

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

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Facebook: VFW Post 494



Bronze Award National Newsletter
contest for large posts in 2020!

NEWS & VIEWS • May 2024

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees

2023-2024

CommanderRick Godfrey
Sr. Vice CommanderKen Olson
Jr. Vice Commander.....Sandra Lindley
QuartermasterJim Richter
Gambling Manager/
Ass't. QuartermasterGene Burdick
AdjutantHarland Anderson
ChaplainSteve Jones
Judge AdvocateDon Fernstrom
Surgeon Steve Hawk
Service OfficerDon Fernstrom
Officer of the Day Fred Crimmins
Door Guard.....Bill Blair
1 Yr Trustee.....John Faulk
2 Yr Trustee.....Jay Leamons
3 Yr Trustee.....Fred Crimmins



All American Post
1993, 1996 Banner Post

Post #494 CMC Members

2024

1 Yr CMC Member Gene Burdick
1 Yr CMC MemberDon Fernstrom
1 Yr CMC MemberSteve Hawk
2 Yr CMC Member Bill Blair
2 Yr CMC MemberJim Hagenbrock
3 Yr CMC Member Ken Olson
3 Yr CMC Member Steve Jones

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees

2023-2024

President Marge Rubenstein
Sr. Vice PresidentOPEN
Jr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
Secretary Debbie Larson
TreasurerLori Aydt
ChaplainHelen Hauser
ConductressLori Martens
Guard Craig Dahlin
Patriotic Instructor Virginia Sroka
1st Yr. TrusteeMary Touve-Kackman
2nd Yr. TrusteeJo Peterson
3rd Yr. Trustee Pam Aritt

★ Club Management Committee (CMC) meeting is the 2nd Monday, 1:00 p.m.

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

from the COMMANDER



Greetings Comrades,

Well, March went out like a Lion! Spring is just around the corner.

We held the District 7 meeting here on Saturday, April 20 and had a great turnout. We installed the new District 7 officers and Auxiliary. Congratulations to all the new and returning officers, as well as our past commander Jim Doten, who was elected to District Sr vice commander! We look forward to working with you all.

As my first year as your commander comes to a close, I want to say it has been very rewarding to serve you and represent our post at many functions throughout the year. I have met a lot of new people at the post this past year, and I am looking forward to getting our memorial completed in 2025.

I am still working on getting our local nursing home to set up some time for our veterans to visit veterans who are not able to get out or have many visitors. This is very important to me.

I look forward to serving you and representing our post at many functions throughout the next year. We also had a great turnout for Vets on the Hill! Thank you past commander Fred Crimmins, for allowing the use of the Blue Ox team bus!

In April, we held election for officers and the following were elected:

Commander – Rick Godfrey

Sr Vice Commander – Sandra Lindley

Jr Vice Commander – John Faulk

Quarter Master – Jim Richter

Three-year Trustee – David Soukup

Congratulations to all!

We will be having installation of officers on Sunday, May 5 at 1pm here at the Post. See FaceBook for details.

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

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, and 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. This is your post. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the lower level.

See you at the "V".

Respectfully,

Rick Godfrey, Commander

GOOD OF THE ORDER

It was an honor and a privilege to attend Veterans Day on the Hill at the State Capitol, with thousands of my veteran brothers and sisters. There were six comrades from your own Crystal VFW Post 494, along with seven or eight comrades from Palmer Lake Post 3915, and Elk River-Rogers Post 5518, who shared a bus with us arranged by Past Commander Fred Crimmins. No parking hassles and no snow to deal with this year. That hasn't been true in years past.



We had important work to do, raising our voices in support of the Omnibus Bill consolidating veterans' issues in one piece of legislation, so it would not be subject to piecemeal negotiation mixed in with other legislation. That has happened in the past and has usually resulted in a reduction of our benefits package. We learned that TOGETHER—WE CAN, as our voices sounded off in the Capitol Rotunda.



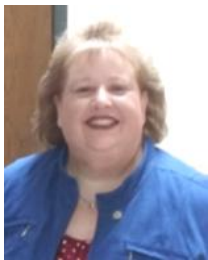
Jim Hagenbrock, Harland Anderson and Commander Rick Godfrey

It was fun to meet with our fellow veterans. One female veteran that I met also sings in the Plymouth Rockers Senior Chorus. They have been performing for us as part of our Veterans' Day celebration. Another veteran I met served with Delta Troop 1st of the 9th Cav, which my unit supported during my tour in Vietnam. It's always meaningful to get together with comrades who have trod the same ground. It almost makes you feel young again.

We learned that although the veteran population of the United States is currently less than one per cent of the total population, that the percentage of veterans in Minnesota is five per cent. An achievement in which we can take great pride.

Our work isn't done. We need to contact our State Representatives and Senators, to let them know that we

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Greetings Members,

I hope you are looking forward to Spring and new beginnings. Hopefully the tulips and spring flowers will start blooming soon and the weather turns a little warmer than the past couple of weeks!

Election of Auxiliary officers was held at our April meeting. I am truly honored to again have the privilege to serve as your Auxiliary President. This year I will also be serving as your Sr. Vice on the District Level, along with Helen Hauser who also accepted a position on the District level as Trustee. Thank You officers for stepping up to fill positions. (see photo below)

Congratulations to Commander Rick Godfrey and his Officers for the coming year. As always, our Auxiliary looks forward to working with you and your line officers.

Auxiliary Officers for 2024\2025 are as follows:

President: Marge Rubenstein

Sr. Vice President: Mary Touve Kackman

Jr. Vice President: Lisa Sundberg

Secretary: Debbie Larson

Treasurer: Lori Aydt

Chaplain: Helen Hauser

Conductress: Pam Aritt

Guard: Craig Dahlin

Patriotic Instructor: Virginia Sroka

3rd Yr. Trustee: Darlene Hauschildt

2nd Yr. Trustee: Pam Aritt

1st Yr. Trustee: Jo Peterson



District Senior Vice Marge Rubenstein and District Trustee Helen Hauser at 7th District Convention 4-20-24

****We will be having a joint Installation of Officers on Sunday May 5th beginning at 1PM**

District Convention was held on Saturday, April 20 at our Post. I am pleased to report our Auxiliary was well represented and received a few awards. Thank you to all chairmen for helping with the reports and working the programs.

Loyalty Day is May 1. It was proclaimed by President Dwight Eisenhower as a day for declaring loyalty to the United States of America, and for the recognition of American freedom.

May is Buddy Poppy month. If you're interested in helping to distribute Poppys, let Lori Aydt or Jim Hagenbrock know. Wear your Poppy with Pride, all proceeds go to help Veterans and their Families in need.

Upcoming Events:

- ★ May is Nat'l Military Appreciation & Military Caregiver Month
- ★ Loyalty Day – May 1 & Silver Star Banner Day
- ★ Auxiliary Bake Sale – May 1
- ★ Military Spouse Day – May 8
- ★ VE Day – May 8 – Marked the end of WWII
- ★ Mother's Day – May 12
- ★ Children of fallen Patriots Day – May 13
- ★ Buddy Poppy Distribution Day – May 17-18
- ★ Armed Forces Day - May 18 honoring Americans currently serving in the five branches of the US military as well as the National Guard & Reserve units
- ★ Memorial Day – May 27

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

Loyally,
Marge Rubenstein, Auxiliary President

Good of the Order from P. 1

need them to support the sports betting option, which is currently being used in thirty-eight other states as a means of generating additional tax revenue.

Why you ask, do we need to support another gambling option in competition with our own charitable gambling? if it passes as proposed, the revenue generated by sports betting will be used to reduce the current tax levied on charitable gambling. This means that we will have almost twice as much money for use in our own community. Money to aid us in fulfilling our mission of assisting veterans in need, promoting youth activities, encouraging patriotism



Past Commanders Don Fernstrom and Fred Crimmins with Commander Rick Godfrey at the Capitol Rotunda

and other worthwhile causes. Instead of letting politicians decide what our needs are and what is important to us. We will make those decisions.

We need the help of our non-veteran friends and neighbors. Please let them know the importance of this legislation and encourage them to contact their senators and representatives as well and urge them to support these bills.



Gambling Manager Gene Burdick, Quartermaster Jim Richter and our bus driver Jess Kotchen



Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

Roger Thoennes

SICK CALL

Rick Brew



Memorial Day

“ . . . Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan . . . ” (May 1868, Gen. John Logan)

Les . . . Bobby . . . Ron . . . I remember . . .

All young men with me in the Texas A&M Univ. Corps of Cadets. And like me, they went on to serve as officers in the armed forces of this great nation. Proud to do so, and never wavering from the chance of the “ultimate sacrifice.” Yet, they were called to that sacrifice as each was lost while on active duty. I remember . . .

Kenny . . . that name always brings a lump to my throat and a tear to my eye. Kenny was in high school with my

oldest son. Kenny enlisted in the USMC and served in Afghanistan where he was killed in combat. His parents received the notification on Mother's Day, which we also observe this month. I remember . . .

You have your own names of comrades lost in war or lost to time, disease, or accident. Perhaps you sometimes wonder why you went home and they did not. You remember . . .

“Until the sea shall give up her dead . . . ” is a phrase from the traditional burial ceremony for sailors and marines. And it points to reality that even death is not the final state. “I am the resurrection and the Life,” says Jesus pointing us to a grand reunion with which every other reunion pales in comparison. We have the promise that when He returns, war and death shall be no more! I remember . . .

But until that Day, we remember . . .

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations for April

Near	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Veteran's Assistance	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Food Cupboard	\$500.00
Gold Star Family Weekend	Honoring Fallen Heroes	\$500.00
Majestic Hills Ranch	Veterans in rehabilitation	\$500.00
Social Services of Minnesota	Substance abuse disorder treatment for vets	\$500.00
Reuniting After War	Bash for the Brave	\$2,500.00
City of Crystal	Open House	\$2,000.00
Robbinsdale Cooper Marching Band	National Independence Day Washington DC	\$2,000.00
Boy Scouts BSA Troop 3542/5542	New Tents & Tarps	\$1,000.00
Boy Scouts of America	Northern Star Council	\$1,000.00
Robbinsdale Lake Elementary School	Global Finals Competition Kansas City, MO	\$2,000.00
Park Center Dugout Club	Park Center/Columbia Heights Baseball	\$1,000.00
Muskies Inc.	Fishing for Veterans	\$2,000.00
Veterans on the Lake	Fishing for Veterans	\$2,000.00
Fishing for Life	Fishing for Veterans	\$2,000.00
Veterans Campground on Big Marine	Disabled Veterans Camp Association (DVRC)	\$2,000.00
Blue Ox Hockey Sponsorship & Bus	Veterans on the Hill	\$2,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support



Saraphina Wilhelm accepts a Post donation check for Cooper Fast pitch softball, presented by Past Commander Fred Crimmins



Commander Rick Godfrey and Auxiliary President Marge Rubenstein are pictured with (center) Messiah and Maggie who received \$100 from the Post & Auxiliary for their Art and will move on to the next level of judging.

Veterans on the Hill at the State Capitol Rotunda Speeches



(standing in the center) Past Commanders Don Fernstrom, Fred Crimmins and Commander Rick Godfrey listen to speeches at the State Capitol Rotunda on Veterans on the Hill.



(Top) Post member Don Halverson and one of the Singing Sergeants
(Below) Don Halverson and Past Commander Fred Crimmins enjoy the music of the Singing Sergeants.

Happy Holidays
& Happy New
Year! - SPC ESPINOZA

Happy Holidays
SGT Meyer
- SGT Gaulrapp

Thanks
- SPC Munkholm
SGT Yang is

- ILT RUI

- SSG RAWLEY

Happy holiday

SPC CARLSON

- SGT Dag

- SGT GACKOWSKI

Thank you! HAPPY
NEW YEAR

- SGT ROBINA

Thank you
SPC WEE

Colnette,

Thank you so much for thinking
of our unit over the holidays.

Receiving the packages that were
put together by VFW Post 4994
and Lions Club of Crystal boosted
moral with the various snacks and
candies. We appreciate all the
love and support!

147th HRC

thanks for your kindness

Friday	Live Music 7:00
May 3	Your Own Band
May 10	CrossFire
May 17	Under Cover
May 24	Wayne & the Boys
May 31	Mr. Winky

Weekly Entertainment

Bar BINGO: 6 PM start Mon. & Thurs.

\$750-\$1,000 Coverall and \$1199

Coverall final game!

Plus we have an exciting progressive **Hot Ball** jackpot if you have a BINGO on the hot ball!



Bar RINGO: Free to play. Eight prize games plus \$500 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

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/meat**



The award-winning *NEWS & VIEWS* is published monthly by Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post 494, 5222 56th Ave N., Crystal, MN 55429. Editing, design and layout by Lifetime Auxiliary member, Lesley Kurke, content management by Quartermaster, Jim Richter.

from the Kitchen and Bar

Welcome to May!

Starting on Wednesday, May 1 there are **NEW DRINK SPECIALS** coming up on Monday—Wednesday from 4-6 pm and on Red Shirt Fridays!

Watch our FaceBook page for upcoming Memorial Day activities.



Memorial Day Flag Raising ceremony on Monday, May 27 at NOON by the flag pole at the Post.

NO RINGO on Memorial Weekend May 25



Last scheduled Bake Sale for summer months . . .

Bake Sale

Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale

1st Wednesday of month

Wednesday, May 1 @ 4:30-7
during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner

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




VFW POST 494 (763) 537-9914



May 2024

* 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
			<p>1. Lunch Special Brats & chips</p> <p>5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork Chop Dinner</p> <p>Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:30-7 pm</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>2 Lunch Special Chow mein hotdish</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>3 Lunch Special Shrimp basket with chips</p> <p>Evening: 1/2 Baked chicken, potato/ gravy, stuffing</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Your Own Band</p>	<p>4 Breakfast 8:00: Blueberry French toast or Waffle</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm</p> <p>RINGO 5:00 PM</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:00</p> <p>Texas Hold 'Em 7pm</p>
<p>5 Breakfast 8:00: Blueberry French toast or Waffle</p>	<p>6 Lunch Special Mandarin orange chicken salad</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>7 Lunch Special Personal 1 topping flatbread pizza</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>8 Lunch Special Goulash & garlic toast</p> <p>5-7pm Lion's Steak Fry</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>9 Lunch Special Beef enchilada hotdish</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>10 Lunch Special Ham & cheese on croissant</p> <p>Evening: Bone-in grilled porkchop</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm</p> <p>Live music 7:00 CrossFire</p>	<p>11 Breakfast 8:00: Eggs Benedict</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm</p> <p>RINGO 5:00 PM</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</p> <p>Texas Hold 'Em 7pm</p>
<p>12 Breakfast 8:00: Eggs Benedict</p>	<p>13 Lunch Special Grilled cheese & tomato soup</p> <p>Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 1:00</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>14 Lunch Special 1/4# burger & fries</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>15 Lunch Special Liver & onions</p> <p>5-7pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>16 Lunch Special Italian Beef dip</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>17 Lunch Special BBQ pulled pork sandwich</p> <p>Evening: Beef Fajitas w/rice & beans</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Under Cover</p>	<p>18 Breakfast 8:00: Country fried Steak</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm</p> <p>RINGO 5:00 PM</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</p> <p>Texas Hold 'Em 7pm</p>
<p>19 Breakfast 8:00: Country fried Steak</p>	<p>20 Lunch Special Sloppy Joes & chips</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>21 Lunch Special 1/2 Waffle and 2 chicken tenders</p> <p>Post and Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm / 6:30</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>22 Lunch Special Tacos: Beef hard or soft shell</p> <p>5-7pm CHEF'S CHOICE</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>23 Lunch Special Spaghetti & meat sauce w/garlic toast</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>24 Lunch Special Tator tot hotdish</p> <p>Evening: BBQ Ribs & baked potato</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Wayne and the Boys</p>	<p>25 Breakfast 8:00: Raspberry fritter French toast</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm</p> <p>NO RINGO</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</p> <p>Texas Hold 'Em 7pm</p>
<p>26 Breakfast 8:00: Raspberry fritter French toast</p>	<p>27 Lunch Special Hot dog or Polish, beans & potato salad</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> 	<p>28 Lunch Special Pork loin, mashed & gravy</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>29 Lunch Special Cuban Sandwich</p> <p>5-7pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Association: Meat loaf dinner</p> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>30 Lunch Special Italian Hoagie</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>31 Lunch Special Egg Salad on croissant</p> <p>Evening: Grilled Shrimp on a Skewer</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm</p> <p>Live music 7:00 Mr. Winky</p>	