

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494  
5222 56TH Avenue North  
Crystal, MN 55429

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CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494  
Crystal-Robbinsdale, Minnesota

Phone: 763-537-9914 • Fax: 763-537-2418 • crystalvfw.com

Facebook: VFW Post 494



**NEWS & VIEWS • May 2026**

**#1 newsletter in the State of MN for large VFW Posts: 2020—2023, 2025!**

**Post #494 Officers / Trustees  
2025-2026**

Commander .....Rick Godfrey  
Sr. Vice Commander ..... John Faulk  
Jr. Vice Commander..... Mike Johnson  
Quartermaster .....Jim Richter  
Gambling Manager/  
Ass't. Quartermaster ..... Gene Burdick  
Adjutant .....Sandra Lindley  
Chaplain ..... Steve Jones  
Judge Advocate .....Don Fernstrom  
Surgeon ..... Steve Hawk  
Service Officer .....Don Fernstrom  
Officer of the Day ..... Fred Crimmins  
Door Guard..... Travis Nienaber  
1 Yr Trustee..... Fred Crimmins  
2 Yr Trustee..... Dave Soukup  
3 Yr Trustee..... Jay Leamons

**All American Post 1993, 2025**

**Post #494 CMC Members  
2026**

1 Yr CMC Member ..... Ken Olson  
1 Yr CMC Member ..... Steve Jones  
2 Yr CMC Member ..... Gene Burdick  
2 Yr CMC Member .....Mike Johnson  
2 Yr CMC Member .....Steve Hawk  
3 Yr CMC Member ..... John Faulk  
3 Yr CMC Member .....John Hornsby

★ **Club Management Committee (CMC)  
meeting is the 2nd Monday, 12:30 p.m.**

**Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees  
2025-2026**

President ..... Marge Rubenstein  
Sr. Vice President .....Lisa Sundberg  
Jr. Vice President ..... Theo Page  
Secretary ..... Debbie Larson  
Assistant Secretary ..... Geri Westley  
Treasurer ..... Pam Aritt  
Chaplain .....Helen Hauser  
Chaplain Assistant .....Kathy Lund  
Conductor .....Dianne Johnson  
Guard .....Marlene Lietzow  
Patriotic Instructor ..... Virginia Sroka  
1st Yr. Trustee .....Marlene Lietzow  
2nd Yr. Trustee ..... Theo Page  
3rd Yr. Trustee ..... Darlene Hauschildt

**Post & Auxiliary membership meeting is the 3rd Tuesday, Post: 7pm, Auxiliary: 6:30pm**

## from the COMMANDER



Greetings, Comrades:

We had a very good turnout for our membership dinner on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you again to all who helped put this together, Sr. Vice Commander John Faulk, Adjutant Sandra Lindley, Jay Leamons, Diane Johnson, Marlene Lietzow, Helan Hauser, and Lisa Sundberg.

Thank you to past Commander Don Fernstrom for being our guest speaker.

### Results from our April Elections are as follows:

Commander- Rick Godfrey

Sr Vice Commander – John Faulk

Jr Vice Commander – Mike Johnson

Quartermaster – Jim Richter

Trustee- Chuck Lund

Congratulations to all.

### Blood drives:

May 6<sup>th</sup> Crystal community center 1-7

June 2<sup>nd</sup> in our Banquet room. 1-7

The bar and dining room remodel is going well. Little adjustment to moving down stairs, thank you to our staff for all the extra work and to our members and customers thank you for your patience with the staff as they adjust to working down stairs.

Our Canteen is more than a place to meet. It helps generate the resources we need to support veterans and our community. Schools, food shelves, veterans' resources are only a few of the things we support. I hope you have the chance to come in and participate as you are able, it is your Post. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 in the lower level.

See you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey



## from the QUARTERMASTER

### Newsletter NOTICE

#### EMAIL LIST ADDS

We are moving toward **ONLY electronic distribution** of the newsletter by the Fall of 2026 to save on postage and undeliverable mail costs. Send in your email now!

⇒ Please contact me via **NEW Email** at: [quartermaster@vfwpost494.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfwpost494.org) with your email address and full name and put **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line. You will receive your electronic newsletter in color to enjoy on your phone, tablet or computer.

**Printed copies of the newsletter will be available at the post.**

#### EMAIL REMOVAL

**If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter by email, please REPLY and ask to be removed from the email list. Thank You!**

### VFW 494 Golf League

Now Hear This ..... "*Golfers, golfers, man your clubs. Give the course a good swing-down both front-nine and back-nine. Swing in all fairways, rough-ways, and bunkers. Now golfers!*"



Okay, okay, but you Navy shipboard guys will recognize where that comes from. All this to say that we are Haze Gray and Underway! The VFW golf league started play on April 14 and will continue all through the summer and into the fall. We play Tuesdays starting at 10:00 at Eagle Lake Golf on Bass Lake Rd. just west of 169. It is a fun, not-too-challenging 9-hole, par 31 course. We have players of all abilities and are ALWAYS looking for new players to join us. Every month, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, we have a fun tournament. This Month on May 25, we will have a scramble with randomly assigned teams with a chance to win a gift card to VFW 494 club.

Contact Chaplain Steve Jones [stevenmjones82@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenmjones82@yahoo.com), or Don Fernstrom if you are interested.

**Poppy Day May 15-16! Looking for volunteers, please call Mike @763-226-8992**



**Post & Auxiliary members assemble Poppies**



## Good of the Order

Unsung hero. We all know the reputation of military commanders who bask in the spotlight and play to the media. Generals Patton and MacArthur come to mind. We don't often hear about those who serve and don't relish the limelight. I recently came across an article about a General officer, I doubt you ever heard of, unless you were privileged to have served under his command.



I'm talking about General Frederick Franks. General Franks happens to be the Commanding General of VII Corps during Operation Desert Storm. Desert Storm was the military operation which restored my faith in our military, after the debacle following the Vietnam war.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm proud of my service in Vietnam, and I believe most Vietnam veterans are. It's just that we were made to feel ashamed by the reception we received on returning home. In truth, morale in the military was at an all-time low in the years following Vietnam.

Then came Desert Storm. The war to stop Sadaam Hussein from seizing Kuwait. The United States and our allies formed a coalition force of over 400,000 troops to stop the aggression of a superior force against the smaller country of Kuwait, which happened to be rich in oil.

I was delighted when we put together an overwhelming force, which effectively ended the war in Kuwait after less than a week of actual combat with fewer than 100 American casualties.

Guess who commanded the VII Corps, which destroyed 14 Iraqi Republican Guard Divisions, by an armored sweep known as the "left hook," and included the largest tank battle since WW2. That's right, it was GEN Frederick Franks.

It also turns out that he was a Vietnam veteran, who lost a leg in Cambodia, and fought the Army's attempt to give him a medical discharge. He not only won that fight, but he also managed to stay in the combat arms with a prosthetic leg.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (3), Silver Star, Legion of Merit (2), Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star (2), Purple Heart (2), and Air Medal.

I'm proud to have served in the Army with this man, who most of us, including myself, never heard of.

Don Fernstrom,  
Service Officer & Past Commander

## Chaplain's Corner

## Taps & Sick Call



**Rev. Steve Jones**



**TAPS**

**SICK CALL**

**Larry Aritt**

**Natalie Stuhr**

**Marge Rubenstein**



## Teach the Children

Our VFW makes a big deal about Memorial Day. And rightly so. We vividly call upon our members and supporters to remember those who gave their all for our nation's causes. This remembering surpasses all. Some gave their lives for causes so noble that virtually everyone recognizes the honor and necessity of the battle. Some gave their lives for events over which we might not all agree to their worthiness.

But this, we recognize. Indeed to this we hold as if all our fortunes rest upon it: that we who braved the noble sacrifice will always honor those who made it. It must be so, and ever was.

Great David of the Bible, before he was anointed king, marked a grave loss in battle. King Saul, David's mortal enemy, and his son Jonathan, David's dear friend, fell in battle. Rather than rejoice over the death of his enemy, David commanded that they be honored and remembered:

*<sup>17</sup> Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, <sup>18</sup> and he*

*told them **to teach the children** of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher [the righteous]:*

*<sup>19</sup> "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! ...*

*<sup>24</sup> "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury;*

*Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.*

*<sup>25</sup> "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!*

*Jonathan was slain in your high places. (1 Samuel 2)*

Pause this Memorial Day, in remembrance.

Perhaps attend one of the many commemorations observed throughout our communities. Visit a shrine to the lost, and remember. For all who ever served, for all who feared for a loved one called to battle, And especially for those whose comrades fell and they did not, pause. Remember. For how the mighty have ever fallen in service, both noble and ignoble, for the greater good of these United States of America.

## Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations April 2026

Charity	Purpose	Donation
Near	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$3,000.00
North Hennepin Community College	Veterans Food Shelf	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans Services	\$500.00
Northside Summer Baseball	Legion baseball	\$3,000.00
Don Fernstrom	Reimbursement for indoor portable flag stands	\$151.44
Palmer Lake Elementary School	Year Book cost assistance	\$500.00
Robbinsdale Cooper Activities Booster	Guitar Purchases	\$500.00
USA Youth Equestrian Games	Trip to Europe – Angel Baer	\$500.00
Armstrong Cooper Girls Fastpitch		\$1,000.00
Folds of Honor Minnesota		\$1,000.00
Bike Rodeo and Safety Camp for Cities of New Hope & Robbinsdale		\$800.00

# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

## Members attend annual Veterans on the Hill Event in April



# BINGO NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA


**SATURDAY MAY 2nd  
7:00 p.m.**

**CRYSTAL VFW  
POST 494**

Proceeds to Benefit  
Every Third Saturday  
Veterans Organization

**\$35 per packet**  
ALL GAMES PAYOUT 70% OF SALES  
FINAL \$1000 COVERALL  
LICENSE #00155



Fasten your Fascinator. . .  And join us for food and drink specials. Door prizes!



**Sunday, May 3 @ 2:00**

# NASCAR

*Racing*  
**PARTY**

Talledega: race time 2pm  
Drivers . . .start your engines



**Prizes**  
**Food specials**  
**Happy Hour Prices**  
**Drivers Prize Board**




**CINCO DE MAYO**

**5<sup>th</sup> of May (Tuesday)**



**Fiesta Food Special: Carne Asada**

**Come on in and celebrate with some delicious food and drinks!**





Friday	Live Music 7:00
May 8	CrossFire
Sat. May 9	Terry DuBois & Company
May 15	Percolators
May 22	Stir Krazy
May 29	Indoor Recess

# Weekly Entertainment

**WEEKDAYS: Bar BINGO: 6 pm Mon. & Thurs.**  
**\$500-\$1,000 progressive Coverall and \$1199 Coverall final game!** Plus we have an exciting progressive **Hot Ball** jackpot if you get a BINGO on the hot ball!



## SATURDAYS GAMBLING FUN

**Bar RINGO: FREE to play.** Eight prize games plus a \$500 cash Coverall. **RINGO** starts after the 2 PM **SATURDAY MEAT RAFFLE** is over, around 5 PM. Come on down for the raffle and **STAY and PLAY. NEW GAMES coming!**



- ★ eTabs available at pull-tab booth daily
- ★ Friday 4 pm & Saturday 2pm, Electronic Pull-tab Races: Rats, Cash, Horses, Ducks, Piggy, Matador during meat raffle. Join in the fun and win \$50 and up to \$500 on Bingo Ball and the race prize winner

## From the Bar / Restaurant

Spring is here and the bar project is almost done! Thank you to everyone who continued to come in and support us.

Keep your eyes open for our upcoming Customer Appreciation Day!

During the month of May, we are collecting personal care items for **Veterans Organization Every Third Saturday**. This organization exists to assist Minnesota veterans in finding new purpose after military service. They are here to support veterans in their pursuit of growth and post-traumatic success. Every Third Saturday is in need of Personal Care items such as T-Shirts, Underwear, Shorts, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Soap, Deodorant. If you bring in an item, we will give you 1 extra RINGO card or you can donate cash for one extra card.



# 2 MEAT RAFFLES

## Fri. 4pm & Sat. 2pm

No ticket limits!  
 Buy as many as you'd like.



- \$1 / TICKETS for \$20 meat pkg
- \$2 / TICKETS for \$40 meat pkg
- \$5 / TICKETS for \$110 case of meat

### ROOM RENTALS

For Conference Media Room Rental, Hall Rentals, Banquets, Weddings, Anniversaries and other functions, call the Post and ask for the Manager: 763-537-9914









VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



# May 2026

\* **Note:** *Calendar information is subject to last minute change. Menu is subject to change.* Check the signage in the club / bar and our CURRENT Facebook page VFW Post 494 for current news and daily updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>GAME NIGHT 7 PM</b> EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY</p> <p>Games are: Tower Shack, Connect Four, Corn Hole, Pool, Cribbage, and many more. Bring your own!</p>	<p><b>ATTENTION RINGO PLAYERS:</b> During the month of MAY, please bring a personal care item for donation to the Veterans Organization <b>Every Third Saturday</b> and you will get one extra RINGO card.</p>				<p>1 Lunch Special Topped Baked Potato <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>No Band tonight</p>	<p>2 Breakfast 8:00: <b>LIMITED MENU</b> <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b></p> <p><b>ROAD CLEANUP</b> Kentucky Derby 5:57 PM Post</p>  <p><b>Big Cash Bingo</b> 7 PM</p>
<p>3 <b>LIMITED MENU</b></p> <p>Food, drinks, prizes <b>NASCAR Party 1:30</b> Drivers ... start your engines!!</p> 	<p>4 Lunch Special Meatball Sub</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>5 Lunch Special <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> Carne Asada: Beef, rice, beans, guacamole</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Lunch Special Egg Salad sandwich w/ chips</p> <p>5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>7 Lunch Special Deep fried pork tenderloin sandwich w/chips</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>8 Lunch Special Turkey or ham wrap w/ chips</p> <p><b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Live music 7:00 CrossFire</p>	<p>9 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash w/2 eggs</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p> <p>Live music 7:00 Terry DuBois &amp; Company</p>
<p>10 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash w/2 eggs</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> 	<p>11 Lunch Special Lasagna rollup w/ garlic toast</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p> <p>Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30</p>	<p>12 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>13 Lunch Special Liver &amp; Onions</p> <p>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>14 Lunch Special Chicken Parm sandwich</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>15 Lunch Special Cobb Salad</p> <p><b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Evening: Chicken &amp; Ribs</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Percolators</p>	<p>16 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast burrito</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>GAME NIGHT 7 pm</b> Tower Shack, Pool, Connect 4, Corn Hole, Cribbage</p>
<p>17 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast burrito</p>	<p>18 Lunch Special Grilled Ham &amp; Cheese w/chips</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>19 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95</p> <p>Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Lunch Special Sloppy Joes w/chips</p> <p>5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>21 Lunch Special Salisbury steak w/ mashed potatoes</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>22 Lunch Special Beef Enchiladas</p> <p><b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Evening: Steak Dinner</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Stir Crazy</p> 	<p>23 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p>
<p>24 Breakfast 8:00 Mess Hall Skillet</p>	<p>25 Lunch Special Brats, Beans &amp; Potato Salad <b>NO BINGO</b></p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b></p> 	<p>26 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>27 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs w/ mashed Potatoes</p> <p>5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>28 Lunch Special Italian Beef sandwich w/chips</p>	<p>29 Lunch Special Meatloaf w/mashed potatoes</p> <p><b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Evening: Deep Fried Walleye</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Indoor Recess</p>	<p>30 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p>
<p>31 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p>						