

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 42, NO. 04
July/August 2022
<http://vipclubmn.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Wine & Cheese November TBD, (formerly Unihogs & Technologists Reunion) Watch the website and e-mail/evites for more updates to come.



Coordinators are Lowell Benson and Fred Vihovde.

Old Timers' Reunion December 1, Watch the website and e-mail/evites for updates to this event in the lower-level party room at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. Coordinators are VIP Club board members Paul Hove and Steve Koltas.

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



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally! We have all had to make previously unimaginable adjustments to our lives over the past couple of years. At last, it looks like some of our options are beginning to look more like our pre-COVID lives.



The VIP Club's recent activities reflect that.

First, Roseville Good Old Days, our gathering at the Mermaid, primarily supported by "Roseville" employees, had a good turnout. Thanks to Paul Dickson for pulling this event together. We still had two significant COVID-related impacts: First, Paul caught the bug and enlisted Lowell Benson to fill in as the point person. Second, the Mermaid currently has no lunch option, much to the chagrin of many of the attendees. We are in a wait-and-see mode about scheduling next year's event, but be assured—it will happen!

Second, the annual Syttende Mai gathering at Casper's had one of the best turnouts in recent years. Dale Torgerson and Dick Lundgren did a great job of

rounding up the Norwegian ancestry retirees, friends and wannabes (including yours truly, who is only Norwegian by marriage) for this get-together. Our speaker was from Norway house, the now-growing Norwegian culture center in Minneapolis. In addition to talking about things Norwegian, he entertained us with the backstory around his recent appearance on Jeopardy.

Third is our annual picnic. Last year was a first opportunity for an outdoor gathering after all those months of sequestration, and turnout was great. The great turnout continued to this year, with about 100 attendees. Thanks to John Westergren and the dedicated volunteer crew for another great event.

We also want to welcome a new "friend" of the VIP Club, the Unisys retiree organization in France.

Check out their website: www.anciens-unisys.com/. It's in French and Google translate did not do particularly well on my computer, but it does show an active group of retirees sharing some of our legacy. Our VIP Club does have some international flavor—we have members in Canada, Germany and Greece, and are now happy to welcome our friends in France.

There was something new at the picnic and going forward—no charge for members for most gatherings. In the past, some events had a fee, mostly because we needed a reasonably accurate headcount for planning purposes. The theory was that if there was some modest commitment, people were likely to show up. In the electronic era, evite and e-mails regarding last-minute changes in plans have done just as well as the old way. The board is committed to providing social opportunities to get together, and waiving fees for most events is a new part of meeting that goal.

So, things are moving forward again. Building on that, I want to invite a couple of people to be part of that forward motion. We have a dedicated board (Thanks to all the board members), but every viable organization needs a certain measure of regeneration, a spark of new life. The board has been pretty much the same for the past three years, and the time is ripe for some new people to join the board. If you have any interest or questions, please contact me or any board member.

Harvey Taipale, VIP Club President



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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon



The buffet was enjoyed by 30 individuals on **April 20** at Joseph’s Grill in St. Paul. A few pictures are posted in the Special Events section of the VIP Club Photo Gallery page at <http://vipclubmn.org/gallery.html#Special>. As mentioned in the May/June President’s Report, Lowell Benson has retired from the VIP Club Board, allowing us to at last award him long overdue recognition as the 2022 Volunteer Extraordinaire! Lowell has volunteered extensively for more than the past two decades: he has served on the VIP Club Board, including as President; he cochaired the Lockheed Martin Eagan Legacy committee, spent hours as webmaster for the VIP Club and his church and organized(es) many of our retiree get-togethers. Thank You for your service, Lowell!!

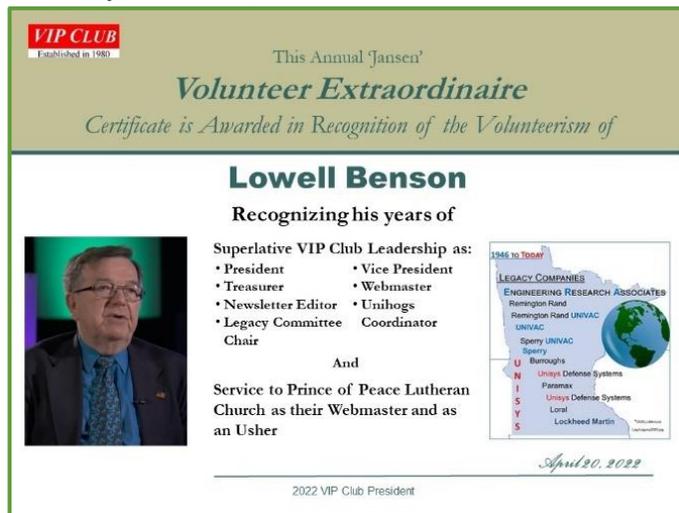
201 attending. For various reasons, some were unable to attend, including myself—coordinator Paul Dickson—who tested positive for COVID! But, as expected, there were some who did attend but were not preregistered.

Traveling the longest distance (we think) was retired Unisys Fellow, Ron Q. Smith, who flew in from the DC area just for this event. My thanks to Lowell Benson for stepping in to lead the setup and guest tallying, and to our team of volunteers: Bill Rohde, Dave Kleba, John Korsman, Keith Schreifels, Lee Nelson, Melanie Wolbeck and Ralph Hayne for staffing the check-in table.

A special thanks to Unisys for printing the name tags—they sure make life easier at these reunions. And a big thanks to Dave Wilhelm for taking photos – again – of the event that I’m sure we’ll all enjoy. Dave also provided links to prior events (see below). If anyone else has photos they would like to add, contact the webmaster@vipclubmn.org to add them to the club’s Photo Gallery page. Photos taken by Dave can be seen in the Photo Gallery Recent Additions section at <http://vipclubmn.org/gallery.html#Recent>.

Here is a list of links to Dave Wilhelm’s Unisys photos:

- RGOD 2022: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1PufAmdAuN2DEK1j9>
 - RGOD 2019: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/uJPq9Yjs4GXbLWpc7>
 - RGOD 2018: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4snXkVzw5hQJnNSi2>
 - RGOD 2015: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/wCL53bnFDeXQ1Uwm6>
 - RGOD 2014: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/fLQP6g8R27aZE29i1>
 - RGOD 2013: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yKDXl6sHxj44ucXL2>
 - RGOD 2012: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/C2b7ATeoGqgEpGpU6>
 - RGOD 2011: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dYiRC5yCu8j3babB8>
 - RGOD 2010: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1HEV6VC7e2RpXKao7>
 - RGOD 2009: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4yvdKIF2ABslZhr43>
- Also, Unisys Roseville Open House 2017: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qVV9tcD3HIQvHfSX2>



Here are the 2021 volunteers able to celebrate at Joseph’s, or who shared their volunteer efforts with us:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • James & Kathy Andrews | • Richard Lundgren |
| • Keith Behnke | • Nancy Menning |
| • Bernard Bertram | • Keith Myhre |
| • Lowell Benson | • Donald Naaktgeboren |
| • John Booher | • Jim Overocker & Pauline Frankot |
| • Dave & Kathy Carter | • Leslie Nelson |
| • Allan Douglass | • Robert Pagac |
| • Sam Fudenberg | • Arlo & Janice Pannkuk |
| • Roger Gillette | • Mary Beth Ruhland |
| • Lary Haupt | • Ronald & Janice Schwitters |
| • Gary & Betty Herman | • Cameron Sprung |
| • Paul Hove | • Harvey Taipale |
| • Frank & Johanne King | • Dennis Thom |
| • Eugene & Marcia Kurata | • John Troini |
| • Robert Langer | • Earl Vraa |
| • Darrell Lindemann | • Boni & Jim Westberg |

Roseville Good Old Days We were finally able to hold the reunion at the Mermaid Entertainment & Event Center on **May 6!** Replies to the invitation emails came from 324 people, with 240 planning to attend and



Syttende Mai began in 1974 when six Sperry UNIVAC employees gathered to celebrate Norwegian Constitution day. Ole Olson, Keith Myhre, Larry Bakken, Burt Gunderson, Gary Odegaard and Joel Christensen sat at a table next to the window on the north side of the Hot Fish Shop restaurant in Mendota for their first luncheon.

Attendees increased in subsequent years as Ole promoted the get-together. Eventually the group

outgrew the dining room, especially when Ole would get up and make a speech to the group, inconveniencing neighboring diners. So, the luncheon moved ‘across the hall’ to the Emporium of Jazz. With additional space, the planners began adding formal speakers. When the Emporium of Jazz shut down, the luncheon was moved to Casper’s in Eagan. By the early 80s, retired employees joined or continued to participate.

Most of the featured speakers were of Norwegian heritage, talking about their books or experiences associated with their ancestral land. This year was no different, though it’s hard to believe this was our first gathering to celebrate our heritage since 2019! On **May 20** we welcomed two speakers: ❖Eivind Heiberg (pictured here), Norwegian Honorary Consul General, brought greetings from the Palace, and ❖Joe Grodahl, Director of Programming & Events at Norway House (norwayhouse.org) and recent contestant on Jeopardy, talked about his role at Norway House and provided an update on the current construction progress of the new event center/library. Photos taken by Harvey Taipale can be seen in the Club Photos Recent Additions section at http://www.vipclubmn.org/Gallery/2022_SyttendeMai.pdf.



Annual Reunion Picnic Recap Eagan Central Park Pavilion was the setting for this much-anticipated and often well-attended event on **June 22**. The weather was perfect, we had a great time and the food and drinks were served up by a team of picnic planning coordinators and volunteers. See pictures in the Club Photos Recent Additions section at <http://www.vipclubmn.org/Gallery/20220622PicnicA.pdf>, and send in any photos you’ve taken for posting to: webmaster@vipclubmn.org. Over 100 members attended, and a few even filled in the Evite Volunteer request saying, **“Yes, I’ll help out as needed!!”**



VIP Club Help → → Board Recruiting

The VIP Club Board always welcomes help with event planning, coordination, setup, serving, cleanup and the like. AND, as Harvey Taipale said in his President’s Report, the time is NOW to start recruiting some NEW Board members! Perhaps some **younger**, and/or **female** club members are interested in becoming

a VIP Club Board member to help keep the club running more than a few more years? The current board is aging! They’ve discussed it and don’t want to see our club take the same path the Blue Bell retiree club took to extinction. New, **younger** board members are needed to keep the club, its activities and our history running, not to mention to keep getting our friends together in the parks, at Casper’s, at Lost Spur and wherever else **they** find for us to gather! If you’re interested in becoming a board member, contact president Harvey Taipale or past president Keith Behnke to get on the ballot. Or, contact any board member with questions about what’s expected of you as a VIP Club Board member.

By Mary Beth Ruhland

“The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down.”
- T.S. Elliot

“At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don’t care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven’t been thinking of us at all.”
- Ann Landers

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Wayne & Kathy Eiden, Rosemount, MN
- Robert & Diane Hawkins, Farmington, MN
- Frederick Kycek, Woodbury, MN
- David & Laura Jean Schroth, Roseville, MN
- Wesley & Joyce Shellenbarger, Apple Valley, MN

LEGACY TIDBITS

Our Web Site Evolution:

Sixteen years ago, we merged an IT Legacy information page with the VIP Club’s web page. Rather than spurious entries into a Wikipedia page, we decided to solicit, then control submitted entries into the theme *People at Locations* in *Minnesota Engineered Computers and Systems* used throughout the world. Then in April 2007 we initiated the *Our Stories* chapter as a monthly Legacy feature. In 2012 we added the *Exhibits* chapter as we moved artifacts from the Eagan Lockheed Martin facility to the South St. Paul Lawshe Memorial Museum. In 2017 we effected a partial separation of the VIP Club information pages from the 60 Legacy chapters. Over 500 people have contributed to our IT anthology mentioning almost 2,000 coworkers and customer personnel as listed at www.vipclubmn.org/PeopleIndx.html. We indeed are information technology pioneers!

A byproduct of the Legacy documenting is the VIP Club’s ‘biography’; our History page has milestones since the 1980 founding. The Activities page has the history of half-a-dozen periodic group gatherings since the 1950s.

Now, for July 2022, we are posting the 194th *Our Stories*: [A compendium, Snapshots in Time](#); 18 years of periodic presidents' messages extracted from newsletters. Our Site Summary report now lists:

- ✓ All files in the current site: 1,314 – 8,683,333 KB
- ✓ Files in the current site that can be reached by starting from the Home page: 1,274 – 8,564,026 KB
- ✓ Files in the current site that have been created in the last 30 days: 15 – 28,58 KB
- ✓ Files in the current site that have not been modified in over 72 days: 1,203 – 8,534,180 KB
- ✓ Hyperlinks pointing to files outside of the current site: 655
- ✓ Hyperlinks pointing to other files within the current site: 5,665
- ✓ Pages in the current site exceeding an estimated download time of 30 seconds at 56 KBs: 70
- ✓ Picture files in the current site (GIF, JPG, BMP, etc.): 369 – 229,324 KB.

My apologies if I have missed you when creating the index chapter. If you would like to update your entry(ies) or want to add to any chapter's sections, send the change or new 'stuff' to webmaster Jim Andrews [webmaster@vipclubmn.org] or to me, his back-up [la.gj.benson@comcast.net]. Thanks to those who continue documenting our history at the museum and this ever-growing website.

More Legacy Bits

From the 1956 UNIVAC Scientific Reference Manual: The first type 1103 computer was delivered to the Bureau of Ships several years ago; in 1954 several commercial versions which contained 1,024 words of electrostatic storage were delivered to Consolidated Vultee Aircraft, Elgin Air Force Base, White Sands Proving ground, Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation and Westinghouse. In 1955, delivery of a later version of the ERA 1103 computer began. These were logically the same as the first, but incorporated an important engineering development – magnetic cores replaced the 1,024-word electrostatic memory. The introduction of magnetic cores made the ERA 1103 the first computer system to be delivered using this improved form of high-speed memory. Organizations receiving this version were the Operations Research Office of Johns Hopkins University, Wright Air Development Center, Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and Remington Rand UNIVAC, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The UNIVAC Scientific Model 1103A is an expansion of the earlier ERA 1103 system with several engineering and logical improvements. One of the improvements is that the magnetic core storage has been expanded to 4,096 words of core as standard equipment,

with one or two banks of 4,096 words as optional equipment. Receiving 1103A installations are the Missile Systems Division of Lockheed Aircraft Company, Boeing Airplane Company, Holloman Air Force Base (two 1103A's), Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation, Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University and Wright Air Development Center. (Two years after this manual publication; in 1958, 1103 S/N 4 was transferred to the U of MN, along with Dr. Stein, to begin the University's computer science department, <http://vipclubmn.org/processors.html#Customer%20Lists.>)

LABenson

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator.

Only a fraction of people will find this funny.

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) Commissioned on May 21, 2022

The U.S. Navy commissioned its newest littoral combat ship for duty in ceremony at Duluth Port

(see <https://www.usff.navy.mil/Press-Room/uss-mpls-saint-paul-lcs-21-commissions/> by Julie Ann Ripley and <https://www.startribune.com/uss-mpls-st-paul-commissioned> by Christa Lawler, from which this article is quoted).

The USS Minneapolis-St. Paul is a speedy combat ship built for near-shore missions that was put into active service during a ceremony at the Port of Duluth on May 21, the first time a U.S. Navy warship was commissioned in Minnesota. From a platform in front of the 387-foot, steel-hulled vessel, the ship's sponsor, former deputy undersecretary of the Navy Jodi Greene, gave the first order to, "Man our ship and bring her to life."

As the Navy Band played "Anchors Aweigh," dozens of sailors dressed in whites jogged in a single-file line up an aisle through the crowd and to the ship. There was a gun salute, a singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and a military helicopter flyover. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, one of a handful of politicians and military leaders who spoke during the commissioning ceremony, said, "We are so proud of the name — the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul. And the ship's motto, which translates to 'I will either find a way or make one,' is a perfect reflection of the resolve and determination of our state's service members and our veterans."

Rep. Betty McCollum, Minnesota 4th District, was the principal speaker for the commissioning ceremony. "The strength of America's national security, and the democratic values we hold dear, are being tested today like they have not been in decades," said McCollum. "I can think of no two names that represent that strength more than Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Together we are one team – those who built this fine ship, and those who will serve on her. It is the strength and determination of

the American people that is the backbone of our national security.”

The Honorable Erik Raven, Under Secretary of the Navy, reflected on attending his first commissioning ceremony. “The Twin Cities represent the Great State of Minnesota’s economic, cultural, and political center. The Twin Cities play a significant role in our nation’s economic network,” said Raven. “Now, more than ever, it is fitting that a Littoral Combat Ship is named Minneapolis-Saint Paul - honoring the legacy of work and contribution of the people whose work ultimately impacts our daily lives nationwide and globally.”

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz also attended. “This is a unique opportunity to gather ourselves as Minnesotans and Americans,” said Walz. “We’re not just a country; we’re an ideal.” Guest speakers for the event also included Jon Rambeau, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin Integrated Warfare Systems and Sensors.

Other attendees of the ceremony included:

- Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis
- Mayor Melvin Carter, City of Saint Paul
- Mayor Emily Larson, City of Duluth
- Rear. Adm. Casey Moton, Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Small Combatants
- Mark Vandroff, chief executive officer, Fincantieri Marinette Marine
- Capt. David Miller, Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 2
- Capt. Andy Gold, Littoral Combat Ship program manager, Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Small Combatants
- Brian Kriese, deputy officer in charge, supervisor of shipbuilding Bath Detachment Marinette
- Matrons of Honor, Nicole Sunberg and Carly Olsen

Rep. Pete Stauber, Minnesota 8th District, assisted in placing the ship into commission.

Built by the Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisconsin. Minneapolis-Saint Paul was launched and christened in on June 15, 2019. The ship completed acceptance trials, Aug. 21, 2020, and was delivered to U.S. Navy, Nov. 18, 2021.

LCS is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat asymmetric “anti-access” threats and is capable of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence. Minneapolis-Saint Paul will be homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida.



Retirement Status and Benefits:

Numbers to call if you or your heirs have death benefit or pension questions – you will need an SSN and a PIN.

♦ **UNISYS:** 1-877-864-7972

♦ **Lockheed Martin:** 1-866-562-2363

****LMCO retirees:** If you are eligible for the health care supplement through VIA Benefits, submit your expenses to receive up to \$900 each annually for you and your spouse (Total \$1,800). Eligible expenses include copayments, Medicare premiums and insurance supplement premiums. For questions call **VIA Benefits** at 1-844-596-0460 or go to <https://my.viabenefits.com/>.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

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

The VIP Club board extends its sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones.

We will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind.

~William Wordsworth~

Larry Eugene Bakken – Age 78 of Lakeville, MN passed away April 25, 2022. Larry is survived by his wife, Vickie, three sons, three grandchildren and other loving family and friends.



Bonnie (Tucker) Boutelle –Age 91, worked at Unisys for 30 years in the Semiconductor Control Facility, building 4. Bonnie enjoyed water aerobics and baking, was an active volunteer with her church and other community organizations and above all else was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Bonnie was preceded in death by a daughter, a son and a great-grandson. She will be deeply missed by her husband of 73 years, William, 4 children, 17 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, many bonus grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.



James Loren Conn – Age 76 of Maple Grove, MN died suddenly on May 10, 2022, of a heart attack. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy ('67), Jim served in Vietnam flying the P-3 Orion. He retired as a Captain after 12 years active and 13 years reserve duty with command of two squadrons. He transitioned into small business consulting followed by many years at Lockheed Martin enhancing the P-3 with new systems he had envisioned while flying them. Always active in church, in retirement Jim expanded his volunteering by starting an affiliate of the non-profit Mobility Worldwide, also chairing their national board. He was devoted to his family and loved fishing, golf,



choral music, Snoopy, all things Irish and the home on Lake Ossawinnamakee. He was a man of service to his country, community and friends. He is survived by his wife of almost 55 years, Dawn Carlson Conn, two daughters, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, other family and an amazing and loving circle of “old” friends.

Larry Cude – Age 77 of Maplewood, MN passed away at his home on May 6, 2022. Larry is survived by his wife of 50 years, Carol, a daughter, two grandchildren and many family and friends.

Marie Madonna Deeg (nee Lyons) – Age 95 of Eagan, MN/Stone Lake, WI, went to see her Lord on June 15, 2022. Marie and her husband, Jim, raised their family in Eagan where Marie worked at Unisys until retiring in 1991. They then moved to their lake home on Whitefish Lake, her “Heaven on Earth,” where she became involved in the Hayward Area Food Shelf, Hospice and the Stone Lake Cranberry Festival. Marie loved her God, family, music, travelling and playing bridge. She was preceded in death by her husband, James, and is survived by 6 sons, a daughter, 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



Joseph P. Dischinger – Age 90 passed away peacefully on January 7, 2022, in his home with his loving wife, Mary, and his children, by his side. Joseph served in the U.S. Navy from April 1949 to February 1953, and was a VIP Club member. He met and fell in love with Mary Gray, they married in 1969, moved into their home in Shoreview, MN, and started their family. Joseph enjoyed going on vacation, golfing, building projects and spending time with his family. Joe is survived by Mary, his wife of 52 years, three children, eight grandchildren and many other family.



Marlys Marie (Lambertz) Geiger – Age 89, passed away peacefully at her home on December 4, 2021, with her husband, Bill, former Remington Rand UNIVAC/Unisys employee, and her son at her side. Marlys attended St. Catherine



University and University of North Dakota and graduated from Moorhead State University with a degree in early childhood education. She taught in Fargo, Fridley and St. Paul schools. She was also a Catholic Church organist and a principal of childhood education. Marlys and Bill lived most of their 65 years together in Fridley and Vadnais Heights with cherished summer weekends at their lake cottage and many winters in San Diego enjoying their son, grandsons’ and great-grandchildren families. Bill and Marlys were blessed to enjoy travel in Europe, Africa and Asia. In her quiet time, Marlys loved her flowers and crossword

puzzles. She is survived by her husband Wilfred (Bill), a son, two grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

Linda Anne Goergen – Age 64 years young, wife of



VIP Club member and former Lockheed Martin employee, Dale Goergen, passed away on May 28, 2022. While scuba diving in Cozumel, Mexico, she experienced life-threatening complications from which medical professionals in both Mexico and the U.S. could not save her. Linda’s last wish was to be an organ donor; her generous donation will continue through a kidney transplant and other donations and research. Linda’s passion for caring for others began early—she obtained her Associates degree in Registered Nursing and a degree in Healthcare Management. She began working at Metropolitan Medical Center assisting in pediatric heart surgery for the Children’s Heart Fund, but spent most of her career (29 years) in Fairview Health Services as an operating room nurse, process re-engineering, and later as a Clinic Administrator for Fairview and Cumberland Healthcare. Volunteering was also important in her children’s academic and sport activities, supporting community events, providing local and international medical care to those in need, and being a blood donor. Linda and Dale resided in Apple Valley, MN, for 33 years, before retiring to their lake home in Cumberland, WI. Together they traveled the world visiting, exploring, and fulfilling Linda’s mission through medical mission trips to Honduras and Africa. When Linda wasn’t traveling, she kept herself busy in her garden, enjoying lake life, volunteering at the free clinic, and hosting and gathering with friends and family. Linda is survived by her husband, Dale, children, grandson, siblings, in-laws, nieces and nephews, and friends from around the world. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Gerald Allen “Jerry” Nickell, – Age 81, of Little Canada, formerly of Stillwater, MN. Jerry was a VIP Club member. A complete notice will appear August 7. A Visitation/Celebration of Jerry’s life is August 22 at Bradshaw Celebration of Life Center, Stillwater, with Interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Dr. Kim T. Rawlinson – Age 85, formerly of Eagan,



MN passed away on May 30, 2022, in Rio Rancho, NM. He was a brilliant mathematician, teacher, devoted father and music lover. Kim graduated from DePauw University with a B.S. in zoology, earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in mathematics from the University of NM and went on to teach math and computer science at the U of MN, Duluth. He embarked on a highly successful, 23-year career with Sperry UNIVAC/ Lockheed Martin in Eagan, working on ground-

breaking computer programming projects for the aerospace industry. In addition to skiing and roller dancing, Kim was an accomplished amateur radio operator, earning an “extra class” license; his call sign was WNØV. Despite being legally blind from an early age, Kim later learned to read and play piano music; he would use a CCTV reading machine to greatly magnify the music and memorize a few lines at a time. He loved all types of music, especially classical. His Steinway B grand piano signed by Henry Steinway was one of his prized possessions. Kim also enjoyed listening to Minnesota women’s sports on the radio, as well as the Indy 500 auto race. He was thrilled when he was given permission to sit in Al Unser Sr.’s personal Ford Shelby Cobra during a visit to the Al Unser Racing Museum in Albuquerque. Kim is survived by two children.

Douglas Schmitt – Age 75, of Maplewood, MN passed away on May 28, 2022, surrounded by his family, washed in love, and secure in his faith. In retirement from Lockheed Martin, Doug enjoyed sharing life with his family, mastering Spanish, learning to play the ukulele and playing tennis and pickleball with his Florida friends. He fully embraced life as a loving partner, a caring father and a playful grandfather. Doug’s humor was a gift; he was easy to love, easy to laugh with, and a kind, loyal, considerate person. Doug met his challenge with brain cancer with courage and acceptance. He had hope and faith to the end and openly shared this journey with his family. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, two children, four grandchildren and other family and friends.



Eleanor “Elie” Mae Stangler – Age 89 of Waterville, MN passed away at her home on Sunday, June 5, 2022. Elie spent over 30



years employed with Unisys in the defense sector, creating chips and circuit boards for use in many applications across the U.S. military. She enjoyed reading, crocheting and traveling, was involved in the Waterville Lion’s Club and was a long-time member of the Waterville United Methodist Church. Elie was married to Donald Buchmann; they had four children and made their lives together until Donald’s passing in 1989. She was married to Lawrence “Larry” Stangler with whom she spent many happy years together until his passing in 2011. Elie is survived by 2 children, 3 step-children, 8 grandchildren, 8 step-grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 12 step-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, 2 children and 1 grandson.

Ronald Edward Wages – Age 69, of Rosemount, MN passed away June 12, 2022. Ron was a USAF Veteran and worked for UNIVAC, Sperry, Unisys and Lockheed Martin for 30 years or more. He enjoyed being at his family-built cabin, and loved spending time with



his wife, children, and especially his grandchildren. He had many hobbies, including hunting, fishing, rock picking for agates, and he could fix or build virtually anything. He even built a sandblaster out of an old dishwasher. Ron is survived by his wife of 50 years, Annemarie, two children, four grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Additional Remembrance

A memorial video on the life of Mel Peterson who died two years ago, submitted by his wife, Jean, is viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R81X7fV486I>. His obituary was in [VIP Club newsletter \(vipclubmnmn.org\)](http://vipclubmnmn.org), page 5.



A marvelous time at the VIP Club annual picnic!



The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Twin Cities Squadron, prepares to present the colors before the commissioning ceremony for the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Port of Duluth in Duluth, Minn.



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

Board of Directors – 2022

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UNISYS Liaison
 Judy Bornetun; 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 **New Brighton**. **Paul Dickson**: 651-482-9934. **Temporarily Suspended**

CLUB CONTACT DATA

VIP Club 2022 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com
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