

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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Facebook: *VFW Post 494*



NEWS & VIEWS • September 2026

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees

2026-2027

CommanderRick Godfrey
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,

Hard to believe it's already September, and the state fair will soon be behind us!

VFW Post 494 membership remains a challenge, as fewer people are serving than in the past. We need to stay strong

so we can continue serving our fellow veterans and remain a valuable community asset.

Legacy Membership is also worth considering if you are currently a Life Member. While recruiting new members can be challenging, we do have several new members taking advantage of our meetings and activities. It's always refreshing to see new faces!

I would like to thank the following VFW and Auxiliary members for helping out and representing Post 494 at the City of New Hope Safety Camp:

Mike Johnson, Dianne Johnson, Steve Young, Chuck and Kathy Lund, Cookie and Cherie Rivera, Theo Page, Pam Aritt, Marlene Lietzow, and Helen Hauser.

Upcoming Blood Drives

Crystal Community Center: September 23, 1:00–7:00 PM

VFW Post 494: September 29, 1:00–7:00 PM

Important September Dates

- ★ **September 11:** Patriot Day — Remembering and honoring those injured or killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- ★ **September 18:** POW/MIA Recognition Day
- ★ **September 18:** Air Force Birthday
- ★ **September 27:** Gold Star Mothers and Families Day — Honoring the families of fallen servicemembers.
- ★ **September 18–20:** Fall Convention — Willmar Conference Center

Your Post is doing well and continues to serve veterans and our community. **We can't do it without you**, so please come down, participate, and support your Post.

If you are on a renewing membership, please remember to renew or consider upgrading to a **Life Membership** or the new **Legacy Membership**. (continued above)

Continued

As always, our meetings are held on the **third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.**

I hope to see you at the "V"!

Respectfully,
Commander Rick Godfrey

from the QUARTERMASTER

Newsletter CHANGES

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 my **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!

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

I had the rare privilege of providing military honors at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery for one of our own. Larry Aritt was put to rest on August 19, 2026, with full military honors. It is a privilege to provide this service for any veteran but, the responsibility falls a little harder when we know the veteran.



Larry was a regular visitor to our post. His wife Pam is an active member of the auxiliary and contributor to our bake sales at the Vietnam veteran's pork chop dinners. I've also had the opportunity to meet their daughter Amanda and granddaughter Mykenzie.

It's been a privilege to be part of the Ft. Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad an all-volunteer group of veterans that has been providing military honors for families every weekday throughout the year. The commitment is for one day a week for at least 42 weeks out of the year. Rain or shine, sleet or cold in all kinds of weather. The only requirement to be a member is that you are a member of a veteran's organization, such as the VFW, American Legion, DAV, Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, you get the idea.

It is a daunting commitment to devote one day per week for 42 weeks of the year and I admit to having some reluctance at first. That all went away after I had a few weeks under my belt. Seeing how much the families appreciated the service for their loved ones.

We have had services during my tenure with as many as 114 cars with families and friends of the veteran in attendance, including a flyover for a retired Navy pilot.

The most touching ceremonies may be where there is only one car in attendance. We provide the same service for them as we do for everyone.

Many of the services include cremated remains of both husband and wife. We provide military honors for the veteran, and their spouse is also eligible for interment at Ft. Snelling.

I have been a member of the Memorial Rifle Squad going on two years in October. Larry Aritt is the first member of the post whose service I have had the privilege of attending. It will linger with me for a while in a corner of my heart.

Don Fernstrom, Judge Advocate & Service Officer,
Past Commander

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



As we enjoy these last 2 weeks of August and move on to the State Fair, remember the homeless, the hungry, and the needy.

Once again, the bike safety camp was a success serving hotdogs, potato chips, fruit and water to 160 children.

A decision was made for each member to donate a book (children or youth) as our project for America 250. Please bring this to the meeting pm on Sept. 17 or drop off at our Post 494. Mark it for Theo Page, Auxiliary. These will be distributed throughout the 494 community.

Dates to Remember:

- ★ District 7 meeting Sat., September 12 at Spring Lake Park
- ★ Auxiliary meeting Tues., September 15, lower level of Post
- ★ Fall Conference Fri.-Sun, September 18-20 in Willmar
- ★ Yearly District 7 visit by Dana Slimmer Nov. 17

Peace,

Theo Page, Auxiliary President



Wed, Sep 9 at 5 PM

**MS Fundraiser - Elvis
Night at Crystal VFW**

Charles Knaeble VFW 494
Crystal, MN 55429

**3rd Annual
Elvis Night**

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

Cathy Anderson

SICK CALL

Natalie Stuhr



Changing of the Season

For everything there is a season . . .

September already and I at least feel that summer only started about a week ago. How the seasons roll by. And it is no different with we people. We have seasons, too. We all remember the fire and vigor of youth. We think back on the things we did while on active duty, the long days and sleepless nights. When did we have such energy? Those with families reflect on how ragged they were run while the kids were little - - - and then how we worried when they got older and could go off on their own! And now? Like me, many of you are hitting the so-called twilight years. And some of you are just downright old!

Yet each of us are wonderfully made, and resplendent in the Eyes of the Lord! "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news," our Bible teaches us. And we all like good news – especially at the doctor's office! And we all can join in the sharing of good news. We can all share the joy of life, the joy of a life well lived.

I saw a clip the other day saying how rarely we hear while vertical all the good things spoken of us when we are horizontal and in a box. How sad.

Share with those around you that they make a difference for the good. Be kind and encouraging. You do not need me to tell you how negative and chiding our society has become. And I know too well how easy it is to descend to the levels of those who writhe in the mud. Be better. Be positive. Smile. Share. As men and women who have served, serve others with kindly hearts. Lift up others. Keep making a difference. "Your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6).



VFW 494 Golf League



Late Summer and Fall golf is the best, and our VFW Golf league is playing terrific golf. Even if you have not joined us this season, we have room for you!

We have a great time, and every now and then we hit a nice shot. Please join us at Eagle Lake Golf Course on Bass Lake road just west of 169. And though our last Fun Tournament was in August, we will keep playing deep into October. See you on the links!

Contact Chaplain Steve Jones stevenmjones82@yahoo.com, or

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations August 2026

Charity	Purpose	Donation
Near	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice -Gordy Lindenfelser	\$2,500.00
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
Semper Fi Flo	Greshowak Memorial Golf tournament	\$5,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



The 22nd Annual Larry Greshowak Memorial Charity Golf Tournament raised more than \$25,000 for Semper Fi Flo.

Molly Ambrose, Executive Director for Semper Fi Flo thanked everyone for their support and spoke about what Semper Fi Flo does for Veterans.

The 22nd Annual Larry Greshowak Memorial Chairty Golf Tournament



CARE PACKAGES



We are dedicated to keeping deployed service members connected to their home communities. Through our extensive care package program, we have shipped over 7,000 care packages since our founding, with 923 delivered in 2024 and 1019 shipped during 2025. Each package serves as a reminder to our military personnel that they are appreciated, supported, and never forgotten.

FAMILIES SUPPORTED



We are committed to providing assistance to Veterans and their families facing hardships—especially during the holidays and in times of emergency. Since our founding, we have sponsored 142 families, offering vital support when they need it most. In 2025 we brought joy to 14 families during the holiday season, ensuring they felt cared for, appreciated, and connected to a community that honors their service.

VETERANS HOMES



We are committed to ensuring retired Veterans feel valued, appreciated, and remembered, especially during the holiday season. Each year, we extend our outreach to one or two Minnesota Veterans Homes, delivering thoughtfully chosen goods, and essential comforts to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our country. We bring warmth and joy to Veterans during this special time, honoring their service with gratitude and care.

Above is information from the website of SemperfiFlo.org. Please check it out for more information on this great organization.



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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
Sept 4	Indoor Recess
Sept 5	Twang Cities
Sept 11	Short on Cash
Sept 18	DB Cooper
Sept 19	Band: To be determined
Sept 25	True Heat

From the Bar / Restaurant

As summer is winding down . . .

This month we have a Blood Drive going on in the lower level on **Tuesday, Sept. 29** from 1pm to 7pm. Stop by and donate if you can.

Monday Sept. 7 LABOR DAY, we will be having BINGO as usual. Bingo starts at 6 pm, so come in early and get a seat.

Sunday, September 13 we are hosting a NASCAR PARTY, please see the flyer below.

Sunday, Sept. 13@ 1:30



Enjoy Illinois 300 race time 2 pm

Drivers . . .start your engines



Sign up for prizes: 1:30 pm



Prizes
Food specials
Happy Hour Prices
Drivers Prize Board



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

September 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 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	2 Lunch Special Turkey wrap w/chips AUX. BAKE SALE 4:45 5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	3 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs Bar Bingo 6-9	4 Lunch Special Chicken Fettucine Alfredo Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 Indoor Recess	5 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef hash w/2 eggs Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM Twang Cities Band 7 PM
6 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef hash w/2 eggs	7 Lunch Special Sloppy Joe w/chips LABOR DAY Gambling/CMC moved to Weds→ YES, THERE IS Bar Bingo 6-9!! 	8 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	9 Lunch Special Liver & Onions Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30 5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry KARAOKE 7:30	10 Lunch Special Chicken parm sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	11 Lunch Special Beef enchiladas Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 Short on Cash	12 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burrito Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KUSTOM KARAOKE 7 PM
13 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burritos NASCAR PARTY Sunday, Sept. 13@ 1:30 Crystal VFW Racing PARTY Enjoy Illinois 300 race time 2 pm Drivers ... start your engines Sign up for prizes: 1:30 pm Prizes Food specials Happy Hour Prices Drivers Prize Board	14 Lunch Special Cobb Salad Bar Bingo 6-9	15 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	16 Lunch Special Grilled Ham & Cheese on Cranberry bread 5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	17 Lunch Special Lasagna roll-ups w/ garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9	18 Lunch Special Tuna melt w/chips Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 DB Cooper	19 Breakfast 8:00: Waffle w/choice of meat Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM Band TBD 7PM
20 Breakfast 8:00: Waffle w/choice of meat	21 Lunch Special Italian sub w/pasta salad Bar Bingo 6-9	22 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	23 Lunch Special Crispy chicken wrap 5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	24 Lunch Special Pork tenderloin sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	25 Lunch Special Meatloaf w/mashed potatoes Meat Raffle 4pm Evening: Steak Dinner Live music 7:00 True Heat	26 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall skillet Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM Super Dave Karaoke 7PM
27 Breakfast 8:00 Mess Hall skillet	28 Lunch Special Tuna or Egg Salad Sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	29 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> Taco \$7.95 Chicken or Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	30 Lunch Special Crispy chicken w/ mashed & gravy 5-7 pm VFW Walleye Dinner KARAOKE 7:30			