

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 45, NO. 04
July/August 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**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Arnold Doering, Eagan, MN
- David Pundsack, Stillwater, MN

MEMBERSHIP

As of the latest board meeting, the VIP Club has 497 total active member units: 471 paid members and 26 friends. Life members over 90 years old total 86!

See a listing of all members and membership expiration dates at <https://vipclubmn.org/Temp/PaidMembershipStatus2025.pdf>. Any members that want to renew (85 memberships expired in December 2024) can complete the membership form found at 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. The reunion team is sending out reminders and resolving e-mail failures to the best of their ability. RSVPs are not required. Lunch will not be available this year; food service starts at 4:00 p.m. Watch 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: Aug 6, 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.

SOCIAL REPORT

Syttende Mai was celebrated on May 16 at Casper's Cherokee of Eagan by almost 30 attendees. Coordinator Dale Torgerson shared that this year's luncheon speaker was Pastor (and retired Minnesota National Guard Chaplin) Tim Peterson. He is currently the executive director of Mount Carmel Ministries in Alexandria, MN.

Tim served with the Minnesota National Guard on two training deployments to Norway. He talked about the awakening of his Norwegian heritage from the first trip which led him to learn the Norwegian language, become temporary pastor of the Mindekirken: The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis, and later pastor of the American Lutheran Congregation in Oslo, Norway. Pastor Tim discussed his experiences writing sermons in Norwegian for Mindekirken and living in Norway, and spoke of the upcoming 200th anniversary of Norwegian immigration to America. A reenactment of that voyage on a replica of the original ship is planned to arrive in New York City on July 4, 2025. Pastor Tim answered questions and spent time after his remarks talking individually with attendees. See more event pictures in the website Gallery at <https://vipclubmn.org/gallery.html>.



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

Annual Reunion Picnic



was June 18 at the Eagan Central Park Pavilion. Thanks to Gish Devlaminck and Boni Westberg for manning the sign-in table and handing out nametags. Ninety-four people attended this event on a beautiful day. There was plenty of wonderful food and drinks thanks to the efforts of long-time coordinator John Westergren, with help from new board member, Eric Spring, and other setup, serving, cooking, and clean-up volunteers.

A big change to this year's picnic was the absence of alcohol—yet there were no complaints recorded! This saved the club hundreds of dollars previously spent on alcoholic beverages plus the cost of liability insurance.

A highlight of this event was the presentation of the "Member Emeritus" award to John Westergren, recognizing his leadership and support of the Legacy Committee and all its initiatives, serving on the VIP Club board, endless picnic coordination and hosting, and countless other contributions.

More picnic photos appear in the website Gallery (<https://vipclubmn.org/gallery.html>).



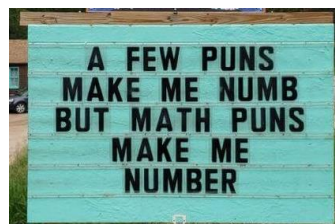
John Westergren Receiving
Member Emeritus Award from
VIP Club President
Jim Andrews



Keith Behnke and
Boni & Jim Westberg
at the Check-in Table



Some 2025
VIP Club Board Members
& Associates:
L to R: Eric Spring, Bob Pagac,
Keith Myhre, Lowell Benson, Les
Nelson, Boni Westberg, Keith
Behnke, Jim Andrews, Gish
Devlaminck, John Westergren,
and Harvey Taipale



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and best wishes to you and your family! I hope your spring has been a good one and that your summer plans are taking shape. Last month I had my 80th birthday anniversary and life is still good! Yet I remind myself to live each day to the fullest as we know that death is inevitable, so it is wise to plan for it.



The VIP Club Board met recently to conduct club business. Here's a summary: We welcomed Al Douglass and Tenner Thompson to fill two open spots on the board. Next, Eric Spring was appointed club treasurer and Tenner Thompson was appointed vice president. We thank these folks for their willingness to serve. A special thanks to Harvey Taipale who contacted our former treasurer, Paul Hove, before his death and retrieved the treasurer's records, then served as our acting treasurer until Eric's appointment.

We discussed backups for various club responsibilities: webmaster, Evite invitations, and membership database. Lowell Benson is the backup webmaster. Tenner Thompson accepted the Evite backup role. We are in need of someone to fill one more open spot on the board, preferably someone with MS Excel experience to be the membership database backup! If you are interested in filling the open director position, please contact me by e-mail at James.R.Andrews@comcast.net.

The financial situation of the club continues to be the biggest concern of the board. Our membership continues to decline. Eighty-five members did not renew in 2025 which leaves us with only 471 paying members; once members reach age 90, they are Life members and pay no dues. So, income will continue to decrease. With our current dues policy, income is less than \$3,000 per year which does not cover our annual expenses. We therefore must use our dwindling reserves to cover the difference. This can't continue for long.

The board decided to discontinue the annual April Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Joseph's Grill due to decreasing attendance and the rising cost of hosting it. We anticipate that members' volunteer efforts will nevertheless continue without the event.

Planning continues for the eventual closing of the VIP Club. Being considered:

- ◆ Decide what information we want to keep long-term
- ◆ Determine our bottom-line financial situation
- ◆ Choose what to do with the website once we close
- ◆ Plan a final closing event to devote the last of the cash to club members.

We give thanks to a club member who made a generous contribution with his last renewal that will cover his dues well past his 90th birthday, and who therefore has been made a Life member. What a great thing to do!! We encourage each of you to consider a contribution to the club as your finances permit to help keep the club going longer.

Another bright moment occurred at the Annual Reunion Picnic where John Westergren was awarded the status of “Member Emeritus” for his years of service leading and supporting our Legacy Committee initiatives, including facilitating transfers of thousands of artifacts, photos, and documents to the Lawshe Memorial Museum and the Charles Babbage Institute; coordinating receipt of artifacts from Clearwater, FL and documents from Iron Mountain; hosting LMCO open houses; video recording ERA Old Timers ([Interviews, Chapter 22, Section 4](#)), also referred to as the [Original Geek Squad](#); PLUS serving as a VIP Club Board director AND years serving as our picnic coordinator and host. Be sure to thank him the next time you see him!

I unfortunately received a resignation letter from long-time board member Dick Lundgren, whose health problems have kept him from active participation on the board. In 2016, in recognition of his decade writing articles for the Legacy Committee, supporting the VIP Club’s event planning, and serving on the Syttende Mai planning committee, Dick became a “Volunteer Extraordinaire.” He will continue to participate in club activities when possible. We thank him for his loyalty and involvement on the board and wish him well.

Have a great summer and save November 6 to attend the annual Old Timers’ Reunion at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. I hope to see you there!

P.S. – If you are interested in filling the open director position, please contact me by e-mail (James.R.Andrews@comcast.net).

Jim Andrews, VIP Club President

YOUR STORY

As mentioned in the president’s letter, we have new VIP Club board members! Tenner is sharing his personal story here. *Your Stories* are always welcome!

Tenner Thompson

In 1976 I finished high school in Williston, ND, then I was off to Concordia College to get a degree in computer science with math as a backup plan. The problem was that Concordia didn’t have a computer science major. By taking classes at North Dakota State University (NDSU) & Minnesota State University Moorhead, I received enough credits to be the first person to graduate from Concordia College with a computer science BA, and



threw in a math major and chemistry minor.

In 1980, Sperry UNIVAC gave me a job offer—not as much as Texas Instruments, but I didn’t have to move to Texas! I started my career in Paul Wood’s group working on a debugger for the OS16 16-bit operating system which was used on the UYK-20. That transitioned into the UYK-44 executive tool suite. My team then designed and built a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS) for the UYK-43. That project sent me to Japan twice to deliver and teach a 43RDBMS class. Later I did Independent Research and Development (IR&D) work on the Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) operating system. After that I moved to Pam Johnson’s Tools and Process group. One tool I supported was a management tool for Configuration Management (CM) called Project Configuration Management System (PCMS). That kept me busy for years. While supporting PCMS I learned a whole lot about CM. When Lockheed Martin announced the closing of the Eagan location and people started leaving the building, I wore two hats, tools and CM, for most projects still in Eagan.

After the Lockheed Martin Eagan location closed, my next stop was a CM position at Thomson Reuters which lasted for six years until a major reorganization showed me the door. Fortunately, Product Development Associates (PDA) Engineering under Tony Pascuzzi had a need for a tools guy. That allowed me to complete my 42-year computer engineering career working with several ex-Lockheed Martin people. I officially retired in May 2023.

Now I have time to volunteer on the VIP Club board!

Tenner Thompson

LEGACY STORY

Celebrating!



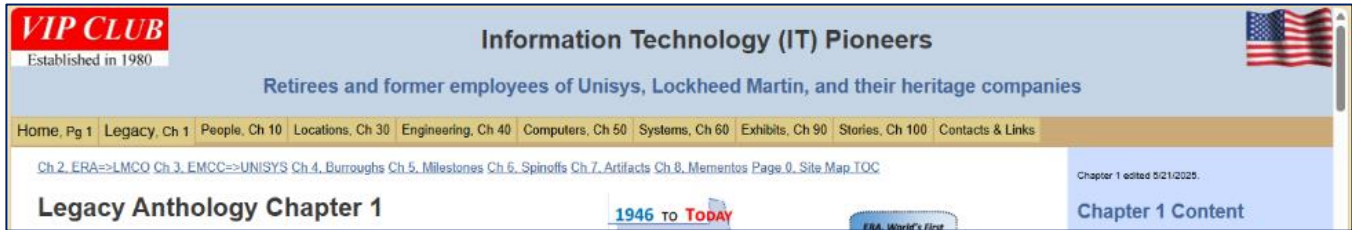
Our July article for the month celebrates our 45 years along with a compendium of ERA-Unisys celebrations of yore!

This paper recaps our 40th, 35th, 30th, and 25th anniversary celebrations and several special events during the life of the club.

vipclubmn.org/Articles/VIP45years.pdf

Legacy Anthology Updates

Our 60 Legacy Anthology chapters are a living website: now a 20-year volunteers' project documenting our Information Technology (IT) industry history. Over 600 people have contributed items to this anthology (www.vipclubmn.org/sitemap.html#Legacy)! The chapters linked therein are Wikipedia-like in that they have embedded links to supplemental information.



As new items are sent to the Legacy Committee, we find a place for them, let readers know they've been posted, and provide links to the additions, i.e.:

- (6/19) Posted the July article of the month (vipclubmn.org/Articles/VIP45years.pdf).
- [5/21] Updated Section 4 of the Patents chapter (www.vipclubmn.org/Patents.html#Dockets). Thanks to Paul Dickson and Keith Myhre, we posted links to Sperry newsletters for 1985/1986 as the Burroughs purchase of Sperry formed Unisys (www.vipclubmn.org/newsletters.html#Sperry).
- [5/4] Added Section 9 to Chapter 44, *Hyperchannel Before Internet* by Jim Andrews (vipclubmn.org/Interfaces.html#Hyperchannel). Added 1100 series test floor photos from Frank Ciesla, via Paul Dickson (vipclubmn.org/processors.html#1962Tree).
- [4/9] The Anthology Author paper has Our Stories sorted by author with links to the articles. The 230 items linked since April 2007 were contributed by 151 people (vipclubmn.org/LegacyDocImg/AnthologyAuthors.pdf).
- [3/22] Posted the June article for the month, a set of *Recognitions!* of Mr. Erdrich and more of his project activities.
- [3/9] Posted the April and May Articles for the month, Dick Erdrich's *3rd Experiences Article* and Lee Sheldon's *ILAAAS - Integrated Light Attack Avionics System* program summary.
- [3/8] Added several 642B snapshots to the USS Midway Museum section (<https://vipclubmn.org/Exhibits.html#UMM>), thanks to Bob Oulicky's daughter, Roberta Weems.

In 2007, Harvey Taipale wrote: "This story, particularly the early years, has never really been completely told; e.g., ATHENA launching missiles. To be sure, there are accounts written from the business history perspective, from various customer and user perspectives, and partial documentation in many places. However, we are unaware of any account that properly gives credit to the ingenuity, vision, and hard work of ERA and its successor company employees, and their contributions to Minnesota and the world."

A dozen magazine articles (vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#Magazines) and a dozen unpublished papers (vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#unpub) have also told bits of the story; vipclubmn.org/OurStories.html#Books lists 25 books, each of which tells bytes of the story.

SO, the sum of these, our 60-chapter anthology, 210 career summaries, and 220+ monthly stories, DO TELL THE STORY. Highlights of our two-decade quest are:

1. The TPT documentary *Solid State: Minnesota's High-Tech History* based on Tom Misa's book *Digital State*. Of the 20 interviewees featured in the documentary, 8 were VIP Club and Legacy Committee members. The filming included shots from the Lawshe Memorial Museum and the VIP Club's 2019 Annual Reunion Picnic in Eagan. The narrator was Tom Misa, who was our legacy advisor for 11 years.
2. A permanent hardware artifact and history poster exhibit at the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul (vipclubmn.org/Articles/RealizationofaDream.pdf). Keith Myhre, Les Nelson, Bob Pagac, and Jon Simon are stalwart volunteers there.
3. Unpublished documents that showed loose patent agreements had an IBM working office at ERA in the early 1950s. In 1952, ERA delivered a paper computer design to IBM based on drum memory technology. In 1953, IBM announced their Model 650 computer using drum memory. So, ERA helped today's most successful computer company get going.
4. Preservation of the commercial computer technology display shadowboxes from 1953 (UNIVAC 1103) to 1996 (IX5800) (vipclubmn.org/Articles/ThroughTheAges.pdf).
5. Participation in the unveiling of an ERA commemoration plaque on June 15, 2023, at the original ERA St. Paul facility (vipclubmn.org/Articles/ERA History Talk.pdf).
6. Placement at the 2008 MN sesquicentennial of ERA history data into the time capsule for opening at the 2058 bicentennial. We also had a legacy display at the state capitol grounds and a booth at the MN State Fair (vipclubmn.org/Articles/It'sAWrap.pdf).
7. Your favorite highlight?

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."

Gretchen Louise Diegnau — Age 87, passed peacefully June 9, 2025 in Lakeville, MN with loved ones by her side. Gretchen worked a variety of jobs from cashier to manager, receptionist, and teacher's aide, to 15 years as a senior secretary at Unisys/Lockheed Martin from where she was a VIP Club life member. She cherished family time, especially summers "Up North," had the kindest, most generous heart, and loved to have a good time! She was a huge MN Twins fan, and her backyard was a beautiful oasis of perennials. When younger she liked golfing, bowling, leading Girl Scout troops, and craft-making. After retirement she was a Rosy Red Hats member. Gretchen is preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Diegnau, and is survived by two children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.



Bruce Gordon Dietzler — Age 89 of Burnsville, MN passed away peacefully June 8, 2025 with family at his side. Bruce served in the U.S. Army and received his electrical engineering bachelor's degree at Marquette University. He retired from Lockheed Martin after a 40+-year career in Defense Systems and Air Traffic Control as a senior systems engineer/program manager, and was a VIP Club member. Bruce was a man of high integrity, kind, patient, faithful, and witty. He enjoyed making memories with loved ones at the lake home, was an avid sports fan, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, reading, cooking, writing, traveling, and playing games. Bruce is survived by his loving wife of almost 63 years, Joan Chaplinski, two children, two grandchildren, and nieces, nephews, and other family and friends.



Delvin Dale Eberlein — Age 84, of Eau Claire, WI passed away peacefully March 25, 2025. Delvin lived a life devoted to his family, scientific research, and travel. He earned his BS in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University and was recognized as a Distinguished Engineer. Delvin began his career as an engineer at Bendix Corporation where he worked on missile design for the U.S. Navy, then continued his engineering career with UNIVAC. He took a hiatus to serve as a senior research scientist at the U of MN, where he also completed his Master's degree in electrical engineering. Later Delvin worked at Cray Research until his retirement as vice president of Technology. His



career resulted in nine patents and the opportunity to work with engineers throughout Europe, Japan, and across the globe, but he also held treasured memories of South Dakota vacations, walleye fishing, and visiting relatives. Delvin was a firm believer in education and science, encouraging family to pursue higher education. He shared his knowledge, family history, and coin collecting with his grandchildren; and attended their hockey, soccer, and dance events. Delvin is survived by his beloved wife, Athene Uhler, and their three children, five grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Robert "Bob" Charles Hanson — Age 92, of Arden Hills, MN passed away peacefully June 1, 2025. Bob proudly served in the U.S. Army. Coworkers remember him as a VIP Club member and past president. He will be remembered for his quiet strength, steadfast kindness, and deep dedication to his family. He and the love of his life, Jane, raised three sons, were proud grandparents to four, and lived a life filled with love, laughter, and lasting memories. His final resting place will be Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



John M. "Jack" Hartmann — Age 87 of Mendota Heights, MN passed away peacefully May 17, 2025. John, a former VIP Club member and a program manager, was remembered by coworkers as a hardware-focused systems engineer. He was skilled in electrical, plumbing, and mechanical work—a Jack of all trades. He was a Mendota Heights city councilman, an avid hunter, had great curiosity in everything, and loved time at the cabin with his wife and dogs. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Kathleen, many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.



Linda Lee (Horning) Huebscher — Age 75, succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease with her husband, Tom, by her side and passed into the arms of Jesus in Dallas, TX on March 7, 2025. With two in elementary school, Linda re-enrolled in the U of MN Masters of Adult Education program, graduated with honors, and began her 25-year career with Unisys in HR, retiring in 2009. She loved the outdoors, gardening, fishing, travel, and cruises. She lived an unwavering, highly principled life, and was a joy to work with. Linda is survived by her husband of 55 years, Tom, two sons, and four grandsons.



Michael Thomas Jennings — Age 86, passed away peacefully June 14, 2025 surrounded by family. Michael spent most of his career working for Unisys. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and on his music, hunting, fishing, and camping hobbies. A greatest joy was cabin time spent with the grandchildren.



Michael is survived by 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Darlene Jennings, and a son.

Ordean C. “Dean” Joachim — Age 96, of Columbus, MN passed away May 1, 2025 after a brief illness. A veteran of the Korean conflict, Dean was stationed as a radarman above the Arctic Circle, watching to see if Russia would send missiles toward the U.S. He was a career employee of Sperry UNIVAC (Unisys), where he held several computer equipment design patents, and was proud to be a principal engineer with only a high school education. Dean was a regular at the RGOD and the Unisys Retiree Breakfast group, was an avid fisherman and hunter, and with Florence was active in their church operations and support. Dean was preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years, Florence, and is survived by four sons, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



John Bernard “Bernie” Kruse — Age 74, of Birchwood Village, MN died June 9, 2025 of Alzheimer’s Disease. Bernie earned his degree from the U of MN, then built a computer services career at Unisys. A coworker remembers Bernie and the Roseville Computer Services Facility (CSF) team did an outstanding job keeping the workstations and network humming along. Summers as a teenager on the ore boats that sailed the Great Lakes deepened Bernie’s love for the outdoors. Later Bernie hiked, skied, biked, and raced sailboats with enthusiasm. He was an avid cook and cherished family time at home and on trips to the North Shore, the Gunflint Trail, and mountain ski resorts. He was a church deacon and a member of the Befriender ministry, and volunteered at centers for injured birds and animals. Bernie leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Judith Alnes, two children, four grandchildren, and other family.



F. Ross Metzger — Age 95, passed on June 7, 2025. Ross joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean Combat Zone; he was proud to advance to Petty Officer First Class E6 during his four years of service. He then entered the University of North Dakota on the GI Bill and graduated Summa Cum Laude as Valedictorian with a BS degree in mechanical engineering. After a year with the Army Corps of Engineers he joined Remington Rand UNIVAC, later Sperry UNIVAC, where he rose from supervising engineer to engineering director. Coworkers thought highly of Ross as a great friend and leader. After retirement he rejoined the Army Corps of Engineers to assist in planning, scheduling, and budgeting processes, and while there proudly received the U.S. Army Civilian medal and commendation. Ross had an interest in firearms and explored ballistics programming, applying



his engineering training to programs regarding the trajectory of both rifle bullets and round shot. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, especially rough grouse hunting with a small group of coworkers and friends for more than 40 years. He was open-minded but fiscally conservative, enjoyed talking with anyone on all subjects, and was interested in history of all sorts. Ross was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Leta, and is survived by two sons, two granddaughters, and numerous relatives and friends.

Richard “Dick” Newman — Age 96, passed away peacefully April 15, 2025. After high school, Dick joined the Army and was assigned to duty in the American occupation zone, Germany. Later Dick received a mechanical engineering Bachelor’s degree from the U of MN. A couple of years after he graduated, he started working for Sperry UNIVAC in St. Paul where he worked until a promotion that included supervising the construction of buildings around the world sent him to the Blue Bell headquarters. He eventually returned to working in MN until retiring. Dick enjoyed family time, fishing, traveling (especially Florida in the winter), genealogy, and a good game of cribbage. He and his wife, Maryann, volunteered at church providing support for caregivers, and at local food shelves. Dick is survived by his loving wife of almost 75 years, Maryann, 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren (another due in July), extended family, and friends.



Louise Nieters — Age 97, of Maplewood, MN passed away June 6, 2025. Louise was the wife of Albert (Al) Nieters, remembered as manager of the environmental test area and one of the really nice people to work with. Louise was a longtime Western Union employee from age 16 until retirement. After retirement, she was active with the WU retirement group, producing their *Tele-Him-n-Her* newsletter, and worked at a title insurance company. She also served her parish as trustee and in volunteer capacities such as office staff, and supported Hill Murray as a band trip chaperone, logging countless hours and miles across the country on motor coaches. Louise was preceded in death by her husband, Albert, and is survived by five children, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Gordon Lee Nylén — Age 91, passed away April 22, 2025. Gordon earned a BS degree in electrical engineering from the U of MN, joined the university’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program, and served as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves for seven years. His entire career was in the computer industry, starting at UNIVAC, then later in



Irvine, CA, where he lived until his death. Gordon was a local troop scoutmaster and supported his children in their endeavors, attending every concert, campout, and game he could. He was also a mentor to his grandson, including with trainsets and Legos. He was an avid MN Boundary Waters fisherman who loved Mozart and a spirited debate. Gordon was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Patricia (nee Johnston), and is survived two children and a grandson.

Shirley E. Quinehan, a former Unisys employee, passed away February 17, 2025 in New Prague, MN.

Dennis Clarence Stanga — Age 88, of Deephaven, MN passed away peacefully May 14, 2025 after a brief illness. Dennis earned a degree in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University and began his career with Edison Electric before joining



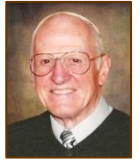
UNIVAC, where he contributed to the design of some of the earliest computers. Ever the innovator, Dennis and fellow engineers launched Atron Corporation, an early tech startup. After Atron was acquired by Mohawk Data Sciences, Dennis briefly worked for the merged company before returning to Minnesota to join Twin City Die Casting, and eventually rejoining Sperry UNIVAC/Unisys, from which he retired. Dennis enjoyed keeping up with local affairs and serving on the Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission for many years. He was always happy to discuss the latest issues, read the newspaper from cover to cover, and was a long-suffering yet avid Vikings fan. Dennis was the family's unofficial historian, keeping records for the family genealogy. In retirement, Dennis spent many winters in Hawaii and Arizona with Nancy, enjoying the local scenery and culture. Dennis was preceded in death by his wives, Delores and Marlene, a stepson, and grandson, and is survived by his loving wife of more than four decades, Nancy, four children, three stepchildren, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Richard Walter "Dick" Steffen — Age 84, of Anoka, MN passed away April 13, 2025 surrounded by family. Dick served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant during the Vietnam War, and was awarded a Purple Heart. He and the love of his life, Peggy, attended the University of North Dakota. Dick was a manager at UNIVAC/Unisys for 33 years; coworkers noted his work in the Bloomington/Eagan Airlines Development Center and in Roseville. He formed lasting friendships, and always had a story to tell and a smile to share. A lifelong athlete and golfer, Dick proudly owned many tournament trophies and competed in multiple leagues, including near his northwest WI lakeside cabin. There Dick felt



most at home and taught grandkids about fishing, boating, campfires, golf, skiing, and a well-rounded life well-lived. Dick is survived by his wife, Peggy (Munns), three children, nine grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Gilmore Rudolph "Gil" Von Ohlen — Age 88, peacefully passed away May 7, 2025 at his home in Hutchinson, MN. Gil went to the U of MN and later transferred to Mankato State to finish his business degree. After college, he started working at Sperry UNIVAC, married later that year, then received his Army draft notice. Gil completed bootcamp, trained in both Tacoma and Fort Lewis, WA, became an excellent rifleman, and won the marksman championship for his company. After completing training, the family returned to MN and Gil grew to supporting his boys in Cub Scouts, 4-H projects, and athletics, taking them to practices and attending their games with his wife, Joanne. Known as Papa to his grandchildren, Gil taught them how to ride a bike and assisted them in graduating college, moving out, and beginning their adult lives. Gil was strong in his faith serving in various church positions and in numerous Bible study groups. Gil's hobbies included gardening, bowling, golfing, reading, showing the boys how to raise their hobby farm animals, camping in the early days and cabin vacationing later, fishing, hunting, and riding motorcycles and snowmobiles with family and friends. Gil retired after 35 years at Sperry UNIVAC, where coworkers remember him in the Roseville Manufacturing Data Management group. He was the go-to repair man of countless items for family and friends, especially if it had an engine. Gil was preceded in death by his wife, Joanne Plath, and one son, and is survived by one son, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren (and knew another was on the way), nieces, nephews, and other family.

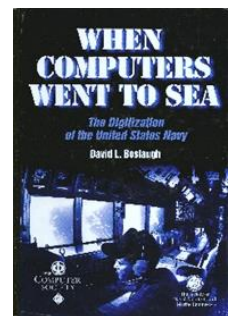


Special Remembrance

David L. Boslaugh, Capt USN, Retired passed away on March 12, 2025 in Winchester, VA. He is survived by a sister, two children, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. A service was planned for June 5 at the Orchard Ridge Chapel in Winchester.

*Submitted by Don Leichtweis,
Capt USN, Retired*

David is well known as the author of *When Computers went to Sea*; nine newsletters in our archives mention him. A few of us met him in the 1990s when he spoke at a Unihogs event at the Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. Our last interaction with David was in the summer/fall of 2014 while developing an initiative to get a United States ship named for Donald Lyle Ream; that paper's Epilogue lists participants (www.vipclubmn.org/Articles/DonReamNominated.pdf).





P. O. Box 21903
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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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Director	Dean Nelson	651-785-5245
Director	OPEN	
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

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

- Exhibits: Keith Myhre, kmyhre@lightblast.net
- Photo ID work: Les Nelson, lnelson46@gmail.com;
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VIP Club 2025 Activity Coordination:

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Old Timers' Annual Reunion:

- Harvey Taipale, hitaipale@comcast.net, or
 - Boni Westberg, volunteerboni@gmail.com
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