

# VIP Club Newsletter

**VOLUME 45, NO. 05**  
**September/October 2025**  
<http://vipclubmn.org>

## UPCOMING EVENTS ♦♦ SAVE THESE DATES:

- ✓ **Roseville Good Old Days ♦ September 11, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **Old Timers' Reunion ♦ November 6, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **Holiday Party ♦ January 4, 2026**

## MEMBERSHIP

Curious about when your club membership expires? See a listing of all members and membership expiration dates at <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/PaidMembersStatus2025.pdf>. Any members that want to renew can complete the membership form found at [https://vipclubmn.org/ClubForms/MEMBERSHIP\\_FORM.pdf](https://vipclubmn.org/ClubForms/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf) and mail it, along with the dues payment, to VIP Club MN, PO Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121.

## UPCOMING EVENT DETAILS

### Roseville Good Old Days

**September 11, 1:00–4:00 p.m.** at the Rosetown American Legion Post, 700 County Road C West in Roseville. Reminders have been e-mailed, and RSVPs are not required. Lunch will not be available this year; food service starts at 4:00 p.m. Check the VIP website and your e-mail/evites for reminders. *Dave Kleba and team are coordinating.*



**Old Timers' Reunion November 6, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy in Eagan. *Boni Westberg and Harvey Taipale are coordinating.*

✓ **Holiday Party January 4, 2026** at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Eagan. Check <https://vipclubmn.org/activities.html> or your e-mail/evite for details. *Jim Andrews and Boni Westberg are coordinating.*

**VIP Club 2025 Scheduled Board Meetings:** Oct 1 and Dec 3 at the Dakota County Historical Society Lawshe Museum, 130 3rd Ave North, So. St. Paul. Club members curious about club business may join us. Contact the president two days prior for access.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Minnesota State Fair is here and that signals that summer is almost over. The older I get, the faster time seems to go by. I wonder if you experience that also? It has been a good summer with lots of golf and watching grandchildren's sporting activities.



My wife and I spent two weeks in Colorado attending the Aspen Music Festival and visiting her sisters in Steamboat Springs. We saw a Broadway production of My Fair Lady done without scenery in front of the Aspen Symphony Orchestra. The Aspen Music School attracts the finest young musicians from around the world to take master classes that improve their skills, and together they perform as a Youth Symphony Orchestra. Their music is wonderful!

The second week we drove across the Continental Divide to Steamboat Springs. The drive was scary with narrow roads, lots of switchbacks, and steep cliffs, but the views were incredible! Steamboat Springs is a Wild West kind of town. Our highlight there was attending a rodeo and seeing the cowboys trying to rope steers and ride bulls and bucking broncs. The animals were more successful than the cowboys that night! Another event got young kids from the audience out in the dirt trying to pull a ribbon off a lamb. I felt sorry for the lamb as it tried to evade 200 screaming children. I highly recommend visits to both towns.

The August VIP Club Board meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum. Too many board members were out of town and unable to attend so there are no board actions to report this time. Our next meeting will be in October.

Our next scheduled club event is Roseville Good Old Days on September 11 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at the Roseville American Legion Post (700 County Road C West).

The Old Timers' Reunion at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center is November 6. This is always a good time



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THE VIP CLUB IS FOR RETIREES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE COMPANIES

to renew friendships, reminisce, and catch up on life happenings. There will be a short business meeting to hold election of VIP Club Board officers for next year. I am looking for candidates for an open director position. The time commitment is minimal (six two-hour meetings/year) but the need is great! The club will cease to exist without a board to lead it. If you are willing, please give me a call or send an e-mail to let me know.

The financial situation of the club remains the biggest concern of the board due to declining membership and rising costs. We must develop a plan for the eventual closing of the club which could come within a few years. If you have any ideas to share, contact any board member.

I wish you a good fall season and hope to see you on November 6 at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center.  
Best Wishes!

*Jim Andrews, VIP Club President*

## YOUR STORY

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have new VIP Club board members! In this issue, Al Douglass is sharing his story. Remember, *Your Stories* are always welcome!

### Al Douglass

I was born in Perham, MN and grew up on a farm midway between Perham and New York Mills and about a half-mile east of Big Pine Lake. Besides the normal farm activities, my dad was a bee keeper and sold honey to the Red Owl grocery chain. My summer activities included gathering honey and helping with extracting and processing the honey for sale. On the opposite side of the lake, my uncle owned a resort with a large pavilion and dance hall, popular in the 40s and 50s, where we could help out during rush times.

I graduated from high school in 1958. The draft was hanging over my head and I enlisted in the U.S. Army to take advantage of their education opportunities and to pick the area I wanted to serve in. I picked some vague electronics area which had the longest training time; it also required a longer enlistment period. I was sent to Fort Leonard Wood in the Missouri Ozarks for basic training, and then to Fort Monmouth in Monmouth County, NJ for electronics training for radio, radio transmitters, and RADAR. On graduation I was sent to Sandia Base in Albuquerque, NM to complete my training. It was there that I received the surprise of my life ~ I was being trained to assemble and perform electronic testing of nuclear weapons, and for the maintenance of associated test equipment. On completion of my training, I was assigned to Fort Carson south of Colorado Springs as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missile Command and to support activities when needed at



Pueblo Ordnance Depot.

On being discharged from the Army in May 1962, I was not sure what direction my life would take. I spent the summer helping build a new poultry barn, and got a job selling wholesale auto parts in Moorhead, MN.

In September 1963, Denny Abbott and I traveled to the Twin Cities to visit the MN State Fair. We stayed with my uncle and aunt which resulted in Denny having a date with my cousin, Paula, and I had a date with her best friend, Mary. We spent the weekend together and I knew I found the person I wanted to spend my life with and immediately moved to the Twin Cities. I married Mary in November of 1964 and we had two children, Lisa and Mark. Denny married Paula and made a career working for UNIVAC and subsequent companies.

I now needed to find a job in the Twin Cities and I decided I wanted to work in the computer industry. My first choice was UNIVAC where I interviewed with Gordon Borne. He seemed to be criticizing my progress in education, so I came on rather strong in my goals and what I wanted to do. I was not surprised he did not have any openings that fit me. In November 1963 I was hired as an assembly technician for Control Data working on the 3000 series. In October 1965 I interviewed at UNIVAC in Roseville, MN, came in number two, but was asked to interview at Sheperd Road. I got Gordon Borne again! He wondered if he would see me again; he said he wished more people would clearly state their goals, and offered me several jobs which I refused. He apologized that he did not have any programming jobs available, but he had one that involved both programming and engineering. I had very little time to get to Plant 5 to interview with Don Lang. As we walked out of the building together, he told me he was recommending they hire me. In November 1965 I went to work for UNIVAC as the coordinator of the new Nike X test bed. True to their promise, in 1967 I joined the Nike X software as a programmer working on radar studies and an information retrieval system.

In 1968 I moved to Plant 8 in Eagan, MN and became part of Test and Certification Programming. Short on projects, they were given tasks by the Naval Systems Group so I worked on test programs, then was given the task of coding and documenting the Integrated Circuit Keyset Central Multiplexer (ICKCMX) program. In January 1970 I was transferred to Naval Systems, and on completion of the ICKCMX program, started working on programs for the SSN-688 class submarines including development of the SSN-68 CSIP program. As submarine work progressed, I became section leader of three other programmers for developing the Link-11 (STDL) and coordinating with the other Over-the-Horizon-Targeting (OTH-T) with which it would interface.

STDL was originally proposed to operate in the receive mode only. During a presentation to the U.S. Navy where I discussed STDL capabilities, I included the additional capabilities a full transmit/receive implementation would provide. The Navy decided to implement the full transmit/receive capability. I was told that I would now need to pass an interoperability test, which usually took more than one attempt to pass.

In June 1980 I was made section leader of the STDL portion of the OTH-T development, which also involved attending quarterly meetings in San Diego to advise Navy Underseas System Center (NUSC) regarding Link-11 changes.

When final time came for checkout, I accepted an onsite assignment to the Special Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) lab in Newport, RI. While there I was asked to visit Dam Neck, VA to meet the people that would perform the interoperability test. It turned out I had met Press Poore at a Jaycee convention and we became friends. We came up with the idea that if we had a powerful enough radio we might be able to test run a lot of the test if we could transmit between Rhode Island and Dam Neck. It turned out we could do so two or three nights a week. The end result was we passed the interoperability test on the first attempt.

After signoff, I continued to work on OTH programs including a trip to Naples, Italy and at-sea trials of new Research & Development (R&D) methods. I also developed the Link-11 portion for the ATACC pre-award demo. Since time was short, we moved a copy of the 1100 compiler to a Vax system. This allowed development by entering code via a console and then compiling. A console could then be used to display the listing, and test running the program from another console, greatly reducing software development time.

I continued to work on various underseas efforts until 1990 when I was recruited to become the computer security specialist, a government-required position as more and more work required classified computer processing. The first task involved writing System Security Plans for each type of system for which we were doing classified processing. Once approved by the Defense Security Service (DSS), the format was used to assist other Twin Cities companies develop their plans.

In May 2001 I became an industrial security representative in charge of all investigations. This involved determining the discipline action to be taken, instead of Human Resources. To ensure fairness across all sites, Lockheed Martin established the Administration Review Committee (ARC) of which I was the Twin Cities site member. This position involved traveling to other company sites to perform security inspections prior to their annual DSS inspections. During my time in Security, my extra job was being the

system administrator for the security computer system which controlled all access and monitored all alarms.

In May 2010, with Lockheed Martin starting layoffs in preparation of leaving MN, I volunteered to be laid off and retired after 44½ years of employment.

As soon as I retired, I started my consulting practice working with small start-up businesses and with experience with small restaurants. In addition to that, I am involved with Scouts of America. My local troop runs our own summer camp (Camp St. Croix) which keeps me busy working to maintain the camp, and until this year I was the camp cook during 2 weeks of summer camp serving 3 meals a day to about 70 people. During the fall, winter, and spring seasons I work as a campmaster at a major council camp helping the ranger from Friday noon until Sunday afternoon, sometimes substituting for the ranger.

I am also active at my church and as an officer in the Knights of Columbus, and now as a VIP Club board member!

*Al Douglass*

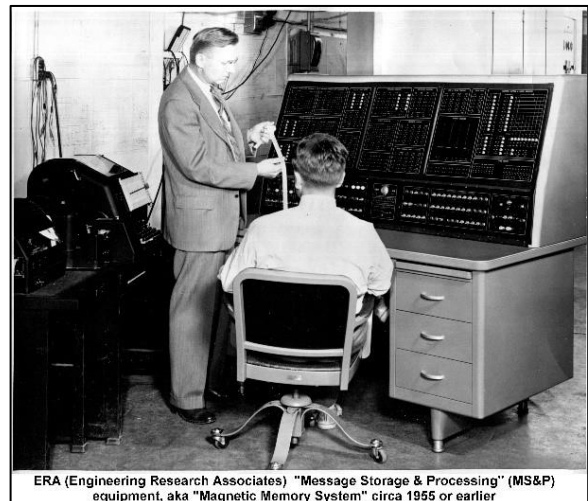
## LEGACY STORY

### September Our Stories

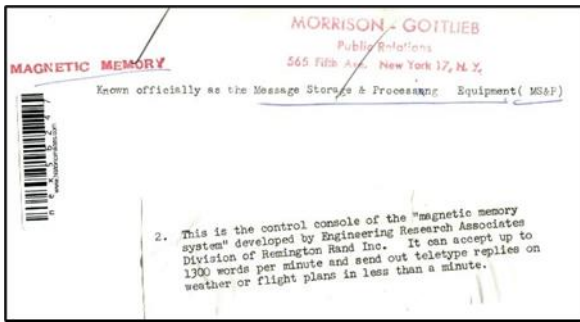
It is serendipitous that a "Mystery Machine" inquiry arrived while editing an interview of Rich Daly, who was involved with the File Computer machines! John Lindley's interview with Rich is posted as <https://www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/RichDalyERAInterview.pdf>.

**Mystery Computer Inquiry**—On July 7, 2025, Computer History Archives Project (CHAP) Director Mark Greenia sent a message to Lowell Benson:

*"I recently purchased this photo of an ERA Message Storage and Processing machine, which was from the photo files of Morrison-Gottlieb Public Relations, NY dated 1955. I (Mark) scanned the back of the photo as well. I was wondering if anyone knows of more information about this machine?" Mark*







A blow-up of the console nameplate is shown to the right. We also found a description of this machine in the 1959 UNIVAC Products Manual, pages 26 & 27: [https://www.vipclubmn.org/Documents/UNIVAC\\_Products\\_Saint\\_Paul\\_1947\\_to\\_1959.pdf](https://www.vipclubmn.org/Documents/UNIVAC_Products_Saint_Paul_1947_to_1959.pdf).



## October Our Stories

The answer is: Yes! I (Lowell) immediately recognized the person standing as Jack Hill, an ERA pioneer. The date (circa 1955) and text on the back of the picture, “flight plans in less than a minute,” are the clues pointing to some company genealogy:

1. <https://vipclubmn.org/Computers.html#Genealogy>  
Lower left-center orange box shows the flight plan storage system leading to the File Computer 0, 1, and II machines.
2. [www.vipclubmn.org/aircontrol.html#Genealogy](http://www.vipclubmn.org/aircontrol.html#Genealogy)  
Bottom line shows the mid-/late-50s timeframe of the Enroute UNIVAC File Computer.

Thus, this ‘Mystery Computer’ is the control console of an initial computer delivered to the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA’s) predecessor for Air Traffic Control (ATC). For those not familiar with ATC processes, the FAA allocated commercial flight control to three site-types:

1. ~24 between airport control facilities
2. ~64 large airport control facilities
3. ~120 small airport control sites.

From the 70s into the late 90s, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) systems were used at the enroute centers; from the early 70s to the late 90s, UNIVAC/Sperry systems [Automated Radar Terminal Systems, ARTS I & ARTS III] were used at the large airports; and from the 80s to the late 90s, System Development Corporation (SDC)/Burroughs systems [ARTS II] were used at the small airports. In 1991, IBM won the FAA’s competition for an Advanced Automation System which fizzled out in 1994. Then Sperry won and started performing on the Common ARTS system for all three site types. Support of Common ARTS continues today in the Twin Cities, even after the ATC departments were transferred from Eagan’s Lockheed Martin to Leidos. Links to most of the U.S. ATC system descriptions, plus several international sites implemented as outgrowths of the UNIVAC/Sperry ARTS III systems, are found here: <https://www.vipclubmn.org/aircontrol.html#SoftInfo>.

Back to the Mystery Computer . . . At the Lawshe Memorial Museum, archivist Keith Myhre found picture 7234A which has a similar console without people.

In 2024, Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) chartered several oral interviews via a grant from Minnesota’s Clean Water act. Barbara Sommers and Carson Toomey conducted the interviews, listed at <https://vipclubmn.org/PeopleInterview.html#RCHS>. RCHS has the first phase of the project, including the transcripts, in their permanent archival collection. Currently, they are available at the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center, open to the public Mon-Thur, 1:00-5:00 p.m. at 75 West 5th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. We posted one edited version interview, <https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/LoweIIBenson2024interview.pdf>, which has bits about Lowell’s career and bytes of our Legacy initiative. I look forward to visiting the RCHS reading room to read interviews of Harold Grandprey, Curt Nelson, Harvey Taipale, et al.

## Restored AN/UYK-7 at Museum NT

From Duane Craps, former Navy technician and 1219B restorer: “There is a German museum with a restored AN/UYK-7 from the German Navy base in Wilhelmshaven. This UYK-7 had been used aboard one of their F-122 Frigates.”



We have added their website info and links to our Exhibits chapter, section 6.11: <https://www.vipclubmn.org/Exhibits.html#Germany>. This site is partially in English but mostly in German. Get out your Wörterbuch (Deutsch-Englisch dictionary) to read about these electronic devices, [http://www.museum-nt.de/objekte/sperry\\_uyk7.html](http://www.museum-nt.de/objekte/sperry_uyk7.html).

Their index page (see graphic on page 5) has a collage of devices with the UYK-7 in the middle, <http://www.museum-nt.de/index.html>. Although my German language is quite rusty, their equipment is located in Berlin.

In their UYK-7 text, they give credit to Larry Bolton for the 7901000 integrated circuit data that is posted in our anthology at [https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/The\\_Univac\\_7901000RevC.pdf](https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/The_Univac_7901000RevC.pdf). Good international recognition for one of our legacy contributors.

Danke Schön, LABenson



### Letter to Webmaster

*"Dear Sirs: I am a long-retired UNIVAC systems engineer (1962-1992+); I am asking about some odd occurrences that happened in the early 1980s, in the Blue Bell HQ, where I worked at the time.*

*One day there was an announcement that a tractor-trailer was in the parking lot and would be auctioning off its contents, which came from a Remington Rand Typewriter Museum in Connecticut. There were many typewriters from around the world. I took interest in*

*several, including one in the Farsi language, but then found something that was a portion of an elaborate Chinese typewriter—a huge wheel of thousands of Chinese characters; other parts of the machine were missing. There were two such disks; I paid \$17 for it, which was all I had in my wallet that day. A lady nearby bought the other one; I believe she paid a bit more, but I don't remember exactly. I believe that someone with a clipboard recorded each sale for cash was required, including these two disks.*

*I kept my disk in my workshop, first in PA and now in my retirement home/shop in ME. Recently I found that the disk has quite some historical interest, particularly with a professor of Chinese at Stanford in CA, who has published a book on the Chinese computer and another on the Chinese typewriter.*

*I ask if there might be any record of this strange parking lot auction, perhaps even enough to identify the person who bought the other disk? I hope that you or some other UNIVAC/Unisys employee might have some special memories?!"*

*David K. Adams, Castine, ME*

**Club Newsletter Readers:** If you have comments, please send to [webmaster@vipclubmn.org](mailto:webmaster@vipclubmn.org) or [la.gj.benson@comcast.net](mailto:la.gj.benson@comcast.net).

### 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.*

***"A life that touches others goes on forever."***

**Gayle E. Anderson** — Passed away February 20, 2025 in Hutchinson, MN, after a life rich with family, service, and craftsmanship. Gayle graduated from the U of MN and served honorably in the U.S. Navy. Gayle had a distinguished career at UNIVAC where he worked in Roseville Engineering, rose to vice president of Design and Drafting, and accepted early retirement at age 57. Retirement brought a second career in woodworking, building grandfather clocks, and later transitioned to clock repair. He and his wife of 69 years, Maryanne, were active church members, shared many cherished friendships, and enjoyed family adventures visiting loved ones across the country. Gayle was preceded in death by a grandson, and is survived by his wife, Maryanne, three children, and five grandchildren.



**Thomas J. Bechtold** — Age 77, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, July 18, 2025. Tom worked computer programming for Unisys for 50 years; a coworker stated that one will never meet a more level-headed guy. He loved to come home from work, tend to his garden, and work in his shop, and loved going to threshing shows, watching MN sports teams, fishing year-round, camping with friends, and spending time with the grandchildren.



Tom and his wife Terri raised their three daughters in Forest Lake, enjoying volunteering at church, traveling, camping with friends, and 40 happy years together until Terri's passing in 2009. Tom later married Judy Loehrer and they enjoyed 14 years of marriage, especially cabin time with their families and friends. Tom was preceded in death by his first wife, Terri Bechtold, and is survived by his second wife, Judy, five children, eight grandchildren, many nieces & nephews, other family, and close friends.

**James S. "Jim" Borland** — Age 98, died June 27, 2025 in Roseville, MN. Jim, raised in Albany, NY, became an electrical engineer at Unisys where he was remembered as an engineer in the Quality organization and always a true gentleman. Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Beth, and other family.



**John Lansing "Lance" Callaghan** graduated from the College of St. Thomas with a B.S. in Biology and received an M.S. in Applied Math and Computer Science from Washington University in St. Louis. He worked for over 30 years at Unisys and served on the adjunct faculty at St. Thomas. He was an active Science Museum and MN History Center volunteer, and tutored elementary school students in math for many years. Lance was an avid reader, a lover of words, loved music and took up piano in retirement, and demonstrated his competitive spirit and strategic mind during cribbage games. Lance is survived by his wife of 56 years, Helen, two daughters, one granddaughter, two step-grandchildren, and other family.



**Merle Connors** — Age 99, passed away May 8, 2025.



Merle farmed until drafted by the U.S. Army, where his service included a year in Korea. Merle trained in electronics at Northwestern Radio & TV Institute (Dunwoody) and worked in the computer industry for over 20 years, retiring from UNIVAC in 1981. In 1980

Merle met his wife, Carol, and they traveled, camped, attended music festivals and fairs, and spent time with family, enjoying the next 40 years together. They gardened at their Forest Lake home, read newspapers, and played cards. Merle enjoyed snowmobiling, Sudoku, and watching car races and sporting events. Merle was preceded in death by his wife, Carol, and is survived by nieces and nephews, a special granddaughter, and other family and friends.

**Elwin (Beau) Forrest Crandall & Ruth Harriet**



**Crandall** of Battle Lake, MN, married for 63 years, died peacefully surrounded by family. **Elwin** – Age 88, died July 12, 2025. He studied mechanical engineering at the U of MN, where he met Ruth.

**Ruth** – Age 84, died July 22, 2025. She earned a U of MN master's degree in library science. Beau worked at Unisys until he retired in 1998—and was at one time a VIP Club member—and Ruth worked for years as Forest Lake Public Library head librarian. They made their home lakeside in Forest Lake, MN after enjoying frequent visits to Ruth's parents' Silver Lake, WI home for swimming, sledding, and family meals on the porch. After retiring to Battle Lake, Ruth enjoyed book club, the county Women's Club, and bridge with friends. Beau enjoyed woodworking, country road biking, and sitting on a lawn chair in the lake with his feet cooling in the water. Both were avid readers who enjoyed weekly library visits mixed with a blended mocha or ice cream cone, and the comfort of home, family, and their quiet lives. They are survived by three children and six grandchildren.

**Terrence Thomas "Terry" Henry** — Age 83

of Crossville, TN passed away June 26, 2025.

Terry served in the Army ROTC out of Fort Snelling. He was an Eagle Scout and later

served as his son's troop scoutmaster. He worked as a financial controller for Sperry/Unisys. While at Sperry, his work group developed the first computerized airline reservation system with Northwest Orient Airlines. A Unisys coworker says Terry was "a great guy from my perspective." Terry was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Henry, and is survived by a son and other family.

**John "Jack" Calvin Isacson** — Age 82 of New Brighton,



MN passed away August 7, 2025. Jack went to Morton Junior College and University of Illinois, earning an electrical engineering degree. He worked as a Unisys quality engineer most of his career and served as Unisys liaison for the Greater Twin Cities United Way; after retirement he was a UW loaned executive. He served many organizations, including as president of the

Brewery Collectibles Club of America (BCCA), where his North Star Chapter volunteer services helped their annual Guzzle 'n Twirl show in MN become one of the country's most highly attended breweriana shows. Jack enjoyed golfing, bowling, playing and umpiring softball, and winter skiing and summer camping with the family. Jack was an avid sports fan who attended a game in every MLB park in the country. He was involved in his children's activities, and enjoyed his grandchildren's concerts and events. Jack and his wife, Jean, volunteered together and enjoyed trips traveling to all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 7 continents. Jack was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Jean, and a daughter-in-law, and is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and other family.

**Darlene Marie Cruikshank Joyce** — Age 80

of Shoreview, MN passed away July 26, 2025.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Edwin, who was employed for over 40 years at Unisys

as a computer designer and manager, and was once a VIP Club member. Darlene was a lifelong advocate for women in higher education and a dedicated U of MN administrator. Her dedication, intellect, and quiet strength helped open doors for women in academia. She mentored colleagues, championed inclusion, and helped shape a culture that valued equity and excellence. Darlene's interests included being an avid crafter and collector, a faithful letter-writer, and one with a deep love for singing who cherished Christmas and was a Hallmark movies fan. Learning that her beloved grandfather had adopted her father and changed his birth certificate sparked a deep, lasting interest in genealogy and pursuing family history. Darlene is remembered by a son, two grandsons, other family, and numerous close friends.

**Walter Clinton "Clint" Jurgens** — Age 83

of Bloomington, MN passed away June 16,

2025, after 10 years dealing with Parkinson's disease. Clint majored in electrical

engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For his Master's project, he teamed up with another farm boy/EE student and created a device to debug wheat without using pesticides. After college Clint signed up with the U.S. Marines for Officer Candidate School and was off to Quantico where he was chosen platoon Honor Man, then posted to Camp Pendleton and MCAS El Toro in Santa Ana, CA. Later, Clint and his wife, Mary Ann, returned to the Midwest, where Clint landed at Sperry UNIVAC Defense Systems in MN for 16 years (see <https://vipclubmn.org/People4.html> for Clint's career summary). They left UNIVAC and cold winters for Austin, TX, but were again pulled back, and Clint and a friend began a long partnership founding NuSpeed, first based on a storage device Clint put together, and soon after acquired by tech giant Cisco. Next came retirement, some time as VIP Club members, and travel with lake time in Ely, MN with family and friends and winter in Austin, TX. Clint is survived by his loving wife, Mary Ann, two daughters, and other family.





**Harold Kendall** — Age 90 of Ramsey, MN passed away peacefully July 29, 2025. Harold lived a life marked by deep love for his family, steadfast integrity, and a quiet strength that left a lasting impact. He worked as an electrical engineer for Unisys for 35 years and then enjoyed 35 retirement years. Harold is preceded in death by his first wife, Virginia, a daughter, his second wife, Judith, and other family, and is survived by his loving wife, Ardis, her three sons and their families, his daughter, two grandchildren, and other family.



**Richard William Laine** — Age 79 of Columbia Heights, MN passed away surrounded by family July 25, 2025. Richard was a U.S. Army veteran. He earned a bachelor's degree in industrial arts and political science from the U of MN Duluth. He worked as a computer programmer and computer assisted design engineer for Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys. He enjoyed working with his hands and building things out of wood. In retirement, Richard loved time outdoors: walking, biking, fishing, and enjoying nature. A favorite place was in a boat on the Boundary Waters' Crane Lake. Richard is survived by five children, nine grandchildren, and his former wife, Carolyn Diane (Ranta) Laine, who cared for Richard as he lived with Alzheimer's.



**Geraline N. "Gerrie" (Zlydaszyk) Olson** — Age 78, died in Columbus, MN. Gerrie worked at Unisys and BAE Systems, was beloved by all with great wit and beauty, and loved Michigan and Minnesota. Gerrie asked for no service, and shared: I had a Great Life, Good Times, Good Friends, Good Family, Wonderful Husband Tom. It's Time to Go. Remember me as I was!



**Ruth Adah (Pike) Sanford** — Age 93, passed away peacefully February 7, 2025. Ruth was Dale Phelps' widow, who for 38 years dedicated his professional life to and retired from Lockheed Martin; he and Ruth were active VIP Club members until 2022. Ruth pursued a career as an X-ray technician and met her first husband, Donald Sanford, while working at Princeton Hospital. They married and raised three children in Bloomington, MN. After Donald's passing, Ruth married Dale Phelps. Ruth held various roles, with her greatest joy serving as Normandale Community College Athletic Department secretary. She embraced a vibrant life while cheering as a proud hockey mom, square dancing with the Swirlers group, volunteering with Loaves and Fishes, or relishing travel. She is remembered for her adventurous spirit, quick wit, and devotion to family and friends. Ruth was preceded in death by her husbands, Donald Sanford and Dale Phelps, and is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Dale Michael Schmidt** — Age 75, passed away peacefully July 27, 2025 surrounded by family. Dale is remembered as working in the Roseville Computer Services Facility (CSF)



Operations group. At home Dale left a lasting legacy of love, strength, and devotion to his beloved wife of 40 wonderful years, Sandy, and to two children and four grandchildren. A true outdoorsman, Dale felt most alive under the open sky. A skilled handyman, Dale built the family's home where he and Sandy raised their children and created a lifetime of memories and unwavering love. Dale was a man of quiet strength and deep faith and will be missed by extended family and lifelong friends.

**Cameron Redge Sprung** — Age 82 of Lakeville, MN passed away June 26, 2025. Cameron enlisted in the Air Force and married his high school sweetheart, LaVonne (Wasfaret), just after finishing basic training. He was stationed on the west coast where they began their family. Cameron retired from the U.S.



Air Force after many years of travel, and from his career at Lockheed Martin after 20 years. He was at one time a VIP Club member, and he enjoyed bicycling, classic car shows, and fishing. Cameron is survived by his wife of 64 years, LaVonne, 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and other family.

**John Joseph Wolkerstorfer** — Age 82, and a nearly 60-year resident of Coon Rapids, MN, passed away at home July 20, 2025 following a sudden and brief illness, surrounded by family. John was a proud graduate of Collegeville, MN's Saint John's University (SJU). He made lifelong friends during his 35-year career at Unisys, retiring in 2000. In retirement he enjoyed travels with his wife, Marilyn, and family and friends; most enjoyed were European Viking River cruises and time at his daughter's and his friends' WI homes. John was a man of deep faith, who demonstrated generosity to his family and many non-profit organizations. He was an avid Sudoku and cribbage player, and a voracious reader and life-long learner. He enjoyed golf and tennis, Boundary Waters camping and canoeing trips, and volunteering. He and Marilyn were active in their church, including singing in the funeral schola. John is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marilyn, three children, six grandsons, three great-grandchildren, and many other beloved family members and friends.



### Belated Remembrance

**Richard Donald Tjosvold** — Age 74, passed peacefully January 9, 2021 surrounded by family. Dick loved to hunt and enjoyed time at his Lake Minnewawa cabin where he taught his children and grandchildren how to fish. He was remembered as making the best buttermilk pancakes and giving the best hugs. Dick worked at Unisys Roseville, and retirement found him traveling to: London and Norway; Fort Myers, FL; Arizona; New Orleans, LA; and Texas; and enjoying his grandchildren's activities. Dick was preceded in death by a granddaughter, and is survived by his wife of 52 years, Paulette, three children, seven grandchildren, and other family & friends.





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 – 2025**

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Past President	Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332

#### **Newsletter Editorial Staff**

Mary Beth Ruhland [clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org](mailto:clubnewsltr@vipclubmn.org)

### **PERIODIC SOCIAL GROUPS**

#### **Monthly Breakfast Gathering**

- **1st Thursday**, 8 a.m. – **Capitol View Cafe**, 637 Smith Ave., **St. Paul** (corner of Smith and Baker). 651-222-2435

#### **Monthly Lunch Gatherings**

- **1st Tuesday Engineering Luncheon**, 11:00 a.m. – **Casper's Cherokee of Eagan**, 4625 Nicols Rd. (off Cliff Rd.) **Keith Behnke**: 651-587-2591.
- **2nd Tuesday**, 11:30 a.m. (Unisys/Burroughs group) – **Mall of America** 3<sup>rd</sup> floor North Food Court  
**Paul Wennerstrom**: 952-854-7855.

### **CLUB CONTACT DATA**

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