

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
5222 56TH Avenue North
Crystal, MN 55429

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT 2596



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 • January 2026

#1 newsletter in the State of MN for large VFW Posts: 2020—2023, 2025!

Post #494 Officers / Trustees 2025-2026

CommanderRick Godfrey
Sr. Vice CommanderJohn Faulk
Jr. Vice Commander.....Mike Johnson
QuartermasterJim Richter
Gambling Manager/
Ass't. QuartermasterGene Burdick
AdjutantSandra Lindley
ChaplainSteve Jones
Judge AdvocateDon Fernstrom
SurgeonSteve Hawk
Service OfficerDon Fernstrom
Officer of the DayFred 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 MemberKen Olson
1 Yr CMC MemberSteve Jones
1 Yr CMC MemberGene Burdick
2 Yr CMC MemberMike Johnson
2 Yr CMC MemberSteve Hawk
3 Yr CMC MemberJohn Faulk
3 Yr CMC MemberJohn Hornsby

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

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees 2025-2026

PresidentMarge Rubenstein
Sr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
Jr. Vice PresidentTheo Page
SecretaryDebbie Larson
Assistant SecretaryGeri Westley
TreasurerPam Aritt
ChaplainHelen Hauser
Chaplain AssistantKathy Lund
ConductorDiane Johnson
GuardMarlene Lietzow
Patriotic InstructorVirginia Sroka
1st Yr. TrusteeMarlene Lietzow
2nd Yr. TrusteeTheo Page
3rd Yr. TrusteeDarlene Hauschildt

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

from the COMMANDER



Greetings comrades, Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great holiday with family and friends.

I would like to thank Gene and all his gambling staff for all they do for our post, from pull tabs and lottery sales, horse races, meat raffles, and the extra work on purse and New Year's bingo.

The mid-winter conference will be held from January 16th to 18th at Marriott NW, 7025 Northland Dr., Brooklyn Park MN 55428

Thank you to Lisa Sundberg and all who volunteered at this year's Winter Fest at the Crystal Community Center. They had a great turnout.

While we continue to enjoy the season and events in our canteen, let us also remember that this Post is about our programs and accomplishing our goals, which are to serve Veterans and our Community with pride. Let us keep up the good work and continue to volunteer.

Across America, the initials VFW are a familiar sight and symbolize a commitment to the nation both at home and abroad. Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

See you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey



The Crystal VFW 494 and the Elim Lutheran Quilters worked together to honor and thank the Veterans living at the Robin Hotel for their service to our country. Each resident received a warm fleece blanket, and everyone enjoyed some special treats as well. Together, we can truly make a difference. (Picture L to R) Linda Miller, Cmdr. Rick Godfrey, Carrie Blaubitz, Laura Savior, Susie Johnson, Claudia Kolb, Karalee Heckes & Shirley Kramer.

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!

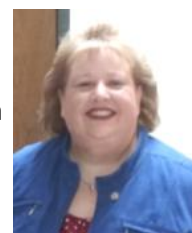
⇒ Please contact me via **NEW** Email at: **quartermaster@vfwpost494.org** with your email address and full name and put **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line. You will receive your electronic newsletter in color to enjoy on your phone, tablet or computer.

Printed copies of the newsletter will be available at the post.

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings members, hope this finds you well and enjoying the Holiday Season!

At our last meeting in December we had a short meeting and then had some holiday fun!



It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of one of our members Craig Dahlin. Craig and my mother Twila were great companions and loved having fun. I know they are together again.

The mid-winter conference will be held from January 16th to 18th at Marriott NW, 7025 Northland Dr., Brooklyn Park MN 55428. Our next meeting at the Post will be Tuesday January 20th at 5:30.

My sympathies to those who have lost loved ones, and get well soon to those who are ill.

Marge Rubenstein

Auxiliary President.

Good of the Order



Christmas 1914 on the Western Front. British Tommie's hear "Stille Nacht, Hellige Nacht" coming from the German lines. They decide to venture out into "no man's land" to investigate and soon join in singing "Silent Night" and other carols with their enemy. The revelry extends to

an exchange of small gifts of tobacco and cookies. It was the last event of its kind for the duration of the war. American units had no such celebration when they joined the conflict in 1917.

Christmas 1945 in Belgium. The Battle of the Bulge was raging. The only fireworks were the German 88's hitting the trees of the Ardennes in perfect airbursts over the beleaguered 101st Airborne Division.

Christmas 1950 in North Korea. The First Marine Division and elements of the Army's Third and Seventh Infantry Divisions were engaged in a retreat under fire across a single lane bridge traversing a mountain pass.

Christmas 1966 in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Nancy Sinatra and Billy Graham were entertaining troops on LZ Hammond during the Christmas Truce that ended at midnight on December 26th.



Shortly after 1:00 am on the 27th an estimated 1,000 troops from the 22nd NVA Regiment attacked 199 Americans at LZ Bird, just out of reach of artillery support from LZ Hammond. C Company of the 1st of the 12th Cav (infantry), and two batteries of artillery, C Battery 6th of the 16th (155 mm), and C Battery 2nd of the 19th (105 mm) of the 1st Cavalry Division



(Airmobile) were occupying LZ Bird. Six of the twelve-gun pits were overrun before the Americans regrouped.

Staff SGT Delbert Jennings, of the 1/12th Cav, rallied the 22 troops of his platoon to form a secondary defensive perimeter outside the remaining gun pits. He received the Medal of Honor for his heroism. 1LT John Piper and Staff SGT Robert Underwood, of the 2/19th arty, loaded "beehive rounds" in their 105 howitzer and fired across the LZ halting the advance of the NVA and allowing the beleaguered Americans to retake the LZ. 1LT Piper was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. In all, 11 Silver Stars were awarded (5 posthumously). B Battery 2nd of the 19th was awarded a Presidential

Unit Citation. 28 Americans were KIA and 67 WIA a casualty rate of 48%. An estimated 267 NVA troops were KIA.

I'm sure there are similar stories of heroism at Christmas during the Gulf War, and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and during the Global War on Terrorism. I'll leave it to their generation to recount.

As we enjoy our Christmas Holiday, in the warmth of our homes, surrounded by family and friends, let us never forget.

Don Fernstrom,
Service Officer & Past Commander





Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

Craig Dahlin
Gregg Hassler

SICK CALL

Natalie Stuhr



Trust

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Comrades, let us embrace another year, 2026. The days are getting longer — Spring is practically in the air — Well, maybe not, but the days ARE getting longer. On January 1st, we have 8h 20m of daylight and on January 31st 8h 50m.

During these dark and cold months, especially after the holidays, life can seem dreary. It's a tough time for many of us. So here is an encouraging word from the Lord our God:

Psalm 125

*Those who trust in the Lord
Are like Mount Zion,
Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.*

*² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the Lord surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.*

*³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
On the land allotted to the righteous,
Lest the righteous reach out their hands to
iniquity.*

*⁴ Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
And to those who are upright in their hearts.*

*⁵ As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways,
The Lord shall lead them away
With the workers of iniquity.*

Peace be upon Israel!

Blessings and joy to all my VFW comrades, and think Spring!!



Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations December 2025

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		\$500.00
Sonnesyn Elementary School	PTSO Field Trip	\$500.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



The Winterfest Event was a huge success. Approximately 700 people showed to enjoy Santa, Lamas, DJ, dances from dance teams, free hot dog meals provided by the Crystal VFW/Aux Post 494. We served 475 meals and gave out 350 gift bags for Children 1-12. The VFW/Aux membership tables also distributed poppies and flags



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Total Register Systems, Inc.



21265 Concord St. NW
Elk River, MN 55330

763-537-1906

HACKENMUELLER MEATS

U.S. CHOICE OF MEATS, HOMEMADE SAUSAGE, HOME SMOKED HAMS & BACON



4159 WEST BROADWAY
ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422
PHONE: 763-537-4811

**Your advertising could occupy
this space! Call 612-805-3561
to place an ad.**



NEW HOPE BOWL

7107 42nd Ave North
New Hope, MN 55427
763-537-9376

Offering...

- Snow Removal
- Lawn Care
- Fertilizing

763-592-5296 or www.uptownlawnandsnow.com
5225 Twin Lake Blvd E, Brooklyn Center, MN

Mike Bauermeister
14 years of heating and cooling experience
Bonded and Insured

612-599-6893
AAHAInc@yahoo.com
www.AllAmericanHeatingAndAirInc.com

HAWK REALTY CO.

Tony Hawk—Realtor®, CRS, GRI / Broker

612-816-2100
email: tony@hawkrealtyco.com
www.hawkrealtyco.com

Wanda Mitchell
763.222.4598

lilypadgal@yahoo.com
FB: Creative Painting MN
www.creativepaintingmn.com

Fanfare Promotions
Promotional, Embroidery, Screen Printing, Sports Apparel

Jason Lindberg
Owner

JasonLfanfarepromotions.com

www.fanfarepromotions.com

Business: 763-576-0195

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
Jan 2	Bird Dog
Jan 9	Tailspin
Jan 16	Indoor Recess
Jan 23	Repeat Offenders
Jan 30	Crossfire

From the Bar / Restaurant

It's that time of year that I would personally like to thank everyone that comes into the Crystal VFW.

Look for some new and different entertainment on Saturdays in the coming year, 2026. Effective

January 1, 2026, there will be no Texas Hold 'em and no Karaoke in the current format.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to one and all!

Manager

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



January 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 the most recent news and daily updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <p>Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale 1st Wednesday of month during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner Wednesday, Jan. 7~ 4:45 pm</p>  </div>				1 Lunch Special Meatball Sub w/ slaw Bar Bingo 6-9	2 Lunch Special Chicken Parm Sandwich w/chips Evening: Steak Dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Bird dog	3 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burrito Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
4 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burrito	5 Lunch Special Chowmein Hotdish Bar Bingo 6-9	6 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	7 Lunch Special Liver, bacon, onions w/ mashed potatoes Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:45 pm <div>5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</div> KARAOKE 7:30	8 Lunch Special Shrimp Basket Bar Bingo 6-9	9 Lunch Special Crispy Chicken wrap with chips Evening: Deep-fried Walleye or Shrimp dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Tailspin	10 Breakfast 8:00: French Toast w/choice of meat Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
11 Breakfast 8:00: French Toast w/ choice of meat	12 Lunch Special Goulash w/garlic toast Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30 Bar Bingo 6-9	13 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	14 Lunch Special Pork Loin w/mashed potatoes <div>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</div> KARAOKE 7:30	15 Lunch Special Beef Burrito Bar Bingo 6-9	16 Lunch Special Cuban Sandwich w/ slaw Evening: Chicken & Ribs Dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Indoor Recess	17 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
18 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet	19 Lunch Special Chicken Broccoli Alfredo Bar Bingo 6-9	20 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	21 Lunch Special Spaghetti and meatball <div>5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner</div> KARAOKE 7:30	22 Lunch Special Deluxe Grilled Cheese w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	23 Lunch Special Italian Beef Sandwich Evening: Steak dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Repeat Offenders	24 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash w/2 eggs Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
25 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash w/2 eggs	26 Lunch Special Mandarin Orange chicken salad Bar Bingo 6-9	27 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	28 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs <div>5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</div> KARAOKE 7:30	29 Lunch Special Grilled chicken, mushroom, Swiss Bar Bingo 6-9	30 Lunch Special Tatertot Hotdish Evening: Deep fried Walleye or shrimp dinner Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Repeat Offenders	31 Breakfast 8:00: French toast w/choice of meat Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM