

IN MEMORY OF  
CHARLES  
FINCK, SR.



35- Year member of the Elk River American Legion, Charlie Finck, died on Monday, August 26, 2024, when the plane he was piloting crashed near Wayne, Nebraska. While the crash is still under investigation it is thought that bad weather may have been a factor. A second crash also killing the pilot had occurred less than an hour before.

Past Commander and good friend of Charlie's, John Salk shared the following memories of Charlie.

Charlie went "up through the chairs" as we used to say. That means he was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and Post Commander in consecutive years. He was the Post Finance Officer for many years....at least 10. Our Post hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> District Convention in 1996, and Charlie was the convention committee chair. Back then it was a three-day affair which included a Past Commanders Dinner, a Gold Star Mothers luncheon, a parade, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, a Sunday Memorial Service as well as conducting the business of the District Convention. New District Officers were elected and installed, resolutions were brought up and voted on, etc. All these activities needed venues, and Charlie was instrumental in securing the sites. He was the driving force behind the Post's Annual Community Christmas Party. The south hall was decorated like a forest in winter with actual trees and of course Santa's chair was also there. Most of these ideas were Charlies. The public was welcome, all got a free meal, kids met with Santa and received a gift. This was made possible by a late summer pork chop dinner organized by Lorraine Salk. The entire Christmas party was paid for from the proceeds not costing the Post a dime.

Charlie was also a proud member of the Post Honor Guard for over 30 years and proudly carried the U.S. Flag in countless parades, community events and many funerals.

Charlie served with the U.S. Air Force.