

CHARLES R. KNAEBLE V.F.W. POST #494
5222 56TH Avenue North
Crystal, MN 55429

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT 2596



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 • January 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 Day Fred Crimmins
- Door Guard.....Bill Blair
- 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 Member Jim Hagenbrock
- 2 Yr CMC Member Ken Olson
- 2 Yr CMC Member Steve Jones
- 3 Yr CMC Member Gene Burdick
- 3 Yr CMC MemberMike Johnson
- 3 Yr CMC MemberAnthony Gale

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees

2024-2025

- President Marge Rubenstein
- Sr. Vice President ..Mary Touve-Kackman
- Jr. Vice PresidentLisa Sundberg
- Secretary Debbie 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:

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The auxiliary had its annual Children's Fest at the Crystal Community Center on December 7th. It was a rousing success.

Many thanks to our Auxiliary for their hard work as well as thanks to Sandra Lindley for helping out. The Midwinter Conference is coming up on the weekend of January 10th-12th. The location is the Marriott in Brooklyn Center.

I would like to thank all of our regular customers who support our post. We appreciate your business, and you don't go unnoticed. Also thank you to all our staff for all you do to make our VFW a place that the community and members want to support!

Bob Parlow and I are visiting Veterans at Suite Living in Crystal. We have other residences that could use some visitors as well. If you are interested, please let me know.

Let's keep our membership up in order 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, veterans' resources are only a few of the things we support.

There are many reasons to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), including:

Camaraderie: Be part of a global network of combat veterans who support each other

Access to resources: Get access to a wide range of resources, including assistance with securing benefits

Discounts: Receive discounts on products and services, including the VFW Store

Membership benefits: Take advantage of benefits like insurance, financial services, and travel discounts

Make a difference: Be a voice for veterans and their families, and help make a difference in local and national legislative battles

Support veterans: Volunteer at hospitals, adopt military units, and promote patriotism

Scholarships and awards: The VFW awards scholarships and other incentives to students and veterans

Continued next column

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 Communications:

- ★ **EMAIL:** If you would like to receive the Post newsletter in PDF format, please contact me via Email at: quartermaster494@comcast.net with your email address. You will receive your electronic newsletter in color, get it more quickly, and help out the Post by saving us the cost to print and mail.

Calendar printouts are available by the sign in book.

- ★ **ADDRESS CHANGES:** Please notify us ASAP of any change (temporary or permanent) in your mailing address, as there is a charge to the Post for each newsletter that is undeliverable.

Visit our website: crystalvfw.com

Visit our FaceBook page: [VFW Post 494](https://www.facebook.com/VFWPost494)

Thank you for supporting our Post,
Jim Richter, Post 494 Quartermaster

Good of the Order

I spent Christmas Day 1966 on LZ Hammond in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam. I had only been "in country" about sixty days.

My unit, the 7th BN 13th Artillery, was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

We had agreed upon a truce between the American and ARVN forces, and the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, exchanging Christmas Day for a similar truce during the Tet Holiday.

We heard that there would be a USO show on Christmas Day at 1300 hours. We were excited to learn that Nancy Sinatra, "These Boots Are Made for Walking," was on the bill. The other headliner was the Rev. Billy Graham. Men of a certain age, most of us went to see Nancy.

The performance was in a bowl-shaped depression in a valley in the Central Highlands

Continued next page



surrounded by mountains. The ground was mostly mud, with a temporary wooden stage and a canvas awning to protect the performers from the monsoon rain.

We wanted to get there early to secure the best seats. When we arrived, helicopters were landing and discharging our infantry brothers from out “in the field,” which was mostly triple canopy jungle. Their uniforms were torn and covered with mud. They sat by units, behind their guidons. We decided to take seats in the back.



There were about 3,000 troops present, out of the 15,000-man division. Nancy came out in a turquoise minidress and white knee-high boots and sang her signature song. We all joined in. I think you can imagine the reaction.

It was time for Billy Graham. Rev. Graham only spoke for about ten minutes, mostly offering words of encouragement. Then he turned the program over to his music director, George Beverly Shea. He, Cliff Barrows, and others sang some Christmas Carols and then invited us all to join in on Silent Night. Nancy Sinatra and Billy Graham sang along.

I don't think I will ever experience a more emotional rendering of Silent Night. Three thousand male voices, resonating through the valley on a wet, dark and dismal day. As I looked about the audience, I saw a lot of tears.

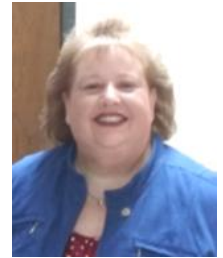
Statistically, ten percent of us would not survive to see another Christmas. Thirty percent would return home with life altering physical wounds. All of us would return with some form of mental anguish, some of which we carry to this day. The words “sleep in heavenly Peace” were never so meaningful to me.

Merry Christmas and God bless us all in the New Year!

Don Fernstrom,
Service officer &
Past Commander

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings members, here we are starting a new year. Let's continue our commitment to helping Veterans and their families.



Our consolidation with West Metro Aux is now completed, and we are working together on our projects and helping Veterans and their families.

On December 7th, we attended Winterfest at the Crystal Community Center where we handed out Cookies and Gift Bags to the children. What a great turnout! We handed out over 300 gift bags! Thank you to Jr. Vice Lisa Sundberg for coordinating and working this event along with helpers Christina Sundberg, Lori Martens, Debbie Larson and me.

Upcoming Events:

January 1 – New Years Day

January 4 – World Braille Day

January 6 – World Day of War Orphans

January 9 – Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

January 10 – 12 Midwinter Conference Marriott NW

January 19 – Confederate Hero's Day.

January 20 – Martin Luther King Day.

January 27 – Holocaust Remembrance Day.

January 31 – National Hot Chocolate Day.

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

Loyally

Marge Rubenstein,
Auxiliary President



Commander Rick Godfrey presents a check for \$1,000 to a happy group of 11-13 year old kids from MBA Sports Academy, supporting their travel to Henderson, NV to play in a football tournament.



Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Steve Jones

Taps & Sick Call

TAPS



SICK CALL

Craig Dahlin
Mike Fredrickson

And This Will Be a Sign

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **And this will be a sign for you:** you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:8-14)*

I hope you received some nice presents during this gift-giving season. The best ones are those which come from true heartfelt sincerity. That is the emotion underlying God's gift of a Savior: His heart moved for you in love and caring. Christmas Gift? "For God so loved The World that He Gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

May your New Year be filled with prosperity, good health, family and friends. See you at the Post!



Left to right:
Firefighter su
Neal Broten,
Commander

Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations December

CHARITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Near	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans Assistance	\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Food Cupboard	\$500.00
NAMI	Christmas Fund	\$3,000.00
City of Crystal	DARE	\$4,000.00
City of Crystal	Police Explorers	\$3,000.00
City of Crystal	Hearing Impaired	\$5,000.00
City of Crystal	Activity Assistance for Recreation Programs	\$5,000.00
City of Crystal	K-9	\$10,000.00



VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

Operation Healing Hero's hockey game: Supporting Veterans & PTSD




Dennis Maddox 7th District Commander; Billy Hayes, 911 NY survivor and Commander of NYFD VFW Post 12033; Don Halverson, 1980 Olympic Champion and former NHL Pro; Past VFW Post 494 Fred Crimmins



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Total Register Systems, Inc.
 21265 Concord St. NW
 Elk River, MN 55330
 763-537-1906




HACKENMUELLER MEATS
 U.S. CHOICE OF MEATS, HOMEMADE SAUSAGE, HOME SMOKED HAMS & BACON

GORDY LINDENFELSER
 4159 WEST BROADWAY
 ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422
 PHONE: 763-537-4811



**Your advertising could occupy
 this space! Call 612-805-3561
 to place an ad.**


NEW HOPE BOWL
 7107 42nd Ave North
 New Hope, MN 55427
 763-537-9376



ARBOR TREE SERVICE INC.
 A FULL SERVICE TREE CO.
 Commercial & Residential

Matthew Brugger
 P.O. Box 290298
 Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Bus: 763-560-0666
 Fax: 763-585-0465
 Cell: 763-568-1004



Uptown Lawn & Snow Offering...

- Snow Removal
- Lawn Care
- Fertilizing

763-592-5296 or www.uptownlawnandsnow.com
 5225 Twin Lake Blvd E, Brooklyn Center, MN

Derek Krempin
 Commercial Representative
 763-535-4774 O
 612-289-0121 C

METRO GARAGE DOOR
 8175 Lewis Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427
derek@metrogaragedoor.com



HAWK REALTY CO.

Tony Hawk—Realtor®, CRS, GRI / Broker
 612-816-2100
 email: tony@hawkrealtyco.com
www.hawkrealtyco.com

Mike Bauermeister
 14 years of heating and cooling experience
 Bonded and Insured

ALL AMERICAN Heating & Air INC.

612-599-6893
AAHAinc@yahoo.com
www.AllAmericanHeatingAndAirInc.com



Wanda Mitchell
 763.222.4598

Creative Painting MINNESOTA

lilypadgal@yahoo.com
 FB: Creative Painting MN
www.creativepaintingmn.com



Joe's Barbershop

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



Jason Lindberg
 Owner
JasonLfanfarepromotions.com

Fanfare Promotions
 Promotional, Embroidery, Screen Printing, Sports Apparel



Friday	Live Music 7:00
Jan 3	Tailspin
Jan 10	Wayne & the Boys
Jan 17	SainTrio
Jan 24	Brad Raisins
Jan 31	Mr. Winky

Weekly Entertainment

Bar BINGO: 6 PM start Mon. & Thurs.
\$750-\$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 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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's time to thank all of our customers for your support throughout 2024.

May we all have a very healthy and successful 2025.

Sandy, GM



Bake Sale

Is back in February

Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale

1st Wednesday of month

Wednesday, Feb. 5 @ 4:45

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



January 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
<p>29 Breakfast 8:00: Blueberry pancakes with choice of meat</p> <p>Packers @ VIKES NOON</p> 	<p>30 Lunch Special Salisbury Steak with mashed potatoes</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>31 Lunch Special <i>TACO TUESDAY</i> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>NYE Dinner Mystery Bingo DJ Entertainment</p>	<p>1 Lunch Special Sloppy Joe w/chips FULL MENU</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>NO Bake Sale NO Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner NO KARAOKE</p> </div> <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2 Lunch Special Tuma Club w/ bacon, tomato, lettuce</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>3 Lunch Special Pork chop w/mashed potatoes</p> <p>Evening: Shrimp Scampi</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Tailspin</p>	<p>4 Breakfast 8:00: Commander omelet (bacon, tomatoes, stuffed with hash browns and topped with hollandaise)</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00</p>
<p>5 Breakfast 8:00: Commander omelet (bacon, tomatoes, stuffed with hash browns and topped with hollandaise)</p> <p>VIKES @ Lions TBD</p> 	<p>6 Lunch Special Reuben hotdish</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>7 Lunch Special <i>TACO TUESDAY</i> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>8 Lunch Special Oriental Chicken Salad</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</p> </div> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>9 Lunch Special Ham & scalloped potatoes</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>10 Lunch Special Chicken or beef burrito</p> <p>Evening: Chicken and Ribs</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Wayne & the Boys</p>	<p>11 Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits and gravy with 2 eggs</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00 PM</p>
<p>12 Breakfast 8:00: Biscuits and gravy with 2 eggs</p>	<p>13 Lunch Special Cuban Sandwich w/ chips</p> <p>Gambling Mtg 12:00 CMC MTG 12:30</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>14 Lunch Special <i>TACO TUESDAY</i> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>15 Lunch Special Meatloaf with mashed potatoes</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>5-7 pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner</p> </div> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>16 Lunch Special Loaded Baked Potato</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>17 Lunch Special Pork Tenderloin w/ chips</p> <p>Evening: Walleye</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 SainTrio</p>	<p>18 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00 PM</p>
<p>19 Breakfast 8:00: Mess Hall Skillet</p>	<p>20 Lunch Special Salisbury Steak w/ mashed potatoes</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>21 Lunch Special <i>TACO TUESDAY</i> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos</p> <p>Post and Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm / 6:30</p> <p>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</p>	<p>22 Lunch Special Liver & onions with mashed potatoes</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>5-7 pm VFW Rib Dinner</p> </div> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>23 Lunch Special Tatertot hotdish</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>24 Lunch Special Italian Dip</p> <p>Evening: Ribeye Dinner</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Brad Raisins</p>	<p>25 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza</p> <p>Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00 PM</p>
<p>26 Breakfast 8:00: Breakfast Pizza</p>	<p>27 Lunch Special Deluxe grilled cheese with chips</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>28 Lunch Special <i>TACO TUESDAY</i> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos</p>	<p>29 Lunch Special Apple Salad</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>5-7 pm West Metro Fire Dept Relief Assoc. meatloaf dinner</p> </div> <p>KARAOKE 7:30</p>	<p>30 Lunch Special Swedish Meatballs</p> <p>Bar Bingo 6-9</p>	<p>31 Lunch Special Po'Boy Sandwich</p> <p>Evening: Shrimp Scampi</p> <p>Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 7:00 Mr. Winky</p>	