



**“If we do not grow outside of our current structure, the VIP Club will become like machine language programming—Extinct!”**



Check out the President's Message for more on this topic.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Roseville Good Old Days September 14,**



**1:00-4:00 p.m.** Formerly a May event, RGOD is transitioning! First, to late summer; the spring event prevented many of the ‘snowbirds’ from attending and often conflicted with fishing openers. Then, the location is back where it all started: the **Rosetown American Legion Post** at 700 County Road C West in Roseville. The Legion hall can accommodate up to 200 people, with overflow to the patio; however, the Legion is not currently staffed to serve lunch. To accommodate parking, only available for 100 vehicles, carpooling is encouraged—perhaps meet at a Roseville area restaurant for a work-group lunch and carpool from there. Finally, there is a new RGOD leadership team keeping this event alive! *Dave Kleba, Troy Townsend and Mark Sikorski* have agreed to manage the event this year and going forward, with assistance from *Melanie Wolbeck, Bill Rohde, Keith Schreifels and Dave Wilhelm.* Watch the <https://vipclubmn.org/> website and your e-mail/evites for details.

- **Happy Hour September 21, 2:30-6:00 p.m.**



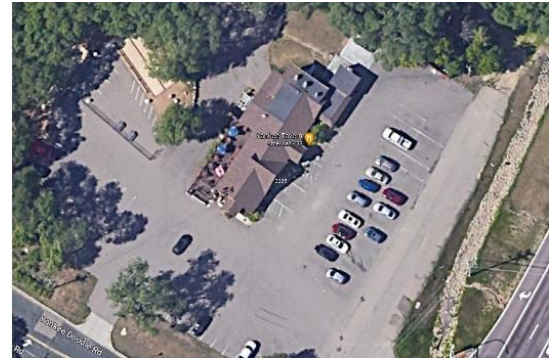
Join us for a social gathering at Yankee Tavern in Eagan, formerly known as Valley Lounge, aka “The Open” to many former employee regulars!

We will have access to both the inside dining area and patio; the front entrance and patio are handicap accessible, and there are plenty of parking spots. Drinks can be purchased by attendees at the bar or from wait staff, but food from their Starter menu will be provided by the VIP Club. Watch the <https://vipclubmn.org/> website and your e-mail/evites for details and Reply with your intent

to attend. Then the VIP Club can provide you with access to the food, and provide a proper headcount to Yankee Tavern. Yankee Tavern is located at 1755 Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan, MN (the intersection of Yankee Doodle Road and Highway 13).



Check out Yankee Tavern at <https://www.theyankeetavern.com/>



- **Old Timers' Reunion November 2** at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. This event is moved from December to November to encourage better attendance, including some winter snowbirds. Watch the <https://vipclubmn.org/> website and your e-mail/evites for details as they become available. *Paul Hove and Steve Koltes are coordinating.*



- **Holiday Party January 8, 2024.** Plan to join us for this Sunday afternoon 2:00 p.m. dinner, preceded by a cocktail hour and followed by a concert of Christmas music by the Eagan Men's



Chorus. Coordinators are VIP Club board members  
*Jim Andrews and Boni Westberg.*

**VIP Club** Scheduled Board Meetings: October 4 and December 6. We're scheduled to meet in person at the Eagan Wescott Library. Club members may sit in if curious about club business. Contact the president two days prior for access.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I often think about the future of our VIP Club and what it means to all of us who are members, or just people interested in the history and future of the computer age. We are all connected through past work-life experiences from a time that saw the computer grow from a simple mechanical adding machine, to Artificial Intelligence (AI) that is now part of our lives. Many of the people I worked with as a young engineer told me stories of the early computers that were as big as rooms. You had to climb inside of them wearing winter attire because the vacuum tubes required very cool temperatures to operate.



Hearing those stories, along with my field engineering experience with 642A/B, 1218, 1219, 1832, AN/UYK-7/15/20/43 and Q-70, and all the assorted peripherals through the years, gives me pause to wonder if anyone under the age of 40 understands how we arrived at the AI world of today. The stories of how we lived through the transition of room-size vacuum tube computers to the 2-nanometer chip introduced by International Business Machines (IBM) last year, must not be lost on the young engineers of today.

No one truly works on computers anymore. They have become a throwaway commodity. Even software is implemented at the macro and nano levels. Low-level programming is nonexistent and machine language is extinct.

So, how do we get the next generation of engineers to become engaged with our VIP Club? In answering this question, the VIP Club Board is recommending changes to our club bylaws to allow us to engage some of the younger engineers that are still working and may want to help carry on our proud VIP Club tradition. Changes to the bylaws would be in the age restrictions and assurance that we are not excluding any legacy or future employees and individuals that stem from or interact with the rich history of our family tree.

Part of the effort of the VIP Club Board is assuring the viability of the club. If we do not grow outside of our current structure, the VIP Club will become like machine language programming—extinct! If we engage

the current Lockheed Martin organizations in the area, as well as Leidos Holdings, Inc., Product Development Associates, Inc. (PDA), Leonardo Diagnostic/Retrieval Systems, Inc. (DRS) and other active companies and individuals, the future of the VIP Club looks bright.

Thanks for your continued support. I will update you as we move forward.

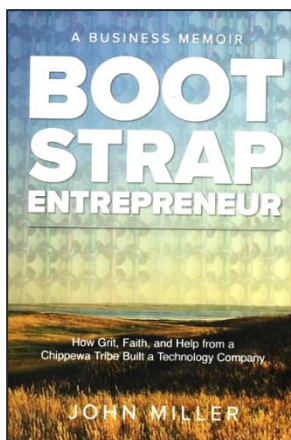
Please check your VIP Club renewal status (<https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/PaidMembershipStatus2023.pdf>). If you are not a current member, please join us ([membership form](#)). We would love to have you.

*Steve Koltes, VIP Club President*

## BOOK REVIEW

### The PO Box Package

*By Ghislan Devlaminck*



On June 24, 2023, I checked the VIP Club PO Box and there was a package in it. My first reaction was that it had been put in the wrong PO Box. But then I saw the package was addressed to the VIP Club. Inside was the book *Boot Strap Entrepreneur*, written by John Miller. Being a history buff, I immediately started reading the book when I got home. It was a very good

read for me, and I recommend it to those of you who like history and have worked in the tech business. There are also a number of UNIVAC names mentioned that many of you old-timers may have known.

John Miller worked for UNIVAC for 10 years when he left the company to join a start-up company called Atron, where he was responsible for manufacturing. In 1971, Louis Amyotte, a Native American technician in the Atron core memory group, suggested they shift production to the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation located in northern North Dakota, the land base for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, which they did. This caught my attention because I had just finished reading *An Indigenous People* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, which also mentioned examples of manufacturing being done on Native American reservations.

When Atron started to shut down, John Miller started his own company, Turtle Mountain Corporation (TMC), headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with a contract manufacturing facility on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Customers included IBM, UNIVAC, Honeywell and 3M, among others.

The coauthor of *Boot Strap Entrepreneur* is Christina Schweighofer, who is an award-winning journalist and memoir ghostwriter in Los Angeles. She

helps people turn their life and business stories into inspiring books.

I recommend you check out *Boot Strap Entrepreneur*; it is a well-written book available from Amazon, Thriftbooks, eBay, Walmart, Better World Books and other sources, and is also available as an audiobook. You can also contact John Miller at [jmbigturtle@comcast.net](mailto:jmbigturtle@comcast.net) or 952-334-0066. He likes to hear from his readers, and hopes other VIP Club members enjoy his story.

*More on John Miller:* John Miller attended the plaque unveiling in June, and chatted briefly with Lowell Benson. John had signed Lowell's timecard for a few months in 1967 during the CP-901 initial check-out and test. John previously contributed to Our Stories (<https://www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/TurtleMountainCorp.pdf>) in December 2021; his career summary is at [People M-O, Ch 15 \(vipclubmn.org\)](#).

## LEGACY STORY

### A Snapshot in Time

Les Nelson found the 1971 Press Release draft by Jack Nichols while cataloging documents donated to the Lawshe Memorial Museum. The release recognized the 25th anniversary of Engineering Research Associates (ERA), 1946-71, and is posted as our August story, <https://www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/1971Paper.pdf>.

To several of us who have been documenting ERA-Unisys history for 18 years, the most surprising words of this Press Release are in the third paragraph on page 1: "the IBM Room." See Harvey Taipale's *The Other Side of Our Legacy* story that follows.

### Our Stories

**For September:** *TCRS Program* (Trident Carry-Onboard Reduction System), found at [www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/TCRSprogram.pdf](http://www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/TCRSprogram.pdf). The TCRS was a small program in the early 1980s. The Trident Submarine Combat System recorded a multitude of parameters whenever it launched a weapon {sic. torpedo or missile}. The purpose of this parameter extraction was to study and analyze results post-launch. A program that could record data faster and provide the means to look at the data onboard was needed.

**Note:** The author used program participants' initials to give them some anonymity. As you read this, if you were part of the team's scenarios and want recognition, send us a note.

**For October:** *Computer Aided Design Personified*. Earl Vraa's career summary is being edited as this newsletter goes to press. Learn how a guy with an Aeronautical Engineering degree became a key person for our Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Very High-Speed Integrated Circuit (VHSIC).

### Air Traffic Control Tidbit

Our ATC involvement started in the '50s with a file computer system (see [www.vipclubmn.org/aircontrol.html#Genealogy](http://www.vipclubmn.org/aircontrol.html#Genealogy)). In the '80s, Dave Gunderson was on a team upgrading the ARTS III S/N 19 system to the ARTS IIIA configuration. Dave donated his S/N 19 nameplate plaque (pictures follow) to the Lawshe Memorial Museum to be displayed near the Input Output Processor (IOP) exhibit. The base computer for the ARTS III systems was the 30-bit IOP. The Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) was a variation of the 30-bit ISA that started in the '50s with the AN/USQ-17 Navy computer.

- The first IOPs began operational use September 1971 in Chicago, IL.
- The last IOPs in operational use were retired June 4, 2011, in Dayton, OH.



Lawshe Museum ATC IOP photo has both an antenna coupler and an IOP (in the background)

A 40-year service life of an electronic design in the early '70s is a fantastic legacy now symbolized by this plaque. Thanks, Dave!  
*Lowell Benson*



## The Other Side of Our Legacy

We all have heard of the early computers built by our founding company, Engineering Research Associates (ERA), but some of ERA's side activities are also a bit interesting and perhaps entertaining. As a start-up, ERA was cash-strapped and tried many things to raise money, including:

- **The Airport Service Vehicle** ► ERA's founder, John Parker, was involved with the early aviation industry, and ERA developed a low profile (to fit under an aircraft wing) vehicle built on a Crosley car chassis. Crosley Corporation, later Crosley Motors Incorporated, was a small, independent American manufacturer of subcompact cars, bordering on microcars. The Cincinnati, Ohio, firm was active from 1939 to 1952, interrupted by World War II production. One vehicle version delivered fuel to airplanes, while another (sometimes casually referred to as "honey wagons") was used to drain the lavatory holding tanks.

See <https://www.vipclubmn.org/couplers.html#Crosley>.

- **Atomic Tests** ► ERA was involved with instrumenting atomic tests, and developed a boresight camera for inspecting drill holes and a number of sensors to measure explosion effects. The Charles Babbage Institute has a 1950's era film where hundreds of tons of high explosives were ignited, with ERA remotely measuring blast effects. This was a massive experiment to find ways to calibrate the yields of atomic bomb tests.

- **Antenna Coupler** ► One of the most successful side products was the Antenna Coupler. Early aircraft radios had to be electrically retuned to match the antenna impedance whenever the frequency was changed—a manual job for the radio operator.

The Antenna Coupler did it automatically, reliably and in the rugged aircraft environment. The Antenna Coupler was a standard in the aircraft industry for years (virtually every early Boeing jet used them), and ERA sold thousands, providing a critical revenue stream for a fledgling company in the 40s and 50s.

See <https://www.vipclubmn.org/couplers.html#Program>.

### LAVATORY SERVICE PORTER

#### DESCRIPTION

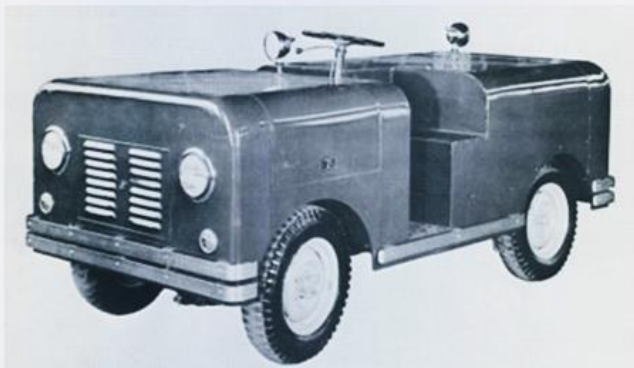
The Lavatory Service Porter, developed by Engineering Research Associates in 1948 and now obsolete, was a small, compact truck with front and rear housing assembly and rubber insulation. Built on a Willys Jeep chassis, it somewhat resembled the Airplane Gasoline Service Truck in appearance. It could go anywhere an airplane could land and could be operated easily and efficiently by one man.

#### PURPOSE

The Lavatory Service Porter was designed and produced to siphon out the septic tanks of passenger airplanes.

#### FEATURES

The main features of the truck were a squarely built, compact body, swivel-mounted spotlights, and ample capacity for the transportation of the complete contents of an airplane's septic tank.



Lavatory Service Porter

From pgs. 276 & 277 of the UNIVAC Products 1947-1959 document at the Lawshe Museum

### AIRPLANE GASOLINE SERVICE TRUCK

#### DESCRIPTION

The Airplane Gasoline Service Truck, commonly known as the "Airport Gasporter", was one of the early developments of Engineering Research Associates. It provided mobile fuel service for light and medium aircraft. It was small and compact, designed for one-man operation, and was built on a Crosley truck chassis. The fuel was stored in a tank that formed a part of the truck and was siphoned directly into the airplane without need for a service crew or bulky equipment.

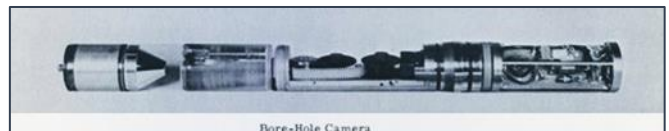
#### PURPOSE

As stated in the advertisements, the Airplane Gasoline Service Truck provided a "new, economical, and speedy method of fueling aircraft parked anywhere on the airport."

#### FEATURES

The truck had: 1) 200-gallon capacity; 2) it possessed dispensing equipment operated by power take-off from the engine; 3) it had a three-way valve - for plane defueling, for tank replenishing, and for fuel transfers; 4) height was 45 inches, width 48 inches, length 30 inches, fueling speed 25 gallons per minute.

From pg. 275 of the UNIVAC Products 1947-1959 document at the Lawshe Museum



Bore-Hole Camera

From pg. 80 of the UNIVAC Products 1947-1959 document at the Lawshe Museum

**BORE-HOLE CAMERA**

**DESCRIPTION**

Developed under the supervision of the U.S. Corps of Engineers by the Engineering Research Associates, Inc., the Bore-Hole Camera produces a continuous 360-degree photograph of the side wall of a three-inch diameter bore hole, on either black and white or colored 16-millimeter moving picture film. The camera unit is encased in a tubular, stainless steel housing 2 3/4 inches in diameter and 31 3/8 inches long.

**PURPOSE**

The camera provides an improved exploratory technique for appraisal of characteristics of bedrock, interior concrete, and well or drained casings. It makes possible detailed inspections of interior surfaces. Lowered into a three-inch bore-hole, the camera provides a photographic record of the entire bore-hole sidewall surface.

**FEATURES**

The Bore-Hole Camera equipment consists of five major elements:

1. Photographic unit - A 16-millimeter camera with a film drive, conical mirror, flash tube, and compass.
2. Dummy camera - A casing, similar to that which houses the photographic unit and which is used for preliminary exploration of the bore-hole.
3. Cable unit - A manually operated cable reel used to lower and raise the photographic unit into the bore-hole.
4. Power Supply - An electronic chassis used to supply necessary direct-current operating voltages for the photographic unit. The electrical power required to operate the camera is the conventional 115 volts a-c. For remote location operation, power may be derived from a standard, gasoline driven motor generator set.

From pg. 81 of the UNIVAC Products 1947-1959 document at the Lawshe Museum

A pass-through of the listing of early ERA contracts provides some other tidbits:

- **Trudeau Candy** ► In 1947, ERA had two contracts with the Trudeau Candy Company for a “candy machine” and a “double-casting candy machine.” Trudeau was famous for the Seven Up bar, a chocolate-coated candy with seven separate fillings (the bars were delicious). Trudeau was eventually purchased by Pearson’s Candies and the 7-Up trademark was purchased by the well-known bottling company. Ironically, Keith Myhre’s mother, shown in center of photo below, worked for Trudeau after WWII and before Keith was born. He scanned the Trudeau Employee Handbook from his family records, including the pictures shown here.



- **IBM Room** ► One curious effort was in conjunction with International Business Machines (IBM). In 1947, ERA had a modest (perhaps no cost) contract with IBM involving patent exchanges. There was an “IBM Room” in the original Plant 6 (near the Ford Plant) housing many

documents that apparently were available to IBM, who displayed great interest in ERA’s memory drum technology. IBM eventually hired John Coombs, the original ERA inventor credited with the first drum patent, and soon after came out with the IBM 650, a commercial drum-based computer that was a huge market success. Many have wondered if this effort amounted to ERA eating their own seed corn.

These are just a few of the many diversified efforts undertaken by ERA to remain viable in the early days. The historical record for most of them is terse, so if any of our members can provide additional insight on these or others, now would be a good time to put some of your recollections in writing.

*Harvey Taipale*

**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.*

**“Those we love don’t go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed, and very dear.”**  
~Alex MacLean, [Grave Situation](#)

**John G. Antoniou** — Age 87, of St. Paul, MN, born in Athens, Greece, passed away surrounded by family on June 29, 2023. John graduated from the Technical Academy of the Greek Air Force; received diplomas in mechanical, electrical and industrial engineering from the Sivitanidios Technical School in Greece; earned his BS in electrical engineering at the University of MN and began work on his MBA. He served in the Greek Air Force before working for 37 years as a Sperry UNIVAC principal electrical engineer. John held leadership positions in his parish, Greek School and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) organization, and enjoyed coaching soccer and working as a Greek-English interpreter. John is survived by the love of his life and wife of 58 years, Marina, two children, three grandchildren, other family and life-long friends.



**Wesley August Behm** — Age 85, of Hill City, SD, passed away with his wife of 60 years, Wilma, by his side on July 23, 2023. Wes joined the Army Reserves, then graduated from Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis. While in Mpls, he met Wilma Covalt who was attending chiropractic college. They married and moved their family to Prior Lake, MN, where Wilma established her Chiropractic office while Wes was employed as a design draftsman with Sperry UNIVAC for 26 years. To enjoy retirement, they purchased a



home in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Wes excelled at sports, was an avid motorcycle rider and enjoyed his shop, creating woodworking projects. In later years, he could be found enjoying the view from his covered deck. Wes leaves behind Wilma, two daughters, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by a grandson.

**Douglas Chapman** — Passed away peacefully November 24, 2022. Doug was stationed aboard the USS Hornet, then worked for Sperry. He was a car enthusiast—racing cars, tinkering with mechanics and owning various unique cars. A member

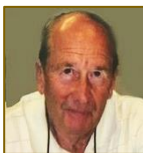


of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc (SPEBSQA), he enjoyed traveling with The Night Howls, including a 1971 military hospitals USO Tour. Doug and his loving wife, Dorothy, were ardent MN Twins and MN Orchestra followers, and traveled abroad numerous times. He is survived by Dorothy, one son and nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

**Ersel Shubeal Coffelt** — Age 90, of Bloomington, MN, passed away June 29, 2023. Ersel served in the U.S. Air Force, then graduated from Iowa State University with an electrical engineering degree. He was employed by Unisys for 34 years as a software engineer. Ersel was preceded in death by a son, and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Pauline, a daughter and two grandchildren.



**Ronald Alphonse Diegnau** — Age 90, died peacefully July 19, 2023, with family at his side. A U.S. Army veteran, Ron served in the Korean War. He was a Sperry UNIVAC prototype engineer for 37 years. He and his loving wife of 65 years, Gretchen Deiters Diegnau, also a former employee, made their home in Rosemount, MN, and were both VIP Club members. In earlier years, Ron enjoyed golfing, fishing, gardening, watercolor painting, birdwatching and wood carving. Ron is survived by Gretchen, two children, four grandchildren and a brother-in-law.



**James J. Gephart** — Age 88, of White Bear Lake, MN, passed away surrounded by family on May 18, 2023. James graduated from St. John's University with a business administration bachelor's degree, emphasis accounting. He served in the Army National Guard, and worked for Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys for over 30 years, then for Lockheed Martin. He loved playing cards and Yahtzee with family, or watching the Twins and Vikings. James is preceded in death by the love of his life, wife Marilyn, and a son. He is survived by 4



children, 12 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and many family members and friends.

**Lorraine M. Hartford** — Age 98, of Minneapolis, MN, passed away November 2, 2022. Lorraine was a Unisys employee and a VIP Club member who was a hobbyist and avid fiction reader. From gardening, sewing, ceramics and traveling, to spending cherished time with family, she moved through life with grace and integrity. Lorraine was preceded in death by her beloved husband, William Hartford, and is survived by two children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



**Vern A. Heuer** — Age 59, passed away in Bradenton, FL, May 11, 2023. Vern's math and science interest led to weather forecasting skills and making Facebook weather reports. He worked construction and had a successful computer programmer career for companies including Unisys, Temp Works and OshKosh Corp. He loved music, from playing tuba to helping friends in the bands ARENA and later Hairball. Vern is survived by one child, his ex-wife, Nancy Moe, a stepdaughter and other family and friends.



**Robert Kevin Hinderks** — Age 55, passed away at home over the 2023 Memorial Day weekend in Vail, AZ. Bob was a Marine, then a field engineer for Defense Systems. He was a man of many passions, like his love for cooking, volleyball and skiing; he could light up any room. Bob loved and lived, shared his wisdom and wanted to laugh with those he loved. Bob is survived by four children, three grandchildren, a sister and his loves Cara Balint and Deonna Hinderks-Atkinson.



**Trudith Eve "Trudi" Johnson** — Age 90, of Shoreview, MN, passed January 1, 2023. Trudi, a VIP Club member, retired from Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys Corporation after 32 years. She was an active Antique Motorcycle Club of America member, having held the National Secretary and National Vice President positions. She also served as librarian for Sons of Norway Lodge Synnove Nordkap Lodge #1-008. Trudi is preceded in death by George Leonard Johnson and Gerald "Jerry" Kenneth Richards, and is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and other family.



**Richard F. McMahon** — Age 92, of Maplewood, MN, passed away June 8, 2023. Richard graduated from South Dakota State, then enjoyed a long, successful career with Unisys, working many years in Quality Control. Once retired, he and his wife for over 63 years, Elizabeth (Primoli) McMahon, traveled to Italy. Richard was an avid reader, he loved driving his



“pride and joy” 1991 Chrysler New Yorker and was strong in his Catholic faith. Richard was preceded in death by a son, and is survived by three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Jo Ann (Minter) Newton** — Age 74, of Eagan, MN, passed away October 9, 2022. After graduating from the University of WI, River Falls, Jo pursued a technical writer career, first working for American Hoist and Derrick where she read blueprints then looked at the machinery built and discovered differences. Jo then worked at Unisys where she shares a U.S. Patent with three other Unisys technical writers, and won several awards. When Jo married her husband, Glen Newton, their journey included music, TV production on a team producing videos for St. Paul’s northern suburbs, and cats. Jo’s passion for raising and showing cats led to international awards and co-editing yearbooks for the American Cat Fanciers Association (ACFA). Jo enjoyed traveling, including accompanying her mother to Europe where she dangled upside down to kiss the Blarney Stone. Travels with Glen included shows in London, the Mississippi River Brass Band European tour and a Viking Ocean Cruise. Jo loved watching Glen and her grandsons practice music, and teaching her grandsons the Jewish traditions she loved. Jo is survived by Glen, four daughters, two grandsons and other family.



**Ralph Haston Otts** — Age 86, passed away June 14, 2023, in Burnsville, MN. Ralph retired from a lengthy military career as a Naval Officer and also from Lockheed Martin. Ralph was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, a daughter, a granddaughter and other family, and is survived by three children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and numerous extended family.



**Harry Nelson Peacock** — Age 85, died May 27, 2023, due to Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), a Parkinson’s-like disease. Harry graduated from Mankato State, and worked for Lockheed Martin accounting for nearly 40 years. He was a VIP Club member who enjoyed golfing, playing softball, bowling, vacationing in Arizona and listening to jazz. He was a lifelong Vikings season ticket holder going back to the Vikings playing outdoors, frequently in freezing rain and snow, at Metropolitan Stadium. Harry was a devoted caregiver to his parents and his special needs brother. He is survived by two brothers and a sister.



**Greggory Lynn Runyon** — Age 65 of Elk River, MN, passed away surrounded by family May 27, 2023. Gregg graduated from St. Cloud State with a technical



degree. He worked for Unisys for over 40 years. Gregg suffered a critical injury in high school that left him a paraplegic; this did not define him. Besides family, hunting was his life. He co-founded the Capable Partners Hunting Group, sharing that passion with countless others despite their disabilities. Gregg is preceded in death by two nephews and other family, and is survived by his wife, Janie Runyon, three children, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**Wayne Robert Zenk** — Age 73, passed away July 27, 2023. Wayne worked as a computer programmer at Unisys for 43 years. His experience building his house with his father, brothers and neighbors equipped him to help countless others with projects big and small. His faith was the center of his life and source of his service. He was a graduate of the Catechetical Institute in the Class of St. Francis, a Boy Scouts leader and volunteer in many other areas. Wayne had a talent and love of organization including his Lego collection (sorted by color and block size) and freezer (inventory of contents and location). Other interests included camping, hiking, biking, fishing, jigsaw puzzles, woodworking and bird watching/photography. Wayne was preceded in death by a daughter, and is survived by his wife of 50 years, Phyllis, four children, nine grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.



### Friend Remembrance

**Charles Arthur Alcon, Sr, LCDR, United States Navy (RET)** — Age 80, of Greenfield, MN, passed away April 17, 2023. Charles enlisted in the Navy as Seaman Recruit and retired after more than 20 years as a Lieutenant Commander. He was awarded a full scholarship by the Navy to attend Purdue University’s School of Engineering and concurrently received electrical engineering bachelor’s and master’s degrees. During his Naval career, he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and Gold Star, and was qualified as an Officer of the Deck, Command Duty Officer and Weapons System Acquisition Specialist. Chuck is remembered as the base commander at UNIVAC/Sperry/Unisys Plant 2 for several years. He joined Control Data Corporation Government Systems Division after his Navy retirement as a program manager. After leaving CDC, he applied his extensive project management experience to completing several upscale residential land developments. Charles is survived by his wife and best friend of 37 years, Karen Lee Alcon, two children and five grandchildren.





P. O. Box 21903  
Eagan, MN 55121

**VIP CLUB Newsletter**  
VIP Club MN P.O. 21903 Eagan, MN 55121  
<http://vipclubmn.org/newsletters.html>

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Joe Schwarz	<a href="mailto:jschwarzsr@centurylink.net">jschwarzsr@centurylink.net</a>

**UNISYS Liaison**  
Judy Bometun; 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** 3rd 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 **Green Brighton**. **Paul Dickson**: 651-482-9934. **Temporarily Suspended**

**CLUB CONTACT DATA**

**VIP Club 2023 Activity Coordination:**

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