

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494  
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*Bronze Award National Newsletter  
contest for large posts in 2020!*

**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 • April 2025**

**#1 newsletter in the State of MN for large VFW Posts—2020, 2021, 2022, 2023!**



*2nd Place State of Minnesota  
contest for large posts in 2024!*

**Post #494 Officers / Trustees**

2024-2025

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



**All American Post**  
**1993, 1996 Banner Post**

**Post #494 CMC Members**

2025

1 Yr CMC Member .....Bill Blair  
1 Yr CMC Member ..... Jim Hagenbrock  
2 Yr CMC Member ..... Ken Olson  
2 Yr CMC Member ..... Steve Jones  
3 Yr CMC Member ..... Gene Burdick  
3 Yr CMC Member .....Mike Johnson  
3 Yr CMC Member .....Steve Hawk

**Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees**

2024-2025

President ..... Marge Rubenstein  
Sr. Vice President ..Mary Touve-Kackman  
Jr. Vice President .....Lisa Sundberg  
Secretary ..... Debbie Larson  
Treasurer ..... Pam Aritt  
Chaplain .....Helen Hauser  
Conductress .....Lori Martens  
Guard ..... Theo Page  
Patriotic Instructor ..... Virginia Sroka  
1st Yr. Trustee ..... Darlene Hauschildt  
2nd Yr. Trustee .....Marlene Lietzow  
3rd Yr. Trustee ..... Theo Page

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

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

## from the COMMANDER



Greetings, Comrades,

Spring has sprung! I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather!

The results from the March nominations are as follows:

Commander- Rick Godfrey

Sr Vice Commander- John Faulk

Jr Vice Commander – Mike Johnson

Quartermaster- Jim Richter

3<sup>rd</sup>-year Trustee- Jay Leamons

If you have someone you would like to nominate, please do so by April 15. Voting will be on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at our monthly meeting.

We are hosting the 7th District Convention and installation of new district officers on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, starting with a memorial service at 8:30 am.

★ The Post will be closed until NOON on Saturday.

This is just a reminder about Vets on the Hill. →  
The bus will leave at 9 a.m. on April 9th.

Day of service will be on Saturday, May 3<sup>RD</sup>. We are doing roadside clean-up from Twin Lake West apartments on Bass Lake Road west to Saint Raphael Catholic School, starting at 9 am—12:00 pm. I hope to see some new volunteers help out this year.

As always, if you are an Annual Member, please consider a Life Membership. We offer financial assistance as encouragement. Let's keep our membership up, to keep our post healthy.

Why you should become a legacy member: Becoming a [VFW](#) life member is a powerful way to solidify your commitment to serving my fellow veterans and the [VFW](#)'s mission, ensuring a lasting legacy of support for veterans and their families. This commitment also allows you to benefit from the VFW's resources and network while contributing to a strong organization that advocates for veterans' rights and well-being.

It is your Post; we need you to make it better. We have plenty of opportunities to participate. Please attend our post meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00. The VFW does more to help veterans, but we can't do it without you. See you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey

# VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2025

**WHEN:**  
**APRIL 9TH, 2025**

**DAV of MN Presents:**  
**Free Veterans and Supporters Lunch**  
(One Block from Capitol at 600 Cedar Street, St. Paul)

**Doors Open @ 10:00AM FOR COFFEE**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED**

**PRESENTATION @ 12:00PM**

**Veterans March to the Rally @ 1:00pm**  
(Short Walk from Armory to State Veterans Service Building 20 West 12th St, St. Paul )

**CTF and MACVSO Present:**  
**Rally in the Rotunda 1:30-2:30pm**



ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT-  
TRENT@DAVMN.ORG:

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATION REQUIRED.**  
**ALL SUPPORTERS ARE WELCOME!**



### Topics Include:

PASSING A CLEAN VETERANS OMNIBUS BILL

INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE PROPERTY TAX VALUE EXCLUSION

REDUCED COST HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FOR DISABLED VETERAN

### Meet Your Lawmaker!!

A MINIBUS RUNNING FROM THE ARMORY TO THE CENTENNIAL AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS 10-1130.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO SEE YOUR LAWMAKERS!



## Good of the Order

March 29<sup>th</sup> is Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day. It got me to thinking about numbers. How many of my Vietnam veteran brothers and sisters are left? I couldn't find the answer.

You may be familiar with the following statistics. 25% of military age males served in uniform during World War 2. That was down to 10% during the Vietnam War. Currently it is only about 1%. The thing they all have in common is they all made sacrifices that most of the population of this great country were not required to make.

Let's think about the 1% currently serving. Only 10% of those are deployed overseas at one time. They typically spend six months to a year away from family and friends protecting our freedoms. The sacrifices of the few for the many. That's why they call it service.

As hard as it is on our men and women deployed abroad, we don't often think about their families back home.

Basically, they serve as single parents, often for small children. Single mothers while their husbands are



## from the QUARTERMASTER

## from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

### Newsletter Communications

We are moving toward electronic distribution of the newsletter to save on postage and undeliverable mail costs.

- ⇒ Please contact me via Email at: [quartermaster494@comcast.net](mailto:quartermaster494@comcast.net) with your email address and full name. Please put NEWSLETTER in the subject line.
- ⇒ You will receive your electronic newsletter in color, more quickly, and help the Post by saving us the high cost to print and mail.

*\*Calendar printouts are available at the door by the sign-in book for you to track our events. You can also see daily notices on our Facebook page: VFW Post 494.*

Visit our FaceBook page: VFW Post 494

Visit our website: [crystalvfw.com](http://crystalvfw.com)

Thank you for supporting our Post,  
Jim Richter, Quartermaster

**NOTICE:** *The VFW will be closed until NOON on Saturday, April 12 for the 7th District Convention.*

**Easter Sunday is April 20 and the Post is CLOSED all day.**

*Good of the Order from P. 1*

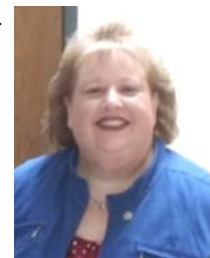
deployed and single fathers while their wives are deployed. If you know of one of these families, as I currently do, please reach out to them and see if you can help in any way. Offering to look after young children to give Mom or Dad a break so they can have some "me time." Assisting with simple chores such as mowing the lawn or shoveling the driveway. Anything that lets them know that you recognize their sacrifice to the benefit of us all.

George Orwell said it best: "We sleep soundly in our beds at night because rough men *and women*\* stand ready to do violence on those who would do us harm."

\*author's addendum

Don Fernstrom, Judge Advocate / Service Officer and past Commander

As we end our Auxiliary year it's time for election of new officers for the coming year 2025/2026. Nominations will be held at our April meeting. If you are interested in an office please make sure to attend the April 15th meeting at 5:30pm. If you are unable to attend the April meeting and wish to hold an office or chairmanship please let me know. Any member who has their membership dues paid is considered in good standing and can be elected as an officer.



At our last Auxiliary meeting we had 2 children that turned in an entry for the Illustrating America Art Contest K-8. Maggie Jean from Noble Elementary who drew "Vietnam Veteran with dog." and Messiah from Meadowlake Elementary who drew "Vietnam Veteran". See Photos on Page 5.

### Upcoming Dates

- ★ April 9th MN Legislative Day on the Hill St Paul
- ★ April 12th 7th District Convention: VFW Crystal The Post will be closed until NOON
- ★ April 18th Aux meeting 5:30 pm
- ★ April 20th Easter Sunday: Post is CLOSED all day
- ★ April 22nd Earth Day
- ★ April 23-24 National President Brenda's visit to MN.
- ★ April is also the month we honor Gold Star Spouses
- ★ April 30th National "Military Brats" Day

Thank you members for your continued support in all you do! Best wishes to all that have been ill, and for those who have lost loved ones our sympathies are with you.

Marge Rubenstein,

Auxiliary President

# Bake Sale

## Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale

1st Wednesday of month  
during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner  
**Wednesday, April 2 ~ 4:45 pm**

## Chaplain's Corner

## Taps & Sick Call



**Helen Hauser**

### TAPS

### SICK CALL

**Craig Dahlin**

**Mike Fredrickson**

**Jay Leamons**



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to April! Spring is in the air and everyone is starting to wake up again after a long winter's nap. It's nice to take a long walk and enjoy the sunshine and warm breeze and catch up with the neighbors.

April is the Month of the Military Child - Let's Celebrate! April 15th recognizes some of the military's most unsung heroes - their children. The dandelion is the official symbol for Month of the Military Child, representing the resilience and adaptability of military children who, like dandelions, can thrive wherever they are planted. Purple is also a color associated with military children, combining the colors of the different military branches.

There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service. While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges

faced by their children. Military families move on average every two to three years, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks. Each year, the DOD joins national, state and local government, schools, military serving organizations, companies and private citizens in celebrating military children and the sacrifices they make.

During this month it would be a great opportunity to take some time as a family to go visit our veterans and thank them for their service.

May the joy of Spring add pep to your step and sunshine to your heart.

Kind regards,

Helen Hauser

Auxiliary Chaplain

## Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations March 2025

CHARITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Near Crescent Cove	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Veteran's Assistance	\$500.00
Blue OX Hockey Sponsorship & Bus	Food Cupboard	\$500.00
Park Center Dugout Club	Veterans on the Hill	\$2,000.00
Robbinsdale Cooper High School	Baseball Field Improvements	\$6,000.00
Robins Varsity Adaptive Athletic Team	VFW/Legion Summer Team	\$3,000.00
Minneapolis Northside Baseball		\$3,000.00
Champlin 12U Baseball	Cooperstown Trip	\$2,500.00
Robbinsdale Crystal Little League Baseball		\$3,000.00
Annual Stomp the Stigma 5K Walk	Mental Health Awareness	\$1,000.00
St Alphonsus Church	People with Disabilities	\$500.00
Robbinsdale Armstrong High School Golf		\$1,000.00
Reuniting after war	10-person table	\$2,500.00

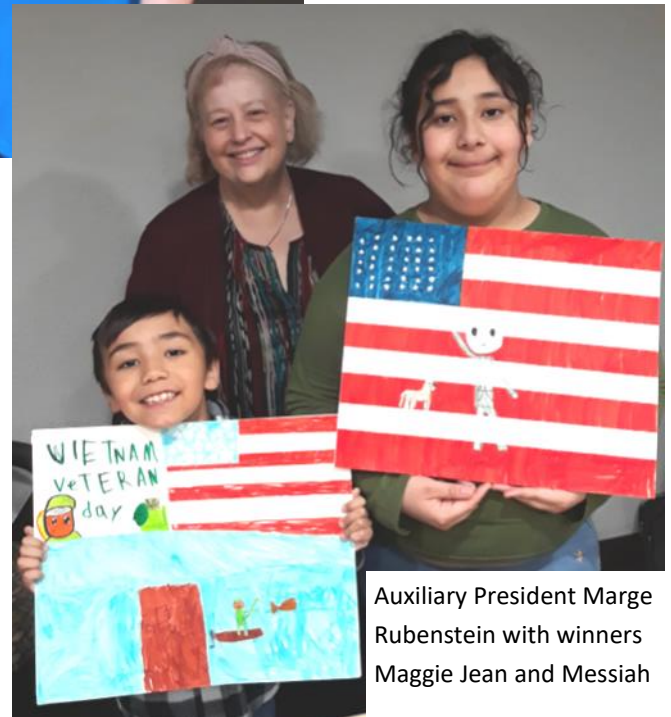
# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



Left: Harlan Anderson and Commander Rick Godfrey with Maggie Jean from Noble Elementary who drew “Vietnam Veteran with dog,” and Messiah from Meadow-lake Elementary who drew “Vietnam Veteran”

## Illustrating America Art Contest K-8 winners

Quartermaster Jim Richter with winners Maggie Jean and Messiah



Auxiliary President Marge Rubenstein with winners Maggie Jean and Messiah

## VFW 494 Golf League

Post 494 has a very active golf league and we want you to join with us!


We will have an organizational meeting at the VFW Post on Tuesday April 15 at 10:30. New players highly encouraged to come so we can get you into our Golf League Tracker app. We are shooting for an opening day of April 22 at 10:30 at Eagle Lake Golf Course Plymouth.

This year we are offering custom embroidered League shirts. Contact Post Chaplain Steve Jones at [stevenmjones82@yahoo.com](mailto:stevenmjones82@yahoo.com) to get registered to play or to order a shirt. THINK SPRING !!



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Wanda Mitchell  
 763.222.4598

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[www.creativepaintingmn.com](http://www.creativepaintingmn.com)



**Joe's Barbershop**

**Joe Mullen**  
 Barber / Owner  
 5707 West Broadway  
 Crystal, MN 55428  
 763-536-9879



**Jason Lindberg**  
 Owner  
[JasonLfanfarepromotions.com](http://JasonLfanfarepromotions.com)

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Friday	Live Music 7:00
April 4	City Lights
April 11	Imaginary Roots
April 18	SainTrio
April 25	Mr. Winky

# Weekly Entertainment

**Bar BINGO: 6 PM start 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!



**Bar RINGO: FREE to play.** Eight prize games plus \$500 cash Coverall. RINGO starts after the **SATURDAY MEAT RAFFLE** around 5 PM. Come on down for the raffle and **STAY and PLAY.**



- ★ **eTabs** available at pulltab booth daily
- ★ **Electronic Pulltab Races:** Rats, Cash, Horse, Duck, Piggy, Matador on weekend meat raffle days

## from the Kitchen and Bar

Spring finally made it! Now all we need is warmer temperatures.

**NOTICE:** Our VFW will be closed until NOON on Saturday, April 12 for the 7th District Convention

The Friday Lent Fish Fry is going over very well. Thanks, everyone, for your support. The last Fish Fry dinner special will be Friday, April 18 and we are CLOSED on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Paula our server/bartender/Jack-of-all-trades goes above and beyond and even BELOW and BEYOND to unlock the handicapped stall in the ladies room. A naughty leprechaun must have locked it from the inside.



**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

## MEAT RAFFLES

### Fri. 4pm & Sat. 2pm

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



- \$1 / TICKET for **\$20 meat pkg**
- \$2 / TICKET for **\$40 meat pkg**
- \$5 / TICKET for **\$110 case of meat**

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.




VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



# April 2025

\* *Note: Calendar information is subject to last minute 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
		<b>1 Lunch Special</b> <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos  DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	<b>2 Lunch Special</b> Cuban Sandwich Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:45 pm  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</div>  KARAOKE 7:30	<b>3 Lunch Special</b> Turkey Wrap w/ chips  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>4 Lunch Special</b> 3 Fish Tacos  Evening: Fish Fry <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b> Live music 7:00 City Lights	<b>5 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Corned Beef Hash w/2 eggs <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b> Texas Hold 'me 7:00
<b>6 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Corned Beef Hash w/2 eggs	<b>7 Lunch Special</b> Loaded Baked Potato  <b>Gambling Mtg 12:00</b> <b>CMC MTG 12:30</b>  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>8 Lunch Special</b> <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos  DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	<b>9 Lunch Special</b> Mandiran Orange Chicken Salad  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</div>  KARAOKE 7:30	<b>10 Lunch Special</b> Swedish Meatballs w/Mashed Potatoes  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>11 Lunch Special</b> Tuna Melt  Evening: Fish Fry <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  Live music 7:00 Imaginary Roots	<b>12 Breakfast 8:00:</b> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>NO BREAKFAST TODAY CLOSED UNTIL NOON for the 7th District Convention</b> </div> <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:30 PM</b> Texas Hold 'me 7:00
<b>13 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Mess Hall Skillet	<b>14 Lunch Special</b> Nan's Chicken Salad  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>15 Lunch Special</b> <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos  <b>Post Meeting 7 pm</b> <b>Auxiliary Meeting</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>  DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	<b>16 Lunch Special</b> Liver & Onions  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner</div>  KARAOKE 7:30	<b>17 Lunch Special</b> Italian Beef sandwich w/chips  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>18 Lunch Special</b> Walleye Fingers Dinner Special  Evening: Fish Fry <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  Live music 7:00 SainTrio	<b>19 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Apple Fritters <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:30 PM</b> Texas Hold 'me 7:00
<b>20</b>  <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>CLOSED</b>  	<b>21 Lunch Special</b> Baked Chicken w/ stuffing  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>22 Lunch Special</b> <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos	<b>23 Lunch Special</b> Meatloaf & mashed potatoes  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</div>  KARAOKE 7:30	<b>24 Lunch Special</b> Ziti Italian Bake  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>25 Lunch Special</b> Deluxe Grilled Cheese w/chips  Evening: Rib Eye Steak <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  Live music 7:00 Mr. Winky	<b>26 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Breakfast Burrito  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b> <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:30 PM</b> Texas Hold 'me 7:00
<b>27 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Breakfast Burrito	<b>28 Lunch Special</b> Chicken Parm Sandwich  Bar Bingo 6-9	<b>29 Lunch Special</b> <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos	<b>30 Lunch Special</b> Reuben Bake  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Assoc Meatloaf Dinner</div>  KARAOKE 7:30			