

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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NEWS & VIEWS • February 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
1 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 Diane 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: It's a new year, and I hope everyone is doing ok with the strange weather we are having. As they say, wait five minutes, and it will change.

We are going through the process of making changes with some of our entertainment. Check out some of our new Saturday activities and watch for changes.

It is a great thing to know that our post is involved in more than just internal activity. Our members are actively engaged in the community, they participate in events such as funeral services, ice cream socials, and student projects, and they lend a hand to neighbors or friends in need. Thank you's are coming in and the motivation gained by working as a group is infectious. Outstanding job, let's keep it going.

This post has a lot of history; we write a lot of checks but checks alone do not reach people's hearts. Checks alone are not even sustainable. Financially, it is a very small piece, though needed, in many cases. To do this, we need the involvement, good stewardship of our nest egg, and fundraising to keep the post going. The greater activities keep people involved, build ownership in the organization, build relationships with our members, and build a long-lasting, impactful post.

Blood drive: February 3rd in the Banquet room downstairs, 1-7 pm

I would like to thank our members and guests, who support our post day in and day out. Your business and support are appreciated!

Your Post is doing well, still serving veterans and our community. We can't do it without you, so please come down and participate. If you are on a renewing membership, please remember to renew; otherwise, switch to either a Life Membership or the new Legacy option.

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

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.

Good of the Order

I've been thinking a lot about the difference between the military of today and the military of the Vietnam era. The most striking and obvious change is how the National Guard and Reserve was utilized then and now. The Guard was often considered a "way out" for people who didn't want to go to Vietnam. This was often the case, but not always.



President Lyndon Johnson thought the war would be more palatable to the public, if only a few were drafted out of each local community, rather than activating an entire unit to fight. The number of local people gone would be hard not to notice.

This contrasted with mobilization during WW2 and the Korean War during which entire divisions of National Guard and Reserve troops were activated and sent to fight along with their regular active-duty brothers.

It isn't true that no National Guard or Reserve elements served in Vietnam. Over 9,000 National Guard troops were activated and fought in Vietnam. They were part of the reserve action force and were mostly from

Good of the Order continued →

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Continued

specialized units that were in high demand such as combat engineers in the Army and aviation refueling specialists in the Air National Guard. One National Guard unit that was activated was the 151st infantry of the Indiana National Guard known as the Indiana Rangers. The 151st earned 19 Silver Stars in Vietnam.

GEN Creighton Abrams thought it was a mistake not to activate the National Guard and Reserves. That because of that decision the nation was not fully engaged.

After Vietnam the policy toward activation of the Guard in times of need changed. Fifty percent of the military that served in Iraq and Afghanistan were National Guard units who made regular rotations along with their active-duty comrades. The 34th ID Red Bulls served more tours in Iraq than any other unit including regular army active-duty units.

The advantages of serving in the Guard or Reserve as opposed to active duty are apparent. When they return home from a deployment they return to their civilian jobs, homes and communities. Many active-duty troops do not have the luxury of buying their own homes and acquiring equity to sustain themselves and their families in retirement due to frequent changes in duty stations.

There is more than one way to serve your country in the military. Thank a National Guard or Reserve member for their service and the sacrifices they make for us. Never forget!

Don Fernstrom,
Service Officer & Past Commander

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings members, I hope this finds you keeping warm in this cold weather! Hopefully February will be a little warmer than the last few days in January. With February right around the corner, let's hope we get a reprieve from this cold weather soon!



The illustrating America Art contest is open for students in the following grade divisions in K-8. Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8.

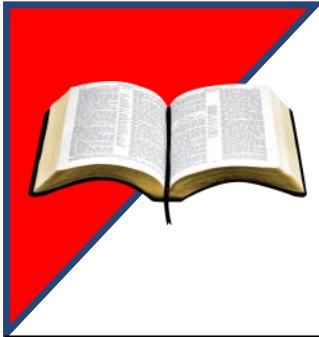
Dates to Remember:

February 2 Ground Hog Day
February 12 Lincoln Birthday
February 14 Valentine's Day
February 16 Presidents' Day and Washington's bday
February 17 Mardi Gras in New Orleans

My sympathies to those who have lost loved ones and to those who have been ill, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Marge Rubenstein,
Auxiliary President





Chaplain's Corner



Helen Hauser

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

David Morrow

SICK CALL

Natalie Stuhr



Hello Everyone,

Here we are again in the middle of a typical cold Minnesota winter. I've always said that the bears have the right idea – curl up somewhere warm and cozy and sleep until spring.

In the Bible, winter symbolizes spiritual hardship, barrenness, testing, and waiting, but also preparation, purity (like snow), God's faithfulness in cycles, and the hope of future renewal and growth, representing times of spiritual stillness, trial, or dormancy before spring's new life. It's a time of cold and darkness, but also a necessary pause for rest, reflection, and spiritual strengthening before renewal, as seen in the promise that winter's end brings spring.

Since it's February we can't forget about Valentine's Day so I would like to share a poem in honor of the occasion.

I Carry Your Heart With Me (I Carry It In) by E.E. Cummings

I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart) I am never without it (anywhere I go you go, my dear; and whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling)

I fear no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet) I want no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true) and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant and whatever a sun will always sing is you

Here is the deepest secret nobody knows (here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide) and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

I carry your heart (I carry it in my heart)

May God send his blessings to those who have lost loved ones, may they be comforted. Also, we have several members of our Auxiliary with loved ones who are having serious medical issues. May God grant them strength, courage, peace and guidance during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

Helen Hauser – Auxiliary Chaplain

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations January 2026

Charity	Purpose	Donation
Near	Food Shelf	\$3,000.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Food Cupboard	\$3,000.00
Every Third Saturday	Veteran's Services	\$500.00
Ritual Squad	5 Rituals	\$1,120.00
Robins Varsity Adapted Athletics Team		\$1,500.00
MMFF Minnesota Military Family Foundation		\$1,000.00
Walk MS	MS Society	\$500.00
Champlin Park / Coon Rapids Dance Team	Dance Team	\$500.00
Sonnesyn Elementary School	PTSO Field Trip	\$500.00
City of Crystal	K-9 Unit	\$15,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

Halloween Post and Gambling employee costumes from 2025 party



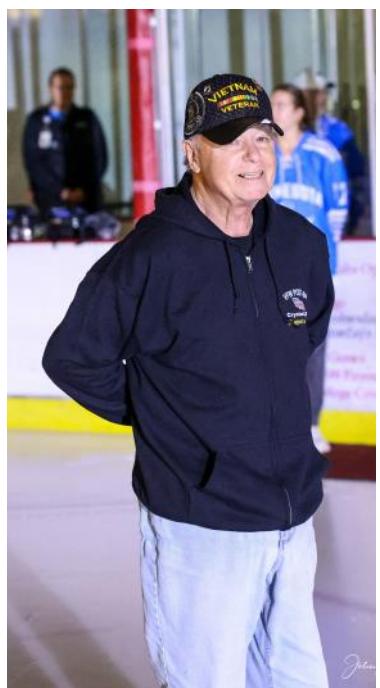
Marlene Lietzow shows off her 3rd place Poppy Display entry



New Year's Eve Mystery Envelope BINGO



Senior Vice Commander John Faulk drops the puck at the Minnesota Blue Ox hockey game



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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.

Joe's Barbershop

Joe Mullen
 Barber / Owner
 5707 West Broadway
 Crystal, MN 55428
 763-536-9879



Friday	Live Music 7:00
Feb 6	DB Cooper
Feb 13	Miller Brothers
Sat., Feb 14	Valentine's Day: Bad Habits Brass
Feb 20	Bird Dog
Feb 27	Mr Winky

From the Bar / Restaurant

Happy February! Here are some new events you may want to check out.

Saturday, Feb 7, Bingo @ 7:30 pm.

Big \$\$ payouts

Saturday, Feb. 14 Bad Habits Brass Band and Lasagna Dinner special

Sunday, Feb. 15 @ 1 PM NASCAR party with prizes! Daytona 500

Saturday, March 14, Celebrate St. Patrick's day! Prizes for Best Dressed

Sunday, March 22, Purse Bingo 2 pm.
Reservations required. Sign up at the pull tab booth



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

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 2 PM **SATURDAY MEAT RAFFLE** is **done**, 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 the 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



February 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
1 Breakfast 8:00: French Toast	2 Lunch Special Battered Pork Tenderloin Sandwich Bar Bingo 6-9	3 Lunch Special TACO Tuesday Beef Burrito DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	4 Lunch Special Liver & onions w/ mashed potatoes Auxiliary Bake Sale ~4:45 pm 5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	5 Lunch Special Chicken Enchiladas Bar Bingo 6-9	6 Lunch Special Spaghetti & Meatball Evening: Steak Dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 DB Cooper	7 Breakfast 8:00: Commander Omelet Bacon, Tomato, HB Cheese Sauce Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM B I N G O Big Cash Bingo 7:30
8 Breakfast 8:00: Commander Omelet Bacon, Tomato, Hashbrowns, Cheese Sauce	9 Lunch Special Cobb Salad Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30 Bar Bingo 6-9	10 Lunch Special TACO Tuesday Beef Burrito DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	11 Lunch Special BBQ Chicken sandwich w/slaw 5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry KARAOKE 7:30	12 Lunch Special Hot Turkey Sandwich w/ mashed Bar Bingo 6-9	13 Lunch Special BLT wrap with chips Evening: Chicken & Ribs Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Miller Brothers	14 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner Special Bad Habits Brass Band
15 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash Food, drinks, prizes 1:00 pm NASCAR Party Drivers . . . start your engines!! 	16 Lunch Special Salisbury Steak Bar Bingo 6-9	17 Lunch Special TACO Tuesday Beef Burrito Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	18 Lunch Special Baked Chicken w/ stuffing and mashed 5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	19 Lunch Special Sloppy Joes w/ chips Bar Bingo 6-9	20 Lunch Special Po' Boy Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Bird Dog	21 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
22 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet	23 Lunch Special Hamburger stroganoff over noodles Bar Bingo 6-9	24 Lunch Special TACO Tuesday Beef Burrito DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	25 Lunch Special Grilled Ham & Cheese 5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	26 Lunch Special Carlos Chicken Sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	27 Lunch Special Tuna Melt Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Mr Winky	28 Breakfast 8:00: French Toast w/meat Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM



Join us for our Friday Fish Fry starting Friday, February 20 through Friday, March 27

2-18 through 4/2