

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
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CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
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NEWS & VIEWS • August 2026

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees

2026-2027

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Sr. Vice CommanderJohn Faulk
Jr. Vice Commander.....Mike Johnson
QuartermasterJim Richter
Gambling Manager/
Ass't. QuartermasterGene Burdick
AdjutantTravis Nienaber
ChaplainSteve Jones
Judge AdvocateDon Fernstrom
SurgeonSteve Hawk
Service OfficerDon Fernstrom
Officer of the DayFred 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 MemberKen Olson
1 Yr CMC MemberSteve Jones
2 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

2026-2027

PresidentTheo Page
Sr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
Jr. Vice PresidentHelen Hauser
SecretaryDebbie Larson
Assistant SecretaryGeri Westly
TreasurerPam Aritt
ChaplainKathy Lund
Chaplain AssistantHelen Hauser
ConductorDianne Johnson
GuardCheryl Rivera
Patriotic InstructorVirginia Sroka
1st Yr. TrusteeConnie Brown
2nd Yr. TrusteeDarlene Hauschildt
3rd Yr. TrusteeMarlene Lietzow

from the COMMANDER



Greetings, Comrades

It's hard to believe we're in August already. Our post hosted a customer appreciation day on July 4th. We had a great turnout! Thank you to the following:

Sandy, Fren, Patty, and the rest of the kitchen staff. Also, thank you to the meat raffle team of Lesley, Ronda, and Nic, along with Marianne and the pull tab staff, for all your hard work! Thank you to quartermaster Jim Richter for running the horseshoe tournament. Congratulations to winners Mary and Jeannie! →

Our post made all-American again for the second year in a row! This is only possible with all the help from our membership and Auxiliary!



Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW

Keep the Pressure On!

Although the House pulled its planned vote on TCAVA (H.R. 9237 / S. 4744), the bill remains active, and we can't let up. Tell Congress to oppose Section 108!

Congress has introduced the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act*, legislation that includes many provisions the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has fought for and supports.

But there is a serious problem.

To pay for those benefits, Congress would codify previously proposed VA disability rating cuts for tinnitus and sleep apnea. According to VA's own estimates, these changes could reduce disability compensation payments by approximately \$57 billion over ten years and affect up to 1.5 million veterans.

Let's be clear. Those savings do not come from waste, fraud, abuse, or bureaucracy. They come directly from veterans.

That is \$57 billion that would no longer help veterans pay mortgages, put food on the table, cover medical

expenses, support their families, or support local communities across America.

We do not want this fight.

Many of the benefits in this bill are priorities that the VFW has worked for years to achieve. But we cannot support paying for those benefits by taking compensation away from other veterans.

And we cannot allow Congress to establish a dangerous precedent. If veterans' disability compensation becomes an acceptable funding source today, it will become easier to use it again tomorrow.

The VFW refuses to accept the idea that one group of veterans must lose so another group of veterans can win. Veterans' benefits are not charity. They are an earned obligation of the nation and part of the promise made through military service. Congress should honor the Contract.

A grateful nation pays its debts to veterans — it does not send them the invoice.

TAKE ACTION

Tell Congress to remove the disability compensation offset provisions from the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* and find a funding solution that does not come at the expense of veterans and their families.

Your Post is doing well, still serving veterans and our community. We can't do it without you, so please come down and participate. If you are on a renewing membership, please remember to renew; otherwise, switch to either a Life Membership or the new Legacy option. As always, our meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00. We hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

Commander, Rick Godfrey

ROOM RENTALS

For Conference Media Room Rental, Hall Rentals, Banquets, Weddings, Anniversaries and other functions, call the Post and ask for the Manager:

Good of the Order

We have Republicans, Democrats, and Independents as members of our Post and throughout the VFW. Many of us are also members of the American Legion. Why is it that the Legion and the VFW are at odds over support of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act?



The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) has many positive aspects. It includes a so-called Omnibus Bill, extending benefits to many veterans in need, including the Major Richard Star Act, (eliminates the offset of military retirement pay by disability benefits, for veterans who are medically discharged with less than 20 years' service), The Love Lives on Act (protects surviving spouses of fallen service members from losing benefits when they remarry before age 55). The Hope for the Brave Act (which improves VA support for at-risk veterans in obtaining mental health care and suicide prevention services, The Improving Access to Care for Rural Veterans Act (which enables the VA to partner with non-VA private health facilities in rural areas to deliver timely treatment closer to home) and other beneficial legislation.

Why then, would the VFW be opposed to this apparently beneficial law? The VFW opposes this legislation, because the funding for these beneficial programs is obtained by decreasing the disability benefits payable to other veterans. This sets a dangerous precedent. Obtaining additional benefits for some veterans by taking away benefits from others.

President Lincoln said it best: ***"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."*** By that he meant, it was the government's obligation to care for those injured and to provide for their families through taxation of the population as a whole, not by obtaining funding from the one percent of the population that served and earned their disability benefits, which is what the TCVA does.

The VFW, DAV, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Paralyzed Veterans of America, oppose the legislation as currently proposed. The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and others support the law. It kind of reflects the division in our country. I think the VFW takes the long view on this, rather than hoping for a quick fix, and setting a dangerous precedent for the further

erosion of disability benefits. Let's not let the burden of funding this legislation fall on the backs of those ***"who shall have borne the battle."***

Don Fernstrom, Service Office and Past Commander

from the QUARTERMASTER

Newsletter NOTICE

EMAIL us: quartermaster@vfwpost494.org

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.

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!



VFW 494 Golf League

VFW 494 Golf League

The golf season is heating up! Please join us Tuesdays at 10:00 at Eagle Lake Golf Course on Bass Lake Road just west of Hwy 169. We have a core of fun-loving golfers and We Need You! The next Fun tournament is July 28 and is a 3-Club special! Each player may only take three clubs on the course, and no sharing. Curiously, it is often my best score of the entire season! Our last Fun tournament will be August 25 and you will have a chance to win a gift card to our Post.



Contact Chaplain Steve Jones stevenmjones82@yahoo.com, or Don Fernstrom if you are interested.



Chaplain's Corner

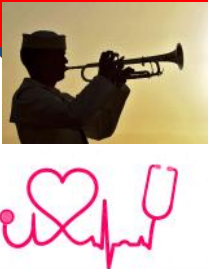


Kathy Lund

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS
Larry Aritt

SICK CALL
Natalie Stuhr



Greetings,

As we move into the month of August, we are reminded our summer days are numbered and how quickly time moves on. This is an opportunity to check in with veterans and their families to see how things are going for them, if there are any needs we can assist with or just to pay a visit. A card, phone call or quick visit can mean so much, especially if they are dealing with an illness, surgery or grieving a loss. Do not forget to check in with caregivers who also need support and a kind word. Children in the family may have need for school supplies as they prepare to return to school. Let's make outreach a priority.

Purple Heart Day is August 7th. Behind the medal is each person's story of courage, pain, and sacrifice for our country. A veteran may not want to talk about their past service or why their Purple Heart medal was awarded, but we should be open to listening and giving our undivided attention by sitting with them to show our support.

The Minnesota State Fair runs from August 27 to September 7th. Military Appreciation Day is

September 1st with reduced admission when you provide valid documentation. Be sure to go to Dan Patch Park where a morning ceremony and musical performances take place throughout the day. There are many military personnel to talk with and a lot of informational handouts.

Take time for yourself and your family, volunteer, and visit veterans in nursing homes and hospitals. Watch over our veterans and families and continue to be a source of comfort for them. Have a blessed and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lund

Auxiliary Chaplain



Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations July 2026

Charity	Purpose	Donation
NEAR	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Veterans Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans Services	\$1,000.00
Minnesota Veterans Food Pantry	Veterans Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Armstrong Girls Cross Country		\$500.00
Ritual Squad	10 Rituals	\$2,205.00
NAMI	National Association on Mental Health	\$2,000.00
Flowers and Plants	Larry Aritt	\$91.40
USS St Paul Association Memorial	Veterans Museum Little Falls	\$1,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



Past Commander Fred Crimmins presents a check to the Northside summer baseball team



Karsyn, age 8 and Valkyrie Cleaver, age 4 hosted a lemonade stand on Memorial Weekend. They offered a free cookie and cup of lemonade for any Veteran who stopped by. They also sold suckers for \$1 with all proceeds going to Veterans. Karsyn and Valkyrie are pictured with their mother Tes and Commander Rick Godfrey and their "We Support our Troops" shirts.

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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
Aug 7	Blind Driver
Sun. Aug 9	The Schmids 2 PM (Marcus)
Aug 14	Cross Fire
Aug 21	SainTrio
Aug 28	City Lights

From the Bar / Restaurant

Thank you to everyone who joined in for the Customer Appreciation celebration in July. We hope you enjoyed it!

NOTE: We are closing at 8 PM on SATURDAY, August 15 and we are closed ALL DAY SUNDAY on August 16 to finish the bar upgrades.

Hopefully we will get a break in this hot weather soon, but it's always cool in the VFW!

The Larry Greshowak Memorial Charity Golf Tournament for Semper Fi Flo



Four person; best ball format!

Note: limited number of golfers, registration deadline is Friday, August 14

When: Sunday, August 23, 2026

Time: 9:00 am Shot Gun Start,
check in at 8:30 am

Where: The Vintage Golf Course, Inc.,
10444 95th Street NE, Otsego, MN
55632 763-271-5000

Cost: \$60 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart plus:
Pig roast at: Crystal VFW (Bass Lake Road)
5222 56th Ave N, Crystal, MN 55429

Make checks payable to: VFW Post 494. Please sign up and pay by Friday, August 14

Mail checks to: Jim Richter, Tournament chair at 5222 56th Ave N. Crystal, MN 55429.
For information or to sponsor a hole, contact Jim Richter at 612-805-3561

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

2 MEAT RAFFLES Fri. 4pm & Sat. 2pm

No ticket limits!
Buy as many as
you'd like.



Friday: 20-25 \$1 games + boxes
Saturday 30-35 \$1 games + boxes

\$1 / TICKETS for
\$20 meat pkg
\$5 / TICKETS for
\$110 box of
meat



VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



August 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
						1 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KUSTOM KARAOKE 7 PM
2 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza	3 Lunch Special Pork Tenderloin Sandwich w/slaw Bar Bingo 6-9	4 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	5 Lunch Special Crispy Chicken wrap AUX. BAKE SALE 4:45 5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	6 Lunch Special Grilled Turkey & cheese on cranberry bread Bar Bingo 6-9	7 Lunch Special Cobb Salad Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 Blind Driver	8 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM The Nine Teas Band 7:30 PM
9 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet 	10 Lunch Special Spaghetti & meatball w/garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9 Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30	11 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	12 Lunch Special Liver & Onions 5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry KARAOKE 7:30	13 Lunch Special Egg or Tuna salad sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	14 Lunch Special Tatertot hotdish Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 Cross Fire	15 Breakfast 8:00: Corned beef hash w/2 eggs and toast Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM ATTENTION!!! VFW CLOSING @ 8
16 CLOSED	17 Lunch Special Shrimp Basket w/fries and slaw Bar Bingo 6-9	18 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	19 Lunch Special Ham & au gratins 5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	20 Lunch Special Chicken salad sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	21 Lunch Special Italian Sub w/chips Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 Saintrio	22 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burrito Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
23 Breakfast 8:00 Breakfast Burrito	24 Lunch Special Salisbury Steak w/ mashed potatoes Bar Bingo 6-9	25 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	26 Lunch Special BBQ Beef Sandwich w/ slaw 5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	27 Lunch Special Meatball sub w/ pasta salad Bar Bingo 6-9	28 Lunch Special Meatloaf w/mashed potatoes Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 City Lights	29 Breakfast 8:00: Waffle w/choice of meat ON CALL KARAOKE 7 PM
30 Breakfast 8:00 Waffle w/choice of meat	31 Lunch Special Turkey or ham rollup w/chips					