

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

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Facebook: VFW Post 494



NEWS & VIEWS • December 2025

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees 2024-2025

CommanderRick Godfrey
Sr. Vice CommanderJohn Faulk
Jr. Vice CommanderMike Johnson
QuartermasterJim Richter
Gambling Manager/
Ass't. QuartermasterGene Burdick
AdjutantSandra Lindley
ChaplainSteve Jones
Judge AdvocateDon Fernstrom
SurgeonSteve Hawk
Service OfficerDon Fernstrom
Officer of the DayFred Crimmins
Door GuardTravis Nienaber
1 Yr TrusteeFred Crimmins
2 Yr TrusteeDave Soukup
3 Yr TrusteeJay Leamons

All American Post 1993, 1996, 2025

Post #494 CMC Members 2025

1 Yr CMC MemberBill Blair
1 Yr CMC MemberJim Hagenbrock
2 Yr CMC MemberKen Olson
2 Yr CMC MemberSteve Jones
3 Yr CMC MemberGene Burdick
3 Yr CMC MemberMike Johnson
3 Yr CMC MemberSteve Hawk

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

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees 2024-2025

PresidentMarge Rubenstein
Sr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
Jr. Vice PresidentTheo Page
SecretaryDebbie Larson
Assistant SecretaryGeri Westley
TreasurerPam Aritt
ChaplainHelen Hauser
Chaplain AssistantKathy Lund
ConductorDiane Johnson
GuardMarlene Lietzow
Patriotic InstructorVirginia Sroka
1st Yr. TrusteeMarlene Lietzow
2nd Yr. TrusteeTheo Page
3rd Yr. TrusteeDarlene Hauschildt

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

from the COMMANDER



Greetings comrades,

I hope all is going well for all of you. Christmas is weeks away! The older you get, the faster time flies.

As I enter the last six months of my third year and last year as your Commander, I have so many people to thank for all their dedication and great work thus far this year! To the Post Officers: By stepping up to hold these leadership positions in the Post, you have shown your passion and desire to support and serve our fellow veterans. The Post would not be nearly as successful without all the work you all do.

- ★ Sr Vice Commander—John Faulk
- ★ Jr Vice Commander—Mike Johnson
- ★ Adjutant—Sandra Lindley
- ★ Quartermaster—Jim Richter
- ★ Gambling manager/Chairman of the board—Gene Burdick

To Sandy and her bar and kitchen staff. Thank you for your excellent support of the Post, our membership, and our patrons and guests. You keep the Post running and in good order. We are better for having all of you with us.

To our Membership: Thank you for your military service. Thank you for your continued service to veterans and our community by being part of our stalwart organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you for the support you have given me in my role as the Post Commander. I will continue to serve you in my capacity to the best of my ability. As we move through the holiday season and into the new year, let's take a few moments and remember all those who are currently deployed and away from their homes and families. They are serving our country to ensure that we have the freedom to enjoy the holiday season.

Check on each other during this Holiday Season. It's difficult being alone, and just maybe a few minutes' phone call or visit will brighten someone's day.

People, both young and old, get lonely and depressed; make a difference in someone's day.



Bentleyville USA in Duluth MN tribute

Don't forget to continue recruiting new members and reminding current annual members to remain in good standing by staying current with their dues. Better yet, please encourage them to switch to Life Membership. Our task this year is to meet 102%. I am confident we can make it. Every Veteran Counts, and it is all our responsibility to reach out to them.

See you at the V

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** 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.



Westphal American Legion Post 251

We would like to thank Crystal VFW for inviting us to join them in their Monthly Benefit Dinners for the past 3 1/2 years. We would also like to thank everyone who participated in our spaghetti dinners as this month will be our last one. We want you to know that because of your donations, we were able to help out various Veteran Groups around our area.

Also, we would like to thank all of our staff members and volunteers as we really appreciated their helpfulness. Without them, we could not have continued for so long. Once again, Thank You all, and God Bless America!

Westphal American Legion

Good of the Order



We just completed celebrating all veterans-on-Veterans Day. It's now time to concentrate on the future of the VFW. I think we may all agree on two things:

1. The VFW has more combat veterans than most other veterans' organizations, except possibly the Vietnam Veterans of America. The VFW has a higher concentration of combat veterans than the other veterans organizations with the possible exception of the Vietnam Veterans of America.
2. Combat veterans deserve our support more than veterans of the general population.

The future of the VFW depends on our recruitment of veterans from the Gulf War, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror.

To ensure the longevity and continued relevance of our Post, we must actively seek out veterans from recent conflicts and make them feel genuinely valued. Building relationships with these individuals will help foster a sense of belonging and mutual respect, strengthening our organization for years to come.

I challenge each member of our post to try and recruit at least one veteran to our Post from each of these conflicts.

Vietnam veterans continue to be most veterans active at our Post. They are dying at an alarming rate. Who will take over the leadership positions in our Post, when we are all gone.

I'm aware that the younger generation of veterans are still mostly employed full time and have younger families to raise. Assure them that they do not have to be active now but, it is not too much to ask to attend one Post meeting per month, to learn how the Post operates and the unheralded contributions we make to our veterans and the community.

Most veterans in the all-volunteer military joined because of a desire to do something for others.

Good of the Order continued →

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings members hope this finds you well and enjoying our fall weather with all its colors.

I was able to attend the King of Grace program that the children put on at the school, and was amazed by their grace and manners. It's nice to see that they are engaged and interested in learning.

Our membership continues to do well, and everyone has done a great job in recruiting. If you haven't paid your dues for this year yet make sure you get it in.

Last week Debbie Larson, Lori Martens and I were able to visit Virginia Sroka. She is doing well at the care center in Plymouth and enjoyed our visit!

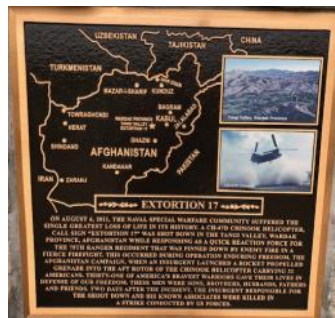
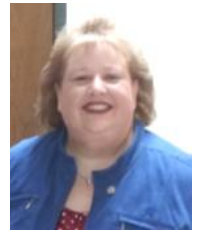
At our meeting in December we will have a little holiday cheer and play our typical Christmas game! Please bring a gift for our Mr. right game!

Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes to all that have been ill and my sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

Yours in Patriotism

Marge Rubenstein

Auxiliary President



Good of the Order continued

Appeal to their instinct of service to others. We need young blood in our organization, or we will fade into memory, like the Grand Army of the Republic a veteran's organization for Civil War veterans.

I accept the challenge. Our combat veterans from the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror need our support. They have more in common with us than 99% of the population. Let's welcome them to our home.

Don Fernstrom, Past Commander and Judge Advocate





Chaplain's Corner



Helen Hauser

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

Rose Williams

SICK CALL

Craig Dahlin

Gregg Hassler



Seasons Greetings!

Here we are in December and another holiday season is upon us. Everyone is busy decorating for the holidays and shopping for the perfect gifts for family and friends. Christmas music is playing and the heavenly aroma of fresh baked pies and cookies fill the air. It's a magical time of the year.

On a more somber note, each year on December 7, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world come together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. More than 900 men are still trapped in the USS Arizona because the extensive damage from the explosions made their recovery too dangerous and difficult. The wreck remains at the bottom of the harbor to honor the 1,177 crew members who died in the attack, serving as a sacred site and memorial to the men who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor.

My husband and I toured Pearl Harbor during a recent trip to Hawaii and we were able to visit the memorial constructed over the top of the wreckage of the USS Arizona. It is a simple

building adorned only with plaques listing the names of all of the brave soldiers who lost their lives on that tragic day. There was a hole cut in the floor and you could actually see the remains of the ship in the waters below. It was a very emotional, humbling experience and one I will never forget.

Don't forget about Wreaths Across America. This national event takes place on December 13th, 2025, where volunteers place wreaths at veterans' gravesites. The ceremony at Ft. Snelling starts at 11:00 a.m. followed by wreath placement at 11:30 a.m.

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season and may the joy of the season be with each and everyone.

Sincerely,
Helen Hauser, Auxiliary Chaplain

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Election of two 3-year CMC members at the Post Meeting on Tuesday, December 16.

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations November 2025

| Charity | Purpose | Donation |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Near Food Shelf | | \$3,000.00 |
| North Hennepin Community College | Food Cupboard | \$3,000.00 |
| Crescent Cove | Children's Hospice | \$500.00 |
| Every Third Saturday | Veteran's Services | \$500.00 |
| Salvation Army | Thanksgiving Request | \$500.00 |
| Grace Lutheran Church | Gala | \$500.00 |
| Sonnesyn Elementary school | Family Literacy Night | \$500.00 |
| Armstrong Girls Hockey | | \$500.00 |
| Armstrong Boys Hockey | | \$500.00 |
| Scout Troop 534 | New Hope | \$500.00 |
| Veterans' Health Admin St Cloud VA | Food Insecurity | \$500.00 |
| Teacher of the Year | Sponsorship Award | \$300.00 |
| Wooden Hearts | Veterans Assistance Program | \$1,000.00 |
| Fishing For Life | | \$1,000.00 |
| NAMI – 65 Youth/40 Adults | In-Patient Care Treatment | \$2,000.00 |
| GALLS | Ritual Squad Uniform Shirt | \$89.59 |
| Winterfest at the Community Center | 2024 Additional Costs | \$517.73 |
| Winterfest at the Community Center | 2025 Request | \$1,500.00 |

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

City of Crystal, MN - Local Govern...
4h · 🌐

HONORING OUR HEROES

The City of Crystal is proud to share another meaningful improvement to the new Veteran's Memorial at Twin Oaks Park on Bass Lake Road, conveniently located near the Charles Knaeble VFW Post, offering easy access for visitors.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, members of Post #494 generously donated a beautiful bronze plaque mounted on a marble pedestal to honor all who have served in the armed forces.

The new display is placed between the two flags and poles installed earlier this summer — a lasting tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.



Gobble, gobble — exciting news!

The Sonnesyn PTSO secured a \$500 donation from Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post #494 to purchase frozen turkeys that will be given away during Bingo at Literacy Night on November 20th.

A huge thank you to Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post #494 for their incredible generosity and support of our Sonnesyn community. We can't wait to give away lots of frozen birds just in time for the holiday season! 🍗



Veteran's Day activity at our Post: Flag retirement ceremony



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| Friday | Live Music 7:00 |
|--------|-----------------|
| Dec 5 | Bird Dog |
| Dec 12 | Miller Brothers |
| Dec 19 | Backyard Band |
| Dec 26 | Stir Krazy |

From the Bar / Restaurant

December: Happy Holidays!

LOWER LEVEL EVENTS

- ★ **Saturday, Dec. 6:** Lions **Holiday Market** and Bake Sale 10 am—3 pm
- ★ **Saturday, Dec. 13:** ChesterBird **Breakfast with Santa and Craft Sale**
- ★ **Wednesday, Dec. 31 starting at 4 pm:**
New Year's Eve Dinner by reservation only.
Prime Rib, Deep fried Walleye, or Mystery Meal. ✓ to see what Mystery meal is when you call 763-537-9914 for reservations.
* \$5 of Bingo Package with dinner purchase.

UPSTAIRS EVENTS

- ★ **Wednesday, Dec 31: New Year's Eve Mystery Cash Bingo** 7:30 pm. Reservations required.
Please call 763-533-0567 or sign up at the Pulltab Booth.
* \$5 off Bingo package with dinner purchase.

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

The award-winning Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post 494 **NEWS & VIEWS** is published monthly. Editing, design and layout by Lifetime Auxiliary member, Lesley Kurke. Content management by Quartermaster Jim Richter.

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!



SATURDAY GAMBLING FUN

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



- ★ **eTabs** available at pulltab booth daily
- ★ **Friday 4 pm & Saturday 2pm, Electronic Pulltab 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 top prize winner

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**



VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914

December 2025



* **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 the most recent news and daily updates.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  | 1 Lunch Special Cobb Salad Bar Bingo 6-9 | 2 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm | 3 Lunch Special Meatloaf with mashed potatoes Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:45 pm <div>5-7 Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</div> KARAOKE 7:30 | 4 Lunch Special Grilled Ham & Cheese w/slaw Bar Bingo 6-9 | 5 Lunch Special Spaghetti w/meatball Evening: Rib and Chicken Dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Bird dog | 6 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 Texas Hold 'em 7:00 |
| 7 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza VIKES vs Washington NOON  Check out our specials! | 8 Lunch Special BLT wrap w/chips Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30 Bar Bingo 6-9 | 9 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm | 10 Lunch Special Tuna Melt w/chips <div>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</div> KARAOKE 7:30 | 11 Lunch Special Sloppy Joes with potato salad Bar Bingo 6-9 | 12 Lunch Special Beef Enchilada Evening: Walleye or Shrimp dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Miller Brothers | 13 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 Texas Hold 'em 7:00 |
| 14 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet VIKES @ Dallas 7:20 pm  Check out our specials! | 15 Lunch Special Salisbury Steak w/ mashed potatoes Bar Bingo 6-9 | 16 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm | 17 Lunch Special Liver with bacon, mashed potatoes <div>5-7 pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner</div> KARAOKE 7:30 | 18 Lunch Special Loaded Baked Potatoes Bar Bingo 6-9 | 19 Lunch Special Lasagna Rollups Evening: Steak Dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Backyard Band | 20 Breakfast 8:00: Pork chop w/eggs Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 PM Texas Hold 'em 7:00 |
| 21 Breakfast 8:00: Pork chop w/eggs VIKES @ New York NOON  Check out our specials! | 22 Lunch Special Shredded BBQ Chicken Sandwich Bar Bingo 6-9 | 23 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm | 24 Lunch Special Chicken Parm Sandwich w/chips Kitchen Closes at 3 Bar Closes at 5 | 25 Merry Christmas! WE ARE CLOSED Enjoy time with your family and watch VIKES vs Detroit 3:30 pm  | 26 Lunch Special Pork Tenderloin Sandwich w/slaw Evening: Chicken and Ribs dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Sitr Krazy | 27 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash w/2 eggs Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 PM Texas Hold 'em 7:00 |
| 28 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash w/2 eggs | 29 Lunch Special Scalloped Potatoes w/ ham Bar Bingo 6-9 | 30 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm | 31 Lunch Special Crispy Chicken wrap w/chips ★ New Year's Eve Special Menu in Lower Level 4 pm reservations required ★ Full Menu upstairs until 9 ★ Mystery Bingo 7:30 pm | <div> NYE lower level menu: Prime Rib, Deep fried Walleye or Mystery Dinner. Reservations required. Please call 763-537-9914 for dinner reservations. ✓ to see what Mystery Dinner is when you call. Upstairs Mystery Bingo: Please call 763-533-0567 or visit the Pulltab booth to reserve your spot. </div> | | |