



## IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE!!

## Syttende Mai

**See More Below**

Due to a scheduling conflict, the date for the Syttende Mai lunch at Casper's has been **changed to Friday May 20th** from the previously announced May 13th.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Roseville Good Old Days** is "good to go" on Friday, **May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.!** It has been three years since we have been able to hold this event, so many of us are looking forward to seeing old friends. We are meeting as usual at The Mermaid Entertainment & Event Center, 2200 Mounds View Blvd, Mounds View, MN 55112. Coordinator *Paul Dickson* sent out an e-mail reminder in mid-February to which over 200 replied with plans to attend.

**Syttende Mai May ~~13~~ 20:** It's hard to believe, but our last Syttende Mai gathering was in 2019. We are more than ready to celebrate our heritage again. Watch for an evite; until then, here are the essentials:



- **WHAT:** Annual Lockheed Martin/Unisys Syttende Mai Celebration
- **IMPORTANT:** Register with Dale Torgerson at [dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com](mailto:dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com) before May 13. We need the headcount to determine the food quantities. **TUSEN TAKK!**
- **WHEN:** Friday, May 20, 2022. Doors open at 11:00 a.m., lunch starts at 11:15.
- **WHERE:** Casper's Cherokee of Eagan (backroom), 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan, MN 55122
- **COST:** \$20; plus cash bar available for those who want to mingle before the lunch and program.
- **FOOD:** Buffet includes Norwegian meatballs, salmon, BBQ ribs, chicken and veggies
- **PROGRAM:** ❖ Eivind Heiberg, Norwegian Honorary Consul General will bring greetings from the Palace. ❖ Joe Grodahl, Director of Programming & Events at Norway House ([norwayhouse.org](http://norwayhouse.org)) and recent contestant on Jeopardy will talk about his role at Norway House and provide an update on the current construction progress of the new event center/library.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Dale Mease, Middletown, PA
- Neal & Kristy Holland, Shakopee, MN
- Paul & Cris Willig, Inver Grove Heights, MN

## Annual Reunion Picnic June 22,

Eagan Central Park Pavilion is reserved at 1497 Central Parkway. Watch the website and e-mail/evites in mid-May for updates. Able to help? Contact *Coordinator John Westergren* at 952-358-1174.

## Fall Wine & Cheese November 2,



(formerly Unihogs & Technologists Reunion) Watch the website and e-mail/evites for more updates to come.

*Coordinators are Lowell Benson and Fred Vihovde.*

## Old Timers' Reunion December 1,

Watch the website and e-mail/evites for updates to this event in the lower-level party room at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. *Coordinators are VIP Club board members Paul Hove and Steve Koltjes.*

**Holiday Party January 8, 2023,** *Coordinators are VIP Club board members Jim Andrews and Boni Westberg.*



**VIP Club** Scheduled 2022 Board Meetings: June 1, August 3, October 5, and December 7. We're scheduled to meet in person at the Wescott Library. Club members may sit in if curious about club business. Contact the president 2 days prior for access.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April was volunteer month in the United States, recognizing the contributions of volunteers, supporting all needs and interests in our society. Those contributions are impressive. Nationally, one in four people significantly give of their time to their favorite organizations. In Minnesota, that number is around 40 percent, and Minnesota is always in the top ten states for volunteering. Some surveys put us second only to Utah. Pinning down some objective measurement of volunteers puts a strain on the statisticians, but it's pretty safe to say that volunteers contribute at least a couple of



hundred BILLION dollars in equivalent effort directed toward their favorite organizations every year.

Volunteering in the last two years has been a more challenging commitment than in years past. Organizations limiting interaction, COVID constraints and concerns for personal safety have all been obstacles to volunteers. Given the context of the recent past, I stand in awe of the tenacity of our VIP Club members. Those of you who turned in the volunteer surveys prior to our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon demonstrated your continued support of your favorite non-profits, local groups, churches and other causes, all in spite of numerous roadblocks to your participation.

But those surveys only tell part of the story. I know from your individual stories that many of you put yourselves “out there” in a lot of important ways. Some of you just don’t think recognition is important, and don’t respond to our survey. Others think your efforts don’t count—“I only helped my neighbor out,” or “I filled in for a friend,” or “I just gave the homeless person on the street a couple of bucks.” When it comes to volunteering, quality and that quantity aren’t the whole story. What does count is someone felt motivated to help another human person; I think there’s not too much more important than that in life, and our club members do an outstanding job. On behalf of the board, THANK ALL OF YOU!

I would be terribly remiss if I didn’t recognize our 2022 Volunteer Extraordinaire, Lowell Benson. Volunteering extensively for more than the past two decades, Lowell has served on the VIP Club Board in several capacities, including as President; he cochaired the Lockheed Martin Eagan Legacy committee, spent hours as the webmaster for the VIP Club and his church and organized many of our retiree get-togethers. As a matter of policy, club board members are not eligible to be recognized as Volunteer Extraordinaire, but Lowell has retired from the board, allowing us to at last award him this long overdue recognition: Thank You, Lowell, for all your dedicated service!

A couple of administrative notes: First, we will host our annual picnic on June 22 and urge you all to attend. Cost is \$5, payable at the door (or picnic table, as it were). Construction may change our parking a bit, and we are trying to minimize the inconvenience. Also, we have been increasingly relying on Evite for reservations for many of our events, with mixed success. Most people commit and show up, which is the perfect outcome. An accurate headcount allows the event planners to scale the resources to the need. On the flip side, if 200 people say they are coming to the picnic, and only 150 show up, we end up with a lot of leftovers (somehow there’s never any leftover beer, but you can eat only so many brats). Or, if we have a whole bunch

of walk-ins, we have to scramble to make sure everyone has enough. So, what I really want to say, is that everyone is welcome, reservation or not, but if you can give us a genuine heads-up response via Evite, it makes planning a lot easier for our event hosts.

*Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President*

## YOUR STORY

### Valiant Workstation Resurrection

*By Keith Myhre*

In 2004, Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems–Eagan developed a ruggedized display workstation to demonstrate key Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) technologies. It was given the nomenclature Valiant Workstation.

## Meet the Next Generation of Rugged Displays . . .



**Valiant**



**Valiant/SE**

Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems-Eagan

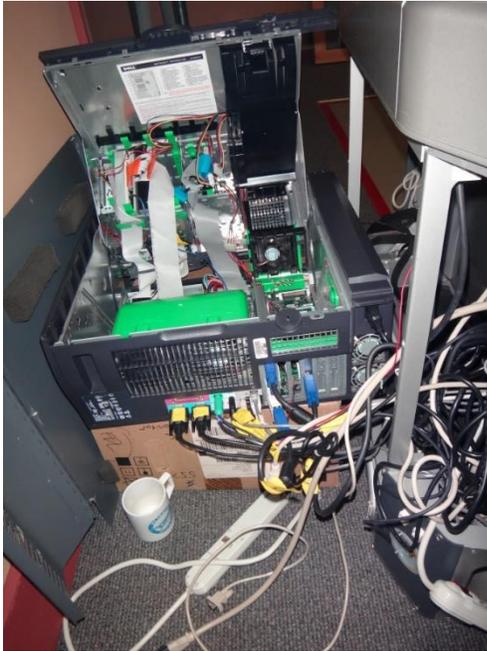
Lockheed Martin donated both a Valiant and a Valiant/SE Workstation to the Lawshe Museum in South St. Paul.

The following photo showing both Valiant Workstations next to a CP-2044 computer used onboard Japanese Navy P-3C Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) aircraft was taken February 16, 2021.



In early 2021, I decided to see if I could get one of the Valiant Workstations operational so it could be demonstrated to Lawshe Museum visitors. That effort began July 6, 2021.

I assumed that the computing power was provided by a Virtual Machine Environment (VME) Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC) processor, like the AN/UYQ-70 display family. However, when Les Nelson and I removed the workstation's back panel, we unexpectedly found the "*Wizard of Oz*:" a Dell Precision 530 PC was "behind the curtain" running things.



So, we weren't surprised when we removed the back panel on the dual vertical screen Valiant Workstation SE and found a Compaq Evo 6000 behind its "*Wizard of Oz*" curtain.

Time to plug in the workstation and power it up. Whoops! The power connector is a round, 3-pin connector. Perhaps a 220-volt connector? There were three 110-volt power strips inside the workstation, so we ignored the primary power input connector and plugged the power strips into a 110-volt power strip.

I pressed the power button on the Dell Precision 530 computer. The BIOS booted up, but the operating system wouldn't load, even after multiple tries. The date and time always defaulted to midnight, January 1, 2000. Not a surprise for a circa 2002 computer. Time to quit and try again another day.

Two weeks later I replaced the CMOS memory lithium battery, but still was unable to boot up (not unexpected). I determined that the IDE hard drive was electrically dead. Another two weeks before trying again. I had a spare, new IDE drive at home that I brought to the museum and installed. The computer

recognized the drive, but without an operating system I couldn't do anything more.

I purchased Windows XP Pro on eBay, downloaded it to my home PC and burned it to a DVD. Hmmmh – Windows wouldn't fully install, no matter how many times I tried. I figured that the 40X DVD that I burned couldn't be read by the archaic PC's drive without errors/hanging. So, I burned an 8X DVD and brought that to the museum two weeks later. That was able to load. Then I went through the hassle of having to call Microsoft to get the XP Pro validation code (no internet access, of course, from the Valiant Workstation).

Once Windows XP Pro was installed, I could only get two of the four LCDs to work. After a lot of trial and error, Les and I determined that one of the two video graphics cards was bad. Each card drives two LCDs. I tried to scavenge a video card from one of the five Dell tower PCs that came from Lockheed Martin but weren't being used. None of the video cards physically fit. They were either too new (newer PCI Express interface vs. older PCI interface needed by the Dell Precision 530), were the wrong physical size or had different type connectors.

I managed to find and purchase a PCI video graphics card on eBay: "PCI Graphics Card ATI Rage XL 8MB VGA Video Module Adapter for Desktop." However, it didn't work with the Windows XP Pro default Microsoft driver. So, it took me another two weeks to search online for an ATI driver package and download it to a flash drive.

Now, it's October 5, 2021. I installed that ATI software and was able to get the three vertical displays operational. Earlier, Les and I took apart the back panels on the vertical displays and the bezel on the horizontal LCD. We removed that LCD screen and determined that although the Windows XP Pro device manager recognized the display screen, the screen didn't illuminate. There must be a broken wire or pixel driver circuitry that has failed. We checked the spare LCDs that were donated to the Lawshe Museum, but none of them were a fit. So, we gave up on getting the horizontal LCD screen operational.

Les and I had one last issue to resolve: Finding a mating connector for the Valiant console's primary power connector. The power connector is a round, 3-pin, 30-amp connector. Les purchased two different 220-volt mating connectors, but neither fit. It appeared that the shape/keying of the pins was non-standard (i.e., not the same as for a range/stove/dryer). We finally determined that the input power is 110-volt, not 220-volt. With that realization, Les was able to purchase the proper connector.

Once installed, we were able to power up the Valiant Workstation using the rocker switch on the bullnose, as designed and built. That switch is also wired to the Dell Precision 530 computer's motherboard power connector, so the Valiant Workstation now powers up and automatically loads the Windows XP Pro operating system without any operator intervention, as intended.



I also installed Microsoft Office 2000 on the Dell Precision 530 computer, primarily to have PowerPoint available for slide show presentations.

As a side note, after the Valiant Workstation was buttoned-up and operational, I was rummaging through a large box containing cables, spare cards and other miscellaneous items and came across a backup IDE disk drive containing the Windows 2000 operating system and the workstation software. I decided not to swap it for the Windows XP Pro disk drive, since the console was working following four-plus months of effort!

**List of Acronyms**

Acronym	Definition
ASW	Anti-Submarine Warfare
ATI	Array Technology, Inc.
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System
CMOS	Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor
COTS	Commercial Off-the-Shelf
DVD	Digital Versatile Disc
IDE	Integrated Drive Electronics
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
PC	Personal Computer
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect
RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computer
VME	Virtual Machine Environment
VGA	Video Graphics Array

**LEGACY TIDBITS**

**Legacy and Lawshe Memorial Museum:  
When Will We Be Done?**

*Recently, Earl Vraa asked:*

“Is there a summary list of things not yet cataloged?”

*Keith Myhre answered:*

“There is not (never has been) a list of things not yet cataloged. If you would like to volunteer to help Bob Pagac, Les Nelson, Jon Simon and me catalog/scan remaining items, we would LOVE your help. I’ve been doing this for 9½ years so far, and figure it will take us 3-5 more years.

**Some Key Points:**

- Status as of October 2020 was published here: <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/CatalogingStatus.pdf>
- Since then, all photos have been cataloged into the Microsoft Access database, except for several hundred Failure Analysis photos (close-ups of failed cards/components) remaining to be cataloged (Bob Pagac has been working on this cataloging task for 5+ years) and recent photos donated to Lawshe (less than 100). All except the Failure Analysis photos have been scanned.
- I have scanned and Jon Simon has cataloged 10,000 35°mm slides so far. I estimate we have 3,000-5,000 yet to go.
- Early last year I copied/converted most of the VHS tapes (100+) and CD/DVD files (100+) to MP4 files. They have all been cataloged.
- All of the negatives and documents donated to the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) have been cataloged in our Access database.
- CBI has cataloged all the items that they received from Lockheed°Martin:°<https://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositori/es/3/resources/328.>”

As far as Legacy work on the VIP Club website, Earl and Jim Andrews are collaborating on an update to the°website°CAD°section,°<http://vipclubmn.org/Engineering.html#CAD>. Jim just wrote the Autogram story, <http://vipclubmn.org/Articles/AutogramSystem.pdf>. One of the technocrats mentioned therein is Lee Granberg; without his creative inventions we would not have had Cathode Ray Tube characters nor the ‘blinking cursor’ invention as discussed on page°3 of <http://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/Enews2203.pdf>.

All the Legacy chapters have been reformatted to make reading with iPad and cell phones easier; the left navigation column has been eliminated in favor of industry normal horizontal tabs just below the header. The footers also now have quick links to the major legacy chapters as well as to the site map which has a table of contents for both the club pages and the legacy chapters, <http://vipclubmn.org/sitemap.html>.

**DONE?** Not yet, but we are getting close. Check for your name in <http://vipclubmn.org/PeopleIndx.html>. If we have missed your anthology contribution, write it and we’ll find a place to post it. Or, if you have a supplementary paragraph or experience for any site chapter or section – those, too, are welcome.

If only a dozen readers were inspired to spend two Tuesday mornings per month at the museum, Keith’s estimate of 3-5 years might drop to a year or less!

*Happy summer! By LABenson*

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF:**

*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~*

**Joseph P. Dischinger** – Age 90, passed away January 7, 2022 in his Shoreview home with his wife and children by his side. Joseph served in the Navy and was a VIP Club member. Joseph enjoyed going on vacation, golfing, building projects and spending time with his family. He is survived by Mary, his wife of 52 years, three children, eight grandchildren and other family.



**Vicky Ann Dorner** – Age 68, died at Mayo Hospital April 1, 2022, while visiting family in Jacksonville, FL. Vicky grew up on the Apple River family farm, moved to St. Paul, MN, met and married Ronald J. Dorner, made their home in Vadnais Heights, had two sons, and worked at Unisys Roseville in the Communications group for 33 years. They eventually built their dream home in Big Blake Lake, Wisconsin. She loved to cook and entertain, had a huge heart and loved helping others, even making a late career choice to become a CNA. She leaves behind her husband, Ron, and two sons, and other family members.



**Richard Elling Epp** – Age 76, of Maple Grove, Minnesota, passed away unexpectedly on April 12, 2022. Richard graduated from UW-Eau Claire and worked at Unisys Plant 4 in Software. He then started Technology for Business, which is now proudly operated by his son.



Richard loved hunting, skiing, time at the lake, traveling and playing sports with his sons and friends. Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, Barbara, two sons, three granddaughters and many extended family members and friends.

**Charles Henry ‘Chuck’ Gierke** – Age 77, passed away on April 9, 2022 at his home in Falcon Heights from complications of multiple myeloma with his wife, Cathy, at his side. Chuck graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BS in mathematics. After graduating Chuck began working at Provident Life Insurance Company in Bismarck. During this period, he married Bonnie Bement, the mother of his children. After several years, Chuck moved to Stillwater, MN, and was employed in



the Twin Cities’ expanding computer industry for over 40 years for major companies: 3M, UNIVAC, Unisys, Veritas, finally retiring from Symantec Corporation. Chuck had many interests ranging from the Twins and Vikings, local history, Native American traditions, to travel in the U.S. and abroad. Foremost was his sports enthusiasm from neighborhood broom ball to a mastery of windsurfing on area and distant lakes like Lake Arenal in Costa Rica, which he enjoyed until declining health limited his endurance and balance. He recognized that his enjoyment came with an obligation; generously passing on his enthusiasm by coaching grade school and junior high soccer and softball teams. He loved being a father/grandfather and was proud of the achievements of his children and grandchildren in school and in athletics. His body was donated to the Anatomy Bequest Program at the U of MN Medical School for the advancement of medical education and research. Charles is survived by his wife, Cathy, two children, and five grandchildren.

**Richard “Dick” Hanson** – Age 84 of Arden Hills, MN, passed peacefully on April 12, 2022, after living with illness for a few years. Dick graduated from St. John’s University, then spent his career as a UNIVAC/Unisys computer programmer. Coworkers remember him as an extremely hard-working, dedicated, software systems manager, with a can-do attitude. He was always one of the last people leaving the office, particularly when working a difficult database customer support issue. In his early years at Roseville, he was taking on leadership roles in the UNIVAC ski club; in retirement he was a VIP Club member. Dick loved Minnesota and all its seasons. He was an outdoorsman who loved hunting up north, camping in the BWCAW, water sports and skiing here and in the mountains, all with family and friends. He practiced his faith and was an active member at his church, singing in the choir for many years. He loved to help the underdog, looking out for those less fortunate. He was a steward of his community, serving as treasurer of his lake association. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judith, three children, four grandchildren and another on the way, and many family and friends.



**Dennis & Sharon Koehntopp** – Dennis (Denny) and Sharon (Sherri) Koehntopp were called home to heaven after they were able to spend their final days together at home surrounded by family and friends. Denny, age 80, passed away March 10, 2022, from cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer, and Sherri, age 79, passed away March 16, 2022, from Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Denny and Sherri were both born in South Dakota and moved to the Twin Cities after Denny



graduated from Huron College. Sherri worked 47 years as a cosmetologist; Denny worked 34 years as an accountant for Unisys and ended his career as an accountant with the City of Minneapolis. Denny served in the Army National Guard with the 153rd Engineers based in Huron, SD. He was also a member of the Roseville Volunteer Fire Department for 24 years, as well as a member of the Rosetown American Legion Post 542. Denny and Sherri were both active volunteers, as 50-year members of their church, Sherri in her local community and Denny for the TPC 3M Golf Tournament. Together they had two daughters, five grandchildren and a step-grandson, and are survived by other family and friends.

**Glenn LaBorde, Jr.** – Age 89, of Plymouth, MN, went to be with the Lord on March 6, 2022, after a long battle with dementia. Glenn graduated from the University of MN with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a 39-year employee of Sperry/Unisys and a tinkerer and builder. He built his own boat and camper to support his fishing passion and maintained a large vegetable garden to supply fresh veggies to the family, as well as sell to local markets. Glenn is survived by his wife of 56 years, Harriet, two children, seven grandkids and other family.

**Louise Anna Marie Granath Lantto** – Age 93, passed away in her rural Dassel, MN, home, with family nearby, on November 19, 2021. Louise married Ernest S. Lantto, a VIP Club life member, in 1953. She attended Gustavus Adolphus College, The Minneapolis Institute of Art, Olivet College and Syracuse University where she completed her B.A. degree. Years later, Louise also was given an honorary B.A. degree from The Minneapolis Institute of Art. She and Ernie lived in Fairborn, Ohio; St. Louis Park; Leidschendam, The Netherlands; and Bad Godesberg, Germany, before buying Louise's childhood home. Louise was an accomplished seamstress; a lifetime artist with a specialty in watercolor painting; an avid book lover that spanned from mysteries to history, religion, and archeology. She loved to research topics and had a special interest in biblical archeology. She loved animals, enjoyed traveling, cooking and trying new things. Louise is survived by her husband, Ernest, 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, and is preceded in death by a daughter.

**Neil Norman Macrorie** – Age 82, passed away February 4, 2022, at his home in Inver Grove Heights, MN. After graduation Neil joined the Marines, then went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and became an electrical engineer. He got a job at UNIVAC and retired at age 60. In his retirement he joined the VIP Club, enjoyed traveling, biking, oil painting and spending time with family and friends. Neil



is survived by his wife of 57 years, Susan, three children, seven grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**William Menkevich** – Age 84, died February 19, 2020. Bill joined the Air Force in 1953 which led him to Duluth, MN, where he met and married his wife of 57 years, MaryLou. They raised four children; he is also survived by five grandchildren.

**Robert Duane Omer** – Age 97 of Newport, MN, passed away August 10, 2020. Bob served in the Civilian Conservation Corps as well as the U.S. Army, and for many years worked as a UNIVAC production engineer. In retirement he was a VIP Club member. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Delores, a daughter, three grandchildren, a stepson, two step-grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandsons and other family.

**Duane L. Schwartz** – Age 72 of Coon Rapids, MN, passed away March 6, 2022. Duane, a Vietnam Veteran, worked 22 years for Unisys and 17 years for MGS Machine. Duane was an avid outdoorsman and a man of many abilities. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Margie, three children, two grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.



**Walter M. Thomsen** – Age 87 of Bloomington, MN, passed August 30, 2021. Walter graduated from Dunwoody Institute and worked as a Mechanical Drafting Design Engineer. In retirement he was a VIP Club member. He sang in the church choir; his passions were music, genealogy, bicycling and playing guitar, as well as driving and tweaking his 54 Oldsmobile. He also loved going back to visit the Black Hills where he grew up. Walter is survived by Betty, his wife of 62 years, three children, three grandchildren, and other family.



**Karen Ann Vettleson** – Age 75, died March 1, 2022. Survived by her husband, former Unisys employee/VIP Club member, Don Vettleson, two daughters, five grandchildren, and other family. Karen worked for Medtronic for 35 years and retired in 2005. Karen enjoyed playing golf, making quilts for family, reading and her cats! Karen and Don enjoyed traveling and wintering in Arizona.

**Wayne N. Wangstad** – Age 84 of Eden Prairie, MN, died March 28, 2022. Wayne graduated from the University of MN, originally planned to go into broadcasting but discovered the low starting pay and took a job in the advertising department of Munsingwear Inc. He eventually enrolled in graduate school and went to work part-time in the WCCO Television newsroom and briefly at the Minnesota Daily. When he finished his course work, he was awarded the Rome (Italy) Daily American Fellowship



internship, including the 1963 visit to Rome by President Kennedy and wife Jackie. When the internship expired, Wayne, his wife, Barbara Best, and their 15-month-old daughter returned to Minnesota where he went to work for the Duluth News Tribune, then the Minneapolis Tribune. He left the newspaper for a UNIVAC public relations job. When the electronics industry slumped in 1970, he became a general assignment reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press where his forte was writing stories on deadline and interviewing interesting people (see more here: <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/wangstad>). Wayne is survived by three children and two granddaughters.



**William “Bill” L. Watkins** – Age 76 of East Bethel, MN, died at home December 19, 2021, following a lengthy battle with cancer. Bill proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. Following his honorable discharge, he began his career of over 39 years at Unisys as a computer programmer. In his free time, Bill loved motorcycles and cars, especially his beloved '79 Corvette. One of his favorite memories came during a recent birthday when his daughter surprised him with a dream-come-true opportunity to drive a Lamborghini on a race track. Bill also enjoyed camping, fishing, snowmobiling and dirt bike riding. He found his greatest joy spending time with his children and grandchildren. He is survived by two children, four grandchildren, other family and many treasured friends.

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**Donald & Charleen Weidenbach**

**Donald Weidenbach** – Age 100, died peacefully April 2, 2022. Don graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, he served in the Army in World War II, operating a radio communications station in the Philippines; attaining the rank of Captain. After the war, Don was hired at Engineering Research Associates (ERA)/UNIVAC, where he spent most of his career. Don’s work involved digital recording technologies and was part of the fledgling computer industry. In the last few years, his pioneering work was featured in the Star Tribune and the SDSU alumni magazine, and in the PBS documentary program *Solid State*. Don and his wife, Charleen, raised their children in St. Paul and Bloomington and spent time at their Bay Lake cabin, where Don taught family and friends how to fish and water ski. When traveling here and abroad, Don never seemed to forget any detail about the places he visited. One of Don’s last plane trips took place in 2014, when he was thrilled to take the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in recognition of his military service. He and Char were longtime, active church members



He and Char were longtime, active church members

where Don loved singing in the choir and attending men’s Bible study. They volunteered with many organizations over the years, notably Loaves and Fishes and Meals on Wheels. Don served on the board of Plymouth Christian Youth Center, and for many years volunteered as a traveler’s assistant at the Minneapolis airport. Don took a keen interest in genealogy research; he loved downhill skiing; was an avid reader, especially of historical nonfiction; was the consummate fix-it guy, always tinkering; he constantly studied maps and worked crossword puzzles and loved grocery shopping! Later in life in he took up cooking, which was helpful when Char’s health declined and he lovingly cared for her, including during the worst of the pandemic.

**Charleen Helen (Hanson) Weidenbach** – Age 95, died peacefully on March 1, 2022, in Edina, MN, with her daughter by her side. Charleen married Donald Weidenbach, a pioneer electrical engineer at ERA in St. Paul, which later became UNIVAC.

They were married for almost 70 years and made a wonderful, loving pair; both were VIP Club members. Charleen and Don loved traveling. Over the decades, they, along with the family, made over 50 trips out to Montana to gather on the Boulder River with her college roommates and their families and friends, stopping along the way to visit relatives and friends. She and Don took four trips to Europe, including one in 1970 for six weeks with all five kids! On this trip, they were delighted to visit Charleen’s relatives near Bergen, Norway, the birthplace of her grandfather. As lifelong learners, Don and Char participated in Elderhostel programs in both the U.S. and abroad. After years of raising children, Charleen worked for 15 years in the Augsburg College Admissions Department where she coordinated the Adult Scholars and Elderhostel Programs and assisted transfer students. Charleen also enjoyed knitting caps for newborns and cancer patients.

Charleen and Don were preceded in death by a son; they were survived by four children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Charleen was survived by Don. Don passed a month after his beloved Charleen.

**Richard ‘Dick’ Williams** – Age 87, passed at home February 22, 2022. Dick enlisted in the Navy; after he was honorably discharged, he found a career in early computing and worked for companies such as UNIVAC, Telex, and Seagate. After retirement Dick spent several years working as a



volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He enjoyed going to his lake place, watching the Twins, and reading the latest John Grisham novel. Dick was preceded in death by his wife, Paulette, and his youngest son, and will be missed by four children and four grandchildren.



P. O. Box 21903  
Eagan, MN 55121

**VIP CLUB Newsletter**

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

**Board of Directors – 2022**

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**UNISYS Liaison**

Judy Boretun; Eagan print shop, 651-635-6792

**PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS**

Monthly Breakfast Gathering

- **1st Thursday**, 8 a.m. – **Capitol View Cafe**, 637 Smith Ave., **St. Paul**

Monthly Lunch Gatherings

- **1st Tuesday**, 11:00 a.m. – **Casper's Cherokee of Eagan**, 4625 Nicols Rd. **Keith Behnke**: 651-587-2591.
  - **2nd Tuesday**, 11:30 a.m. – **Mall of America** 3<sup>rd</sup> floor North Food Court between the elevator & Burger King. **Paul Wennerstrom**: 952-854-7855.
  - **2nd Saturday** of odd-numbered months, 11 a.m. – Baker's Square, 1881 West Hwy 36, **Roseville**. **Urho Rahkola**: 651-429-3319.
- Temporarily Suspended**

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

- **2nd Wednesday**, 9 a.m. in Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. – Eagles Club, 563 Old Hwy 8 in **New Brighton**. **Paul**

**CLUB CONTACT DATA**

**VIP Club 2022 Activity Coordination:**

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, [rflundgr@aol.com](mailto:rflundgr@aol.com)  
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 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, [jcsimon1st@aol.com](mailto:jcsimon1st@aol.com)  
 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  
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