

## Did You Know?

Our continued operation is dependent on a board of directors, and we welcome any interest in club members becoming a board member. (FYI: The Blue Bell retiree club disbanded because they could not sustain a board of directors. We need YOUNGER?? members willing to volunteer to fill these roles.) **AND** . . . The VIP Club always welcomes new Club members. Fill out the membership form accessible here: [http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP\\_FORM.pdf](http://vipclubmn.org/Documents/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf), or contact a board member via the membership email at [membership@vipclubmn.org](mailto:membership@vipclubmn.org).

## 2020 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

By now it has become obvious to all of us that the COVID pandemic has put a severe crimp on any large gathering. The VIP Club Board, aware that our members are a high-risk population, has cancelled or rescheduled all in-person club events through January 2021. This includes the previously postponed Roseville Good Old Days (October), Unihogs & Technologists Reunion (November), Old Timers' Reunion (December), and our Holiday party (January). There is a great deal of hope that 2021 will be much better, and we all look forward to the time when we can get together again. Meanwhile, we will continue to use *evite* to electronically notify connected members of upcoming events; watch the website (<http://vipclubmn.org/index.html>) and your email/evites for possible future updates.

### VIP CLUB ELECTIONS

Traditionally, the election of VIP Club Board members has taken place at our November meeting, most recently held at Casper's, in conjunction with the annual Unihogs gathering (now Unihogs & Technologists Reunion). Logistically, elections are problematic this year, and the board has decided to postpone elections until November 2021, with current board members agreeing to serve for another year. However, if any club members are interested in becoming a board member, please contact any current board member. The VIP Club is a 503(3)(7) organization (social non-profit organization; sorry, our dues are not tax deductible) governed by a constitution and bylaws. Our continued operation is dependent on a board of directors, and we welcome any interest in club members becoming a board member. (FYI: There is a director's position open if someone would like to participate at board meetings and vote on ensuing

actions. We need a member willing to volunteer to fill this role. Contact any current board member.

### THE DETAILS:

- **Roseville Good Old Days** The 13<sup>th</sup> gathering of current and former UNISYS Roseville employees, originally scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and rescheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>, has been **RESCHEDULED yet again to May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Coordinator: [paul.dickson@comcast.net](mailto:paul.dickson@comcast.net). 
- **VIP Club 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Party** This celebratory program and buffet dinner scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> has been **POSTPONED** until September of 2021. Coordinators are VIP Club board members *Keith Behnke* and *Harvey Taipale*. 
- **Unihogs & Technologists Reunion** planned for November 4<sup>th</sup> has been **CANCELLED**. Coordinators are *Fred Vihovde* and *Lowell Benson*.
- **VIP Club 2020 Elections** are **POSTPONED** until November 2021, with current board members agreeing to serve for another year. Contact VIP Club members *Harvey Taipale* or *Lowell Benson* with your questions.
- **Old Timers' Reunion** scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> has been **CANCELLED**. Coordinators are *Paul Hove* and *Steve Koltes*.
- **Holiday Party** regularly held in January has been **CANCELLED**.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Kevin & Salakjit Hoffmann, Shoreview, MN
- Bryan & Kris Newman, San Marcos, CA
- Joe & Linda Zitzmann, Eagan, MN

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



First of all—Greetings! This is one of the oddest times I personally have experienced, and I suspect that’s true for most of you as well. We “elders” are perhaps feeling more isolated than most of the general population, but I still see a sense of community. Our Zoom account is being used, I continue to see examples of our volunteers carrying on their passions as best they can, and I hear about long-standing relationships being preserved. On one hand, I’m not really surprised by this—we were always a pretty cohesive group; but on the other hand, it’s amazing. So many other organizations never developed the *esprit de corps* that Univac fostered. Be thankful and keep it up. The loyalty that was fostered between the employees was, and is, exceptional, and we should all appreciate the most fortunate environment that enabled our careers.

We all think back favorably about some folks that were particularly instrumental in our corporate lives. My own recommendation is to contact them, if they are still around, and thank them. As the Club president, I want to specially thank one of our benefactors, Millie Gignac.

Millie is an amazing person. Coming from a Minnesota newspaper family, she was a big supporter of a regular newsletter and also published her autobiography—a story of a challenging life. She rose through the environment of the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s to become the first female to achieve the title of “Director” at Sperry Univac, then an upper management position. She was the first female in Minnesota to put a crack in the glass ceiling.

Millie also recognized the importance of providing retirees an opportunity to preserve personal relationships after retirement, and she was the igniting spark behind creating a formal retiree organization, which we now know as the VIP Club. I don’t know where that name came from, but I suspect it stemmed from Millie’s appreciation for all the contributions retirees made to the company’s success. The early VIP Club had a dedicated club room in the Shepherd Road plant, where retirees could congregate and could periodically get a free lunch in the cafeteria. The club also began a long tradition of hosting various social and service events. Maybe some of you remember manning the phones on the air during the annual Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) fund drive.

This year, the memorable 2020, marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the VIP Club. We were planning on a big bash to celebrate, but, sadly, COVID-19 threw us a curveball. The board, respecting the higher vulnerability of our members, has decided to

postpone the event until September of 2021. So, mark your calendars—we want you ALL there to help celebrate our remarkable anniversary!

Until then, we should remember our founder, Millie Gignac, who will turn 100 in October. Her story about the birth of the VIP Club can be found at <http://vipclubmn.org/History.html#Birth>. If you want to send her a thank you or a birthday card, mail it to the VIP Club P.O. Box (P. O. Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121; you might mark “Millie” on the envelope) and we’ll deliver it to her.

Thank you, Millie Gignac, for your energy, foresight, and your ongoing support of the VIP Club!

*Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President.*

**VIP Club**

Board Meetings are scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and are currently occurring virtually via Zoom among board members due to COVID-19. Meetings will resume at Unisys, Eagan TBD. Club members are invited to join if curious about how we handle club business. Contact the President the week before to gain access.

<b>Retirement Status and Benefits:</b>	
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

**SOCIAL REPORTS & ARTICLES**



**Golf League:** 2020 league play is ongoing. Check the website for status: <https://ulglmn.org/umgl/>.

**Reminiscing:** Even though COVID-19 has stalled celebrating our 40th anniversary, our 2010 30-yr celebration included a booklet:

<http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/30yrBooklet.pdf>

In 2017, we listed the Legacy committee accomplishments:

<http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/DecadeRecap.pdf>

**LEGACY TIDBITS**

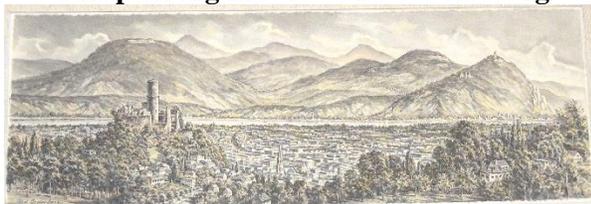
**Legacy within our Legacy:** At the Dec. 2019 Old Timers’ Reunion, Keith Myhre asked “Who was the Bad Godesberg Director before Lee Dominick?” Although they had worked in Germany in the 70s, attendees Dick Lundgren and Lowell Benson had no answer. A retired (2007) former director, Manfred Wiese, had sent the Legacy committee a [slide presentation](#) in 2011 which chronicled projects in Germany from 1968 (Sperry Rand) to 1996 (LMCO). No directors were named other than Manfred.

We contacted several former Bad Godesberg associated people: Bill Geiger, Dennis Christ, Dieter

Hoffmann, Don Blattie, Elwood 'Woody' Knight, and Ernie Lantto for their recollections and stories. Details online: <http://vipclubmn.org/International.html#BadGodesberg>

The answer is that there was no director before Mr. Lee Dominick. The Bonn DIRECTOR sequence from the above responders is: Lee Dominick, Roland Britton, Gary Humfelt, Chuck Hammond, Al Bettis, Manfred Weise, and Marco Eimuth. Before Lee, there was a marketing office under the management of Gary Holthusen that aided the German Navy with Foreign Military Sales (FMS) of NTDS equipment for their software development installation at Wilhelmshaven. Sadly, LMCO closed the Bad Godesberg office in 2013 after 50+ years of operations.

### This painting illustrates Bad Godesberg



The town is located on the west side of the Rhine river just south of Bonn which was the West Germany Capitol. The American Embassy was located here until moved to Berlin in 1990. The castle at the left center is the Godesberg, roughly translated as God's mountain. Across the river atop the first mountain (hill) is the St. Petersberg Schloss resort hotel which was Eisenhower's headquarters just after WWII. The rightmost of the seven hills has the ruins of a medieval castle called Drachenfels – Dragons' Rocks.

## YOUR STORY

*We received several responses to our request to hear from you and for you to share your stories. Here is one from Archie Lahti:*

### PROJECT CORONA

A group of 10 made 2 trips to Lockheed in Palo Alto, CA, in August, 1960, to install a big change into 2 Univac Scientific 1103A computers. Three of us were from the test floor and the rest were factory detail assemblers. The change doubled the data storage capacity of the magnetic drum. Someone above our paygrade had committed us to complete the changes in 54 hours or less. We all started installing the change in one of the computers during the morning of Aug. 15. At about noon, a Lockheed computer room manager told us to stop, because the Air Force needed both computers. He asked us how long it would take us to undo the change and restore the computer back to pre-change operation. We estimated eight hours and were ordered to do so. Our management then ordered us to travel home. A week later we all traveled back to Palo Alto and installed the change into both computer systems successfully.

In 1995 we found out what happened when Project Corona was declassified (see link below). Project Corona was the first successful photo reconnaissance satellite. Launch 13 on Aug. 10 was the first successful one, but the camera and film had been replaced with various instruments. Launch 14 on Aug 18 had a camera and film and was successful (see link below). Lockheed designed and built the two-stage Thor-Agena launch rockets. The Agena was also the satellite. The launch facility was at an unused Army coastal defense base NW of Los Angeles. That base was later transferred to the Air Force and became Vandenberg Air Force Base. The launch was due south so that the satellite orbit would be over the South and North Poles. The orbit altitude was about 100 miles and speed about 18,500 mph. The orbit time was about 90 minutes. Earth rotates within the orbit so all parts of earth can be viewed. Photographic film was used as it had the best resolution then. To get the exposed film back to earth, the satellite had a container, with a parachute, for the film. The container was ejected downward as the satellite passed over the North Pole and toward Hawaii. The Air Force sent transport planes from Hawaii to recover the film container. Each plane pulled a large net that could catch the film container as it slowly descended with the parachute. That Agena was then space junk.

After Project Corona was declassified, several books were written about it. One of the authors stated that it "changed the course of history." They gave three examples.

- When the Cuban Missile Crisis happened, there had been 22 launches that successfully photographed the Soviet Union. They had a few long-range bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Not much of a threat.
- A technology that allowed cartographers to make maps from special photos was developed; this provided accurate maps of the Soviet Union.
- Finally, we knew what military capability the Soviet Union had, so we needed a bit more!

The name for the classified project was chosen by an author of the original plan. He needed an important-sounding and rarely used word. There was a Smith Corona typewriter on a nearby desk. A good choice for the name of the project at the time.

*Archie also supplied some background information: "In May 1960, the Soviet Union managed to bring down one of our U2 planes on a photographing mission. The pilot was captured. That made getting the satellite operational more important." Turns out they may not have realized until declassification in 1995 just how important!! See the following links for Project Corona and first photo reconnaissance details:*

<https://www.cia.gov/corona-declassified.html>  
<https://www.cia.gov/first-photoreconnaissance-satellite.html>

## Our Yearly Departed

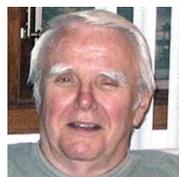
Unihogs' gatherings predate the VIP Club, having started in the mid-60's with annual dinner meetings, coinciding with Groundhog Day, of engineers and managers who left UNIVAC. See the history at <http://vipclubmn.org/Social.html#Hogs>. Part of the annual program has been to pay homage to those who passed away during the prior year. There is a chapter on the website dedicated to our deceased; Section 2 at <http://vipclubmn.org/deceased.html> has links to previous years' lists as well as an alphabetical list. In October this page will be updated to include this year's deceased.

LABenson

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

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

**Anderson, Charles W. "Chuck"** – Age 88 of



Fridley, MN, passed away on June 26. Chuck was passionate for music and piano leading him to form a jazz band in high school that played at a weekly park event, Tommy Twirls, four blocks from Edison High School. After graduation he joined the Air Force, completed basic training, electrician's technical school, and was stationed in Nancy, France. Chuck married the love of his life, Arlene Konz, weeks before leaving for training; Arlene eventually joined him in Nancy. While stationed abroad Chuck was invited to play piano for the Officer's Club dances. Back in the U.S., Chuck had a decades-long career at Sperry Univac as an operations manager, and lived his life in a Christian way, thinking about and helping others. Chuck and Arlene's love of travel and adventure found an outlet while living and travelling through Europe, and again when they purchased a motor home and drove around the U.S. Family members recall Chuck calling them to "look out your window" to find Chuck and Arlene waving at them from the motor home! Whenever the family gathered at Christmas or Thanksgiving, Chuck was at the piano. Chuck is survived by his wife of 63 years, Arlene, his brother, and other family members.

**Baker, Ronald Woodrow** – Age 76, of Coon Rapids,



MN, died Saturday, April 4, at his home after a long battle with cancer. COVID restrictions postponed the drop-in celebration of life until June 28, which would have been a humorous complication to Ron as prolonging of his memory while causing his friends a bit of trouble. Ron rarely spoke of his past or his family, preferring instead to shock long-time friends with tidbits of knowledge, such as joining the U.S. Army at 17, spending six years stationed in France, or building a

motorcycle from scratch. Ron had unbelievable computer programming skills and worked for UNISYS across the country, convincing those closest to him that he led a top-secret, high security clearance life. In later years, Ron particularly loved cell phone technology, showing friends his latest apps, programming changes and new equipment to their polite but exasperated exhaustion. One constant in Ron's life was trapshooting, winning multiple titles across the U.S. His outstanding contribution to the sport was in his love of history and statistics, creating and maintaining the original MTA website, vast databases of history documentation and club details, and perfecting his private data collection. Ron loved his country and valued most his close friend Wally and 'love of his life', Cathy Thomas, who became his constant companion.

**Bengston, Julia Anna (Fylling) nee Kowalczyk** – Age 94,



peacefully passed away in June from Alzheimer's disease in Payson, AZ. Julie was employed at Sperry Univac/Honeywell for over 30 years in MN, NM, and AZ. Julie married Arthur Fylling and they had four children. Art died in 1965. In 1969, Julie married Dale Bengston of Apple Valley and gained five stepchildren. Julie and Dale spent many years in AZ and were charter residents of Escapees/North Ranch in Congress, AZ. Together they visited over 20 states in their RV, seeing relatives, panning gold, fishing, playing cards and games. Dale passed in 2017 after 48 years of marriage. Julia will be remembered by her 6 surviving children, 2 daughters-in-law, 18 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, a brother, and numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, friends and Escapees.

**Bever, Karen J.** – Age 76,



peacefully after a valiant struggle with cancer. Once she married James, her high school sweetheart, together their journey began. Her family meant everything to Karen, who found joy in life spending time with her grandchildren, entertaining, cooking, and decorating for the holidays which were made special to everyone who walked through her door. Her career included opportunities at Univac, Plants a Plenty, Bever & Sons, and Kowalski's Markets. Her saying was, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Karen is survived by her husband, James Sr., 4 children, 14 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

**Dunlap, Donald Fredric** – Passed away



peacefully at his home in Stillwater, MN, on June 29 after fighting cancer for many years. Don served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He was a private pilot who loved his

time flying. Don was a member of the Masons and served as Eastern Star Worthy Patron. He retired from Unisys after 35 years as an Electrical Engineer and was an active VIP Club member. Don enjoyed designing, building, and remodeling homes. He also enjoyed fixing anything electrical or mechanical, gardening, cooking, photography, oil painting, and designing stained glass windows, including one built by the children of First Presbyterian Church. Don was a "jack of all trades" available to help anyone that asked, and who taught his children and grandchildren many of these skills. He had a heart of gold, an infectious laugh, and loved a good joke. His family remembers his quick wit, no-nonsense approach to life, his smile, and his love of food. He wrote poetry for his family and friends, was kind, generous, and a loyal friend that people gravitated to. Don was preceded in death by baby, Diane and son, James. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Claire, 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. The family plans a private burial with military honors.

**Ehmke, Janice E.** – Passed away peacefully August 4 in Minneapolis. Janice worked at Unisys for 36 years. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bill, and daughter, Candace. She is survived by two grandsons, four great-granddaughters, and best friend, Branth.



**Fleming, Nancy (Merrill)** – Age 75, passed away June 19 in her Tacoma, WA, home, as she wished, among family and friends. After attending Mechanics Arts High School, she married her husband, Mike, at the St. Paul Cathedral. Nancy worked at Univac off West 7th Street in a "clean room" assembling missile guidance system components under a microscope. In 1967, they moved to Tacoma, WA, where educating youngsters became her calling. She went to work for the Tacoma school district as a teachers' aide after a short stint in retail. Years later she helped convince the district to reclassify aides as paraprofessionals. Her specialization was as an interpreter for the hearing impaired which came naturally to her as both of her parents were deaf. She worked with a wide variety of the handicapped during her 27-year career. After retiring in 2000, she returned as a volunteer. People liked Nancy's positive "down-to-earth" attitude, engaging personality, and her generosity. She was a founding member of Tacoma's West Slope Neighborhood Coalition (WSNC), and served in various board member positions, including VP. People recognized her as "the hard-working lady wearing an apron." Her 30-year involvement contributed significantly to the WSNC organization and to her



community. Nancy loved entertaining; her place was a favorite get-together hub, where neighbors and friends often dropped by to chat and no one ever left hungry. Nancy was proud of her home with its decorated patios and splendid views of the Puget Sound Bay and sunsets over the Olympic Mountains. She was a Master Gardener and relished her greenhouse, sprawling flower beds, and blooming shrubs. As an aging volunteer, Nancy enjoyed making floral arrangements at a hospice facility. Nancy was a loving wife and mother, survived by her devoted husband of 57 years, Michael Fleming, two sons, two sisters, and other family members.

**Gallup, Lynn Winfield** – Age 87, passed away August 11, in St. Paul, MN. Lynn joined the National Guard at age 15 by misrepresenting his date of birth. He missed his last two months of high school, and graduated in absentia when he was later inducted into the U.S. Navy. He graduated from a Navy electronics school in Washington, D.C. and was assigned to serve on the U.S.S. Manchester in the Korean War. Lynn was an electrical engineer with his first job at Remington Rand Univac, had a long and varied career with Control Data Corporation, and later retired from FluiDyne. While in Washington D.C., Lynn met and married his first wife, Frances Emogene ("Jean") Tackett, when both were 18 years old. They had three children and the family enjoyed scouting and numerous camping adventures. Lynn and Jean were married nearly 39 years until her passing due to cancer. In his retirement, Lynn married Carol Peine Raleigh and was the devoted papa to a stepson. Always active, Lynn climbed several Fourteeners (a mountain peak exceeding 14,000 feet), built a 4-seater experimental airplane (Velocity), obtained a private pilot license, researched and self-published a three-volume genealogy, obtained certification from the Mayflower Society as a descendent from the Mayflower, and traveled and lived in a 37-foot fifth-wheel RV for five years with Carol and their two miniature dachshunds. Lynn is survived by his wife, Carol; a son, daughter, and stepson; four grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews; and a brother. He is preceded in death by his wife Jean, his eldest son, and a brother.



**Hafvenstein, Sally J. (nee Halvorson)** – Age 81, of Eagan, passed away July 8. A 1956 graduate of Roosevelt High School, Sally was an executive secretary at Lockheed Martin and its predecessor companies for more than 40 years. Sally was an active VIP Club member. She is survived by her husband of 39 years,



Robert "Bob," a sister, a brother, a nephew, other family members, and many loyal, lifelong friends since kindergarten.

**Huemoeller, Ronald Frederico** – Age 82 of Apple



Valley, went to be with the Lord on August 12. After serving in the Navy, Ron worked at Sperry Univac for over 30 years, first as a field engineer, then in logistics management. Ron was a loving husband and devoted father who

enjoyed spending time with family and traveling. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean, 5 children, 16 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by infant daughter, Michelle Rose.

**Larson, Dennis V.** – Age 79, of Benicia, CA, passed away June 27.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, Dennis spent three years teaching. He then pursued a career as a Sperry Univac/Unisys/Lockheed Martin



employee, spending the first 12 years in St. Paul before transferring to California in 1980 and retiring in 1997 in the Bay Area, which he loved. He is survived by his sisters, nieces, nephews, close friend Laurie Blazina, and by many other relatives and friends.

**Luck, Robert (Bob) Goodwin** –

Age 79, of Burnsville, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on July 1. Bob proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. In 1961 Bob started his career with Univac Corporation as a computer programmer; after 40 years, Bob retired from Lockheed Martin in 2001. It was noted by a former coworker that “Bob was one hell of a tennis player. He was seeded number one in the Univac league.” Bob is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Connie Rae Atkinson, two children, seven grandchildren, two siblings, and by other relatives and many friends.



**Martinez, Gonzalo (Marty)** – Age

82, passed away July 6, and preceded in death by oldest son, Eric Francis Martinez. Marty was born in 1937 in Galicia, Spain. He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, with a degree in political science and an electrical engineering degree from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. He worked at Univac, Control Data, Northern Telecom, Honeywell, Alliant Tech, and Medtronic, and in retirement was a ski instructor. He was a devoted family man, survived by his wife of 48 years, Dorine, a brother, a son, and a granddaughter.



**Mindemann, Dona Marie** – Age 75, died June 9 at her residence in Burnsville, MN. Dona graduated as Valedictorian of her 1962 high school class. She earned a B.S. degree from UND-Grand Forks and taught English in Hatton, ND and Robbinsdale, MN, before beginning her career in computer technology with Northwestern National Life Insurance Company and Sperry UNIVAC. She loved her lake home and spent much time gardening and enjoying lake life with her family. Dona was a life-long cat lover, enjoyed travelling, was a quick wit, extremely intelligent, articulate, and well-read. She is survived by two children, a granddaughter, her former husband, James Heidbrink, and her brother.

**Olson, Marlin D.** – Age 81 of Apple Valley, passed from this life into eternity with Jesus at his home on August 14 following a 5½ year battle with cancer. Marlin graduated



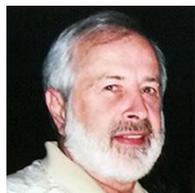
with bachelor’s degrees in physics and mathematics which led him to his career as a software engineer at Sperry (Unisys) where he worked for 33 years. Marlin was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1963 and served with the 125th Signal Battalion attached to the 25th Infantry in Honolulu, HI, setting up radio communication relays near Kolekole Pass and other places in the mountains of Oahu. He finished his service as Sergeant on June 9, 1965. Seventeen days later, he married his “Sweetheart,” Gloria Ann Melby, with whom he had three children. Marlin enjoyed gardening, woodworking, many recreational sports, including church-league softball, table tennis (not “ping pong,” of course), and caring for others with God as the priority in his life. In retirement, he also returned to his farming roots to drive tractor for his niece and nephew. Marlin was a member of our VIP Club. Marlin is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Gloria, three children, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a sister, and other relatives and friends.

**Pagels, Harry** – Age 82, died peacefully July 15 in Florida, with his wife at his side. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, and at the age of 18 immigrated with his family to the U.S. Harry served in the U.S. Marine Corps and in 1959 was proud to become a citizen of the United States. After graduating from electronic engineering school, he was hired by Boeing (Aerospace Division), installing and testing the Minute Man Missile Systems. He then worked for Univac testing large-scale computer systems, and later traveled worldwide as a technical support specialist. Harry fulfilled a lifetime dream when, at the age of 56, he retired, purchased his first motorhome, and he and his wife, Patricia, became



"snowbirds" traveling the warm climates of the U.S. in the winter months and returning to their lake home for the summer months. They settled into The Villages in Florida as winter snowbirds and eventually became full-time residents where Harry enjoyed every day in the sun; walking, golfing, polo matches, pool time, exercising at the MVP club, Flamingo happy hours with neighbors, and dancing the night away under the stars at Spanish Springs Square. Harry is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Patricia Ann Pagels, two children, four grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and other family members and friends.

**Potter, Dennis Lee** – On August 12 at age 79, Dennis won the battle to heaven with his wife, Trude, at his bedside. Dennis proudly served in the U.S. Navy for four years in Japan. He graduated from St. Cloud State with a double major in math and business management and a minor in computer science. Throughout his career he was with Burroughs Corp., General Mills, Lutheran Brotherhood, and retired from Thrivent in 2007. Dennis and Trude raised their family in his hometown of Anoka, MN; he was involved in Two Rivers Boat Club, A Club, and with Lord of Life friends. Dennis also enjoyed photography, volleyball, boating, fishing, gardening, Caribbean travel, and watching the Vikings. Dennis was an exceptional man of great faith; kind, gentle, and incredibly intelligent with a keen sense of humor. He was surrounded by a vast network of beloved friends and family and lived a long, happy life, empty of regret. However, Parkinson's became a powerful enemy that he could no longer take on. Dennis is survived by his devoted wife, Trude, of 54 years, two children, a brother, and five grandchildren.



**Schmidt, Bruce** – Age 78, of Hopkins, passed away July 16. Bruce worked for Univac and Control Data, and was a paramedic, firefighter, and deputy sheriff in Dakota County. He had a deep interest in cars of all kinds. Bruce is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Janell Ramsey, four children, seven grandchildren, a brother, two nephews, and other relatives and friends.



**Schmitt, John J.** – Age 82 of Shakopee, passed away April 2 in the presence of his family. John spent his entire career in finance at Unisys, Owens Illinois, and Control Data. John was in the Army Reserves and an usher at the Church of St. Mary. He was active in the Jaycees and a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the original St. Francis Hospital planning board and participated on several Shakopee school district referendums. John was a

Shakopee city planning commissioner and after retirement was elected Mayor of Shakopee for eight years. John enjoyed trains, his coffee group, golf league, and playing cards with friends and family. He is survived by his wife, LeVaun, four children, three grandsons, four great grandchildren, and three siblings.

**Weyrick, Thomas Roger** – Age 81, ended his long journey with Alzheimer's on July 16. Tom earned his degree in mathematics from the University of Minnesota and worked his entire career at Univac/Unisys. One of his fondest accomplishments was the contract to work on the telemetry system for the Apollo Missions. Tom married Joanne H. Swanberg in 1961 and they raised three daughters. In his free time, Tom enjoyed serving Peace Reformed Church in Eagan as an Elder, Sunday school teacher, on the missions team, and singing in the choir. He also sang with the Eagan Men's Chorus and worked with Gideons International. Tom is survived by his wife, Joanne, three daughters, seven grandchildren, and a sister.



#### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF COVID-19

- *Just saw a burglar kicking his own door in. I asked him, "What are you doing?" He said, "Working from home."*
- *During quarantine I've started taking calls from telemarketers. Some of them are actually quite nice. Jamar from Superior Life Insurance has a new baby!*

#### CLUB CONTACT DATA

##### VIP Club 2020 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com)  
 Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, [keithbhk@comcast.net](mailto:keithbhk@comcast.net)  
 Lawshe Museum Support:

- Exhibits; Keith Myhre, [kmyhre@lightblast.net](mailto:kmyhre@lightblast.net)
- Photo ID work; Bob Pagac, [rpagac@hotmail.com](mailto:rpagac@hotmail.com) and Jon Simon, [icsimon1st@frontiernet.net](mailto:icsimon1st@frontiernet.net)

Legacy Committee chairman; John Westergren, [jwestergren48@gmail.com](mailto:jwestergren48@gmail.com)

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Old Timers' Annual Reunion:

- Paul Hove, [paul@paulhove.com](mailto:paul@paulhove.com) or
- Steve Koltes, [steve.koltes@comcast.com](mailto:steve.koltes@comcast.com)

Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren, [jwestergren48@gmail.com](mailto:jwestergren48@gmail.com)

Roseville Good Old Days; Paul Dickson, [paul.dickson@comcast.net](mailto:paul.dickson@comcast.net)

Syttende Mai; Dale Torgerson, [dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com](mailto:dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com)

Sunshine Cards; Lynn Lindholm, [lynnlindholm@comcast.net](mailto:lynnlindholm@comcast.net)

UNIHOGS & Technologists; Lowell Benson, [la.gj.benson@comcast.net](mailto:la.gj.benson@comcast.net)

Volunteer Luncheon; Frank King, [kingx063@umn.edu](mailto:kingx063@umn.edu)

Webmaster; Jim Andrews, [webmaster@vipclubmn.org](mailto:webmaster@vipclubmn.org)

**VIP CLUB**

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>

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Vice President	Steve Koltes	651-303-9112
Treasurer	Paul Hove	651-738-4908
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Director	Dick Lundgren	952-288-5141
Director	Gish Devlaminck	651-470-8905
Director	Jim Andrews	651-451-7502
Director	open position	xxx-yyy-zzzz
Past President	Keith Behnke	651-894-2182

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**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 email [newsletter@vipclubmn.org](mailto:newsletter@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**

**Monthly Lunch Gatherings**

- **1st Tuesday** at 11:00 a.m. – **Temporarily Suspended**
- **2nd Tuesday** at 11:30 a.m. – **Mall of America** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.