was the manager of the Roseville Memory Development group for many years. He loved his family and enjoyed the outdoors and his cabin in the Brainerd area. Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 71 years, JoAnn, 5 children, 14

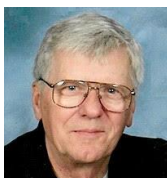


grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Michele A. Evans – Age 55, of Colleyville, TX, formerly of Owego, NY, passed away after a heroic battle with cancer. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Clarkson University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, then embarked on a career that culminated in her ascension to Executive Vice President of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. *(Along the way, MN employees who transferred to or traveled to places like Moorestown and Manassas for work crossed paths with Evans.)* She was a stalwart in the industry—shattering the “glass ceiling” and positively impacting all those around her. Her personable nature, attention to detail, and unbridled work ethic were all characteristics that prompted her rise to the top. Beyond that, Evans will be remembered as a “giver.” With a charitable heart and a benevolent soul, her impact will last many lifetimes. Michele mentored hundreds of people around the globe, many first being introduced to STEM fields. Evans was just as successful in her personal life, juggling motherhood and her quick rise up the corporate ladder with integrity and grace. She was a mainstay at football, lacrosse, and basketball games, reveling in her sons’ successes, and providing a mother’s most precious gift—kindness, compassion, and love. Evans is survived by her husband, David P. Evans, two sons, her mother, siblings, in-laws, and numerous nieces and nephews.



John Roy “Jack” Evered – Age 83, of Chisago, MN, died peacefully, surrounded by family, on December 30, 2020. John was born in Superior, WI, the middle child of 5 siblings. After high school he enlisted in the Air Force then attended the University of Minnesota and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree. John worked for Sperry Univac/UNISYS at many locations across the US before retiring with 37+ years. John spent retirement enjoying the lake home he and his high school sweetheart, Frances Elizabeth Sajec, built in Hayward, WI, fishing trips into Canada, playing cards with close friends and family and spending quality time with his grandchildren. John and Fran were fortunate to spend over 61 years together. Family was important to Jack who nurtured unique relationships with each of his kids and grandkids, and was a positive role model for his family and friends. He impacted many lives with his life of integrity, charming character and extraordinary memory of the smallest details. John is survived by his wife, Frances, three children and eight grandchildren.



George Michael Fedor – Age 81, passed away on December 11, 2020. George proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1958-1965, retired after 30 years from

Unisys, was a VIP Club member and a member of The North St. Paul Lions. He was preceded in death by a son, and survived by former wives Kathy Schneider and Marie Fedor, three children, a daughter-in-law, four grandchildren, siblings and extended family and friends.

Robert "Bob" N. Fredrickson – Age 86, of Ironwood Township, passed away at his home on October 26, 2020. Prior to graduating from college, Bob was a member of the Michigan National Guard. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in physics, he worked for Martin Marietta in Denver, CO, as a computer analyst, then moved to St. Paul, MN, to work for Sperry Univac as a systems programmer until his retirement. Bob lived at his Tuulimaa (Wind Land) Berry Farm after his retirement, where he shared his love of farming with his nieces and nephews. He loved his dogs and missed them when they were gone, and enjoyed coffee with neighbors at the lake and visiting with people who stopped by. Survivors include his brother, niece and nephews, grandnieces/nephews, and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephew.

Gary L. Hokenson – Age 79, of Roseville, passed away New Year’s Eve after a long illness. He was a longtime employee of Lockheed Martin, for whom he earned two patents, and was a VIP Club member. He is preceded in death by a son, and survived by his wife, Sherrellyn, a daughter and a son.



Frank "Dick" Richard Janisch – Age 87, of Burnsville, MN, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2020 with family by his side. Dick served as a U.S. Navy officer and pilot flying aircraft including the B-29 which took him to Guam, Hawaii and Okinawa. After the military, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota. Dick met Barbara Mahoney, his wife of 59 years, on a blind date and they went roller skating around Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. Dick had a long career with Univac/Sperry/Unisys and retired at age 55. He was a devoted husband and father of four who enjoyed family time; gardening, cooking, competitive bridge, and golf were some favorite hobbies. He is survived by Barbara, four children, six grandchildren, two siblings and many other friends and family.



Robert Allan Kochenderfer – Age 80, of Aitkin, formerly Eagan, passed away December 11, 2020 in Quiet Oaks Hospice House, St. Augusta. Robert was director of logistics at Lockheed Martin and later a real estate agent with Edina Realty. Robert loved watching the Packers, and was a true outdoorsman who loved fishing on Mille Lacs Lake and hunting the



river bluffs of Wisconsin. Robert is preceded in death by his first wife, Nancy, and a daughter, and is survived by his wife, Mary, five children, five grandchildren, two siblings, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Douglas C. McIntyre – Age 86, of Burnsville, MN, passed away November 29, 2020. Survived by wife, Lavern, of 63 years, three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Janice Nolene Metzger (wife of Jack Metzger) – Age 84, of Burnsville, MN, passed away February 3, 2021 at home surrounded by family. Jan was united in marriage to employee Jack Metzger;



Jack and Jan are VIP Club members. Jan, a homemaker, seamstress, and retail assistant manager, raised a family of six boys. She was a wife, mother, and grandmother who was a wonderful cook, loved to sew, avid golfer, volunteered at schools, the church, and the feeding of the poor. She was preceded in death by a son and a daughter-in-law, and is survived by her husband, Jack, 5 sons, 11 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and 3 sisters.

Eunice Rees Nelson (wife of Curt (William) Nelson) Passed away on her 95th birthday, January 1, 2021, at Essentia St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, MN. Eunice enjoyed many years in the VIP Club with husband, Curt, who joined ERA in 1952 and retired from Sperry in 1981. They were married in 1947; Eunice was then attending courses at the University of Minnesota. In 1950, Curt graduated in Electrical Engineering at the U of MN and obtained a job in Storm Lake, Iowa, which later led to a move to Sheldon, Iowa. Several moves and job changes for Curt occurred, with a permanent move to St. Paul. Eunice became interested in sewing at a young age and over the years made clothing for herself, her family and for dolls. She became very proficient with many types of materials and made curtains and quilts, as well as fitted covers for camping equipment. Eunice held part-time jobs in the Twin Cities after their children were of school age and later worked full-time in retail. In 1980, Eunice and Curt moved to Apple Valley, followed by rural Deerwood, where Eunice lived until she moved to Edgewood Vista Assisted Living in Brainerd. Eunice is survived by Curt, her loving husband of 73 years, a son, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Preceding Eunice in death are two sons.



Lawrence Cribbs "Larry" Pinska – Age 93, of St. Paul, MN, went peacefully to heaven on January 8, 2021. After high school, Larry joined the Navy and served during WWII in the Philippines. After the war, Larry found a career in audio-visual services with



Unisys for 35+ years, and was a life member of the VIP Club. Larry enjoyed spending time with family and friends, boating, skiing, winters in Florida and Arizona and was a world traveler. He was deeply rooted in his faith; volunteering at Grace Church. His hobbies included woodworking, endless whistling, giving awesome hugs and going to Cafe Latte. Larry had a great love for the Minnesota State Fair—you may even see his red bench if you look for it. Larry was preceded in death by spouses Mabel (Frost) and Mayvis (Thompson), and daughter-in-law Laura, and is survived by 3 sons, a special friend and companion, 2 brothers, a brother-in-law, 9 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 5 nieces and nephews.

Harry Carl Smuda – Age 90, died peacefully at his home January 21, 2021. Harry served in the USAF from 1950-1954, with one year in Korea. From 1954-1983 Harry worked for Remington Rand Univac, then Sperry Univac, then Sperry Corporation. He served as VP of Product Development in '78, directing engineering facilities in Roseville, MN, Quebec, Canada, and Blue Bell, PA. He and son John purchased Rice Lake Printing in Rice Lake, WI in 1989 and Advance Printing in Hayward, WI in 1998. Harry served on the parish, district, and Synodical levels of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Harry & Anna (Oppegard) were united in marriage in 1956 and enjoyed 64+ years of blessings. Their 5 children were raised to put God first as they both strove to do in their married life. Harry & Anna have 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



Richard P. "Dick" Sunderman – Age 81, passed away at Prelude Homes & Services in Woodbury, MN, on December 27, 2020, three days before his and Barbara's 59th wedding anniversary. Dick attended the University of MN, earning advanced degrees in mathematics and physics. Dick was one of the original and one of the key system engineers in the ATC group, and was a VIP Club member. After working 35 years, he retired as Vice President of Business Systems from L-3 Communications. Dick is survived by his wife, Barbara, three children, six grandchildren, a brother, in-laws and many nieces and nephews.



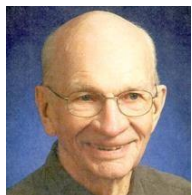
John R. Trost – Age 90, of North Oaks, formerly of Anoka, passed away January 25, 2021. John is preceded in death by his wife, Leona, and is survived by four children, six grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Jerry L. Ulrich – Age 79, of Lakeville, passed away on December 12, 2020, with his family at his side. Jerry graduated from Iowa State University with an electrical



engineering degree, then worked as an electrical engineer at Control Data and Unisys, and later as a financial advisor. Once retired, Jerry was a member of the VIP Club. He married Phyllis Walraven and they spent 61 years together in Ames, IA, and the Twin Cities. Jerry was an active member at Peace Church for over 45 years. He loved to fish, bowl, cross-country ski and watch the Twins and Vikings. He was active with scouting and coaching sports, and loved spending time with friends and family, especially attending endless grandchildren's activities. Jerry is survived by his wife, Phyllis, two children, and four grandchildren.

Donald W. Wetherby – Age 102, died peacefully surrounded by family at home on December 15, 2020. Donald was a WWII Navy Veteran who flew in the Pacific. He was preceded in death by wives Lois C. and Clare Dustin and a step-son, and is survived by five children, two step-children and numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.



Belated Remembrances

Charles Dent was called by God April 24, 2018. Charles worked in Computer Operations in Roseville

Kenneth Alfred Gibson – Age 90, passed away February 17, 2018, at Oak Park Senior Living in Oak Park Heights, MN. Ken was in the Navy and Naval Reserve for several years, graduated from Iowa State with a degree in industrial engineering and enjoyed a long career in technology with lengthy stints at Honeywell, Sperry and Unisys. He was an early pioneer in the computer industry; his favorite hobby was tinkering with computers. In retirement, Ken participated in his local investment club and taught seniors how to use computers. Ken married Marjorie Eggan and they settled in the Audubon Park neighborhood of NE Minneapolis in a home that Ken would live in for almost 60 years. Ken is survived by two sons, a sister, nieces, nephew, and friends.

Shirley Knutson – Age 90, passed away July 25, 2017. Shirley was a member of Como Park Lutheran Church since 1928 when her family moved to Roseville. Her faith, family, and friends were very important to her. Shirley retired from Unisys where she loved her work and the people she worked with. While living at Eagle Crest Assisted Living her last two years, Shirley found many new friends whom she called family. Shirley is preceded in death by Clayton, her husband of 61 years, and is survived by two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, her sister-in-law and many kind and loving nieces, nephews and friends.

John Patrick Murphy – Age 88, on December 20, 2017 as the result of an ongoing fight with prostate

cancer. In his final days he was surrounded by the love of his family and he passed peacefully. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kate, who passed in 2008 after 57 years of marriage. He is survived by 6 sons, 11 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Gerald R. Plowman – Age 84, of Princeton, died January 16, 2019. Gerald is survived by his wife, Arlene, 7 children, 19 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

Walter Leroy Quinton – Passed away June 10, 2016, in San Antonio, TX. Walt worked for Univac 1960-1994. During his career he worked on the arithmetic sections of most of the 1100/2200 processors from the 1108 up until his retirement; he was considered one of Roseville's design geniuses. Walt started as a logic designer and concluded as a professional consultant supervising the Quicksilver-2200/500 Processor's arithmetic section design. Walt is survived by a daughter, two granddaughters, a sister and sister-in-law.

George E. Rothe, Jr. – Age 95, of Fridley, formerly of Duluth, passed away on February 10, 2018. George proudly served in the U.S. Navy in WWII. He was a long-time Univac employee in Roseville who started on tabulating machines after the war and was later doing network/terminal installation and maintenance in Roseville CSF. George was preceded in death by his loving wife, Martha, and survived by a special friend/"daughter," a brother and nieces and nephews.

CLUB CONTACT DATA

VIP Club 2021 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rlundgr@aol.com

Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhk@comcast.net

Lawshe Museum Support:

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre, kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work; Bob Pagac, rpagac@hotmail.com and Jon Simon, jcsimon1st@frontiernet.net

Legacy Committee chairman; John Westergren,

jwestergren48@gmail.com

Membership database; Gish Devlaminck,

membership@vipclubmn.org

Newsletter Chief Editor; clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org

Old Timers' Annual Reunion:

- Paul Hove, paul@paulhove.com or
- Steve Koltes, steve.koltes@comcast.com

Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren,

jwestergren48@gmail.com

Roseville Good Old Days; Paul Dickson,

paul.dickson@comcast.net

Syttende Mai; Dale Torgerson, dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm, lynnlindholm@comcast.net

UNIHOGS & Technologists; Lowell Benson,

la.gj.benson@comcast.net

Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, kingx063@umn.edu

Webmaster; Jim Andrews, webmaster@vipclubmn.org



P. O. Box 21903
Eagan, MN 55121

Established in 1980

VIP CLUB Newsletter

VIP Club MN P.O. 21903 Eagan, MN 55121
<http://www.vipclubmn.org/Newsletters.html>

Board of Directors – 2021

President	Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332
Vice President	Steve Koltes	651-303-9112
Treasurer	Paul Hove	651-738-4908
Secretary	Boni Westberg	651-429-2534
Director	Dick Lundgren	952-288-5141
Director	Gish Devlaminck	651-470-8905
Director	Jim Andrews	651-451-7502
Director	Arnie Schmidt	651-270-1547
Past President	Keith Behnke	651-894-2182

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Mary Beth Ruhland	clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org
Dick Lundgren	rlundgr@aol.com
Don Naaktgeboren	donfishn@yahoo.com
Joe Schwarz	jschwarzsr@centurylink.net

UNISYS Liaison

Kirsten Rasmussen; meetings, etc., 651-323-9543
Judy Bornetun; Eagan print shop, 651-635-6792

PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Attendees: Are you still meeting as noted here?
Please e-mail clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org with current status and updated contact information. Thank you!

Monthly Breakfast Gathering

- **1st Thursday** at 8 a.m. – **Capitol View Cafe**, 637 Smith Ave., **St. Paul** ↗ Meeting status checked monthly

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

Formerly at Stark's ↗

- **1st Tuesday** at 11:00 a.m. – **Zoom meeting**. Coordinator: Dave Kaminski 952-854-1997.
- **2nd Tuesday** at 11:30 a.m. – **Mall of America** 3rd floor North Food Court; we meet by the tables between the elevator & Burger King. Coordinator Paul Wennerstrom: 952-854-7855.
- **2nd Wednesday** at 11 a.m. – Baker's Square, Northtown, 221 Co. Rd. 10 NE, **Blaine**, MN
- **2nd Saturday** of odd-numbered months at 11 a.m. – Baker's Square, 1881 West Hwy 36, **Roseville**. Coordinator Urho Rahkola: 651-429-3319.

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

- **2nd Wednesday** at 9 a.m. in Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. – Eagles Club, 563 Old Hwy 8 in **New Brighton**. Coordinator Paul Dickson: 651-482-9934. **Temporarily Suspended**