



December 2022 Newsletter

American Legion Urbandale Post 663

6805 Douglas Avenue

Urbandale IA 50322

Phone: 515-278-8940

OFFICERS LIST

Commander	Mike Knight	515-556-9239	Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1st Vice	Connie Gregory	515-210-8158	Finance Officer	Ted Rutherford	515-240-0241
2nd Vice	Larry Draughn	515-238-1856	Sgt-At-Arms	Mark Dreckman	515-491-8973
Adjutant	Dan Good	515-444-1701	Membership	Peg Mullen	515-205-6853
Historian			Facility Manager	Fred Gagen	515-669-2612
Service Officer	Robert Morris	515-278-4231	Bldg. Rental		
Auxiliary President	Joann Hotovec	515-306-1926			

WWW.POST663.ORG

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." – Elmer Davis

From the Desk of the Commander:

Commanders Comments: I want to wish Happy Holidays to all of my fellow Legion members of Post 663.

A drawing was held on November 17 for the mobility scooter that was donated to the post. Happily, I was the winner. It is with great pleasure that I am passing along this very important prize to a very deserving American Legion Post 663 member. It will have a huge impact on the quality of his life and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to do this for him especially at this time of the year.

Wreaths Across America – December 17, 2022

I am so very proud to announce that this year Post 663, VFW Post 9668, Urbandale Lions Club, Urbandale Historical Society, and the Urbandale Department of Parks and Recreation have formed a partnership and have been accepted to Wreaths Across America and will be responsible for McDivitt Grove Cemetery now and in the future years to come.

This year McDivitt Grove Cemetery, 70th & Meredith Drive, Urbandale, has been registered to participate in the Wreaths Across America laying event on December 17, at 10 A. M. We have over 100 veterans resting in McDivitt Grove Cemetery. Although our ceremony will not be as elaborate as the Iowa Veterans Cemetery ceremony, we will have a Color Guard, opening remarks by Urbandale Mayor Bob Andeweg, and the placing wreaths commemorating the various branches of the U.S. Military. This will be followed by volunteers picking up wreaths at selected locations and moving throughout the cemetery, placing wreaths at marked veteran headstones, until all veteran wreaths have been placed. Due to limited parking space in the cemetery, parking will be in the north parking lot of New Hope Church, ½ block south of the cemetery on 70th Street. We plan on having the Boy Scouts help us and I am asking for volunteers to help set up wreath distributions in the cemetery, set up the portable sound system and place six commemorative wreaths on easels at the opening ceremony.

Please show up by 9 A.M. if you choose to help. Commander Post #663

Michael Knight

Membership Report:

We have two months left in the calendar year, Our Post currently has 226 members in good standing for 2023. We still have quite a few members that have not renewed for the new year yet. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the Post, the American Legion or some other factor that may be preventing you from renewing at this time. I would appreciate the opportunity to talk with you, before your membership expires. Every membership is critical as we work to support our local veterans, and community. Thank you for your support of Post 663. Peg Mullen, Membership chairperson rpusn20@gmail.com

DINNER MEETING:

Fellow Legionnaires: We are entering a very busy time Don't forget your tickets for the December 15TH Potluck. There is no charge for this dinner, but we are using the tickets as a way to obtain a headcount. The post is providing the main dish and the side items are according to the following: Last name A-I vegetable dish Last name J-Q salad and Last name R-Z Dessert. You may contact me at 515- 278-4231 or at robertmorris4710@gmail.com to obtain your tickets. We also have one delegate for Boys State June 11-16 at Camp Dodge. If you know of a current Junior in high school that would like to attend, there is still time to get them registered.

Robert Morris, Service Officer

Urbandale Auxiliary Unit 663:

The Auxiliary will take care of the decorations for the Christmas dinner on Dec 15.

On Dec 20 at 8am in the Legion Hall we will help to fill the Christmas bags for the veterans. Our next meeting will be Dec 27 at 1pm in the Hall.

Looking ahead to Feb 16, we are planning a Valentine's dinner catered by Hot Tamale Catering. Put this on your calendar and we will have more details soon.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you from the Auxiliary.

Joann Hotovec, President



**URBANDALE POST 663
6805 DOUGLAS AVENUE
Urbandale IA 50322**

**Officer's Meeting First Thursday
of the Month @ the Post**

**December 7, Pearl Harbor Day
December 15, Potluck / Christmas
Dinner (Meat & Potatoes
Furnished by Post)**

**December 19, First Day of
Hanukkah**

December 21, First Day of Winter

December 25, Christmas Day

**December 27, Auxiliary Meeting
1PM @ Legion**

December 31, New Year's Eve

January 1, 2023 New Year's Day

January 21, Chili Dinner

**December 15th Christmas
Potluck Dinner Meat, Scalloped
Potatoes, Gravy, & Coffee
Furnished by Legion.**

A-I Vegetable, J-Q Salad

R-Z Dessert, Dinner 6:00 PM

Christmas Raffle



December Potluck Dinner: Our December dinner will be December 15. As usual, we will gather about 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. While there is no charge for the dinner, please contact service officer Robert Morris to make a reservation. Email Robert at Morris4710@aol.com or call him at 515-278-4231. Reservations are important so the Post can provide enough smoked pork loin and scalloped potatoes. Individuals are asked to bring additional food as follows: Last Names A – I – vegetable; J – Q – Salad; R – Z – Dessert.

Christmas Raffle: One of our skilled craftsmen has built a cherry drop leaf side table which will be up for raffle at the Christmas Potluck. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. Please bring your wallet and be ready to purchase your tickets. The retail value of the table is \$100.00. Let's raise at least that much for Post 663.

Veterans' Christmas Baskets: We are ready for one of the most important activities for Post 663, the preparation and delivery of Christmas Baskets for veterans at the Central Iowa Veterans Hospital, local care facilities and those who are home bound. We anticipate packing delivering about 265 baskets this year. Product has been gathered and the baskets will be packed on Tuesday December 20 starting at 8:00 a.m. Please come to the Post before 8 to help pack baskets. We will deliver baskets that afternoon and on Wednesday December 21. Please come to help. Many hands make the project go quickly and easily.

Chili Dinner: As in recent years, there will be a special chili dinner to raise funds for the Post in January. The dinner will be held on JANUARY 21, 2023. The cost will be \$10.00 per plate. Advanced sales are required. Tickets will be on sale at the December Potluck. Get yours early and be ready to enjoy a special social event. This dinner will replace our normal January dinner meeting.

Flags for Sale:

American Legion Post 663 sells new flags in three sizes

3X5 - \$30.00, 4X6 - \$40.00,
5X8 - \$50.00 The post keeps several in stock.