

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 • March 2025



Bronze Award National Newsletter
contest for large posts in 2020!

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

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

Post #494 Officers / Trustees
2024-2025

- CommanderRick Godfrey
- Sr. Vice CommanderSandra Lindley
- Jr. Vice Commander.....John Faulk
- QuartermasterJim Richter
- Gambling Manager/
- Ass't. Quartermaster Gene Burdick
- AdjutantSandra Lindley
- ChaplainSteve Jones
- Judge AdvocateDon Fernstrom
- Surgeon Steve Hawk
- Service OfficerDon Fernstrom
- Officer of the DayFred 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 MemberBill Blair
- 1 Yr CMC MemberJim Hagenbrock
- 2 Yr CMC MemberKen Olson
- 2 Yr CMC MemberSteve Jones
- 3 Yr CMC MemberGene Burdick
- 3 Yr CMC MemberMike Johnson
- 3 Yr CMC MemberSteve Hawk

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees
2024-2025

- President Marge Rubenstein
- Sr. Vice President ..Mary Touve-Kackman
- Jr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
- SecretaryDebbie Larson
- Treasurer Pam Aritt
- ChaplainHelen Hauser
- ConductressLori Martens
- Guard Theo Page
- Patriotic Instructor Virginia Sroka
- 1st Yr. Trustee Darlene Hauschildt
- 2nd Yr. TrusteeMarlene 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 is in the air.

We will be having elections on April 22nd.

You can nominate for the following at the March 18th membership meeting:

Commander, Sr vice commander, Jr vice commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, 3 Year Trustee.

Please save the date for Veterans on the Hill: April 9th.

We will take a bus to the capitol. Let me, Jim Richter, or Fred Crimmins know if you want to attend. (see flyer)

What does Veterans Day on the Hill do?

Advocates for veterans' rights

Veterans Day on the Hill is a platform for advocating for veterans' rights and legislation.

Connects veterans with lawmakers

Veterans Day on the Hill provides an opportunity for veterans to connect with lawmakers and voice their support.

Contributes to legislative changes

Veterans Day on the Hill helps contribute to meaningful legislative changes that benefit veterans.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive will be Tuesday, April 1st 1-7, in our banquet room downstairs.

Memorial Day and Poppy Drive Coming in May

Memorial Day will be here before you know it, and so will our Buddy Poppy drive. Stay tuned for Poppy volunteer dates; as we always need help. If you can't commit to a morning or afternoon shift, consider volunteering for an hour or more. For more details, contact Jim Hagenbrock, our Poppy Committee chairman.



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 in order to keep our posts healthy. At our last two membership meetings, we have had a great turnout! Thank you.

(Commander continued next column)

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 come in and participate as you can; 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

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!



 **Veterans Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

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 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

Thank you for supporting our Post,
Jim Richter, Quartermaster

VFW 494 Golf League

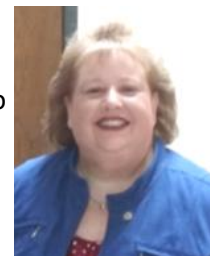
Sure there's snow, but it won't last forever!

Post 494 has a very active golf league and we want you to join with us! We play from April thru October every Tuesday at Eagle Lake Golf Center in Plymouth. Players of every skill level participate and we have loads of fun and get some good exercise. Some of us even learn new vocabulary words! VFW members and anyone invited by a VFW member may play. There is no cost other than your green fees at the course.



Please contact Post Chaplain Steve Jones at stevenmjones82@yahoo.com to get registered to play. THINK SPRING !!

Greetings Members we are almost to the end of our program year 2024-25 and our yearend reporting is due soon to District President Peg.



We decided at our last meeting that we would get together to complete the yearend reports on Saturday, March 15th at 11 AM.

As an Auxiliary we have accomplished much this year and we couldn't have done it without all the help of our members! Thank you all for keeping our Auxiliary strong.

On March 29th we celebrate **National Vietnam War Veterans Day** which is observed annually on this date. It is a national observance that recognizes veterans who served in the US Military during the Vietnam War.

Upcoming Events

- ★ March 3 - Navy Reserve Birthday
- ★ March 5 - Ash Wednesday
- ★ March 9 - Daylight Savings Time ends.
- ★ March 13 - K9 Veterans Day
- ★ March 18 - Auxiliary Meeting 5:30
- ★ March 21 - Rosie Riveter Day
- ★ March 25th - Medal of Honor Day
- ★ March 29th - Vietnam Veterans Day
- ★ March 31st - Year end Reports due

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

Marge Rubenstein
Auxiliary President

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

Paul Thompson

SICK CALL

Craig Dahlin

Mike Fredrickson



Peace, at what Cost?

This may sound funny coming from a Veteran of a Foreign War but I don't like to fight. Conflict and me? We are like oil and water – don't mix. Some of you, DO like to fight, and are even good at it! You embrace conflict and use that conflict to bring about a greater good! I envy you!

But not me, I avoid conflict. Oh sure, nobody can avoid it in this world, and I have learned over the years to manage my fear of fighting. I have to manage those mismatches of vision. But in truth – I really don't like it.

I recently got in a fight with my wife. My wife of forty years! What could we possibly have left to fight about? But we did. For two days, I couldn't sleep, my bowels were in a knot, I could scarcely think; I was miserable. And I was right, which made it worse! Well, somewhat right. Um, there was rightness in my position - <sigh> but a lot of not-rightness too. Now I don't want you to

lose sleep – we made up. We turned to each other and each asked for forgiveness. We forgave each other for the harsh and unhelpful words – the strife – the pain – the division. Good talk, as they say.

The Catholic, the Orthodox, the Lutheran, the Anglican-Episcopal, and some other Christian traditions follow a church year calendar. These traditions have a season called Lent, which is now upon us. Oh, we often joke or make lite about Lent saying we have to give up chocolate, or use a profanity jar, but Lent is a serious and quite beneficial time of the year. For six long weeks before we celebrate the Joy of the Risen Christ – we reflect on His Cross and what put Him there. We look inwards and with sorrow, see our sin. Sin? Well, it's essentially a conflict. A conflict between my will and God's will. What I want and what God knows is best.

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations February 2025

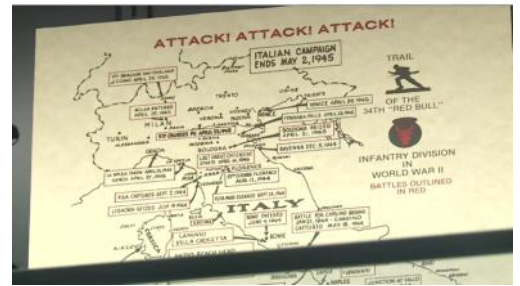
CHARITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Near Crescent Cove	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Veterans Assistance	\$500.00
Volunteer Services	Food Cupboard	\$500.00
CEAP Food Shelf	CRRC 8032 Fund	\$500.00
Park Center Traveling Basketball	March Food	\$500.00
Cooper Girls Volleyball		\$1,000.00
Armstrong Cooper Girls Fast Pitch		\$2,000.00
MN Wild Sled hockey with disabilities		\$3,000.00
Armstrong Cooper Boys High School Hockey	5 years to 37 years	\$3,000.00
Riverside KELLO Florists		\$1,000.00
Monticello Wrestling & Hockey	Bob Vorderbruggen	\$257.31
Minnesota Green Giants 14U Girls Hockey	Trip to Marlborough Mass	\$1,000.00
		\$3,000.00

VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

Excerpt from KARE11 news article: [Technical Sgt. Halvorson joined the Arm in 1943. At the age of 20, he was assigned to the 34th Infantry Division Red Bull unit and led a platoon of soldiers from Naples Italy to the border of Switzerland.

The Minnesota National Guard said Halvorson "led his team of machine gun and mortar squadron as they fought for three years through costly, lengthy, but ultimately successful battles."

Halvorson was also present when the German forces surrendered to the American 34th Infantry Division on May 1, 1945.



For his service, Halvorson was awarded the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Unit Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

On Monday, February 24, he received another award: The Medal of Saint George Bronze Medallion to honor Halvorson's "outstanding leadership, technical and tactical competence, and exceptional teamwork."

Halvorson was presented with this high honor during a ceremony held on his 102nd birthday.

A kind gesture that proves even after more than a century, life is still full of surprises.]



"I didn't expect this," Halvorson said. "I had no clue." *credits KARE11 reporting*

VFW Golden Dinner
Saturday, Feb 8 at
Coon Rapids VFW Post 9652




Left: Don Halvorson and Reg Chapman from WCCO at the VFW Golden Dinner celebration. The Golden Dinner is a fundraiser for youth activities.

Above: Dinner guests honored Don's upcoming 102nd birthday and military service with a round of applause and the Happy Birthday song.


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 Crystal, MN 55428
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Jason Lindberg
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Friday	Live Music 7:00
March 7	Backyard Band
March 14	Miller Brothers
March 21	Percolators
March 28	Tailspin

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

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 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.

from the Kitchen and Bar

Spring is in the air!

Come on in on Saturday, March 8 for the Chili Feed sponsored by the 2nd



Brigade Motorcycle Club. Eat some



delicious chili during the meat raffle.

Sunday, March 23rd Purse Bingo sponsored by Chester bird Legion Auxiliary, 1 pm in the lower level.



Bake Sale

Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale

1st Wednesday of month during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner

Wednesday, March 5 ~ 4:45

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



March 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
		<i>Fiesta Tuesdays</i>				1 Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits & Gravy w/2 eggs Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 Texas Hold 'me 7:00
2 Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits & Gravy w/2 eggs	3 Lunch Special Goulash w/garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9	4 Lunch Special <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	5 Lunch Special Fish Basket 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 Ash Wednesday	6 Lunch Special Hot Turkey Sandwich Bar Bingo 6-9	7 Lunch Special 3 Fish Tacos Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Backyard Band	8 Breakfast 8:00: Blueberry Pancakes Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 PM Texas Hold 'me 7:00
9 Breakfast 8:00: Blueberry Pancakes	10 Lunch Special Nan's Chicken Salad Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30 Bar Bingo 6-9	11 Lunch Special <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> Beef Burritos DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	12 Lunch Special VFW Chicken bowl (Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes, Corn & Gravy) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry </div> KARAOKE 7:30	13 Lunch Special Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Bar Bingo 6-9	14 Lunch Special Shrimp Basket Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Miller Brothers	15 Breakfast 8:00: Eggs Benedict Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 PM Texas Hold 'me 7:00
16 Breakfast 8:00: Eggs Benedict	17 Lunch Special Special: Corned beef & cabbage Bar Bingo 6-9 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18 Lunch Special <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> Chicken Enchilada Post Meeting 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting 5:30 pm DJ Trivia 6:30 pm	19 Lunch Special Liver & Onions <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 5-7 pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner </div> KARAOKE 7:30	20 Lunch Special BBQ Chicken sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	21 Lunch Special Walleye Fingers Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Percolators	22 Breakfast 8:00: Country Fried Steak Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 PM Texas Hold 'me 7:00
23 Breakfast 8:00: Country Fried Steak Chester bird Legion Purse Bingo 1pm Lower level 	24 Lunch Special Chow Mein Hotdish Bar Bingo 6-9	25 Lunch Special <i>Fiesta Tuesday</i> 3 beef tacos	26 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner </div> KARAOKE 7:30	27 Lunch Special Spaghetti & Meatball w/garlic toast Bar Bingo 6-9	28 Lunch Special Egg Salad sandwich Evening: Fish Fry Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Tailspin	29 Breakfast 8:00: Mexican Skillet Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:30 PM Texas Hold 'me 7:00
30 Breakfast 8:00: Mexican Skillet	31 Lunch Special Pork Loin					