

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 • April 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  
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 ..... 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 .....Dianne 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



Looks like March came in like a lamb. I hope everyone is doing well. We have been having good turnouts at the post for the 1st NASCAR race and extra Saturday nights of bingo.

I wanted to thank Sandra Lindley and Fred Crimmins for keeping our Facebook page updated daily, and for Friday night dinners and all other updates that come up.

**REMINDER:** the membership dinner will be held on March 29 in the banquet room downstairs from 12-3pm.

The bar remodel is scheduled for April 11-26. Everything will move downstairs during the remodel.

Just a reminder: We received the following nominations for the positions listed below in March. You can still nominate anyone up to our April 21<sup>st</sup> membership meeting. Current nominees are:

**Commander** – Sandra Lindley – Rick Godfrey. (*Upon further consideration, I have decided to run for Commander.*)

**Sr Vice Commander**—John Faulk & Mike Johnson

**Jr Vice Commander**—Steve Young

**Quartermaster**—Jim Richter

**Trustee**—No nominations

There are many reasons to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), including:

**Camaraderie:** Be part of a global network of combat veterans who support each other

**Access to resources:** Get access to a wide range of resources, including assistance with securing benefits

**Discounts:** Receive discounts on products and services, including the VFW Store

**Membership benefits:** Take advantage of benefits like insurance, financial services, and travel discounts

**Make a difference:** Be a voice for veterans and their families, and help make a difference in local and national legislative battles

**Support veterans:** Volunteer at hospitals, adopt military units, and promote patriotism

**Scholarships and awards:** The VFW awards scholarships and other incentives to students and veterans

Let's keep our membership up to keep our Post healthy.

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](mailto: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!**



## ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Post Nominations** for Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Trustee

**Auxiliary Nominations** for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Guard, Secretary, Conductor and Trustee

## 95th Post Birthday & Annual VFW Post 494 Membership Dinner

VFW 494 Members, please join us on Sunday, March 29 for the annual Membership Dinner, in the lower level of the Post.

Social hour 12-1 pm  
Dinner and special speaker Don Fernstrom 1-2:30 pm  
Drawings Following

Please bring nonperishable food items to donate to N.E.A.R. food shelf

RSVP at 763-537-9914 ext. 105  
Please leave a message with name and number attending

**JOIN US !!**



**BINGO**

**SATURDAY April 4 7:30**

CRYSTAL VFW POST 494  
5222 BASS LAKE RD



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

**Sunday, April 12 @ 2:00**



Bristol 500: race time 2pm  
Drivers . . .start your engines



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

**GAME NIGHT 7 PM  
EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY**

Games are:  
Tower Shack,  
Connect Four,  
Corn Hole, Pool,  
Cribbage, and many  
more. Bring your own!



## Chaplain's Corner

## Taps & Sick Call



**Kathy Lund**



### TAPS

**SICK CALL**  
**Larry Aritt**  
**Natalie Stuhr**



Hello Members

The word April is derived from the Latin root “aperire” meaning to open. Spring brings rain and new beginnings while ending winter’s colder days. It is most welcomed in our Midwest State of Minnesota.

April has been designated the Month of the Military Child since 1986. We celebrate and recognize the military children and youth who experience many challenges because of having to move, frequently changing schools, parent deployments, and sometimes parent injuries. April has many festivities to help celebrate and thank military youth for their courage and adaptability.

This year the Mall of America will host a “Purple Up” celebration on April 17<sup>th</sup> featuring Nickelodeon Universe, games and prizes (registration opens March 18<sup>th</sup>). The Minnesota Twins game for military

families will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be other celebrations throughout the month in surrounding communities.

Purple Up Day is celebrated on various dates in April. It is a visible way to show support and recognize military youth for their courage. Purple was chosen as the color because it symbolizes all branches of the military.

If you know of a military family with children with a deployed parent, give them a thank you and recognize their sacrifice. Just knowing they are supported makes a huge difference in their mental health and well-being. They are our future!

Sincerely,

Kathy Lund

Auxiliary Chaplain Assistant

## Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations March 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	\$500.00
Magnus Foundation	Veterans Services	\$5,506.00
Reuniting After War	One 8-Person Table	\$2,500.00
Golden Valley Girls Softball	Team #1	\$500.00
Golden Valley Girls Softball	Team #2	\$500.00
Park Center Boys Golf		\$500.00
Park Center Girls Softball	Booster Club	\$500.00
Sonnesyn Elementary Yearbooks		\$500.00
North Star Boys Choir	Tri-annual Trip to Europe	\$1,000.00
3 New Televisions		\$4,500.00
Blue Ox	Bus Trip	\$1,000.00
Twin Lake Association	Non-Profit clean up	\$500.00

# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



Past Commander Fred Crimmins presents a donation check to Mike Smith, Athletic Director for Totino Grace



Gambling Manager Gene Burdick presents a check to the Boy Scouts for new tents.



LEFT: Adalyn's father Sam is an active Marine and a Life member of our Post.

RIGHT: Commander Rick Godfrey poses with Maggie and Adalyn, winners of the Illustrating America art contest.

# PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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**Joe's Barbershop**

 Joe Mullen  
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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
April 3	Backyard Band
April 10	Saintrio
April 17	City Lights
April 24	Bird Dog

## 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

## From the Bar / Restaurant

Happy Spring!

Beginning Monday, April 13 the upstairs will be closed. Everything is moving to the Lower Level while the upstairs bar and other renovations are taking place.

Thank you for your patience during this transition. Limited menus are in effect during the construction. Please check out the FaceBook posts for current info.

# Bake Sale

Wednesday, April 1

Stop in and check out our amazing Post 494 Auxiliary Bake Sale and get dessert to go with your pork chop dinner on the first Wednesday of the month!

All proceeds support Veteran's programs

### 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

## 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



# April 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
<p><b>NOTICE:</b> There will be construction going on upstairs Monday, April 13. The Lower Level will be open for business with a limited menu during this time.</p>			<p>1 Lunch Special Chopped BBQ chicken salad</p> <p>Auxiliary Bake Sale ~4:45 pm</p> <p>5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>2 Lunch Special Turkey Wrap w/ chips</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>3 Lunch Special Shrimp Po' Boy</p> <p>Evening: Fish Fry <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Live music 7:00 Backyard Band</p>	<p>4 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>B I N G O</b></p> <p><b>Big Cash Bingo</b> <b>7 PM</b></p>
<p>5 <b>Happy Easter</b> <b>We are Closed</b></p> 	<p>6 Lunch Special Salisbury Steak with mashed potatoes</p> <p>Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>7 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>8 Lunch Special Meatloaf with mashed potatoes</p> <p>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>9 Lunch Special Meatball Sub w/ slaw</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>10 Lunch Special Beef Enchiladas</p> <p>Evening: Chicken &amp; Ribs <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Live music 7:00 Saintrio</p>	<p>11 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash w/2 eggs</p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p>
<p>12 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash w/2 eggs Food, drinks, prizes <b>NASCAR Party Drivers . . . start your engines!!</b></p> 	<p>13 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>14 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>15 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>16 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>17 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p><b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Live music 7:00 City Lights</p>	<p>18 Breakfast 8:00: <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>GAME NIGHT 7 pm</b> Tower Shack, Connect 4, Pool, Corn Hole, Cribbage</p>
<p>19 Breakfast 8:00: <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p>	<p>20 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>21 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>22 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>23 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>24 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p><b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b></p> <p>Live music 7:00 Bird Dog</p>	<p>25 Breakfast 8:00: <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p><b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b></p>
<p>26 Breakfast 8:00: <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p>	<p>27 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>28 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>29 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>5-7 pm Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>30 Lunch Special <b>LIMITED MENU</b> During <b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p>		