

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 44, NO. 01
January/February 2024
<http://vipclubmn.org>

SAVE these dates . . .

- ♦ April 17 – Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
- ♦ May 17 – Syttende Mai Celebration
- ♦ June 19 – Annual Reunion Picnic
- ♦ September 12 – Roseville Good Old Days
- ♦ November 7 – Old Timers' Reunion

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon April 17, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Plan to join us at this year's event which includes a long-standing tradition of the VIP Club recognizing volunteers with a FREE lunch at Joseph's Grill, 140 Wabasha Street South, Saint Paul, MN 55107. Watch for the reservation form on the website or an invite in February. * *Then*, sign up so we can provide an accurate headcount to Joseph's. * *Now*, nominate someone to receive the *Volunteer Extraordinaire Award* by sending her/his name and the reason(s) for the nomination to board@vipclubmn.org. Coordinator: *Harvey Taipale*

SOCIAL REPORT

The **Holiday Party** is/was on January 7 at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center with an entertaining Sunday afternoon of cocktails, socializing, a delicious dinner, and a concert of holiday music by the Eagan Men's Chorus. Stay tuned for pictures in the next issue.

This and That

The **Old Timers' Reunion** was held November 2 at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. See pictures on pg. 7. Over 100 gathered to visit, some enjoyed the bag lunch, and a few participated in the 2024 board member **Elections**. We welcome two new members to the VIP Club board: Les Flugum was elected at the meeting, and Eric Spring was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the **retirement of Keith Behnke**. Grateful thanks to Keith for his many years of service on the board and at club events.

VIP Club Scheduled Board Meetings: February 7, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, and December 4. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is Expired if . . .

The four-digit number in the VIP Club Newsletter **e-mail subject line** is **2023** (*ex: Jan/Feb VIP Club Newsletter for Membership List 2023 D-H*)

Or

The four digits on the newsletter's U.S. Mail **address label** to the right of your name are **2023** (*ex: Doe Joe 2023*).

You can also check your renewal year here: <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/PaidMembershipStatus2023.pdf>. If you are not a current member, please join us ([membership form](#)). Memberships expire December 31.

Tidbit – Of our 617 active member units, 111 members show an expiration date of December 2023.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sadly, recently re-elected VIP Club President Steve Koltjes passed away suddenly on November 4, 2023. Our condolences to his family. With Steve's death, vice president Jim Andrews became the club president.

Steve Koltjes started his last President's Message with "It is said that the only sure thing in life is death and taxes. While that old proverb has its truth, the only certain thing in our lives is change." The reality of death and change was made clear to me when, two days after his re-election as VIP Club president, Steve died unexpectedly and I, as vice president, became the club president (for me, a big change!). I attended his funeral with many other VIP Club members to show our respect for Steve and support his family. Steve was a great singer with a big bass voice. For years I tried unsuccessfully to get him to join the Eagan Men's Chorus (originally the Sperryaires), but he couldn't find the time due to the other singing groups he was in. He



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will certainly be missed by all of them. Steve also served as the main chef manning the grills at our reunion picnic each June, so we need to find a new one (or two) in the next few months. If you are willing and able to fill this important position, send me an e-mail to let me know.

With respect to the reality of change, I am happy to report that we have filled the open director positions on the club board with the additions of Les Flugum and Eric Spring. To fill the position of vice president for the immediate future, I have appointed long-time member, former club president, and webmaster Lowell Benson as interim vice president. His support is much appreciated.

Now, let me introduce myself to those of you who might not know me. In 1967, I graduated from St. Olaf College with majors in physics and math. I went to work for UNIVAC Defense Systems in the Automated Design department as a computer programmer, although I never had any computer science courses or touched a computer. My 43+-year career included writing software to automate engineering design and documentation efforts, a few years in Human Resources, a few years in Information Technology, and ending on the Q-70 project producing products for submarines. Over those years, I saw a lot of change from punch cards and paper tape to personal computers, the internet, and remote data centers. Steve referred to those years as “the electronics revolution.” Our club has done a great job documenting our contributions in this era, but there is always room for more. If you haven’t shared your story, I encourage you to share it by submitting it for posting on our website and/or as a newsletter story (send to webmaster@vipclubmn.org or clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org). I also encourage you to check the website for next year’s planned club events and save the dates so you’re available to participate in them.

Jim Andrews, VIP Club President

LETTER TO THE BOARD

We received the following letter from Lary Haupt in response to the *VIP Club Future* article in the previous newsletter that asked **“Do you want the VIP Club to keep going?”**

“I definitely want to see the VIP Club continue for as long as we have volunteers to help out. My medical issues keep me close to home but I still have two Zoom meetings each month thanks to the VIP Club.

The Newsletter is a great way to see what is going on and who has left us.

Keep up the great work being done for us. Keep up the Newsletter.”

The Zoom meetings Lary schedules each month are for the Electronics Club and the Shepard Road Group. Send an e-mail with your opinion about keeping the VIP Club going to: membership@vipclubmn.org.

LEGACY STORY

Lawshe Museum

Make it your New Year’s resolution to help replenish our volunteer cadre at the Lawshe museum! We work on Tuesdays when the museum is not open to the public, allowing us to focus on the job without visitor interference. More hands and minds tending to the scanning and cataloguing documents and slides on the five available workstations could lead us to declare 2024 a SUCCESS!

Jerry Williams Tribute

The last VIP Club ERA employee has left us, laid to rest on December 29 in Northfield, MN. Jerry is from the WWII Greatest Generation, an inventor with seven patents, a life member of the VIP Club, and until 2010, a participant of the Geek Squad (<https://vipclubmn.org/activities.html#Geeks>). Our Stories of April 2021, <https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/SatisfyingInventions.pdf>, is a career summary extracted from Jerry’s autobiography. He is also the last of the four **Ws**, who were the UNIVAC File Computer principal designers in the mid-50s: Jerry Williams [magnetic storage], Bob Wesslund [arithmetic unit], Jim Wright [control], and Don Weidenbach [input/output]. Over 180 File Computer systems were built; they were the beginning of automated flight strips for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). After ERA/UNIVAC, Jerry was a cofounder of Transistors Electronics in 1958, a Control Data employee (1963 to 1979), then a 1976 founder of Williams Sound Corporation (Williams AV) until he sold it and retired in 1987. My opinion (Lowell) is that his greatest invention is the ‘Personal PA Broadcasting System’ which allows those with hearing deficits to hear the audio of their church’s worship. As of 2020, more than 40,000 systems with over 300,000 receivers were distributed. Bless you, Jerry, may you rest in peace.

I was able to reconnect with Jerry in early 2020 and receive a signed copy of his book, summarized at <https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/SatisfyingInventions.pdf>. The Epilogue references an IT Legacy Paper (<https://www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/75-Years-Ago.pdf>) which shares the following photo.



From Don’s 1976 Sperry retirement party are Jerry Williams, Jim Wright, and Don Weidenbach

December Our Stories: *ATLAS and the Early Days of Computers* – written by a Harlan Snyder, LCDR USNR, Ret. who had experiences with ATLAS in both St. Paul and Washington, D.C. A customer’s perspective of events the winter of 1950 (<https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/HeWasThere.pdf>). Thanks to Keith Myhre; VIP Club Volunteer Extraordinaire, a Sperry=>Lockheed Martin retiree, and U of MN graduate. Keith found *The Link* article while researching ATLAS history.

January Our Stories: Keith Myhre was searching for ERA beginning documents. In the Hagley Museum archives, he found Chapter 3 of a planned book, “*Sperry UNIVAC–The First Computer Company*,” authored by George A. Champine, Ph.D. It was prefaced with a March 1979 memo from B.R. Borgerson, Blue Bell, PA, Director, Research & Technical Planning to E.T. Michaud, DSD, requesting an expert review. The paper, <https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/TheFirstComputerCompany.pdf>, has details about the early 1100 series machines and the corporate evolution over its first decade.

Computer History Archives Project (CHAP):

Mark Greenia of CHAP found a 1975 film in the Hagley Museum archives about a Clearwater, FL factory tour and AN/UYK-20 manufacturing. He digitized it as a YouTube video and added it to the CHAP playlist for the ERA/UNIVAC family of computers; scroll down to the 32nd entry (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=P_LsMFdoiQPga49bN2aZlOu6SbZj57uZpZl). After you, the reader, watch the YouTube video, we would appreciate your personal stories about the Clearwater facility to fill a void in our Legacy Anthology. *Lowell Benson*



Browser Letter: From Betsy Wilson ~ “*This comment addresses the UNIVAC 1530s used by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). I came to work at JPL in 1975, for the Voyager project (not called Voyager back then). The 1530s were used for Viking, Voyager, and Galileo. For Voyager and Galileo, they were part of a multi-computer system, comprising the 1530, a UNIVAC 1219, and several Modcomps. I note in the article about the 1530 (https://vipclubmn.org/CP30bit.html#top) it says they did image processing for Galileo, but that is not strictly correct. They did some early ‘in the stream’ telemetry processing, including frame synchronization; decoding for error detection and correction; extraction of engineering, science, and imaging data to be sent to other computers for further processing (including actual image creation); and de-commutation of channels (sometimes called measurands or measurements). The 1219 was used to further process and display the measurements. The 1530*

was replaced sometime in the early to mid-1980s by VAXes (Virtual Address eXtension), then eventually by Suns and similar UNIX-based machines. As you may or may not know, the Galileo high-gain antenna failed to open, reducing the bit rate from 134,000 bps to no more than about 100 bps, by using the low-gain antenna for the full mission. It had been determined even before launch that the rate of 134,000 bps was not manageable by the 1530 anyway, so plans were started to make some switch in Central Processing Units (CPUs) before actual Jupiter operations.

Anyway, for some reason I was searching the Web for the 1530 and found the 30-bit chapter. I have fond, but complicated, memories of using this machine. It had no terminal; we just debugged using the console with the registers and memory accessed by 30 lighted binary switches. Clearing core was a long set of operations, and booting used a paper tape. Output was tape and some electronic links to the 1219 and Modcomps. We wrote in assembler that was compiled by another machine and output into binary cards that were then loaded into the 1530. The rest of the 1530 system was on a tape (9-track, I think, but possibly 7). We could patch directly into it with binary cards. Altogether much more work than later systems!

I was the only woman programmer of the 1530 as I recall at the time, and I have one picture of me with that console. Anyway, I thought somebody might enjoy these recollections. I retired as a principal telemetry engineer from JPL in 2012, having mostly stopped programming to just engineer the telemetry processing systems.”



Ms. Wilson’s message along with her photo is now Section 1.1 of Chapter 52. We corrected the ‘image processing for Galileo’ (<https://vipclubmn.org/CP30bit.html#Type1530>) error to read ‘preprocess telemetry from the deep space projects.’ Thank you, Betsy.

Mailbox Letter: Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) thanked us for the donation the VIP Club made at the June 15 plaque unveiling (https://www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/ERA-History_Talk.pdf). Also, Paul Dickson sent us a synopsis of the unveiling event in the RCHS semi-annual publication (<https://www.vipclubmn.org/Documents/ERA%20RCHS%20Article.pdf>).

UNIVAC Type 580: We added a September 1962 delivery photo of the first UNIVAC 580 to Chapter 53 (<https://www.vipclubmn.org/cp18bit.html#Computers>); thanks to Keith Myhre who scanned it for the Lawshe Memorial Museum archives. According to our Harry Weis history notes, this was the Westinghouse

PRODAC 580, an early variation of the Type 1218 18-bit computer. Surprisingly, a few of the people are recognizable as part of the Motley Crew (<https://www.vipclubmn.org/Components.html#Motley>).

Chuck Beltz, Ralph Kerler, and John Schoeberl are in both photos; Lowell also recognizes Al Kazinski. If you recognize any of the other '580' people, please send a note to la.gj.benson@comcast.net. *Lowell Benson*

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](#)

Phyllis Jean (Uhl) Ahart – Age 85, passed away December 20, 2023, surrounded by family. Phyllis is the wife of employee, Vince; both are VIP Club members. Her family treasures memories of her on cabin vacations, cheering at sporting events and concerts, enjoying holidays, playing cards, and crafting. Her example of how to love is her family legacy. She was an active church and community member, volunteering for many groups and events. Phyllis is survived by her beloved husband of over 66 years, Vincent Arthur, 7 children, 15 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and her brother.



Clyde E. Allen, Jr. – Age 89, passed away peacefully December 8, 2023. Clyde graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. He then began (and finished!) his 39-year career at Remington Rand UNIVAC, retiring as Vice President, Programs, Tactical Defense Systems at Lockheed Martin, and a VIP Club member. A coworker remembers him as a mentor, partner, friend, and a really great guy with whom many challenges and successes were shared; he made the workplace and times outside of work enjoyable and will be missed. Clyde was a man of God, a valued church member known for volunteering and keeping the pastor on time! He also served on the Gustavus Adolphus Board of Trustees, as board chair for two terms, helping guide Gustavus through many changes, including the devastating 1998 tornado recovery. He and Lois, his wife of 66 years, were recognized with the 2000 Greater Gustavus Award for their commitment, having notably aided and advanced the college. He is remembered as a truly great Gustie alum who will be missed by many whose lives he touched. In retirement, Clyde enjoyed golfing with



his buddies, Saturday Torsk lunches, a good Perkins breakfast, and traveling with Lois. He made time to lead the caddie and scholarship program at MN Valley, where he is remembered as “Mr. Caddie,” the driving force promoting, mentoring, and supporting the caddies. Clyde will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and for his kind heart, caring soul, his wit and humor. Clyde is preceded in death by a son, daughter-in-law, and grandson, and is survived by Lois, one son, two granddaughters, three great-grandchildren, two siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

James E. Bodurtha – Age 72, of Eagan, MN passed away November 20, 2023 after a long illness. Jim had a deep curiosity and passion for problem-solving which brought him to Unisys where he worked for 29 years.



He was a committed Christian, devout in his faith, and shared his love of trains and photography with his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his loving wife of 49.5 years, Lois, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and a large community of family and friends.

William Low ‘Bill’ Borgerding – Age 92, of Minneapolis, MN passed away October 24, 2023. Bill was enrolled at the U of MN where his studies were interrupted by the Korean War. He served honorably as an infantry man in the U.S. Army; upon returning home, he completed



his degrees in math and physics. He had a long and successful career as a computer designer, retiring from Unisys at age 75. Bill enjoyed designing mainframe computers that were among the fastest of the era, and is remembered as a one-of-a-kind architect. A coworker posted that Bill would have loved today’s verification systems with AI helping to generate tests on the fly to dramatically increase coverage, and running the tests on the powerful hardware engines that have become ubiquitous. In retirement, Bill loved time with his family, playing tennis and bridge, and traveling. Bill was preceded in death by a grandson, and is survived by his wife, Donna, two children, and a grandson.

Thomas Daniel Burns – Age 76 of Oakdale, MN passed away November 1, 2023. Tom worked in the training department at Sperry/Unisys/Lockheed Martin where he is remembered as a trusted coworker. He was also a VIP Club member. He was preceded in death by his wife, Laurie, and is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and nieces, nephews and other family.



Roland ‘Rollie’ Roger Enkhaus – Age 87, passed away October 19, 2023. Rollie earned a BS degree in mechanical engineering from North Dakota State University. After his first professional job in Cedar Rapids, IA, Rollie



returned to MN and a job with UNIVAC where he worked for 30 years, retired in 1993, and became a VIP Club member. Rollie married his high school sweetheart, Betty Dvorak, and was always willing to help his children with anything ranging from science projects to building a “race” car for Indian Scouts. Rollie was an avid outdoorsman with a keen interest in hunting and fishing trips with “the boys,” including fly-in fishing trips to Canada. He had a talent for design and detail, which he used to design the north woods cabin he and Betty built. Rollie is survived by Betty, his wife of 66 years, two children, two grandchildren, and other family and friends.

Karen R. (Paulsen) Grundy – Age 79, of Lakeville, MN passed away November 4, 2023. Karen graduated with a BS degree from NDSU, where she met Gary, her husband of 52 years. Gary began his career with Unisys, and they were once VIP Club members. Karen became a medical technologist and retired as a medical lab supervisor. She made friends wherever she went and had many “adopted kids” and kitties. She was a gardener, photographer, pie baker, holiday treat maker, cake decorator, and needle pointer and had fond memories of trips with family and friends. Karen is preceded in death by her husband, Gary, and is survived by nieces, great-nieces and nephews, her godchildren, and other family and friends.



Lars Anders Hallberg – Age 77, of Rosemount, MN passed away July 24, 2023. Lars was an electrical engineer at Sperry Unisys, and retired from Hennepin County Sheriff Communications Division in 2012; he was a VIP Club member. A former coworker posted that it was a pleasure to



have known and worked with Lars who was a member of the Sperry Facilities Engineering department. He worked on countless electrical installations, was a very knowledgeable engineer, and everything was done in a very professional manner. Lars is survived by his wife, Terrie, five children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and other family.

John Charles ‘Jack’ Hawthorne – Age 83, of St. Paul, MN died November 28, 2023 of a head injury from a fall, surrounded by his family. Jack served eight years in the Marine Corps on active and reserve duty. He earned a BA and an MBA from Metro State University. He was a pioneer in the computer industry with a career spanning over 39 years. While working for UNIVAC/Unisys, Jack supported multiple industries by implementing many of the First Computer platforms. He retired in 2001 to devote his time and energy to his family, and is a former VIP Club member. He will be



remembered for his quick wit and dry sense of humor, ability to fix the unfixable, and his scones and frothy cappuccinos. Jack was a proud member of AA, committed to his own recovery and supporting others. Jack is preceded in death by a great-grandson and other family, and is survived by his wife, Terri (Therese) Berthiaume Hawthorne, four children, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and other family and friends.

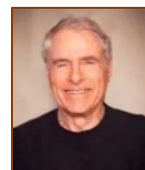
Gary Bruce Horning – Age 81, of Stillwater, MN passed away October 22, 2023. Gary is survived by his wife, Margaret “Margie,” three sons, five grandchildren, a great grandchild, nieces, nephews and other family.

Steve Koltes – Age 66, of Cottage Grove, MN passed away suddenly November 4, 2023. Steve, our 2023 VIP Club board president, was hired at 19 into the Sperry UNIVAC Navy Systems Customer Service Engineering group, and worked on various field engineering assignments. Eventually he



was assigned to the Navy Systems Tech Support group where he felt blessed to travel the country solving Navy engineering problems on land sites, ships, and submarines with some of the most experienced engineers—the greatest learning experience of his career. He later supported the Air Traffic Control (ATC) group and Q-70 program, then became a Leidos Corporation employee. After 41 years, Steve retired in 2018. A favorite pastime was sharing his fishing passion at his lake home. Steve had a beautiful bass singing voice and sang with groups at the Church of St. Rita in Cottage Grove and the a’Choir’d Harmony Community Choir. He was known for his generosity, kindness, and willingness to assist in friends’/relatives’ projects. Steve is survived by his beloved wife of 43 years, Lenora, five siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

Thomas L. ‘Tom’ Krocheski – Age 85, of Burnsville, MN died December 7, 2023, surrounded by family, after a long Parkinson’s battle. Tom graduated from Iowa State University, then worked for 39 years as an electrical engineer, retiring in 1999 from



Lockheed Martin. He was a former VIP Club member, a long-time Burnsville resident, and a charter member at his church. Tom was preceded in death by a daughter, and is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Janet (Rongstad), three daughters, eight grandchildren, and many loving nieces, nephews and other family.

Ronald C. Kronen – Age 92, of Robbinsdale, MN passed away November 9, 2023 surrounded by family. Ronald was a U of MN graduate, and a manager in Unisys Roseville Manufacturing order services/scheduling. He is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

John ‘Jack’ Lisowski – Age 93, passed away December 1, 2023 surrounded by family. Jack was hand-selected from hundreds of applicants and appointed by Senator Hubert Humphrey to attend the Naval Academy in 1951, for which he moved from the Iron Range to Annapolis, MD.



He completed his electrical engineering degree at the U of MN. With a sharp mind for the mechanical, Jack enjoyed a career at UNIVAC, as an engineering manager, and at Medtronic where he was awarded with two medical patents contributing to the evolution of heart pacemakers. Jack’s greatest joy was his family, celebrating with his children/grandchildren. With his wife he volunteered for decades with Meals on Wheels. Jack is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Marlys, four children, and three grandchildren.

Roger Corwin Morris – Age 80, of NE Minneapolis, MN passed away March 3, 2020. Roger was a Unisys Roseville employee, a Ski Club member, and published poems as a member of the Minneapolis Writers Workshop. Roger was preceded in death by a son and other family, and is survived by a daughter, three grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other loving family and friends.



Richard (Rich) Bruno Nonini – Age 76, passed away under hospice care October 22, 2023. Rich graduated with an undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University, after which he served three years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received his MBA from Drexel University. Rich was a former member of the VIP Club; he worked 37 years for Lockheed Martin and legacy companies, beginning at Burroughs Corporation where he met his wife, Nancy. They raised their family in Apple Valley, MN where Rich volunteered coaching sports and teaching Sunday school. A youth wrestler, Rich cheered on the nationally ranked high school wrestling team, especially his son. Rich and Nancy followed their daughter to Sun City, AZ, where they were rewarded with a granddaughter, the light of Rich’s life. In retirement, Rich pursued his interests in golf, travel, and volunteering. He was Commander of the Sun City Posse in the 2020 COVID year and ran the AARP tax program at Westbrook Village. Rich is survived by his wife, Nancy (Lecrone), two children, a granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews.



Darryl Lloyd ‘Pete’ Peterson – Age 66, of St. Bonifacius, MN passed away December 1, 2023, at home with family around him. Darryl worked at Tonka Toys, Sperry, and Fluoroware, now known as Entegris, for 32 years as a



maintenance tech until retiring in 2019. He is survived by his wife, Elaine “Laney” nee Hudlow, nieces, nephews, and other family.

Roy John ‘RJ’ Smith – Age 90, passed away in his sleep November 21, 2023. Roy attended the U of MN where he joined the Reserved Officer Training Corps and graduated with a degree in Sociology. He entered active duty in the U.S. Navy, achieved Lieutenant rank, and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Naval Reserve. He started his career as a computer programmer at UNIVAC and AIC prior to becoming a founding member of Cytrol, Inc., a software company. He was the President and CEO until 1989 when he retired and sold the company to the employees. Roy was a loving father, encouraging and supporting his children’s education, careers, and interests. RJ’s interests included cross-country skiing, hiking, canoeing, music, and reading. He started golfing and loved to travel, even reaching Mount Everest base camp one. He loved the arts and was a charitable organizations supporter. Roy was preceded in death by a daughter and other family, and is survived by three children, former spouse Carol Jeanne Luckemeyer, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Russell James Stadler – Age 75, of Rosemount, MN passed away June 9, 2023. Russell served in the U.S. Navy, then graduated from Austin Vocational College with an electrical engineering associate degree and worked for 35 years at Lockheed Martin. Russ was very involved with Boy Scouts and enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and camping. He was often known as “coach” for being at his sons’ and grandchildren’s sporting events. Russ is survived by his wife, Linda L. (Timmers) Stadler, two sons, five grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.



Earl Kenneth Stodden – Age 87, passed away surrounded by family, November 23, 2023. Earl enlisted with the U.S. Navy, was deployed on the USS Currituck in the Mediterranean Sea during the Suez Canal Crisis, was discharged from active duty as an Electronics Technician Second Class, and continued as a Navy reservist until his honorable discharge. Earl accepted a computer engineer position with Remington Rand in Philadelphia, PA, thus beginning an adventure of he and his wife, Barbara Farrey, living in various locations and finally buying their long-desired farm in Cannon Falls, MN. Earl’s career took him around the world working on many Navy ships, installing and troubleshooting their mainframe computer systems. He also worked in the Pentagon Army War Room. Earl retired from Unisys in 1995 and is a former VIP Club member. Spending

time with family brought Earl endless joy and pride. He shared his love of nature, camping, Boundary Waters canoe trips, sailing the Apostle Islands, and more with his children/grandchildren/great-grandchildren. Earl and Barbara shared a love for European travel, ensuring their children made a trip with them to Europe. Earl's love for our Lord Jesus and his faith sustained him through the health trials of the last few years. Earl was preceded in death by a grandson, great-grandson, and other family, and is survived by his wife of 65 years, Barbara, five children, 18 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren (and baby girl due in Feb 2024), 2 great-great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, other family, and longtime friends.

Bruce C. Todd – Age 81, of Circle Pines, MN passed away unexpectedly at his home December 14, 2023. His favorite thing in life was anything that involved his family. Bruce is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Charlotte, 6 children, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.



Gerald Ivar 'Jerry' Williams – Age 96, went to his heavenly home November 30, 2023. Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as electronic technician's mate aboard the USS Artemis. After the war he attended St. Olaf College, transferred to the U of MN, and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. During his career, Jerry helped to develop color TV receivers for Zenith. He was on the team that developed the UNIVAC File Computer at ERA. He helped found Transistor Electronics Corp and designed and manufactured computer displays. He later joined Control Data, serving on the technical staff until 1979.



He holds seven patents. In 1976 Jerry and his wife, Lorraine Hoffman, started a business designing and building wireless hearing support systems for churches. Williams Sound Corp has thrived and is now known as Williams AV, a premier manufacturer of assistive listening devices. Jerry retired in 1987. Jerry's relationship with his Lord was vital; he served on church councils, taught Sunday School, led Bible studies, and volunteered his skills to improve church sound systems. He enjoyed mentoring young people in audio-visual and recording skills. In his retirement, Jerry, focused on gardening at the home he and Lorraine built on Lake Hubert in Nisswa, MN. He wrote articles for Today magazine, his autobiography, and a book about his father. Jerry is preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Lorraine, his second wife, Florraine, his stepdaughter, and a brother, and is survived by three children, 5 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. Jerry donated his body to the University of Minnesota Anatomy Bequest Program.

Margaret Mary 'Peggy' Witte – Age 72, of Fort Myers, FL (formerly of Minneapolis), passed away October 14, 2023, in Fort Myers. Peggy was married to Lockheed Martin employee Darryl Witte, her loving husband of 47 years; they are VIP Club members. Peggy worked at Burlington Northern Railroad for 15 years and various other companies. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, traveling, shopping, and making others smile and laugh. She is survived by her husband, Darryl, one daughter, a stepson, four special grandchildren, and many other family and friends.



Old Timers' Reunion, November 2, Lost Spur Golf and Event Center





P. O. Box 21903
Eagan, MN 55121

VIP CLUB Newsletter

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

Board of Directors – 2024

President	Jim Andrews	651-451-7502
Vice President, Interim	Lowell Benson	651-483-3709
Treasurer	Paul Hove	651-738-4908
Secretary	Boni Westberg	651-429-2534
Director	Dick Lundgren	952-288-5141
Director	Gish Devlaminck	651-470-8905
Director	Les Flugum	952-431-6352
Director	Eric Spring	651-454-1154
Past President	Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332

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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.

Quarterly Breakfast Gathering

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

CLUB CONTACT DATA

VIP Club 2023 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rlundgr@aol.com
 Golf Leagues; Keith Behnke, keithbhkn@comcast.net
 Lawshe Museum Support:

- Exhibits: Keith Myhre, kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work: Les Nelson, lnelson46@gmail.com;
Bob Pagac, rpagac@hotmail.com;
and Jon Simon, jcsimon1st@aol.com

Legacy Committee chairman; John Westergren,
jwestergren48@gmail.com

Membership database; Gish Devlaminck,
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Newsletter Chief Editor; clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org

Old Timers' Annual Reunion:

- Paul Hove, paul@paulhove.com or
- Boni Westberg, volunteerboni@gmail.com

Picnic planning & volunteer staffing; John Westergren,
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Roseville Good Old Days; Dave Kleba,
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Syttende Mai; Dale Torgerson, dale.o.torgerson@gmail.com

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