

SAVE the dates listed in the upcoming events below . . .

MEMBERSHIP

- ❖ If you responded to our notification that your membership has expired, no action is required, but a number of members have not yet renewed.
- ❖ Did you receive a notice that your membership has been set to inactive?

If you want to renew, complete the form received in the notice and mail it to VIP Club MN, PO Box 21903, Eagan, MN 55121, with your dues payment. The membership form can also be found at https://vipclubmn.org/ClubForms/MEMBERSHIP_FORM.pdf. If unsure of your status, the website has a listing of all members and when their membership will expire at <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/PaidMembershipStatus2024.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon April 16, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Joseph's Grill, 140 Wabasha Street South, Saint Paul.

Syttende Mai May 16 is the tentative date and Casper's Cherokee of Eagan, 4625 Nicols Road the likely location. Details TBD.

Annual Reunion Picnic June 18, returning to the Eagan Central Park Pavilion, 1497 Central Pkwy. Details TBD.

Roseville Good Old Days September 11 at the Rosetown American Legion Post, 700 County Road C West in Roseville. Details TBD.

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.

VIP Club 2025 Scheduled Board Meetings: April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 3. We meet at the Dakota County Historical Society Lawshe Museum, 130 3rd Ave North, So. St. Paul, MN. Club members curious about club business may join us. Contact the president two days prior for access.

Event Details:

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon April 16, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All VIP Club members who volunteered during 2024 are invited to attend our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Joseph's Grill, 140 Wabasha Street South, St. Paul, on April 16. Any volunteer activity qualifies for an invite and no accounting of volunteer hours is required. We do require reservations so Joseph's can accommodate everybody, so watch for and respond to the Evite in late March. If you can't use Evite, e-mail Harvey Taipale at hjtaipale@comcast.net. Deadline for reservations is April 4. Mark your calendar and join other volunteers at Joseph's Grill April 16. Coordinator: *Harvey Taipale*.

Annual Reunion Picnic NEW THIS YEAR: NO alcoholic beverages will be allowed at the VIP Club Picnic on June 18, 2025. The VIP Club will not provide beer and wine; you also MAY NOT bring alcoholic beverages. With no alcohol on site, the liquor liability insurance will not be purchased. The VIP Club's annual operating cost has increased significantly because Unisys no longer prints and mails the hard copy newsletter for free. To reduce costs the VIP Board has decided to reduce the picnic cost by eliminating alcohol and thus the insurance required by the city of Eagan. The VIP Club will provide soft drinks, bottled water, and food at the picnic.

SOCIAL REPORT

Holiday Party Bits On Sunday, January 5, at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center, approximately 40 club members enjoyed the beautiful Christmas decorations, spent an afternoon sipping cocktails and socializing, and ate a delicious walleye, sirloin, or chicken dinner. After the festive afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship, there was fantastic entertainment, as usual, when the Eagan Men's Chorus (originally the Sperryaires) performed a lively holiday concert.

There are party pictures in the event report found in our website Gallery page at <https://vipclubmn.org/Gallery/2025holidayParty.pdf>. Missed when making that event



report was a picture of the quartet performance with Club President Jim Andrews, at the left in the snapshot here. Also missing was the couple shown below, Barbara and Jack. Lowell apologizes to other couples not captured by his cell phone photography. Thanks to coordinators *Jim Andrews and Boni Westberg* for the festive afternoon!



Volunteer Extraordinaire Nominations Call

April is National Volunteer Month. The VIP Club board is seeking nominations for the annual Volunteer Extraordinaire recognition award. Active VIP Club board members are not eligible for this award.

Luncheon and Award Background

After Burroughs bought Sperry to form Unisys in 1986, Unisys hosted volunteer recognition breakfasts in the Plant 4 cafeteria. In 2009, Unisys Roseville closed their cafeteria. The VIP Club board decided that volunteer recognition was important, thus took over sponsorship of this annual event. The venue selected was the American Legion Club in New Brighton. In 2010, the club decided to not have a ‘guest speaker,’ rather just have a few attendees talk about their volunteerism. When the legion club lost its food license in 2011, the breakfast was moved to the Eagles Club in New Brighton, and in 2013 to the VFW in Roseville. In 2015, the VIP Club decided to have a recognition luncheon, instead of a breakfast, at Joseph’s Grill in St. Paul, and initiated the Volunteer Extraordinaire recognition award. The first award recipient was Keith Myhre in recognition of his leadership and support of the planning, writing, and implementing of two State Legacy grants to the Dakota County Historical Society to begin photo cataloging and exhibit development at the Lawshe Memorial Museum. The eight ensuing award recipients are chronicled at <https://vipclubmn.org/activities.html#Award>.

Please send your nomination to board@vipclubmn.org before April 1; the board will select the recipient at the April 2 club meeting, and present the award to the recipient at the April 16 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am filled with sadness as I write this letter. Two VIP Club Board members have passed away. I recently attended the funeral of club member Paul Hove, a man of many talents, who served faithfully as our club treasurer for many



years. He was also a coordinator of the November Old Timers’ Reunion at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. We also lost Les Flugum, who began serving on the board in January 2024. He was a willing, active newcomer who stepped up quickly to help where needed, and took on the open vice president position. His introductory bio appears in the March/April 2024 newsletter (see <https://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/Enews2403.pdf>). Both Paul and Les are included in the Remembrance section later in this newsletter. We certainly will miss them both and offer our condolences to their families and friends.

See Remembrances later in this newsletter

	← Paul Hove, VIP Club Treasurer	
	Les Flugum, VIP Club Vice President →	

This leaves vacancies on our club board and a search is on for members willing to become our next treasurer and/or a board member/event coordinator. Please consider it and get back to me if interested. Special thanks to Harvey Taipale who met with Paul before his death and received the club checkbook and financial records. Harvey has graciously agreed to serve as interim treasurer until we find a new one.

Our February board meeting was held in the newly built conference room at the Dakota County Historical Society Lawshe Museum in So. St. Paul. The room worked well and the board decided that future board meetings will be held there at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of even-numbered months.

NOTE: The museum has a large display of our company’s hardware products and lots of historical information about the computer industry in Minnesota. It’s worth a visit!

The biggest issue that the board is dealing with is the club’s financial outlook. The income from yearly dues continues to drop each year as members either die or let their membership expire. In 2024, the club spent

\$1,573 more than it collected. The most significant cost factors are the printed newsletter delivery followed by the free or subsidized events such as the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, the Annual Reunion Picnic, and the Holiday Party. We project that at the end of 2025, we will spend **\$4,730** more than we take in. The increase is primarily due to the printing/ mailing cost of the newsletter. If that continues, we will run out of money in four years.

At future meetings the board will consider options to eliminate the deficit spending and keep the club running. Some things to consider include:

- Raising dues
- Reducing subsidies or charging for club events
- Charging folks who choose to receive a printed copy of the newsletter \$18/yr—the current cost to the club.

If you have any suggestions for us to examine, please pass them along to any board member for consideration. Stay warm and healthy!

Jim Andrews, VIP Club President

YOUR STORY

Letter to the Editor

Check out the following letter to the editor from club member David P. Andersen regarding his recent publication:

Thank you for the excellent VIP Club newsletter.

The first commercially successful voice mail computer was designed and built in the UNIVAC Eagan plant in the 1960s.

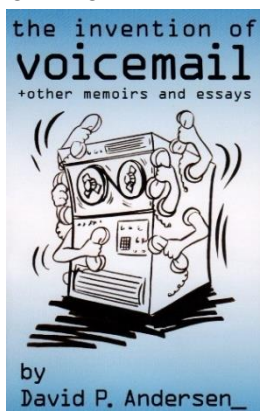
Its development is now described in my book, The Invention of Voice Mail plus Other Memoirs and Essays.

This book is now available from amazon.com. Please consider mentioning the book in your next VIP Club newsletter.

Thanks. --David P Andersen.

The back cover includes excerpts from the book including this one: “Somehow, one of the air traffic controllers triggered this test message while the system was online, and pilots on the eastern seaboard heard a 10-second excerpt of Nat King Cole singing *Straighten Up and Fly Right*. The FAA insisted we replace it with an audio tone.

--The Invention of Voice Mail”




WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Denny & Robin Baxter, Burnsville, MN
- Mathew & Anastasia O’Hara, Lakeville, MN

LEGACY STORY

Our Stories

January: The ‘Our Stories’ for January is a presentation made at the January 14 WWII Round Table at the Minnesota History Center. The first slide is shown here.



Established in 1980


MHS WWII Roundtable

January 2025

From Gliders to Computers

Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation (NAC)
became Engineering Research Associates (ERA)

Unpublished 2016: John M. Lindley - Grant Number 1510-07526 of the Minnesota Historical Society's Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program. **BORN OF A WARTIME NECESSITY.** He provides the history of Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation (NAC) and its post war transformation to Engineering Research Associates (ERA). Extensive data from Charles Babbage Institute archives, cites 250+ references including 'oral interview' of Mr. Parker. .



John E. Parker, Investment Banker

- John Parker graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1922.
- He worked then was a partner in investment firms 1925-42
- John E. Parker was NAC President, 1942-46
- Chapter 6 on page 161 is Gliders to Computers.
- Mr. Parker was ERA President, 1946-52

©Jan14Talk.pptx 2/6/2025
Lowell Benson, BEE 1966, UofMN

John Parker was the President of Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation (NAC) and then Engineering Research Associates (ERA). The full presentation with cited text is at <https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/Jan14text.pdf>.

Some presentation text came from documents now linked from our website Our Stories chapter at <https://vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#unpub>. The most detailed of these is [Born of a Wartime Necessity](#) by John M. Lindley, which is a partial biography of John Parker extracted from the Charles Babbage Institute’s (CBI’s) oral interview and other CBI documents. I also used some of Gish Devlaminck’s Fagen Fighters WWII Museum slides, found at <https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/Plant2History.pdf>.

The January 14 presentation followed Marc Wortman’s presentation about his biography of International Business Machines (IBM) founder Thomas J. Watson, Sr., *The Greatest Capitalist Who Ever Lived*. Because of the IBM topic, I chose to include two statements from our Legacy Anthology:

1. From Warren Burrell: “Our effort to design the IBM 604 with an ERA Drum was not satisfactory. We three (George Hardenberg, Arnold Cohen, and Warren Burrell) were to prepare a paper design employing punched cards and a drum. John Coombs was persuaded to join IBM. His early ERA patents included selective alteration on drum memory. Our paper designs were circulated among the six or seven IBM laboratories. Some questions came back but no details as to application until IBM announced the 650 {sic 1953} and it became the first U.S. large scale production computer.”

2. From George Chapine, PhD: “Well before the 1101 announcement, ERA was becoming known in the infant computer industry. In 1949, ERA contracted to do a paper design for IBM on a punched card, magnetic drum computer system intended for business use. ERA’s design was to be judged competitively with those of two internal IBM groups. Few if any of ERA’s technical contributions seem to have found their way into what eventually became the IBM 650. However, two extensive patents came out of the effort, and these were assigned to IBM as sponsor of the project. In addition, a cross-licensing agreement between ERA and IBM gave IBM access to ERA’s then-pending patents in magnetic drum storage.”

OPINION by Lowell: These two statements and a few other Legacy Anthology items are some ‘proofs’ that ERA was the World’s 1st Computer Company.

BTW, if you look over the IBM history website for the 650, you’ll find a snapshot of a drum memory in a machine that resembles the ERA drums that are displayed at the Lawshe Memorial Museum.

February: The ‘Our Stories’ for February is the first of a trilogy recalling the episodes of Richard ‘Dick’ Erdrich’s 47-year career with our legacy companies. The first article found at https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/Erdrich_1st.pdf covers many 30-bit computer assignments. A tidbit is: “I worked on Real Time Data Handling System (RTDHS) software integration and sell-off. The system worked very well, allowing the Ascension Island Radar to remotely transmit data to our computer [CP-642A] and, using orbital parameter data provided by the Range Safety Computers at Cape Canaveral, lock onto the incoming Re-entry Vehicle (RV).”

The second (March article) covers his 16-bit computer developments, and the third (April article) has his advanced hardware accomplishments such as Memory Processor and Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) system hardware.

I, Lowell, was fortunate to work with ‘Dr. Erdrich’ during many of his 16-bit computer activities. The title of ‘Dr.’ will be revealed in the third part of the trilogy epilogue.

Dick was one of the eight VIP Club interviewees in the 2019 Twin Cities PBS (TPT) documentary ([Solid State: Minnesota’s High-Tech History - Solid State: Land of 10,000 Secrets - Twin Cities PBS](#)).

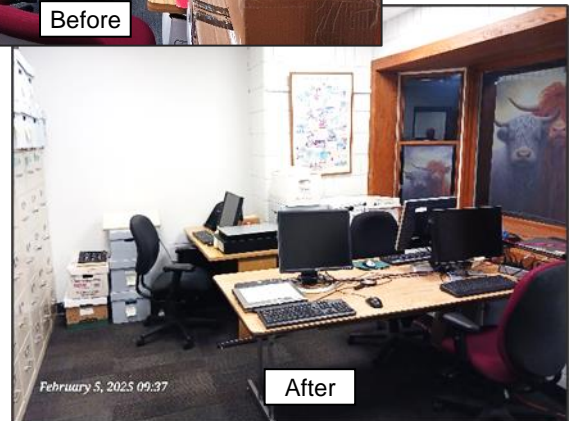
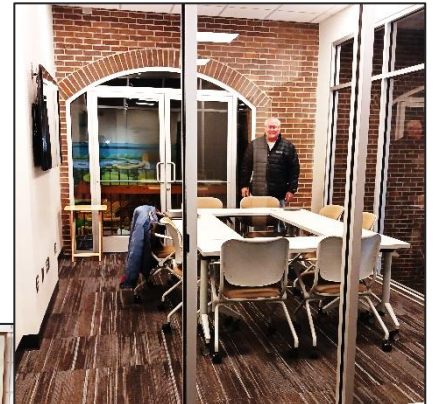
As this newsletter is going to press, the first and second articles are online, and the third is being formatted for future posting.

LABenson

Lawshe Museum Update

During 2024, the Lawshe Memorial Museum upgraded their second level via a Minnesota State grant. One outcome is a conference room located at the top of the stairway, where the VIP Club’s 2025 board meetings are now conducted. Club vice president Les Flugum is shown therein. The double doors in the rear of this conference room overlook the great room where many company artifacts are displayed.

Another outcome is a more efficient layout of the room that volunteers use for Tuesday morning cataloguing of photos and documents; before and after shown here:



Reader Inquiry Follow-up

Last year, Mert Horne asked why our Legacy Anthology didn’t have information about the Semiconductor Facility (SCF) in Eagan. Now it does! Point your browser to the website Locations Chapter 31, <https://vipclubmn.org/TwinCities.html#SCF>. We welcome any supplemental data about this section as well as corrections to any of our Legacy Anthology chapters and sections. The Website Contents on the Site Map page, <https://vipclubmn.org/sitemap.html#Legacy>, lists the sections of all the chapters.

LABenson

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

The obits hereunder are redacted from funeral home postings or Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, or applicable local listings. The VIP Club board extends its sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones.

“A life that touches others goes on forever.”

Noel Lewis Allen – Age 85, of Burnsville, MN was surrounded by family when received by his Savior November 23, 2024, after a courageous cancer fight. Noel was a U.S. Marine and a rocket scientist with a love for adventure and zest for life. His passions were fishing and hunting; he enjoyed the horse track with HS friends, or playing cards at Canterbury Park. Noel is survived by two sons, two grandchildren, and other family.

Steven “Steve” David Bennett – Age 76, of Sebeka, MN passed peacefully January 15, 2025 at home with family by his side. Steve served in the U.S. Army, graduating from Mankato Vo-Tech after discharge. He worked as an engineering technician at Lockheed Martin for 33 years and was a VIP Club member. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening, and Gulf Shores, AL winters. Steve is survived by his wife, Connie, former wife, Karen, three children, five wonderful grandchildren, and other family and friends.



Ronald Alphonse “Ron” Brixius – Age 84, passed away December 16, 2024, in Burnsville, MN. Ron graduated with a mathematics degree from St. Thomas University, then was drafted into the U.S. Army, trained as a radio teletype operator, and served in Germany. Ron then got a job with Sperry Rand Corp. as a computer systems analyst tasked with maintaining computer systems. He traveled to military installations and vessels, and for one year was stationed at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD where they maintained the Apollo program communications link computer systems between the spacecraft and mission control. Ron retired from Unisys after 30 years and enjoyed golfing, playing cards, camping, fishing, firearm-related sports, and coin and stamp collecting. Ron is survived by his wife whom he met at a “Catholic mixer,” Joanne (Schmitt) Brixius, siblings and in-laws, and many nieces, nephews, and their children.



Leslie Allen “Les” Flugum – Age 74, of Burnsville, MN died suddenly but peacefully at home February 8, 2025. Les earned an electrical engineering bachelor’s degree from the U of MN. He had an almost 50-year career with Lockheed Martin, retiring in 2024, though continuing to work as a contract engineer with Lockheed Martin until his passing. Amazing at his job, Les is remembered as a coworker, friend, and a legend at Lockheed Martin for his kindness, warm greetings,



happily sharing his knowledge of all things estimating, and patiently teaching proposal development, writing BOEs, and ProPricer—and he believed it was his responsibility to ensure that pricing tools were always available. When younger, Les and his wife, Lenore Luckow, enjoyed camping with the kids and friends. Les also enjoyed softball with work colleagues and golf, never missing his chance on the course. Les volunteered with many organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, the Dakota County Historical Society, Minnesota State Robotics, and as an election judge. He was a VIP Club member, recently serving on the board as vice president. He also tried to never miss his grandchildren’s sporting events. Les is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Lenore, two children, five grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and dear friends.

Gary Jon “Gunnar” Hagen – Age 85, passed away May 25, 2023 in Tampa, FL, though was a former resident of Gold Canyon, AZ and Northfield, Roseville, White Bear Lake, and Big Lake, MN. Gary attended Gustavus Adolphus College and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in natural sciences from the U of MN. After college he was a Minneapolis Public Library Planetarium lecturer, then worked at Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys/Lockheed Martin in Eagan as an instructor until his retirement. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve in the Office of the Inspector General. Gary was a VIP Club member, and active in the Lions Club, church, and Patchwork Community Theatre. He played baseball and men’s league softball and was a long-suffering MN sports fan. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, golfing, and socializing, and was most proud of his grandchildren and being a great-grandfather. Gary was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 54 years, Mary Ann (Aasen) Hagen, and is survived by two sons, his partner of seven years, Karen Wingate, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Wesley F. Hasbrouck – Age 92, from Rosemount, MN passed away January 10, 2025. Wes joined the Navy and served aboard several aircraft carriers. Once discharged, Wes graduated from Penn State with an electrical technology degree, began his career with Brockway Glass in PA, and was sent to plants in several other states to assist setting up automated inspection systems. While working in Rosemount, MN, Wes met his future wife, Joan Uitdenbogerd; they began their married life in PA but moved back to Rosemount where they raised three children. Wes worked at Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys for 24 years and also held part-time jobs, including as a school bus driver, which he continued after retiring. Wes was a

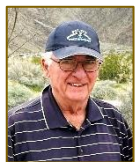


lifelong active member of his church assisting with church parsonage projects. He donated gallons of blood to the Red Cross and volunteered as a driver, sang in three choirs including the Eagan Men's Chorus, and participated in four Haiti mission trips. His hobbies included remodeling projects, singing, camping, reading, genealogy, Bible Studies, and traveling. Wes was preceded in death by his first wife, Joan, a daughter, his second wife, Anne, and other family, and is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, and nieces, nephews, friends, and family.

Donald "Don" William Haskamp – Age 88, of Blaine, MN passed away peacefully December 17, 2024. Don served in the U.S. Air Force, and earned an associate's degree from the U of MN. For 30 years, Don was employed with Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys, and later became a VIP Club member. Don enjoyed time with family, fixing things, and maintaining and upgrading their home. He spent a number of his retiree years as a Majestic Oaks Golf Course golf ranger, enjoying interacting with the golfers and golfing with family. Don is survived by his wife of 62 years, Louise, two children, four grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a sister.



Paul Eugene Hove – Age 81, of St. Paul, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by family January 12, 2025. Paul was a life-long learner earning multiple degrees, including a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the U of MN–Twin Cities and a Master of Business Administration from the College of St. Thomas. He had a fulfilling 25-year career at Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys where he started as a field engineer fixing shipboard computers and quickly rose to management, ending his tenure as director of Naval System Engineering. Coworkers remember Paul as fun, warm-hearted, and one of the kindest; a beloved coworker and dear friend. Paul followed his first career with his own business, including 10 years consulting for Guidant Corporation. Among Paul's defining qualities were his sharp intelligence, wry sense of humor, and eager willingness to help friends and family with special projects. Paul enjoyed flying his RV-7A experimental airplane that he built, visiting his family lake home in McGregor, MN, fishing, vacationing, and shooting. He was known for his willingness to help and his ability to fix anything. He was active in several organizations, including serving as president of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 54, and as treasurer of the VIP Club. Paul is survived by his wife, Sheryl (Hovland) Hove, two children, three grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and other family.



Gale A. Jallen – Age 94, of Roseville, MN passed away January 30, 2025. Gale was a former VIP Club member, and is remembered as the last of the ERA Old Timers interviewed (<https://vipclubmn.org/PeopleInterview.html#OldTimers>) in the fall of 2007 at a First Friday Luncheon (<https://vipclubmn.org/Articles/AGaggleOfGeeks.pdf>). He participated at some of the RGOD events at the Mermaid in the early 2010s, specifically to have lunch with his friend, Jack Ross (<https://vipclubmn.org/Newsletters/Enews1610.pdf>). He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan, and is survived by two children, six grandchildren, and many other family members.

Don Jass – Age 90, of Prior Lake/Savage, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by family October 4, 2024. Don proudly served in the U.S. Army, and once discharged he returned to marry the love of his life whom he previously met at a local roller-skating rink, Jackie Bilbrey. Don then earned an Iowa State University business degree, and worked for Boeing and McDonald Douglas all over the country. They ended up in Prior Lake, MN when Don got a job as a computer programmer for UNIVAC/Sperry Unisys, Roseville. Don was a former VIP Club member. He was willing to tackle any project and could fix almost anything with a prayer and duct tape. He loved the outdoors, family camping trips, spending time on the lake, and attending his kids' events; most important was his family of whom he was always proud and encouraging. Don loved all football, attending high-school to professional games, and cheering on his beloved Vikings! He also had a passion for bald eagles and enjoyed golfing, fishing, boating—and working after his "retirement!" Don is survived by his loving wife, Jackie, three children, five grandkids, a great-grandson, and other family.



Robert George Litz Jr. – Age 70, passed away peacefully December 21, 2024. Robert is remembered as working in Peripheral Engineering and in the Q-70 technology center, and a photo of Robert was found on our site as a Memory Processor team member (<https://vipclubmn.org/cp32bit.html#MemProcessor>). Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, and is survived by a son, and other relatives and friends.

Roger D. McCumber – Age 90, of Minnetonka, MN passed away December 28, 2024. Roger served in the U.S. Navy, graduated from the U of WI in electrical engineering, and worked as an engineer for UNIVAC and Data Card (Entrust). He was a regular attendee of the First Tuesday Engineering Luncheon, an inventor with multiple patents, a founder of several startup companies, and a licensed pilot and flight instructor. Roger is survived by his wife of 71 years,



Beverly, two daughters, a grandson, and other family.

Sonia “Tony” Ann O’Connor – Age 86, passed away peacefully December 18, 2024. Tony, the wife of employee Pat O’Connor, was skilled in many things, but most remembered as loving and kind to every person or animal fortunate to be in her life. She is survived by her husband, Patrick, two children, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and other family.



Donna M. Pawlicki – Age 89, of Maplewood, MN passed away peacefully January 30, 2025. Donna was the widow of employee Don Pawlicki, who was a VIP Club member. Donna was preceded in death by her husband Donald J. Pawlicki, and long-time companion and best friend Allen R. Richard, and is survived by three children, two granddaughters, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



Sandra F. Pietz – Age 62, of Farmington, MN passed away peacefully November 27, 2024, surrounded by family. Sandy was a very patient, kind, and caring person who enjoyed time with family, walks around the lake, and puzzles. Sandy is survived by her daughter, longtime partner Joe Klatt, and many other loving family and friends.

James “Jim” Edward Rezek – Age 81, of Brooklyn Park, MN passed away December 30, 2024. Jim is remembered as working in the Roseville CAD group; he worked designing computers for Unisys and Cadence Design Systems for 43 years. Jim enjoyed bowling, downhill skiing, reading, watching sports, and was an avid golfer. He volunteered as treasurer for the Glen Edin of Edinburgh Assoc. and as a driver for Bundles of Love.org. Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, Joan, 2 children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and other family.



David Saxerud – Age 80, of Hackensack, MN passed away suddenly December 29, 2024. Dave graduated from the U of MN, was a long-time employee of Sperry UNIVAC/Lockheed Martin until his retirement, and was a VIP Club member. Coworkers remember him as a good guy, and share that Dave’s wife, Judy Thomson, had been working for Sperry UNIVAC in Winnipeg, swept Dave off his feet, then they married and moved back to MN when Dave transitioned back to St. Paul for work. Dave is survived by his beloved wife, Judy, two children, and four grandchildren.



James P. “Sully” Sullivan – Age 82, of Rosemount, MN passed away December 17, 2024. Sully, a U.S. Veteran and a VIP Club member, is survived by his loving wife, Bunny, two daughters, five grandchildren,

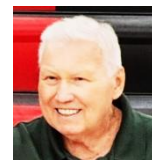


many nieces, nephews, and cousins, and other family.

Herbert Leonard Weber – Age 83, passed away October 28, 2024. Herb joined the National Guard and went to the U of MN to study mathematics and engineering. After bouncing around with early computer startups, he landed a job with Sperry UNIVAC (Unisys) that moved his family to Hatfield, PA, then back to MN three years later. He was involved in the White Bear Lions Club, and enjoyed camping and adventures with friends including ski trips up north and many summer road trips. He was also a man of deep prayer and faith. Once retired, he kept busy exploring more of the U.S. and Europe. He loved golfing, entertaining, and a favorite getaway each year in Palm Desert. He also worked at the Washington County Courthouse, Xcel Energy Center, and Visit Saint Paul. Herbert met the love of his life, his wife Katherine “Kacky” Hinnenkamp, in high school; they had two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren (with two more on the way).



Bill Welch – Age 86, of White Bear Lake, MN (formerly of New Brighton) passed away peacefully January 26, 2025. Bill worked in Sperry/UNIVAC/Unisys, Roseville, for 35 years and is remembered as a friend to many. A VIP Club member, once retired he enjoyed camping, softball, golf, bowling, and fishing trips with his buddies! Bill is survived by his loving wife, Judith Ann (Mahoney), four children, two stepchildren, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



Marvin (Marv) Williams – Age 87, of St. Paul, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones December 1, 2024. Marv served in the U.S. Air Force, and later in life was honored to be an important member of a team of electrical engineers integral in the successful launch and recovery of the Apollo 11 moon launch. He proudly retold the story and remained a space exploration advocate throughout his life. Having worked for Lockheed Martin, Marv was a VIP Club member. He was an adventurer traveling to five continents for business, pleasure, and charity work, and an avid outdoorsman. He appreciated nature, often retelling stories about Boy Scout troop Boundary Waters canoe trips, trips around Lake Superior, and driving the open road in his RV. He was dedicated to his community as a church volunteer, years with the Boy Scouts of America, time for Habitat for Humanity projects, and supporting friends and family with home improvements and repairs. Marv was preceded in death by a granddaughter, and was survived by three children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.





P. O. Box 21903
Eagan, MN 55121

VIP CLUB Newsletter

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

Board of Directors – 2025

President	Jim Andrews	651-451-7502
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Treasurer	OPEN	Interim: Harvey Taipale 651-280-7332
Secretary	Boni Westberg	612-418-6206
Director	Gish Devlaminck	651-470-8905
Director	Dick Lundgren	952-288-5141
Director	Dean Nelson	651-785-5245
Director	Eric Spring	651-454-1154
Past President	Harvey Taipale	651-280-7332

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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** 3rd floor North Food Court
Paul Wennerstrom: 952-854-7855.

CLUB CONTACT DATA

VIP Club 2025 Activity Coordination:

CBI Liaison; Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com
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Lawshe Museum Support:

- Exhibits: Keith Myhre, kmyhre@lightblast.net
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Old Timers' Annual Reunion:

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