CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
5222 56TH Avenue North
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 • November 2026

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees

2026-2027

Commander	Rick Godfrey
Sr. Vice Commander	John Faulk
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike Johnson
Quartermaster	Jim Richter
Gambling Manager/ Ass't. Quartermaster	Gene Burdick
Adjutant	Travis Nienaber
Chaplain	Steve Jones
Judge Advocate	Don Fernstrom
Surgeon	Steve Hawk
Service Officer	Don Fernstrom
Officer of the Day	Fred Crimmins
Door Guard	Chuck Lund
1 Yr Trustee	Dave Soukup
2 Yr Trustee	Jay Leamons
3 Yr Trustee	Chuck Lund

All American Post 1993, 2025, 2026

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

2026-2027

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

from the Commander



Greetings Comrades,

I hope you are all enjoying the fall weather! Winter will be here before we know it, but until then, enjoy these cool days with friends and family. It's hard to believe November is already here. Thanksgiving is approaching, and Christmas is just around the corner. I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, and good memories.

Purse Bingo – November 8

We will be hosting Purse Bingo on November 8. Please RSVP at the pull-tab booth or call **763-533-0567!**

Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11

Please join us as we honor our veterans. The agenda is as follows:

- **12:30 p.m.** – Flag retirement ceremony in front of the Post
- Following the ceremony – VFW Ritual Squad
- **Free lunch for all veterans: SOS or choose an item from the Veterans menu**

My Twin Cities Honor Flight Experience

I had the honor of participating in the Twin Cities Honor Flight on October 5 with my daughter, Katie. It was a full and unforgettable day, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and ending when we returned home at 10:00 p.m.

The experience was incredibly emotional, from visiting the Women in Military Service for America Memorial to witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and visiting the other memorials. However, the welcome home was unbelievable. Seeing so many people there to greet us was an experience I will never forget.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate in a Twin Cities Honor Flight, I highly recommend it. You can learn more and sign up at Twin Cities Honor Flight.

Blood drive

December 1st, 1-7 in the banquet room downstairs.

Give the Gift of Membership

As we enter the holiday season and approach the end of the year, what better gift could we give a local veteran than membership in our VFW Post?

Please help spread the word. Each of us can be a recruiter by recommending or referring an eligible veteran to join our Post. If you are unsure whether someone qualifies for membership in the VFW or its Auxiliary, please contact one of the Post officers or Auxiliary officers.

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at **7:00 p.m. in the lower level**. I encourage you to attend and stay involved in our Post activities.

Thank you for your continued support of our Post, our veterans, and our community.

See you at the "V"!

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey

from the Quartermaster

Please email us if you want to receive this newsletter via email. Send your First and Last name and email address to Quartermaster@vfwpost494.org and we will add you to the list. The newsletter will be emailed during the last week of the month.

VFW 494 Golf League



The season has officially ended, but we are still going out every Tuesday at 10:00. Fall golf is the best and Minnesota has held up the cold for us this year! The course is still in great shape and the colors amazing. The Eagle Lake course has not yet announced a closing date, so great golf is still available. We'll keep going out until the course closes. Russ Peura was the season high points-winner! Congratulations Russ! Over the season we gave out many prizes including Free-Drink Chips, Post Gift cards, and more. All the regular participants had some great times. It was a great season.

Good of the Order



As Veterans Day approaches, I think of the generations of veterans who have served our country—including those in my own family.



My great-uncle Hanson came to this country in the late 19th century with my grandmother and grandfather. He was my grandmother's younger brother, and I believe he intended to work on my grandfather's farm. He later moved from Pennsylvania to North Dakota to work during the wheat harvest. While there, he was drafted to serve in World War I.

He was wounded in the Battle of the St. Mihiel crescent and taken prisoner by the Germans shortly before the armistice on November 11, 1918. He was not repatriated until December—a month after the war ended.



My uncle Rudy served as an artilleryman under Patton's command in World War II. He was with the unit that fired the first round to land on German soil; a Jewish soldier in the battery pulled the lanyard.

My uncle Johnny was a Navy corpsman who served with the Marines in the South Pacific.

My uncle Alfred served with the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II. To his lasting regret, he never went overseas. After he broke his leg during a training jump, the Army made him a jump instructor. He trained many of the men who later took part in the Normandy landings.



My uncle Clifton, my mother's youngest brother, served as a truck driver in the U.S. Air Force in Korea. None of my uncles talked to me about their service. After I returned from my tour in Vietnam in 1967, however they treated me differently. I sensed an understanding—and perhaps a measure of respect—that had not been there before.

My son Brad served two tours in Iraq and continues to serve as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve. He also works for a defense contractor, testing weapons under development.

My grandson Christian recently returned from Poland, where his brigade of the 1st Armored Division spent several months conducting joint exercises with the Polish Army.



Brad and I have shared some of our combat experiences with each other. Still, those conversations are different from talking with the people who were there beside us.



I was fortunate to go to Vietnam with my entire battalion, but I lost contact with the men as soon as I returned to the States. Then, in 2010, a member of my battery contacted me—a small miracle that led to my first reunion.

At that first reunion, I reconnected with 27 men I had known and served with for more than a year. Attendance eventually grew to more than 100. Today, we are down to fewer than 50.

I joined the VFW in 2010, the same year I attended my first unit reunion. It is not the same as gathering with the men I served with, but it offers a comforting alternative.



My son and his comrades from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts are nearing military retirement, if they have not reached it already. I believe the VFW has much to offer this generation: a place to share experiences that, while not identical, may be comparable.



If you know a veteran of the Gulf War, Iraq, or the Global War on Terrorism, encourage them to get involved with the VFW. They may find they need us more than they realize. We will leave the recruitment of Iran War veterans to their generation.

Auxiliary News



Fall is here, the leaves are falling, the sunshine is changing our attitudes!

We donated books for our 250-year US Celebration. These books were given to "Little Libraries" scattered within the community. We have had many compliments on these books.



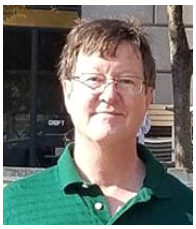
Appreciation day for Veterans is Friday, Nov. 6 at King of Grace Church, 2 pm. All are invited.

Wednesday, Nov 11, is Veterans Day and we will meet at VFW Post #494 at noon for 12:30 Flag Retirement and Honor Guard following. See you there!

Have a great day.

Theo Page, Auxiliary President

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps

Sick Call

Don Halverson

Natalie Stuhr

Taps and Sick Call

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is November 11. Known as "Armistice Day" in other countries, we here commemorate all those who have served in our nation's armed forces. Our Nation hosts over 15 Million veterans! Vets make up approximately 6% of our population. More than 9 million regularly receive healthcare through the Veterans Health System.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

All who served, are strongly encouraged to gather together. Remember, let those you served honor your service. Let the young men and women of our communities see that people just like you served honorably. Let them see even you. Sadly, the need for soldiers and sailors will never go away. .

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

But maybe that is too much. Maybe your service has cost you more than you think you can share. Many vets, and now especially those Iraqi and Afghanistan era vets are now growing older. The scars, especially the emotional and psychological ones, are chafing raw and hurt more.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Join with your fellows. It does not matter how you served but that you served. Come to your post. Invite other vets beginning to see that pain shared is healing. And know that your God and Savior love and see you: **"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"** (Isaiah 41:10). And this from Jesus Himself: "**Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28).

YOU AR*E NOT ALONE!*

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations for last month 2026

	CHARITY	PURPOSE	DONATION
1.	Near	Food Shelf	$500.00
2.	Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	$500.00
3.	North Hennepin Community College	Veterans Food Shelf	$1,000.00
4.	Every Third Saturday	Veterans Services	$1,000.00
5.	Minnesota Veterans Food Pantry	Veterans Food Shelf	$1,000.00
6.	John Faulk	Ritual Squad Uniform Cleaning	$23.94
7.	John Faulk	VFW Fall Conference	$53.92
8.	Jim Richter	VFW Fall Conference	$481.05
9.	Veterans of foreign Wars (VFW) Annual Scholarship Fund (NHCC)		$5,000.00
10.	Larry Aritt Flower Arrangement (Veteran)		$91.40
11.	Ritual Squad	2 Rituals	$315.00
12.	King of Grace Lutheran Church School	Veterans Day Event	$500.00
13.	Veterans Resource Center Programming (NHCC)		$2,000.00

Community and Veteran Support Programs





Two veterans received flag blankets donated to Every Third Saturday. They were incredibly thankful and appreciative of these blankets that were made and donated by Carroll Howland.

2026 Charles Knaeble VFW Post #494 sponsored this bowling team who bowled Nationals in Nevada



Dates	LIVE MUSIC Bands
Friday, Nov 6	Tailspin
Friday, Nov 13	Miller Brothers
Saturday, Nov 14	Twang Cities
Friday, Nov 20	Short on Cash
Wednesday, Nov 25	Brass Band (9 piece)
Friday, Nov 27	DB Cooper

From the Bar

Happy Fall!

We will be having Purse Bingo on Sunday, Nov 8. Please call for reservation.

On Saturday, Nov. 14 there will be ***2nd Saturday Bingo*** at 6:30 pm. Packages are $25 for 11 games with pots of $130 for games 1-10, and you must buy a package to play Coverall @ 58 numbers for $1499 or $300 consolation if it goes over 58.

Wednesday, Nov 25 please join us for the ***9-piece Brass Band***. Great entertainment on the night before Thanksgiving!

We are **closed on Thanksgiving Day** so we can all enjoy time with our loved ones.

Come on in Sunday to watch the Vikings with us. There are Sunday drink and food specials plus a free Viking sign-up board where you can win fabulous prizes.

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 Gambling Fun

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!



★ **Pulltabs and eTabs available at the pull-tab booth daily**

2 WEEKEND MEAT RAFFLES:

- **Friday @ 4pm & Saturday @ 2pm**

FRIDAY MEAT RAFFLE: ~25 raffles @ $1 ea. to win a $20 pack of meat, plus 2 raffles @ $5 to win a $110 box of assorted meats.

SATURDAY MEAT RAFFLE: ~ 35 raffles @ $1 ea., 2 raffles @ $2 each for a $40 meat pk, and 3-4 raffles @ $5 each for a $110 box of meat

★ **Virtual Races: During meat raffle Fri/Sat**

Rats, Cash, Horses, Ducks, Piggy, Donkey, Matador during meat raffle. Win $50 up to $500 on the Bingo Ball and the race winner as you cheer on your racer

SATURDAY ~5 PM after meat raffle

Bar RINGO: FREE to play: one card

Eight prize games plus a $500 cash Coverall! RINGO starts after the 2 PM SATURDAY MEAT RAFFLE is over, around 5 PM. Must be stamped and play games 3-8 to qualify for the Coverall.

Charles Knaeble VFW POST #494

Crystal, MN

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Breakfast: Waffle w/choice of meat **VIKINGS vs Lions @ Detroit NOON**	**2 Lunch Special** Swedish meatballs **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**3 Lunch Special:** Taco $7.95, Chix or Beef Burrito $8.95 **DJ Trivia 6:30 PM**	**4 Lunch Special:** Shrimp Basket **Aux. Bake Sale 4:45** **VIETNAM VETS PORK CHOP DINNER 5-7 pm** **KARAOKE 7:30**	**5 Lunch Special** Meatloaf w/mashed potatoes **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**6 Lunch Special** Lasagna Rollups w/garlic toast **Dinner:** Steak dinner • **Meat Raffle: 4 pm** **BAND:Tailspin**	**7 Breakfast:** Breakfast Burrito • **Meat Raffle: 2 PM** • **RINGO: 5 PM** • **Kustom Karaoke 7:30 PM**
8 Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito **PURSE BINGO 2pm** 	**9 Lunch Special** Tuna melt w/chips **Gambling Meeting Noon, CMC MTG 12:30pm** **VIKINGS vs Bills 7:15 pm HOME** **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**10 Lunch Special:** Taco $7.95, Chix or Beef Burrito $8.95 **DJ Trivia 6:30 PM**	**11 Lunch Special:** SOS, 6 drummies basket or cheese-burger basket **LION'S STEAK FRY 5-7 pm** **KARAOKE 7:30**	**12 Lunch Special** Italian sub w/chips **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**13 Lunch Special:** Crispy chicken wrap **Dinner:** Deep fried walleye • **Meat Raffle: 4 pm** **BAND: Miller Bros**	**14 Breakfast:** Waffle w/choice of meat • **Meat Raffle: 2 PM** • **BINGO 6:30 pm $25 package/ $1499 coverall @ 58 numbers** • **BAND: Twang Cities**
15 Breakfast: Waffle w/choice of meat **VIKINGS vs Packers @ GB NOON**	**16 Lunch Special:** Chicken parm sandwich w/chips **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**17 Lunch Special:** Taco $7.95, Chix or Beef Burrito $8.95 **Post Meeting 7 pm** **Aux. Mtg 5:30 pm** **DJ Trivia 6:30 PM**	**18 Lunch Special:** Liver & onions w/ bacon **West Metro Fire Relief Assoc. Meatloaf Dinner 5-7 pm** **KARAOKE 7:30**	**19 Lunch Special** Egg or tuna salad sandwich w/chips **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**20 Lunch Special:** Beef enchilada **Dinner:** Chicken & Ribs • **Meat Raffle: 4 pm** **BAND: Short on Cash**	**21 Breakfast:** Corned beef hash w/2 eggs • **Meat Raffle: 2 PM** • **RINGO: 5 PM**
22 Breakfast: Corned beef hash w/2 eggs **VIKINGS vs 49ers 7:20 PM in Mexico**	**23 Lunch Special** Cobb Salad **BAR BINGO 6PM**	**24 Lunch Special:** Taco $7.95, Chix or Beef Burrito $8.95 **DJ Trivia 6:30 PM**	25 **Lunch Special:** Salisbury steak w/ mashed potatoes **NO BENEFIT DINNER TONITE** **Kitchen open regular menu until 9** **Brass Band**	**26** **CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING**	**27 Lunch Special:** Meatball sub **Dinner:** Carne Asada: Mexican steak tacos • **Meat Raffle: 4 pm** **BAND: DB Cooper**	**28 Breakfast:** Mess Hall skillet w/ choice of meat & toast • **Meat Raffle: 2 PM** • **RINGO: 5 PM** • **On Call Prod Super Dave 7:30 Karaoke**
29 Breakfast: Mess Hall skillet w/ choice of meat & toast **VIKINGS vs Falcons NOON @ HOME**	**30 Lunch Special** PO' Boy w/chips **BAR BINGO 6PM**					