

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494  
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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 • June 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.....Dave Soukup
- 2 Yr Trustee..... Jay Leamons
- 3 Yr Trustee..... Chuck Lund

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

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

## from the COMMANDER



Greetings, Comrades: I hope you are all doing well. The remodeling and upgrades in the bar and dining room are almost complete! Thank you to Sandy, Gene, and the servers, kitchen, pull-tab, and meat raffle staff, and our members and customers. We know it was challenging

at the time. We appreciate your patience and your business! To our members and customers, thank you for your patience and your continued business.

An extra thank you to Gene, Marianne, Sandy, Fern, and Patty. For the extra work and hours you put in to get the bar and kitchen ready for us to move back upstairs! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

### ***Congratulations to our returning officers:***

- ★ Commander: Rick Godfrey
- ★ Sr vice commander: John Faulk
- ★ Jr vice commander: Mike Johnson
- ★ Quarter Master: Jim Richter

Installation of officers for the post and auxiliary will be held on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. downstairs in the banquet room.

I look forward to serving as your Commander and working with everyone to keep our post the best it can be.

The 2026 VFW and VFW Auxiliary Department of Minnesota State Convention is scheduled for June 18–21, 2026. The event will be hosted at the Crowne Plaza located at 3131 Campus Drive in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Thank you to everyone who showed up for our day of service and manned various locations to distribute poppies! It is appreciated very much!

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** 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!**



End of the year carnival at Sonnesyson elementary. Anthony Gale post member and Sandra Lindley, Post Adjutant manned the water/lemonade station

# Dedication of Twin Oaks Park / POW-MIA Memorial Park

May 6, 2026



## Chaplain's Corner

## Taps & Sick Call



**Helen Hauser**

**TAPS**  
Joseph Munn Jr.

**SICK CALL**  
Larry Aritt  
Natalie Stuhr



Welcome to June.

Each spring arrives in God's perfect timing. The earth comes alive again after the long, cold winter. It is so refreshing to see new leaves, green grass and the first colorful blooms of spring flowers. You can finally open the windows to enjoy fresh air and the sweet smell of flowering trees and lilacs along with the sounds of chirping birds and buzzing bees.

Spring brings a surge of new energy and for me at least – it also brings the urge to do some good spring cleaning. We can clean our home until it sparkles and shines but how about doing a "spring cleaning" of your spirit? Here are a few tips to get you started.

- ★ Purge any old attitudes and allow yourself the freedom to move into a new season.
- ★ Ask the Lord to scrub my heart clean again as I request forgiveness and forgive myself.
- ★ Clean out the cobwebs of negative thoughts. Grab a rag and dust "I can't do this" and "This will never work" right out of the corner and into the trash.

This spring, let's spend a little quiet time with God, maybe even while we're dusting, mopping and decluttering. Let's invite Him to show us what we might need to "clean up" in order to grow deeper in our faith and closer to our Father.

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 May 2026

Charity	Purpose	Donation
NEAR	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Veterans Food Shelf	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans Services	\$2,500.00
Minnesota Veterans Food Pantry	Veterans Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Soldiers 6	Service Dogs for Veterans	\$1,000.00
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps	Twin Cities Squadron	\$500.00
Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp	Camp Ripley	\$500.00
Ritual Squad	Five Rituals	\$1015.00
City of Crystal	Airport Open House	\$2,500.00

# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

## Reuniting After War Celebration



Top Right: Don Halverson with Shawn Mingus and bottom left with guest.


## May 15 Poppy Day

Sandra Lindley,  
Crystal VFW Adjutant




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**Joe's Barbershop**

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

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
June 5	SainTrio
June 12	Twilight Zone
June 19	Elephant in the Room
June 26	City Lights

# 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

# 2 MEAT RAFFLES

## Fri. 4pm & Sat. 2pm

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

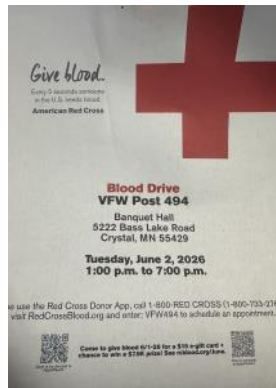


- \$1 / TICKETS for **\$20 meat pkg**
- \$2 / TICKETS for **\$40 meat pkg**
- \$5 / TICKETS for **\$110 case of meat**

## From the Bar / Restaurant

Spring has been very up and down, however I believe summer is coming in strong.

**Tuesday, June 2** is the Blood Drive. Please stop by and donate if you are able. Crystal VFW lower level, 1pm—7 pm.



**Sunday, June 7** Chesterbird Legion pancake breakfast, kids eat free. 8 am—Noon

Customer Appreciation is coming soon . . . Watch for an announcement!

**Sunday, June 7 @ 1:30**

**Crystal VFW Racing PARTY**

*Michigan Int'l Speedway: race time 2pm*  
*Drivers . . .start your engines*

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



VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



# June 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 Lunch Special</b> Crispy Chicken Wrap w/chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>2 Lunch Special</b> <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Chicken or Beef burrito \$8.95  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>3 Lunch Special</b> Tuna Melt  <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>4 Lunch Special</b> Ham and Au Gratin potatoes  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>5 Lunch Special</b> Meatloaf w/mashed <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Evening: Steak Dinner</b>  <b>Live Music SainTrio</b>	<b>6 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Corned Beef Hash <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b>
<b>7 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Corned Beef Hash  <b>Food, drinks, prizes NASCAR Party 1:30 Drivers . . . start your engines!!</b>  	<b>8 Lunch Special</b> Crispy Chicken w/ mashed potatoes  <b>Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30</b>  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>9 Lunch Special</b> <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Chicken or Beef burrito \$8.95  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>10 Lunch Special</b> Liver & Onions  <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>11 Lunch Special</b> Mandarin Orange Chicken Salad <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>12 Lunch Special</b> Chicken Salad Sandwich on Cranberry bread <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Evening: Walleye or Shrimp Dinner</b>  <b>Live music 7:00 Twilight Zone</b>	<b>13 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Commander Omelet: bacon, tomato, hashbrowns w/ hollandaise sauce <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b>
<b>14 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Commander Omelet: bacon, tomato, hashbrowns w/ hollandaise sauce  <b>FLAG Day</b>  	<b>15 Lunch Special</b> Chicken Fajitas <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>16 Lunch Special</b> <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Chicken or Beef burrito \$8.95  <b>Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm</b>  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>17 Lunch Special</b> BBQ Beef Sandwich w/slaw  <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner</div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>18 Lunch Special</b> Cobb Salad <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>19 Lunch Special</b> Pork Loin w/mashed <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Evening: Steak Tacos</b>  <b>Live music 7:00 Elephant in the Room</b>	<b>20 Breakfast 8:00:</b> French Toast w/meat <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>GAME NIGHT 7 pm</b> <b>Tower Shack, Pool, Connect 4, Corn Hole, Cribbage</b>
<b>21 Breakfast 8:00:</b> French Toast w/meat  <b>FATHER'S DAY</b>  	<b>22 Lunch Special</b> Deluxe grilled cheese w/chips <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>23 Lunch Special</b> <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Chicken or Beef burrito \$8.95  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>24 Lunch Special</b> Chow Mein hotdish  <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>25 Lunch Special</b> Shrimp Basket <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>26 Lunch Special</b> 1 Topping Personal Pan Pizza <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Evening: Chicken and Ribs Dinner</b>  <b>Live music 7:00 City Lights</b>	<b>27 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Mess Hall Skillet <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b>
<b>28 Breakfast 8:00</b> Mess Hall Skillet	<b>29 Lunch Special</b> Deep Fried Pork Tenderloin sandwich w/chips <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>30 Lunch Special</b> <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Chicken or Beef burrito \$8.95  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <b>ROOM RENTALS</b>            For Conference Media Room Rental, Hall Rentals, Banquets, Weddings, Anniversaries and other functions, call the Post and ask for the Manager: 763-537-9914         </div>			