

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 151<sup>st</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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.

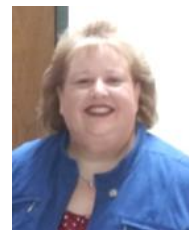
There is more than one way to serve your country in the military. Thank a National Guard or Reserve member for their service and the sacrifices they make for us. Never forget!

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

**JOIN US !!**



**BINGO**

**SATURDAY** Feb 7 **7:30**

CRYSTAL VFW POST 494  
5222 BASS LAKE RD



**\$35/PACKET**  
**BIG CASH PAYOUTS**

**Sunday, Feb. 15 @ 1:00**



**Racing PARTY**



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





## 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**



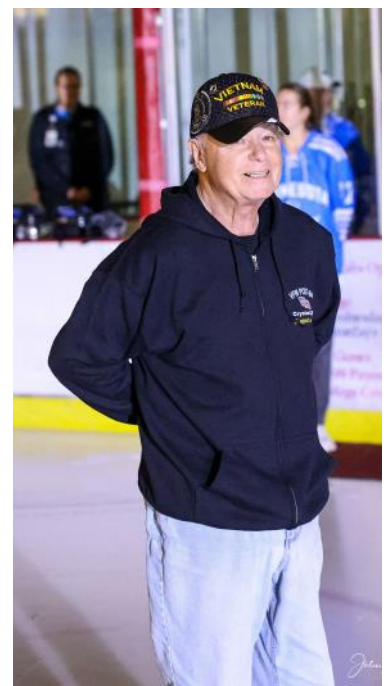
**Marlene Lietzow shows off her 3rd place Poppy Display entry**



**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.

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