

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
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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 • March 2026

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees
2025-2026

CommanderRick Godfrey
Sr. Vice Commander John Faulk
Jr. Vice Commander..... Mike Johnson
QuartermasterJim Richter
Gambling Manager/
Ass't. Quartermaster Gene Burdick
AdjutantSandra Lindley
Chaplain Steve Jones
Judge AdvocateDon Fernstrom
Surgeon Steve Hawk
Service OfficerDon 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
2 Yr CMC Member Gene Burdick
2 Yr CMC MemberMike Johnson
2 Yr CMC MemberSteve Hawk
3 Yr CMC Member John Faulk
3 Yr CMC MemberJohn 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 PresidentLisa Sundberg
Jr. Vice President Theo Page
Secretary Debbie Larson
Assistant Secretary Geri Westley
Treasurer Pam Aritt
ChaplainHelen Hauser
Chaplain AssistantKathy Lund
ConductorDianne Johnson
GuardMarlene Lietzow
Patriotic Instructor Virginia Sroka
1st Yr. TrusteeMarlene 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. Well, we survived the sub-zero temperatures in mid-January! I hope you all are doing well.

We are doing some remodeling during the month of April. Watch for more information on this topic. **The bar, kitchen, pull tabs, and etabs will be downstairs during this 2+ week remodeling period from April 11th to 26th.**

Our Post membership dinner will be on Sunday, March 29th from 1-3 in the banquet room downstairs. More information to come. See page 4 for flyer.

We have nominations for the following positions at the March meeting:

Commander

Sr Vice Commander

Jr Vice Commander

Quartermaster

Trustee

If you know of someone who would like to be considered, let us know.

I would hope that some of you may want to become more involved in the VFW. You do not have to accept an actual post. If you would like to assist with any of the programs: Patriots' Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, Scout of the Year, or Community Involvement, that is also an option.

Speaking of Community Involvement, I am asking that if any Post Member has an idea or a project that revolves around our community, please bring it to the table. There are always ideas as to how our Post should become involved locally; Veteran related or not. Please speak up and bring it to my attention. But let's look at what you want to do...it may work! Let's all move forward together

Our Canteen is more than a place to meet. It helps generate the resources we need to support veterans and our community. Schools, food shelves, veterans'

Resources are only a few of the things we support. I hope you have the chance to come in and participate as you are able. It is your Post. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 in the lower level.

See you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Commander Rick Godfrey

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.

Good of the Order

Most of us have heard the story of Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh Steeler running back. Did you know that he was drafted, while on the Steelers roster in 1968, and volunteered for Vietnam?



He served his tour as a Specialist 4, with the 4th BN, 31st Infantry, Americal Division, earning a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and CIB. Doctors told him he should never expect to play football again after his wounds. Instead, he returned to win four Super Bowl rings with the Steelers dynasty teams.

That raised my curiosity, about whether there were any other NFL players that served in Vietnam. Why don't we know about Bob Kalsu? The Bills drafted Bob in 1968, knowing that he had a service obligation from ROTC. That year he earned Rookie of the Year honors with the Bills as a starting offensive guard. He should have been blocking for O.J. Simpson in 1970 but, instead he was deployed as an artillery officer with the 101st Airborne Division.

He met his pregnant wife in Hawaii on R and R about half-way through his tour in May of 1970. He returned to his duty assignment with the 101st Airborne Division on

Good of the Order continued →

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Continued

Firebase Ripcord. The Firebase was surrounded by an estimated 5,000 North Vietnamese regulars.

During a respite in the battle, he pulled out a letter from his wife telling him she was scheduled to give birth. On July 21st, 1970, an 82mm mortar round landed five feet away killing him instantly. His son was born on July 23, 1970.

Bob Kalsu received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart posthumously.

Don Steinbrunner was drafted by the Cleveland Browns in 1954. He played in eight NFL games and left to fulfill his military requirement. He decided to make the Air Force his career, instead of returning to the Browns. He served as an assistant football coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy. In 1966 he was sent to Vietnam and was piloting a C-123 on July 20, 1967, over Kontum province, when his plane was shot down over the triple canopy jungle with no survivors.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart posthumously. Steinbrunner was honored by the Cleveland Browns for his service on November 14, 2004.

The Kalsu and Steinbrunner stories were tragedies for them and their families. It makes me wonder how many more stories of Vietnam veterans and their families were never told.

Don Fernstrom,

Service Officer & Past Commander

**March 7 Bingo benefits
Magnus Veterans Foundation**

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings members, hope this finds you enjoying the last days of winter and looking forward to Spring.



March can be a little rough, but spring will be right around the corner.

Our Auxiliary is running well and we are helping the community when and where we can.

March Dates to Remember

Employee appreciation Day	March 6
Daylight Saving Starts	March 8
National Pi day 3.14	March 14
St. Patrick's day	March 17
National Vietnam War Veterans day	March 29

Best wishes to all who have been ill, and our sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

Marge Rubenstein

Auxiliary President 494

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post Nominations will happen in March for Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Trustee

Auxiliary Nominations will happen in March for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Guard, Secretary, Conductor and Trustee

JOIN US !!

BINGO

SATURDAY March 7 7:30

CRYSTAL VFW POST 494
5222 BASS LAKE RD

\$35/PACKET
BIG CASH PAYOUTS

GAME NIGHT 7 PM
EVERY 3RD SATURDAY

Games are:
Tower Shack,
Connect Four,
Corn Hole, Pool,
Cribbage, and many
more. Bring your own!

Sunday, March 15 @ 2:00
Las Vegas: race time 3pm

NASCAR Racing PARTY

Drivers ...start your engines

Come in early, have some breakfast, then get a good seat to watch the race. Sign up for the prize board and raffles

Prizes
Food specials
Happy Hour Prices
Drivers Prize Board

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

Pat & Art Erickson

SICK CALL

Natalie Stuhr



VFW 494 Golf League

Greetings Golf Enthusiasts!

Ah, didn't that brief thaw give you the itch to swing the clubs? How many of you are visiting simulators? Did anybody watch the Waste Management tourney? Well spring will come, it always does, so please consider returning or joining our VFW 494 Golf League. The league is a fun time with men and women of all skill levels. This year, we would like to see more ladies play!

The League plays Tuesday Mornings with tee times starting at 10:04. We will have our first outing April 21, weather permitting. We play a 9-hole course, Eagle Lake on Bass Lake road in Plymouth. It is a fun par 31 course that is suitable for men and women, juniors through seniors. Any member of the VFW may play, or anyone invited by a member of the VFW may join.

The league captain is **Steve Jones, Post Chaplain:** 314-537-3088. We will have an organizational meeting **Tuesday, March 31 at 11:00 VFW Post 494**, Crystal, lower level banquet hall. Plan to have lunch following the meeting for Taco Tuesday!

VFW Membership Dinner and 95th Birthday Celebration

You are invited to celebrate...

Annual VFW Post 494 Membership Dinner & 95th Post Birthday

~ ~ ~

VFW 494 Members, please join us on **Sunday, March 29** for the annual **Membership Dinner**, in the lower level of the Post.

~ ~ ~

Social hour 12-1 pm

Dinner and special speaker: 1-2:30 pm

Chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable and Birthday Cake



Everyone **MUST** sign in for this event!

Please bring nonperishable food items to donate to N.E.A.R.

Please leave a message to RSVP by Monday, March 16 at 763-537-9914 ext. 105 for this event.

Please leave your name plus how many guests will attend.

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations February 2026

Charity	Purpose	Donation
Near	Food shelf	\$2,000.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
NHCC	Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Every Third Saturday	Veteran's Services	\$500.00
Ritual Squad uniform items	Steve Hawk reimbursement	\$857.20
Gall's Uniforms	Ritual Squad shirt (Sandra Lindley)	\$61.99
VFW National Home	Department Commanders Project	\$5,000.00
NHCC – John Diedrich	Endowed scholarship fund	\$3,000.00
NHCC	Post 494 Annual Scholarships	\$4,000.00
North Hennepin Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol		\$1,000.00
Big Marine Lake Veterans Campground		\$1,000.00
Park Center Dugout Club Spring Baseball trip to Cocoa Beach FL		\$1,000.00
MN Military and Veterans Museum		\$1,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



Sunday, March 15 @ 2:00

Las Vegas: race time 3pm



PARTY

Drivers . . . start your engines

Come in early, have some breakfast, then get a good seat to watch the race. Sign up for the prize board and raffles

Jackie and Steve Gillane host our first Monthly NASCAR Racing party on Sunday, February 7. It was a great time with an exciting Daytona 500 race free prize giveaways, drink and food specials and a chance to participate in the Driver's Prize board. See the flyer at the right for info on the March event.

Prizes
Food specials
Happy Hour Prices
Drivers Prize Board



VFW Game night: every 3rd Saturday! Come play a childhood favorite game or bring one to share. Games are: Tower Shack, Connect Four, Corn Hole, Pool, Cribbage, and many more.



Saturday Night Game Night: 3rd Saturday



Bring your own games or play ours!

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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
Mar 6	Stir Crazy
Mar 13	Tailspin
Sat., Mar. 14	Persuaders
Mar 20	Percolators
Mar 27	Miller Brothers

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

From the Bar / Restaurant

Stay tuned, warmer weather is coming!



Saturday, March 7



- 2nd Brigade Motorcycle Club Chili Feed: after breakfast

- Bingo @ 7:00 pm. Big \$\$ payouts

Saturday, March 14 St. Patrick's Day

Party with prizes for best dressed

Sunday, March 15 @ 1 PM Las Vegas race

NASCAR party with happy hour prices, food specials and prizes!

Sunday, March 22 Purse Bingo 2 pm.

Reservations required. Call 763-533-0567 or sign up at the pull tab booth



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

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**



VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



March 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: French Toast	2 Lunch Special Goulash w/garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9	3 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	4 Lunch Special Mandarin Orange Chicken Salad Auxiliary Bake Sale ~4:45 pm 5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	5 Lunch Special Chicken Parm sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	6 Lunch Special Shrimp basket Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 DB Cooper	7 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM  Big Cash Bingo 7:30
8 Breakfast 8:00: Corned Beef Hash	9 Lunch Special Chicken salad on a croissant w/chips Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30 Bar Bingo 6-9	10 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	11 Lunch Special Liver & onions 5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry KARAOKE 7:30	12 Lunch Special Italian Beef sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	13 Lunch Special Lasagna rollups w/ garlic toast Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Miller Brothers 	14 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burrito Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Prizes for best dressed Live Music: Persuaders
15 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Burrito Food, drinks, prizes NASCAR Party Drivers ...start your engines!! 	16 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs w/ mashed potatoes Bar Bingo 6-9	17 Lunch Special St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	18 Lunch Special Crispy Chicken Wrap w/chips 5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association Meatloaf Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	19 Lunch Special Deep fried pork tenderloin sandwich w/slaw Bar Bingo 6-9	20 Lunch Special Egg Salad or Tuna Salad sandwich w/ chips Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Bird Dog	21 Breakfast 8:00: French Toast w/choice of meat Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM GAME NIGHT 7 pm Tower Shack, Connect 4, Pool, Corn Hole, Cribbage
22 Breakfast 8:00: French Toast w/ choice of meat Purse Bingo 2 pm  	23 Lunch Special Cobb Salad Bar Bingo 6-9	24 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	25 Lunch Special Pork Tenderloin w/ mashed potatoes 5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner KARAOKE 7:30	26 Lunch Special Tator tot hotdish Bar Bingo 6-9	27 Lunch Special Tuna Melt w/chips Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Mr Winky	28 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM
29 Breakfast 8:00 Breakfast Pizza Membership Dinner 1-3pm Lower Level	23 Lunch Special Chow Mein Hotdish Bar Bingo 6-9	24 Lunch Special <i>TACO Tuesday</i> 3 Beef Tacos \$7.95 Beef Burrito \$8.95 DJ Trivia 6:30 pm				