

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 • January 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
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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, 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 Tommies hear "Stille Nacht, Heilige 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.

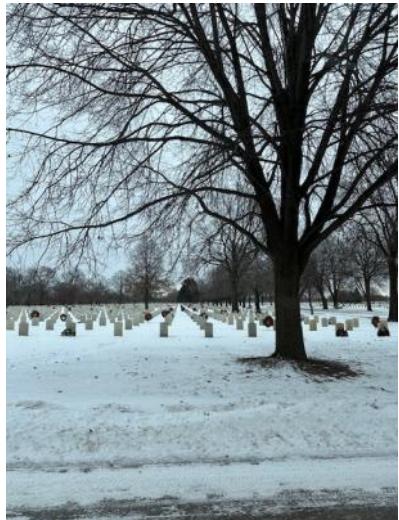
Christmas 1945 in Belgium. The Battle of the Bulge was raging. The only fireworks were the German 88's hitting the trees of the Ardennes in perfect airbursts over the beleaguered 101st Airborne Division.

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

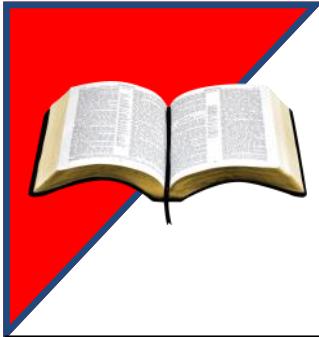
Unit Citation. 28 Americans were KIA and 67 WIA a casualty rate of 48%. An estimated 267 NVA troops were KIA.

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.
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 up 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



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

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!



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

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

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



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	
			Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale 1st Wednesday of month during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner Wednesday, Jan. 7~ 4:45 pm		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 TACO Tuesday 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	7 Lunch Special Liver, bacon, onions w/ mashed potatoes Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:45 pm 5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner 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 TACO Tuesday 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	14 Lunch Special Pork Loin w/mashed potatoes 5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry 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 TACO Tuesday 3 beef tacos Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	21 Lunch Special Spaghetti and meatball 5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner 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 TACO Tuesday 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	28 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs 5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner 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	