

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 26, NO. 02      www.geocities.com/vipclub2003      FEBRUARY 2006**

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, February 01	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 08	Eagan, Program & social Time	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 01	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 08	Roseville, Program & Social Time	7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM: EAGAN

Our guest speaker will be Lyall A. Schwarzkopf who will talk about the Damming of the Yangtze River in China. Over the past years China has been in the news with trade initiatives and the Damming of the Yangtze River. The Communist government in China in 1993 conceived the river project. The dam will be completed in 2009, but part of the dam is working today. There was much world opposition to the dam because so many important artifacts will be lost. Two million people will lose their homes, and some fish may become extinct. When the dam is done, it will create a lake over 300 miles long. Mr. Schwarzkopf will present slides of cities that will be destroyed by the dam, artifacts that will be lost forever and show how the dam is being constructed.

## MARCH PROGRAM: ROSEVILLE

Our guest speaker is Joel D. Long. Joel will assess the book *STOLEN VALOR* written by B.G. Burkett and Glenna Whitley. The issue is historical accuracy vs. historical distortion. Some of the items to be discussed are:

- Who is the real Viet Nam Vet?
- What is the myth of Agent Orange?
- Is the most decorated member of the Delaware Air National Guard a true hero?
- What about the role of women in Viet Nam?
- What is the true story of the CBS special, "The Wall Within?"
- What about Governor Rudy Perpich honoring the Veterans at a Twins Game in 1987?

- What is the true story on who served with regard to race, religion, education, social status, etc.?

## ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Dick Mullins addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter. Also, please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**From: Bernie Jansen**

The VIP Board met at Unisys Roseville on January 4<sup>th</sup>. As part of this meeting, the Board reviewed the status of our Christmas Dinner-Dance since we had some complaints that the service at the NCO Club was slow and that some members received incorrect food orders. Based on the discussions that followed it was decided to evaluate the Mermaid Club in Mounds View as an alternative to again holding the Christmas Dinner-Dance at the NCO Club; after further discussion the Board decided it would vote on this matter at a special meeting after the general meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. On January 11<sup>th</sup> the Board voted on the two alternatives and decided to renew

the contract for the Christmas Dinner-Dance at the NCO Club for this year for Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The program on January 11<sup>th</sup> featured a narrated slide show by Jack Farber, our Club Secretary and world traveler. The show featured his May 2005 trip to Northern France including Paris, the beaches at Normandy, Gardens of Claude Monet and Chateaus of the French nobility. There were approximately 40 VIP Club members in attendance.

I am pleased to announce that Unisys as part of National Volunteer Month will again host the Annual "Volunteer Recognition Breakfast" for members of the VIP Club. This Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Unisys, Roseville. Members are asked to complete a Survey Form – this form is used to recognize and tabulate the many volunteer efforts that members perform in behalf of many charitable and civic organizations. All VIP Club members who submit the "Volunteer Hours Survey Form for the Year 2005" are invited to the recognition breakfast. Details for completing the survey are provided in the form provided on page 5 of this Newsletter. Joe Schwarz and Dale Phelps will assist me in compiling the survey data and preparing the program for this event.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> as part of the VIP Club's ongoing support of the Lockheed Martin Legacy project, Dick Lundgren, Lowell Benson and I visited the Charles Babbage Institute with John Skonnord of Lockheed Martin. We reviewed files from ERA and Univac, the predecessor companies to Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems, for files which might provide pertinent information on the early development history of the computing industry. Lowell has created a sample web site for discussion purposes. This site will be available to those who want to review the Legacy files.

On a personal note, Warren Becker, (former VIP President, long-time Board Director and Co-chairman of the Christmas dinner-dance event with his wife, Dorothy) had a serious accident the day before Christmas and has been in Hennepin county Medical Center since that time. He is expected to be discharged from the hospital the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>. In behalf of the VIP Club we wish him a speedy recovery.

Respectfully, Bernie Jansen, VIP Club President

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blames it on the cost of living.

## From the Editors



**Brian Berggren** (651-451-9009) &  
**Joe Schwarz** (651-698-9698)

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## **DINING CLUBS & GROUPS**

### **Breakfast groups and get-togethers:**

**One breakfast group** meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: **763-416-3903**.

**Another breakfast group** meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: **651-222-2435**.

### **Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:**

**One Unisys Luncheon group** meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call **651-552-1465**.

**Another Luncheon group** (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call **651-456-0750**.

**And another Luncheon group** (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call **952-854-7855**.

**Dinner Club.** A Unisys Dinner Club meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue. For information call **763-786-1044**.

## **MEETING & EVENT DATES 2006**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 11	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Feb. 08	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Mar. 08	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Apr 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
May. 10	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
<b>June 14</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>VIP Club Picnic</b>

July 12 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social Time  
 Aug 9 7:00 p.m. Rsvl Program - Social Time  
 Sept 13 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social Time  
 Oct 11 6:00 p.m. Rsvl Pot Luck Program  
 Nov. 08 7:00 p.m. Eagan Program - Social time  
 Dec. 14 5:45 p.m. USAF Christmas Party

**Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan  
 Community Center, Park = Highland Park  
 Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force  
 Base off Hwy 62**

**WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS**

**Bennett, Steve & Connie** Apple Valley, MN  
**Carter, Virginia** Mendota Heights, MN  
**Raymond, George & Molly** Elk River, MN  
**Williams, Ronald & Marjorie** Cushing, MN  
**Wright, Loretta & Dennis** Wht Bear Lake, MN

U = Unisys B = Burroughs LM = Lockheed  
 Martin D = Unisys Defense Systems

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Burk, Charles L. "Chuck"** - Age 62, of Burnsville, MN. Passed away peacefully, on Jan. 7, 2006, after a three-year battle with cancer. Chuck was a 40-year employee of Univac/Lockheed- Martin. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Myrna.

**Heideman, Albert John** - Age 77, of Afton, MN. Passed away peacefully on March 6, 2005. Survived by wife of 27 years, Le. John was a former employee of Sperry Univac.



**Ingram, Georgia L.** - Age 67. Georgia was retired from Unisys. She is survived by her son, Kevin.



**Marquart, Janice E.** - Age 71 of Inver Grove Heights, MN. Passed away on December 18, 2005 following a 2½-year with battle breast cancer. Janice retired after 30 years at Unisys.



**O'Connor, Edward Michael** - Age 86, of St. Paul, MN. Died on January 9th, 2006. Edward was a retiree of Unisys. He is survived by Margaret, (nee Gruetzman) his beloved wife of 65 years.



**Sipple, Ralph E.** - Age 64, of Shoreview, MN. Passed away on December 17, 2005. He is survived by Patsy, his wife of 36 years. Ralph was a proud Notre Dame graduate and worked his entire career as an engineer for

Unisys. Ralph was also a long time VIP Club member.

**Zappa, Fred Sr.** - Age 72, of Danbury, WI. Passed away on 12/20/05. Survived by beloved wife, Leatta. Fred was a long time employee of Unisys.

**HEALTH ISSUES**

**Government Spending**

Back on December 27<sup>th</sup> both USA Today and The Oregonian printed articles on government spending by the AP's Stephen Ohlemacher. According to the census.gov website, total federal spending to the states in 2004 was \$2,162,204 million (2 trillion, 162 billion), with per capita spending of \$7,223. This spending does not include out-of-country or classified (CIA, NSA, etc.) money. Minnesota got \$28.8 billion or \$5,644 per capita. Alaska got \$8.4 billion and had the highest at \$12,885 per capita; Nevada was lowest at \$5,469. Other states exceeding \$10,000 per capita were Maryland, New Mexico, and Virginia. North Dakota was close at \$9,513, with South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming above \$8,000.

Nearly half of all 2004 federal money went to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Looking only at Medicare Part A and B payouts, Minnesota got \$3.9 billion for its 616,500 residents 65 and over (12.1% of the population). This means the Minnesota payout to Medicare enrollees averaged \$523 per month. The other states in our region ranged from \$522 to \$557.

Beyond our nine-state region, Medicare payout averages per enrollee were \$688 in Florida and \$936 in Louisiana. The website has data for individual counties; this is where the most flagrant distortions appear. Social Security payouts were mostly in the \$13,000 to \$15,000 range and included under 65 disability and survivor payouts along with retirement payouts. Similarly, Medicaid payouts were in the \$550-650 range averaged for the state populations. Please check the website to see how dependent we are for both jobs and government support of so many helpful programs we know little about.

**Transform 2010**

The state Departments of Human Services and Health introduced Transform 2010 the first week of January as a "project to prepare Minnesota for its Age Wave." The state has been reducing its number

of nursing home beds to something closer to the national average. It also is seeing the percentage of families that provide long-term care to parents and relatives declining; in 1988, 97% had family care – in 2004, 91% received family care and the number is expected to continue down.

With 1.4 million boomers and \$1 billion forecast as the 2006 total for long-term care Medical Assistance, state planners are frightened that the cost will quickly become impossible for the state to afford if family support decreases significantly. Twenty-nine percent (534,000) of boomers are not expected to have resources for long-term care.

The Department of Health stresses a healthy aging framework that: 1) Addresses basic needs, 2) Optimizes health and well-being, 3) Promotes social and civic engagement, and 4) Supports independence for the elderly. This last category is where help for “aging in place” is identified. The primary support system concerns were transportation, caregiver support, evening/weekend care help, and chore help. Lesser concerns were in-home respite, and home modifications. Adequate support was available for meals and skilled nursing.

As part of the program, presenters gave demographic data for east and west metro counties that showed the percentage 65+ and 85+ was very low compared to the rest of the state, that the number of workers available to support the 65+ group was very high, that the number of available caregivers was very high, and that outside the inner cities the percent living alone was very low. As an example, Anoka County has only 7.1% 65+, while Traverse County has 26.2% 65 and older.

An earlier Department of Health presentation focused more on getting seniors to buy long-term care insurance in one form or another. This initiative seems to recognize that the seniors most in need of care are also likely to be those least able to afford any of the insurance options.

### **Odd Shots**

The January 14<sup>th</sup> Star Tribune editorial finally uses my favorite words in describing Medicare Part D – “...absolutely appalling...”

At the January MJC meeting, we heard that the Congress will not be voting to restore the 4.6% Medicare reimbursement cut until February and probably will not provide a 1% increase the medical associations had lobbied to add. We also were told that the FDA and Customs were more aggressively seizing prescriptions sent from Canadian pharmacies to individuals – confiscation with no right to reclaim. We do have something to be thankful for; Minnesota is among the few states with decent

Medicaid databases and our low-income dual eligible’s can be found; many states have no idea what their Medicare population is qualified to receive. What isn’t being talked about is the toll the whole Part D problem is taking on pharmacists and counselors to get people drugs and keep them out of programs that do not give the best option. The Senior Fed has added 10 staff and 5 VISTA aids through the Access to Benefits Coalition and CMS Commissioner McClellan continues to say the situation is good and getting better.

Finally, Sen. Durenberger’s January 9<sup>th</sup> commentary says, “the tragic truth is that the health system is making too much money and demanding more, while consumers, employers and taxpayers are looking at going bankrupt or bare.” Neil McLaughlin, the managing editor of Modern Healthcare says of pay-for performance, “Giving someone more money to do what professional standards say he or she should have done all along strikes me as a little funny.”

## **TRAVEL**

### **The African Odyssey**

This trip will be limited to a small group doing a lot of touring in and around Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa. We will ride a revolving cable car to the top of Table Mountain for a great view of the Cape. We will go into a gold mine and watch a gold pour. We will visit an ostrich farm, a famous winery and the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. We will also visit a rare African penguin colony at Boulders. We will stay in luxury tents at Kruger National Park, the largest game park in the world for Big Game Safaris. We go to Zambia to visit Victoria Falls. This is the greatest mass of falling water on earth and is more than a mile wide with water plunging 300 feet. We’ll cruise the river on the African Queen one day and race around on a jet propelled boat the next. Big game is also seen there.

This 14 days trip departs October 16, 2006 from MSP. Cost: is \$4483.10 including tips, taxes and most meals. For more information: Contact Roger Gillette for a brochure. Phone: 612-926-7214 E-mail: [rg5628@hotmail.com](mailto:rg5628@hotmail.com)

## **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

### **LIVING WILL**

Ole & Lena were sitting in the living room talking, "Just so you know, Lena, I don't want to end up in some vegetative state dependent on some machine and fluids to keep me going. If it ever comes to that, just pull the plug." Lena thought about it for a few minutes. Then she got out of her chair, walked across the room and pulled the plug on the TV set. Next, she went to the kitchen and poured all Ole's beer down the drain.



**VIP CLUB – MS 4003  
P.O. BOX 64942  
ST PAUL MN 55164**

**VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2006**

\* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
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Programs - Eagan and Roseville.....  
Dale Phelps #831-7843  
Newsletter Editors Brian Berggren \*451-9009  
& Joe Schwarz \*698-9698

**WEBMASTER** Joe Schwarz \*698-9698  
email address: vipclub2003@yahoo.com

**ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS**

Christmas.....Dorothy Becker #881-3516  
Picnic.....Chuck Homan \*699-5180

Metro Sr. Fed.....Brian Berggren \*451-9009  
John Dufour \*639-8289  
Jim Larson \*698-3963

Sunshine.....Lynn Farris Lindholm \*484-1030

Travel Opportunities  
Roger Gillette +926-7214  
& Yvonne Cecchini at \*423-9196

UNISYS Liaison, Roseville ..... Judy Cognetta \*635-6563  
Printing & Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville .....

Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison..... Sheri Grone \*456-2210

**Directions to Eagan Community Center.** Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

**Directions to Unisys in Roseville.** Take Hwy 35W south, or north, to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest which is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign. Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building.

From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.