

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
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*Bronze Award National Newsletter
contest for large posts in 2020!*

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

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NEWS & VIEWS • January 2024

#1 newsletter in the State of Minnesota for large VFW Posts—2020, 2021, 2022, 2023!

Post #494 Officers / Trustees 2023-2024

CommanderRick Godfrey
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Gambling Manager/
Ass't. QuartermasterGene Burdick
AdjutantHarland Anderson
ChaplainSteve Jones
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SurgeonSteve Hawk
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Officer of the DayFred Crimmins
Door Guard.....Bill Blair
1 Yr Trustee.....John Faulk
2 Yr Trustee.....Jay Leamons
3 Yr Trustee.....Fred Crimmins



All American Post
1993, 1996 Banner Post

Post #494 CMC Members 2024

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

★ **Club Management Committee (CMC) meeting is the 2nd Monday, 1:30 p.m.**

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees 2023-2024

PresidentMarge Rubenstein
Sr. Vice PresidentGinny Villagomez
Jr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
SecretaryDebbie Larson
TreasurerLori Aydt
ChaplainHelen Hauser
ConductressLori Martens
GuardCraig Dahlin
Patriotic InstructorVirginia Sroka
1st Yr. TrusteeMary Touve-Kackman
2nd Yr. TrusteeJo Peterson
3rd Yr. TrusteePam Aritt

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

from the COMMANDER



Greetings Comrades,

Happy New Year! We have gotten past the shortest day of the year! It can only get better from here. But, unfortunately we are back in the season of snow. This brings us to the Midwinter Conference, coming up the weekend of January 12- 14. I am looking forward to hearing what other Posts are experiencing.

As always, membership is a challenge often heard and it is a responsibility for everyone. If you are a renewing member, please consider the Life membership, and if you are a Life Member, please consider a Legacy Membership. We offer financial assistance as encouragement. We must keep up our membership to keep our Post healthy!

We had the membership dinner and had a great turnout of around 90 people. Thank you again to our speakers, Randy Eberling and Retired US Army Colonel Laura Ludwig. Thank you to Lisa Sundberg, Lori Aydt, and Helen Hauser for setting up the banquet room and providing door prizes, along with the Post who provided gift cards. Our Voice of Democracy winner Loreen Compton. and Patriots pen winner Preston Smetak were present and read their submissions. Our winners moved on to Districts and they both finished 3rd in Districts. Great job!

For New Years Eve, we are having a dinner in the lower level with your choice of prime rib, shrimp scampi, or chicken parmesan, followed by Mystery Bingo. For reservations, please call 763-533-0567. There also will be a DJ after bingo.

I would like to thank Harland Anderson our Adjutant for 14+ years of service. He will be greatly missed. His advice, help, and guidance in my first year as Commander was priceless.

Jr. Vice Commander Sandra Lindley has agreed to assume the responsibility of Adjutant. Thank you, Sandra.

The selfless dedication of our members is what makes our Post work. Please stay safe and healthy. I hope you had the chance to spend the Holidays with family and friends.

Your Post is doing well still serving veterans and our community. We can't do it without you, so please come down and participate. As always, our meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00. We hope to see you there!

I hope to see you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The holidays approaching always get me thinking about time spent overseas in the military service. My first Christmas away from home was in Nuremburg, Germany in 1965. The city had a genuinely nice Christmas market, where I bought gifts to send back home. It was not an unpleasant experience. I had plans to meet a friend of mine in Paris on a three-day pass for New Years Eve. Then the Army stepped in. We had a change of command, the new battalion commander thought we would all be depressed over the holidays, so he decided to keep us busy. He canceled all passes and ordered us to GI the barracks. I never got to see Paris.

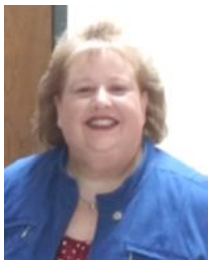
In April 1966, I had orders to return to the states to start training with a new unit. Little did I know that Christmas 1966 would be spent in the Republic of Vietnam. It was during the wet monsoon in the Central Highlands. My artillery battalion was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). We were located at brigade headquarters, on a forward base camp named LZ Hammond. A Christmas truce had been declared, so the Cav infantry units were coming in from operations in the field. As an artilleryman, still wearing stateside fatigues I was in awe of the grunts who offloaded from choppers in mud-stained and torn jungle fatigues. They went directly to the shower point. After showering they were issued brand new jungle fatigues, with olive drab Cav patches already sewn on.

A USO entertainment show was planned for Christmas Day. We weren't large enough to warrant a visit from Bob Hope.

We really didn't know what to expect. A small stage had been constructed near the middle of the LZ. After their showers, the infantry units formed up around the stage by companies. We joined them near the rear of the gathering. The rumor was that Nancy Sinatra was going to appear. We didn't really believe it but, sure enough, she came out on stage in a turquoise mini dress and knee-high white patent leather boots. I don't remember what else she sang, but the entire audience erupted when she broke into: "These boots are made for walking," and we all joined in on the chorus, **"and that's just what they'll**



from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Greetings Members

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday season, and you were able to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. January is the month for new beginnings, fresh starts and a time to renew. It's a New Year of opportunities, and a renewed beginning. Here is hoping 2024 brings a new focus for us all.

This year we participated in the Winterfest at Crystal Community Center, the kids enjoyed the activities and games, as well as visiting with Santa. Thank You to all the members from the Auxiliary and Post that helped with this event. We had a great time visiting with the children and parents as well as passing out cookies and flags. Everyone made this event a success.

Our membership Dinner was held on December 3. Thank you to all who attended and have paid your Membership Dues for the coming year. We had a great turn-out and a fun afternoon.

With schools starting back after the holidays it's the perfect time to enlist our youth in one of the following Youth Activities contests.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-

Dimensional Art: Open to students grade 9-12, will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. Eligibility criteria and entry requirements can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships for all programs.

Get excited about the Red White and Blue – a video solo vocal performance of the Star-Spangled Banner. Grades K-8 & 9-12

Illustrating America – Grades K-8, and 9-12.

Deadline for entry for all 3 programs is 3-31-2024.

Upcoming January Events:

January 1 - New Years Day

January 6 – World Day of War Orphans

January 9 – Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

January 12 – National Youth Day

January 12 – 14th Midwinter Conference Marriott NW–
Brooklyn Park

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 16 – Auxiliary Meeting 6:30 PM

January 27 - Vietnam Peace Day

January 31 - Panama Campaign ended (1990)

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

Yours in Patriotism,

Marge Rubenstein - Auxiliary President



Good of the Order continued

do, one of these days these boots are gonna walk all over you."

Next on the bill was Billy Graham with George Beverly Shea. Billy Graham gave a short sermon and led us in prayer. George Beverly Shea led the Christmas carols. After the service was over, Billy Graham passed out copies of the New Testament, one of which I still have. I was among those fortunate enough to shake his hand. Soon it was time to return to our hooches, to get ready for guard duty and, in my case, to monitor the radios for a fire mission, in case Charlie decided to violate the cease fire.

A firefight started on LZ Bird, shortly after midnight on December 27. They were just outside of our firing range. The battle raged on for hours and all we could do was helplessly listen to frantic calls for help on the radio. The

weather was "socked in," so even the Huey gunships couldn't immediately respond. Fortunately, there was a battery of 105 howitzers at LZ Pony, which was within range to fire artillery support. Staff SGT Delbert Jennings of the 1st of the 12th Cav ordered the firing of beehive rounds inside the perimeter. NVA sappers had broken through. His action was later credited with saving the LZ from being overrun by an NVA regiment. He was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Most of us associate Christmas with pleasant memories of family gatherings and happy occasions. Combat veterans do not all have that luxury. Please be mindful of that if you run into a veteran who is feeling down during the holidays. Their sacrifice was made, in part, so that the country at large could have those pleasant memories. I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and wish you Peace and happiness in the New Year.



Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

SICK CALL

Natalie Stuhr



Ring in the New & Give Over the Old

Ah, the New Year. Many of us reflect upon our state in life and how perhaps we might change it. And for the better this time, I mean it! For example, I'm going to eat a few more salads, and a few less burgers (Tuesday nights excepted, OF COURSE!). I'm going to shed these few extra "Ell-Bees" that have grown so attached to my waist. More time in the gym, less in front of the TV. A few more veggie juices, and a few less single-malts; that sort of thing.

But for the big changes, behavioral scientists all say – you can't do it alone. Addictions, anger-management, depression, you can't do it alone. And I agree. Get an accountability buddy. Find one, for the big changes, surely, but even the small ones will be easier with a friend.

Great, so much for "the new," but what about the "old?" Ah, I have a tip for you there as well! I know a guy who listens well, has huge shoulders to share your burdens, and offers a wonderful eraser to wipe your slate clean. And this is why Psalm 51 is one of my favorites:

*⁵¹ Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.*

*² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.*

And my favorite prayer:

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

*¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

*¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

As the old song says, "Take it to the Lord in prayer." A blessed and happy change-for-the-good New Year to all!

from the QUARTERMASTER

Newsletter Communications:

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please notify us ASAP of any change (temporary or permanent) in your mailing address, as there is a charge to the Post for mail that is undeliverable.

★ **EMAIL:** If you prefer to receive the Post newsletter in PDF format, please contact me via Email at: **quartermaster494@comcast.net** with your email address. You will receive your newsletter in color, get it more quickly, and save us the cost to print and mail.

Visit our website: crystalvfw.com

Visit our FaceBook page: **VFW Post 494**

Thank you for supporting our Post,
Jim Richter, Post 494 Quartermaster

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations for December

<u>CHARITY</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Near	Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$1,000.00
North Hennepin Community College	Food Cupboard	\$1,000.00
Volunteer Services	CRRC	1,000.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans' Assistance	\$1,000.00
Performance Foods	Kitchen Expansion Project	\$12,500.00
DARE	City of Crystal	\$5,000.00
Hearing Impaired	City of Crystal	\$10,000.00
Activity Assistance for Rec Dept	City of Crystal	\$5,000.00
Police Explorers	City of Crystal	\$5,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



L to R: Darlene Magnuson, District Chair for Voice of Democracy; Sandra Lindley, Jr. Vice Commander Post 494; Jim Doten, District 7 Jr. Vice Commander are pictured with First place Patriot's Pen winner Preston Smetak.



Commander Rick Godfrey swears in new member Daniel Crawford at the Dec. 18 meeting.



The veteran, NHL, Blue Ox hockey game raised funds for the organization Healing Heroes. Don Halverson dropping the ceremonial puck for the start of the game.

Winterfest 2023:

Volunteers from the Post L to R:
Ken Olson, Pam Aritt,
Lori Aydt, Auxiliary
Pres. Marge
Rubenstein,
Lisa Sundberg,
Helen Hauser.



Women Embracing Transition: Care packages for troops are readied for shipping by Commander Rick Godfrey and member Bob Vorderbruggen.

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Friday Night Live Music 8:00-12pm

Jan 5	Lost Marbles
Jan 12	Saintrio
Jan 19	Wayne and the Boys
Jan 26	Miller Brothers

from the Kitchen and Bar

Well, we made it through another year!

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for your support throughout the year.

Without you we wouldn't be here.

Starting in January we will be having a special dinner every Friday night. Check out the daily FaceBook posts for information.

Sunday, January 28 we are having a corn-hole tournament. Please come in and join in the fun.

Happy New Year!

Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale

1st Wednesday of month

Wednesday, Jan. 3 @ 4:30-7
during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner

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

Weekly Entertainment

Bar BINGO: 6 PM start Mon. & Thurs.

\$750-\$1,000 Coverall and \$1199

Coverall final game!

Plus we have an exciting progressive **Hot Ball jackpot** if you have a BINGO on the hot ball!



Bar RINGO: Free to play. Eight prize games plus \$500 Coverall. RINGO starts after the **MEAT RAFFLE** around 5 PM so come on down for the raffle and **STAY and PLAY.**



★ **eTabs** available at pulltab booth

★ **Cash Race, Horses, Piggy, Matador**

Electronic races on meat raffle days

MEAT RAFFLES

Fri. 4pm & Sat. 2pm

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



\$1 / TICKET for **\$20 meat pkg**

\$2 / TICKET for **\$40 meat pkg**

\$5 / TICKET for **\$110 case plus**

NEW \$90 meat case + \$25 cash



The award-winning *NEWS & VIEWS* is published monthly by Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post 494, 5222 56th Ave N., Crystal, MN 55429. Editing, design and layout by Lifetime Auxiliary member, Lesley Kurke, content management by Quartermaster, Jim Richter.



VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



January 2024

* *Note: Calendar information is subject to last minute change. Check the signage in the club / bar and our new FaceBook page **VFW Post 494** for the most recent news and daily updates.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lunch Special Egg Salad sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9 Happy New Year!	2 Lunch Special Loco Moco Hawaiian dish DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	3 Lunch Special Pork roast with mashed and gravy 5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:30-7 pm KARAOKE 7:30	4 Lunch Special Liver and onions with bacon Bar Bingo 6-9	5 Lunch Special Grilled cheese with ham & fries Evening: Dinner Special Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Lost Marbles	6 Breakfast 8:00: Loaded cheesy hash Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00 Texas Hold 'Em 7pm
7 Breakfast 8:00: Loaded cheesy hash Sunday Funday Music after 3	8 Lunch Special Cheeseburger hot dish Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 1:00 Bar Bingo 6-9	9 Lunch Special Chicken bacon wrap with chips DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	10 Lunch Special Goulash with roll 5-7pm Lion's Steak Fry KARAOKE 7:30	11 Lunch Special Chix parm bow tie pasta Bar Bingo 6-9	12 Lunch Special 3 Beef tacos w/ lettuce, tomato, cheese. Soft or hard Evening: Dinner Special Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Saintrio	13 Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits & gravy Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00 PM Texas Hold 'Em 7pm
14 Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits & gravy Sunday Funday Music after 3	15 Lunch Special Chicken Fried rice Bar Bingo 6-9	16 Lunch Special Cubano with chips Post and Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm / 6:30 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	17 Lunch Special Tuna salad with chips 5-7pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	18 Lunch Special Meatloaf with gravy and mashed Bar Bingo 6-9	19 Lunch Special Chicken Alfredo with garlic toast Evening: Dinner Special Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Wayne & the Boys	20 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00 PM Texas Hold 'Em 7pm
21 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash Sunday Funday Music after 3	22 Lunch Special Spaghetti and meatballs with garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9	23 Lunch Special Tuna Melt w/chips DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	24 Lunch Special Steak Fajitas 5-7pm VFW BBQ Ribs KARAOKE 7:30	25 Lunch Special Beef stroganoff w/ garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9	26 Lunch Special Scalloped potatoes and ham Evening: Dinner Special Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Miller Brothers	27 Breakfast 8:00: French toast Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5 PM KARAOKE 7:00 PM Texas Hold 'Em 7pm
28 Breakfast 8:00: French toast Sunday Funday Music after 3	29 Lunch Special Juicy Lucy with fries Bar Bingo 6-9	30 Lunch Special Beef Teriyaki Noodles DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	31 Lunch Special Salisbury steak with mashed and gravy 5-7pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Assoc Meatloaf dinner KARAOKE 7:30			