

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494  
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Crystal, MN 55429

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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 • February 2025

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



Bronze Award National Newsletter  
contest for large posts in 2020!

2nd Place State of Minnesota  
contest for large posts in 2024!

Post #494 Officers / Trustees

2024-2025

Commander .....Rick Godfrey  
Sr. Vice Commander .....Sandra Lindley  
Jr. Vice Commander.....John Faulk  
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.....Bill Blair  
1 Yr Trustee..... Jay Leamons  
2 Yr Trustee..... Fred Crimmins  
3 Yr Trustee..... Dave Soukup



All American Post  
1993, 1996 Banner Post

Post #494 CMC Members

2025

1 Yr CMC Member .....Bill Blair  
1 Yr CMC Member ..... Jim Hagenbrock  
2 Yr CMC Member ..... Ken Olson  
2 Yr CMC Member ..... Steve Jones  
3 Yr CMC Member ..... Gene Burdick  
3 Yr CMC Member .....Mike Johnson  
3 Yr CMC Member .....Steve Hawk

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees

2024-2025

President ..... Marge Rubenstein  
Sr. Vice President ..Mary Touve-Kackman  
Jr. Vice President .....Lisa Sundberg  
Secretary ..... Debbie Larson  
Treasurer ..... Pam Aritt  
Chaplain .....Helen Hauser  
Conductress .....Lori Martens  
Guard ..... Theo Page  
Patriotic Instructor ..... Virginia Sroka  
1st Yr. Trustee ..... Darlene Hauschildt  
2nd Yr. Trustee .....Marlene Lietzow  
3rd Yr. Trustee ..... Theo Page

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

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

## from the COMMANDER



Greetings, Comrades:

Nice to see we are having a warm-up after the sub-zero temps in mid-January.

I could not attend the Midwinter conference due to illness. We were well represented by

Jr Vice Commander John Faulk and Quartermaster Jim Richter. Jim Hagenbrock won 3rd place for his Poppy display at the meeting.

Last month we celebrated the New Year with dinner and mystery Bingo followed by a DJ, and it was well attended! Thank you to Gene, Marianne, and Sandy, as well as all the staff for putting this together!



We lost one of our long-time members, Bob Vorderbruggen, last month. Bob started the program to bring veterans from St. Theresa of New Hope and Good Samaritan of New Hope for lunch once a month as he was always concerned that our Veterans were being taken care of. I met Bob when my dad was in Hospice at Good Samaritan. After my dad passed, Bob asked to keep helping him. Bob handed that over to me a few years ago. As time passed, Bob moved into St Theresa and attended our monthly luncheons. We would joke about him starting the program and now participating in it. Bob was a very kind man and will be missed by many.

On Monday, Feb. 24, our Don Halverson will turn 102 years old! Don is a WWII vet who served in Italy with the 34th Division. Stop by and wish him a Happy Birthday!

As mentioned before, Bob Parlow and I are visiting with veterans at Suite Living in Crystal. If anyone is interested in participating, let us know. The veterans enjoy our visits.

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 at your Post. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the lower level. See you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey

## from the QUARtermaster

**Newsletter Communications: PLEASE NOTICE!!**

⇒ **We are moving toward electronic distribution of the newsletter to save on postage and undeliverable mail costs. Please contact me via Email at: [quartermaster494@comcast.net](mailto:quartermaster494@comcast.net) with your email address and full name. You will receive your electronic newsletter in color, more quickly, and help the Post by saving us the high cost to print and mail.**

***\*Calendar printouts are available by the sign-in book for you to track our events. You can also see daily notices on our FaceBook page: VFW Post 494.***

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

**Visit our website: [crystalvfw.com](http://crystalvfw.com)**

Thank you for supporting our Post,  
Jim Richter, Quartermaster

## Good of the Order

Veteran suicides are down slightly. Maybe the outreach from the VA is having an effect. A couple of weeks ago I attended orientation at the VA Medical Center-Minneapolis as part of the requirement to be on the Memorial Rifle Squad providing military honors at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery for veterans buried there.



Why suicide prevention training was included I didn't know but, I'm glad it was. I learned that there is a new suicide prevention hotline which is way easier to



remember than the former ten-digit number. The new number is **988 Press 1**. That number will get you to a trained suicide prevention specialist, who will have access to all the resources available to that veteran.

*Continued next page*

**GOOD OF THE ORDER: Continued**

One reason the success rate for veteran suicides is greater than that of the civilian population is access to guns. Veterans with access to firearms are successful 90% of the time in committing suicide on the first attempt.



I represented veterans who were suffering from PTSD and were unwilling to pursue a disability rating from the VA, because they were afraid the government would take away their guns. That is simply not true. The VA is just trying to get those veterans the help that they need to prevent a tragedy with far reaching consequences for the veteran and their families.

Next time you are at the VA pick up a card which has the **988 Press 1** information on it and put it in your wallet. You just might save a life.

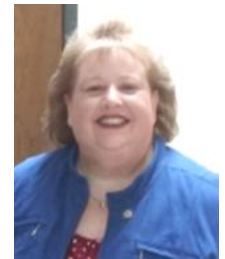
Don Fernstrom, Service Officer & Past Commander



**from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

Greeting members,

I hope this finds you enjoying our snowless winter weather, spring hopefully will be right around the corner.



Our Auxiliary has completed their consolidation and we are so happy to have our new members from West Metro join our Auxiliary. There is so much we can accomplish by working together.

Kudos to Marlene Leitzgow for entering her poppy display and winning 3rd place. There were actually two winning entries, one from the Post also, (see pg. 2).



Monday, March 31st is the deadline for the young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3 Dimensional Patriotic Art contest, both have the same deadlines. Student entries due to Auxiliary for judging. April 15th First place winners from Auxiliary due to Department for judging.

**Upcoming Events**

- ★ Sat., Feb 1st District Meeting Hopkins 10 Am.
- ★ Sat., Feb 1 National Freedom Day
- ★ Sun., Feb 2nd Ground Hog Day
- ★ Mon., Feb 3rd USO Birthday
- ★ Black History Month
- ★ National Salute to Veterans Patients week of February 9-15, stop in and chat!
- ★ Wed., Feb 12th Abraham Lincoln's birthday
- ★ Fri., Feb 14th Valentines Day
- ★ Mon., Feb 17th Presidents Day
- ★ Thurs., Feb 20th George Washington birthday

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

Loyally,

Marge Rubenstein,

Auxiliary President



## Chaplain's Corner



Helen Hauser

## Taps & Sick Call

### TAPS

Bob Vorderbruggen

### SICK CALL

Craig Dahlin

Mike Fredrickson



Hello Everyone,

I would like to welcome the new Auxiliary members that have joined us from West Metro! I enjoyed meeting those of you who have attended our meetings and hope to see more new faces.

Since February is all about love and Valentine's Day I would like to share a classic poem for your reading pleasure.

### Sonnet 43:

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
 I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
 My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
 For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
 I love thee to the level of every day's  
 Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
 I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
 I love thee with the passion put to use  
 In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
 I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
 With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
 Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
 I shall but love thee better after death.

~ Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Wishing you a day filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. Happy Valentine's Day!"

Helen Hauser – Auxiliary Chaplain

## Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations January 2025

CHARITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
NEAR	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans Assistance	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Food Cupboard	\$500.00
Second Stork	Infant Care Essentials	\$500.00
Twin Lake Association	Lake Area Protection	\$500.00
Champlin Park Winter Dance Team		\$500.00
Champlin Park Basketball	Boys Basketball	\$1,000.00
Rockford High School Band	Instruments	\$1,000.00
Patriot Paws	Service Dogs	\$1,000.00
Blackwood Blizzard Tour	ALS Fundraiser Never Surrender	\$1,000.00
Minnesota National Guard Youth Camps		\$1,000.00
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon		\$2,500.00
Totino Grace Summer Baseball		\$3,500.00
Minnesota Sentinels Hockey	Serving all Veterans	\$1,000.00
Brooklyn Park 12U Baseball	Cooperstown Trip	\$2,500.00
Champlin Park 12U-A Traveling Baseball	BransonTournament	\$3,500.00
Veterans On the Lake Ely	Campground and Resort	\$2,500.00
Evan Miller Eagle Scout Project	Church Coffee Cart	\$1,000.00

# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



Jim Hagenbrock drops the puck at the Blue Ox vs. MN Mullets hockey game.



**Designer Purse**

**BINGO**

**DESIGNER PURSE BINGO**

**SUNDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2025**  
**@ 2:00 p.m.**

**CRYSTAL VFW POST 494**  
**5222 BASS LAKE RD**  
**CRYSTAL, MN**  
**RESERVATIONS**  
**REQUIRED**

763-533-0567 OR  
AT PULLTAB BOOTH


**20 GAMES**  
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Happy Valentine's Day,  
Friday February 14  
Join us for dinner and music  
by Undercover starting at 7:30


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Wanda Mitchell  
 763.222.4598

**Creative Painting MINNESOTA**

lilypadgal@yahoo.com  
 FB: Creative Painting MN  
[www.creativepaintingmn.com](http://www.creativepaintingmn.com)



**Joe's Barbershop**

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



**Jason Lindberg**  
 Owner  
[JasonLfanfarepromotions.com](http://JasonLfanfarepromotions.com)

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Friday	Live Music 7:00
Feb 7	Sheet Rockers
Feb 14	Undercover
Feb 21	Outdoor Recess
Feb 28	Crossfire

# Weekly Entertainment

**Bar BINGO: 6 PM start 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!



**Bar RINGO: FREE to play.** Eight prize games plus \$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
- ★ **Electronic Pulltab Races:** Rats, Cash, Horse, Duck, Piggy, Matador on weekend 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/meat



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.

## from the Kitchen and Bar

Days are getting longer and hopefully the snow continues to stay away.

- ★ Beginning Saturday, February 1 Paul Moe will be our Karaoke Host. Please join us and show us your singing talents every Saturday.
- ★ Superbowl Sunday is February 9 and the game starts at 6:30.
- ★ Don't forget Valentine's day on Friday, February 14. Join us for dinner and music by Undercover
- ★ Sunday, Feb. 23 is Purse Bingo at 2 pm. Sign up at the Pull Tab window, reservation only!

## Bake Sale

is back this month

**Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale**  
 1st Wednesday of month  
 during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner  
**Wednesday, Feb. 5 ~ 4:45**

**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





VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



# February 2025

\* Note: Calendar information is subject to last minute 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
						<b>1 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Apple Fritter French toast w/choice of meat <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00</b> <b>Texas Hold 'em 7:00</b>
<b>2 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Apple Fritter French toast w/choice of meat	<b>3 Lunch Special</b> Salisbury Steak w/ mashed potatoes  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>4 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>5 Lunch Special</b> Open faced tuna melt w/chips  <b>Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:45 pm</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <b>5-7 Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</b> </div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>6 Lunch Special</b> Hamburger Stroganoff  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>7 Lunch Special</b> Chicken enchiladas  <b>Evening:</b> Chicken and Ribs  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b> <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Sheet Rockers</b>	<b>8 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Breakfast Burrito  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b> <b>Texas Hold 'em 7:00</b>
<b>9 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Breakfast Burrito  <b>SUPERBOWL SUNDAY 6:30 PM</b>  	<b>10 Lunch Special</b> Mandarin Orange Chicken Salad  <b>Gambling Mtg 12:00</b> <b>CMC MTG 12:30</b>  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>11 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>12 Lunch Special</b> Liver and onions w/ mashed potatoes  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <b>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</b> </div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>13 Lunch Special</b> Swedish Meatballs w/mashed potatoes  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>14 Lunch Special</b> Lasagna Rollups  <b>Evening:</b> Shrimp Scampi  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b> <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Undercover</b>  <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b>	<b>15 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Corned Beef Hash with 2 eggs  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b> <b>Texas Hold 'em 7:00</b>
<b>16 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Corned Beef Hash with 2 eggs	<b>17 Lunch Special</b> Deluxe Grilled Cheese w/chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>18 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>Post Meeting 7 pm</b> <b>Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm</b>  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>19 Lunch Special</b> Baked Chicken and stuffing  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <b>5-7 pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner</b> </div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>20 Lunch Special</b> Chicken parm sandwich w/chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>21 Lunch Special</b> Shepherd's Pie  <b>Evening:</b> Walleye Dinner  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b> <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Outdoor Recess</b>	<b>22 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Country Fried Steak with 2 eggs  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b> <b>Texas Hold 'em 7:00</b>
<b>23 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Country Fried Steak with 2 eggs  <b>PURSE BINGO 2:00</b>  	<b>24 Lunch Special</b> Egg Salad sandwich on croissant with chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>25 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos	<b>26 Lunch Special</b> Meatloaf with mashed potatoes  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <b>5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</b> </div>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>27 Lunch Special</b> Sloppy Joes with chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>28 Lunch Special</b> Shrimp Basket w/fries  <b>Evening:</b> Ribeye steak dinner  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b> <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Crossfire</b>	<b>March 1</b> Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits and gravy with eggs  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b> <b>Texas Hold 'em 7:00</b>