

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!

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

NEWS & VIEWS • December 2024

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

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.....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  
2024

- 1 Yr CMC Member ..... Gene Burdick
- 1 Yr CMC Member .....Don Fernstrom
- 1 Yr CMC Member .....Steve Hawk
- 2 Yr CMC Member ..... Bill Blair
- 2 Yr CMC Member .....Jim Hagenbrock
- 3 Yr CMC Member ..... Ken Olson
- 3 Yr CMC Member ..... Steve Jones

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 ..... Craig Dahlin
- Patriotic Instructor ..... Virginia Sroka
- 1st Yr. Trustee .....Jo Peterson
- 2nd Yr. Trustee .....Helen Hauser
- 3rd Yr. Trustee ..... Darlene Hauschildt

★ 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:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you and your families well. I hope everyone had a happy and filling Thanksgiving Day with all the turkey, ham, and mashed potatoes you could stuff in before going into a food coma.

December 7, 1941: A date which will live in infamy. The United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. Never forget December 7<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a District meeting on Sat., December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Coon Rapids Post beginning at 10 AM. All members are welcome.

Our Auxiliary is having their Winterfest at Crystal Community Center on Sat., December 7th, from 10am-12pm. This free event includes music, captivating entertainment, and various indoor and outdoor activities. Indulge in delicious refreshments while enjoying the festive atmosphere, and don't miss the chance to meet Santa!

Our annual membership dinner that is normally held in December, will instead be held in March 2025. More information to come.

We will be having a New Year's Eve dinner again with your choice of prime rib, walleye, or shrimp scampi. Watch for flyers around the post.

With the help of Gene Burdick (our Gambling manager) and Bob Parlow (an American Legion member), we presented 34 Hero Boxes to the Veterans at Woodlake Assisted Living and Long-Term Care Center. Bob and I also presented two Hero Boxes to two Suite Living residents.

Your Post is doing well still serving veterans and our community. We can't do it without you, so please come down and participate.

If you are on a renewing membership, please remember to renew or switch to a Life Membership. As always, our meetings are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there!

I hope to 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](mailto: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](http://crystalvfw.com)

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

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

## Good of the Order

This is the time of year I can't help remembering Thanksgiving and Christmas 1966. On Thanksgiving Day, my unit was on an operation with the ROK (Republic of Korea) Capital Division, also known as the Tiger Division, in Binh Dinh Province in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. It was during the wet monsoon and rained steadily all day.



We did have Thanksgiving Dinner flown out to us by chopper and served from thermite containers. We ate out of our mess kits and somehow the Pumpkin Pie ended up under the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and cranberry sauce on the bottom. Rainwater dripped off our steel pots into the food but, we enjoyed it just the same. Somehow it still reminded us of Thanksgiving meals at home with our families.

As we sat there on our haunches eating from our mess kits, we couldn't help but laugh at the circumstances. I don't remember being in a holiday truce but, maybe due to the weather, we weren't getting shot at.

One of our soldiers was a distant relative of Daniel Boone, I didn't know his first name, we normally just used last

names unless we knew someone well. We just called him Boone. He broke out his guitar and put on a conical peasant hat as we sang songs that reminded us of home. I'm sure there were tears shed but, it was hard to tell in the rain.

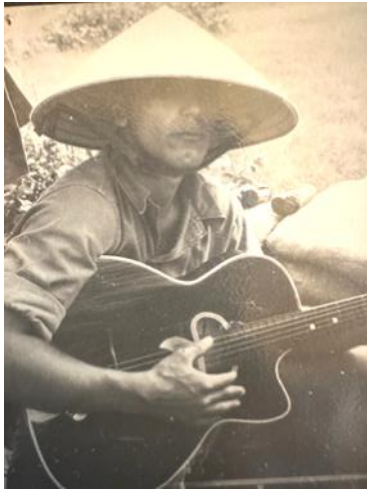
During the Christmas truce we had a lot of enemy movement spotted in our area. We were not allowed to fire on them because of the truce. One night after the truce ended, they surrounded an LZ (Landing Zone) that was just out of our range. They tried to overrun it and succeeded in occupying the gun pits of the 155mm. howitzers and several 105 mm. howitzers before they were driven back by beehive rounds in direct fire.

I mention this as a reminder that we still have troops stationed around the world protecting our freedoms as we enjoy the holidays this year. Their sacrifices need to be recognized. We will never know if they succeeded in their mission. We only know of their failures.

Thank God for men and women like these, who selflessly sacrifice their holidays at home with their loved ones, so that we can enjoy ours in peace and freedom. God bless them and their families.

Never forget!

Don Fernstrom,  
Service officer & Past Commander



## from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings Members,

Here we are at the last month of 2024. Where has the year gone? 2025 is just right around the corner!

On December 4th we will hold our consolidation meeting, between Crystal and Golden Valley Auxiliary beginning at 7pm, please try and come if you can. We also will elect officers at that meeting to finish out the 2024 -25 Auxiliary year. I'm looking forward to a Great transition as we become one!

December 7th marks the 83rd Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Please take a moment on that day to remember those that perished and those that survived.

Department Midwinter Convention will be held at the Marriott in Brooklyn Park on January 10-12.

### December Dates to Remember

- ★ Weds., Dec 4 Consolidation Meeting / election of officers
- ★ December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- ★ Sat., December 7: District Meeting-Coon Rapids 10 AM Start.
- ★ Sat., December 7: Winterfest -Crystal Community Center.
- ★ Fri., December 13: National Guard Birthday.
- ★ Fri., December 20: Space Force Birthday.
- ★ Wed., December 25: Christmas Day and Hanukkah Begins.
- ★ Thur., December 26: Kwanzaa
- ★ Tues., December 31: New Years Eve

Wishing you and your families a Joyous Holiday Season!

Thank You members, for you're continued support.

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

Loyally

Marge Rubenstein  
Auxiliary President



# Bake Sale

**Post #494 Auxiliary Bake Sale**

**1st Wednesday of month**

**Wednesday, Dec. 4 @ 4:45**

**during Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner**



### Chaplain's Corner



**Helen Hauser**

### Taps & Sick Call

**TAPS**



**SICK CALL**

**Craig Dahlin  
Mike Fredrickson**

Happy Holidays!

Can you believe it's December already? Christmas music is already playing on the radio and the spirit of the holidays is in the air. The stores are decked out with festive decorations and the checkout lines are long with all the shoppers scrambling to get the best gifts.

This time of the year brings back memories of my childhood. I loved baking cookies with my Mom and helping prepare the delicious holiday feast for my large family of nine! We had a tradition of opening our presents on Christmas Eve so we couldn't wait until supper was over. We couldn't open our presents until the dishes were done so we worked as fast as we could to them done. After all the presents were opened and the wrapping paper tucked away it was time for midnight mass. Singing Christmas carols along with the choir was the perfect ending to a wonderful day.

Every culture has their own treasured holiday traditions. Christians decorate their homes and Christmas trees and use the Advent Calendar to count down the days until Christmas. Our Jewish friends celebrate Hanukkah by spinning the dreidel and lighting the candles on the menorah. Some other interesting traditions from around the world include Night of the Radishes in Mexico, a celebration of oversized radishes, which are carved into intricate displays. In Italy they celebrate the Feast of the Seven Fishes and for millions of people in Japan, a traditional holiday dinner means a bucket of KFC!

While you are celebrating with your family traditions let's not forget about our veterans. Try to take some time out of your busy schedule to visit our veterans and let them know that they are not forgotten. Maybe a visit to the veteran's home can become a new family tradition.

May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door.

Holiday Blessings To All!

Helen Hauser – Auxiliary Chaplain



### Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 Gambling Monthly Donations for November

CHARITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Near	Food Shelf	\$500.00
Crescent Cove	Children's Hospice	\$500.00
Every Third Saturday	Veterans Assistance	\$500.00
Volunteer ServicesCRRC 8032 Fund		\$500.00
North Hennepin Community College	Food Cupboard	\$500.00
Osseo Park Center	Girl's Hockey	\$500.00
Blue Star Mothers of America	Care Packages	\$500.00
NHCC – John Diedrich Endowed Scholarship		\$3,000.00
NHCC – Albert D. Law Endowed Scholarship		\$1,000.00
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Annual Scholarship		\$3,000.00
US Air Force Civil Air Patrol – Crystal Airport		\$1,000.00
Winterfest Celebration – Crystal Community Center		\$1,100.00
City of Crystal – K9		\$10,000.00



# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

## 34 Hero Boxes for the Veterans at Woodlake Assisted Living and Long-Term Care Center



**LEFT:** Commander Rick Godfrey and American Legion member Bob Parlow visit Ray, a Veteran resident at Suite Living in Crystal to bring him a Hero Box



**ABOVE:** On Nov 17, Veterans Duane Fuller from Springfield, Missouri and the Delano Steinbeck from Foley, Minnesota received Hero Boxes from our Post.



**RIGHT:** Rev. Steve Jones, our Post Chaplain, with more Hero Box recipients.





# VFW Post 494 Veteran and Community Support

## Hero Boxes distributed to Veterans at the LaCrosse VA Clinic



## Legacy Wall

Commander Rick Godfrey with Fred Jenness and his Gold Legacy Membership Plaque



Commander Rick Godfrey with Don Halverson and his Gold Legacy Membership Plaque

Friday	Live Music 7:00
Dec. 6	Lost Marbles
Dec. 13	Crossfire
Dec. 20	Miller Brothers
Dec. 27	Stir Krazy

# 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**



It's the holiday season! With that in mind, we have two upcoming craft fairs, so come on in and buy some gift items and enjoy the baked goodies.



**Sunday, Dec. 8:** Chesterbird Legion Craft fair and Santa Breakfast in the lower level. **9 am to 2pm.**

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 am to 3 pm:** Holiday Craft Market and Bake Sale Sponsored by the Crystal VFW and the Crystal Lion's Club.

**NOTE HOLIDAY HOURS:**

On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) we will close at 5 p.m. and we are **CLOSED** all day on Christmas Day (Dec. 25).

DINNER & MYSTERY BINGO

DEC 31

**NEW YEARS EVE 2024**

PAYOUT \$100 - \$1000

DINNER 4:30 - 8:00  
 BINGO 7:30 (\$35/PACKET - \$5 OFF IF DINING WITH US)

DINNER RSVP @ 763-537-9914  
 BINGO RSVP @ 763-533-0567

**CRYSTAL VFW**

Please call for reservations for our New Years eve dinner. This year the choices are Prime Rib, Walleye, and Shrimp Scampi. We are also having Mystery Bingo with reserved seating and entertainment after that.

I personally hope that everyone has a very happy holiday season.

Sandy

**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

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



# December 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
<b>1 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Biscuits & Gravy w/2 eggs  <b>Cardinals @ VIKES NOON</b>  	<b>2 Lunch Special</b> Parmesan chicken sandwich w/chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>3 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>4 Lunch Special</b> Liver and onions with mashed potatoes  <b>AUX Bake Sale 4:45 pm</b>  <b>5-7 pm Vietnam Vets Pork chop dinner</b>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>5 Lunch Special</b> Chow mein hotdish  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>6 Lunch Special</b> Tuna Melt w/chips  <b>Evening: Prime Rib dinner</b>  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Lost Marbles</b>	<b>7 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Apple Fritter French toast with meat  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b>  <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00</b>
<b>8 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Apple Fritter French toast with meat  <b>Falcons @ VIKES NOON</b>  	<b>9 Lunch Special</b> Chicken Alfredo  <b>Gambling Mtg 12:00</b> <b>CMC MTG 12:30</b>  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>10 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>11 Lunch Special</b> Turkey wrap  <b>5-7 pm Lion's Steak Fry</b>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>12 Lunch Special</b> Meatloaf & mashed potatoes  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>13 Lunch Special</b> Spaghetti & meatball  <b>Evening: Chicken and Ribs</b>  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Crossfire</b>	<b>14 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Country fried steak with 2 eggs  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b>  <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b>
<b>15 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Country fried steak with 2 eggs	<b>16 Lunch Special</b> Tuna hotdish  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>  <b>Bears @ VIKES 7:20 pm</b>  	<b>17 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>Post and Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm / 6:30</b>  <b>DJ Trivia 6:30 pm</b>	<b>18 Lunch Special</b> Liver & onions with mashed potatoes  <b>5-7 pm Westphal Legion Spaghetti Dinner</b>  <b>KARAOKE 7:30</b>	<b>19 Lunch Special</b> Grilled Ham & Cheese sandwich  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>20 Lunch Special</b> Shrimp Basket  <b>Evening: Ribeye</b>  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Miller Brothers</b>	<b>21 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Breakfast Burrito with choice of meat  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b>  <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b>
<b>22 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Breakfast Burrito with choice of meat  <b>VIKES @ Seahawks NOON</b>  	<b>23 Lunch Special</b> Swedish meatballs with mashed potatoes  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>24 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>CLOSING AT 5 PM TODAY!!</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>CLOSED ALL DAY</b>	<b>26 Lunch Special</b> Egg Salad sandwich with chips  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>27 Lunch Special</b> Italian Beef Sandwich with chips  <b>Evening: Walleye Dinner</b>  <b>Meat Raffle 4pm</b>  <b>Live music 7:00</b> <b>Stir Crazy</b>	<b>28 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Blueberry pancakes with choice of meat  <b>Meat raffle 2 pm</b>  <b>RINGO 5:00 PM</b> <b>KARAOKE 7:00 PM</b>
<b>29 Breakfast 8:00:</b> Blueberry pancakes with choice of meat  <b>Packers @ VIKES NOON</b>  	<b>30 Lunch Special</b> Salisbury Steak with mashed potatoes  <b>Bar Bingo 6-9</b>	<b>31 Lunch Special</b> <b>TACO TUESDAY</b> 3 beef hard or soft shell tacos  <b>New Year's Eve Dinner</b> <b>Mystery Bingo Entertainment (see flyer p. 7)</b>				