



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



DECEMBER 2025

Commander	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1 st Vice	Jim Cade	515-205-7054
2 nd Vice (Comms)	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600 or 515-850-7348 namcdowell2@gmail.com
Adjutant	Stephen Smith	515-745-7236 ss49er@hotmail.com
Service Officer	OPEN	
Membership	Peg Mullen	515-205-6853
Auxiliary President	Joann Hotovec	515-306-1926
Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
Finance Officer	Don Swan	515-710-5350
Sgt-At-Arms	Larry Draughn	515-254-0805
Building Rental	Dennis Appelhons	515-681-9663
Post Contact Info Post Website Post FB Group Post FB Page	6805 Douglas Ave Urbandale IA 50322	515-278-8940 http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org https://www.facebook.com/groups/1613927332248092 https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583540094669

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Peg Mullen by Tuesday, 12.16.25. RSVPS may be made through Peg's cell phone at 515-205-6853 or to the Post email legionpost663@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet available at the Post. December's Dinner will be a potluck with a main entree of Olive Garden Lasagna being offered by a partnership between the West Des Moines Olive Garden and the Post. We encourage members to bring their favorite sides and/or desserts.





American Legion Urbandale Post 663



“May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.” - unknown

From the Desk of the Commander

Commander Stark is out of town and wishes all Post & Auxiliary members the merriest of Christmases. He hopes to see everyone at Wreaths Across America and the December Holiday Dinner Meeting.

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

In November the Auxiliary had 2 successful projects. The time spent at Camp Dodge was responsible for 3015 Christmas packages sent to those deployed. Many of our members attended the November Legion dinner and provided the dessert. In December we look forward to helping the Legion members fill Christmas bags for our Veterans. We will meet at the Legion Hall on Monday, December 15 at 9am. In place of our regular meeting in December we plan to attend the Legion dinner on the third Thursday. This will be a potluck. Throughout the year our members have sent birthday cards to the Veterans Home in Marshalltown. Thank you to everyone for all that you have done.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663

From the Adjutant

As 2025 comes to a close, I wish you all “Merry Christmas” and a “Very Happy New Year”. A brief recap of the Post 663 activities in 2025:

In case you haven't noticed, there is a beautiful Patriotic Mural on the east side of our building. Things like that don't just happen. Several people invested a bunch of hours in the selection and preparation processes so that the entire population of Urbandale can enjoy it. Thanks to all of them. In addition, our Legion Family raised money through the annual Poppy sale, participated in the 4th of July Parade, Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities, assisted with quarterly food drives, sent area high schoolers to Girls State and Boys State, participated in the Fifth Grade American Flag Essay Contest (WE judged 137 entries), raised money to provide Christmas Bags to Veterans, assisted with the Homeless Veterans Stand down, and volunteered a large number of hours to



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



many charitable organizations. That's what we do in our spare time! Kind of makes us feel tired, But Good! Enjoy the holidays! See you next year.

Steve Smith, Adjutant Post 663

From the Membership Chair

Membership renewals for 2026 were pretty slim over the last month. Please remember that your membership expires on December 31 of the paid year shown on your membership card. If dues are not paid by Jan 1 of each calendar year, you will be considered delinquent, and if not paid by Feb 1, you will be suspended. If this happens, you may not continue to receive your National, State or Post communication -- such as Legion magazines, newsletters and emails. Right now we are almost at 200 members in good standing, with a goal of 250.

Any questions about your membership, please let me know, as I'm happy to help. Also -- please let me know if you have a new mailing address, email address, or phone number -- so we can keep your profile up to date in an effort to be sure you are receiving all communication. Thanks to each of you for your continued support of Post 663 -- it is much appreciated.

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair Post 663

From the 1st Vice

Commander Stark is out of the country, so few thoughts from me. Thanks to everyone who assisted with collecting money at Hy Vee for Veterans Bags. Please plan to participate in Wreaths Across America at McDivitt Cemetery on Saturday, December 13th, 10 am If you are able. Our Christmas Pot Luck is Thursday, December 18th at 6 pm. Veteran Bags filling is Monday, December 15th at 9:00 am at the Post. Please come and participate, showing support for our Post.

Jim Cade, 1st Vice Post 663

From the 2nd Vice/Comms

Community Support for our new Facebook Page continues to grow as does my hope for community involvement and interaction. I'd love to highlight Post & Auxiliary Members throughout the upcoming months - a picture and a small write-up about YOU! This would be entirely optional and nothing would ever be shared without your permission. If you'd like to be featured, please reach out to me. When I run out of volunteers, I'll start asking people directly and let me tell you, I've got my eyes on you, Jerry Robertson. :)



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



The City of Urbandale recently made changes to their grant submittal process and that, along with the grant deadline date lead to me handling the submission of the Post's request for grants. My understanding is that it is the most ambitious Post request to date. We will learn the status of our grant request just in time to announce at our December Dinner meeting. If you want to be one of the first to know, clear your calendar and plan to join us! I will continue to pursue grants and financial donations from businesses/organizations throughout the metro, especially as we look towards a long-term, future goal of a kitchen upgrade/update and bathroom renovation. (Please note - these are pie in the sky goals, nothing is official/contracted/or discussed in any way other than a 'I wish we could' type of way.)

As cold temperatures and bad weather continue throughout our winter wonderland, please don't hesitate to reach out if I can help with errands/grocery pick up/ adding things to a Sam's Club order, etc. I work in downtown DSM, I live in Waukee, drive to Ankeny at least 3 times a week, have all wheel drive, and am well-insured. I'd be happy to help keep you out of the cold and the snow/ice, especially if your family isn't close by.

And lastly, my baby girl just turned 16. I welcome your prayers over our family - for her safety and for my sanity.

Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663

December Post Meeting/Dinner

The Post's December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, at 6:00 with cocktail/social beginning at 5:30. Please RSVP to Peg Mullen (515-205-6853 or legionpost663@gmail.com). December's Dinner will be a potluck with a main entree of Olive Garden Lasagna being offered by a partnership between the West Des Moines Olive Garden and the Post. We encourage members to bring their favorite sides and/or desserts. If you need more guidance on what to bring, the Post offers the following guidelines:

Last Names A-M: Apps Last Names N-Q: Sides, Last Names R-Z: Desserts

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.



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



Community Events

Wreaths Across America - McDivitt Grove Cemetery on Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 am. There will be parking available at New Hope Church Parking Lot with limited onsite parking for those with disabilities at 7001 Meredith. Please join us after the ceremony at the Post for coffee and camaraderie.

Veterans Christmas Baskets - We will fill Veterans Christmas Baskets at the Post on Monday, December 15, at 9:00 am and would welcome as many volunteers as are able to join us.

Reminders & Requests

Newsletter: The Post will have two methods of distribution - mailed & emailed. The lowest cost option for our Post is to receive the newsletter by email. If you know a fellow Post member who does not receive the newsletter, please direct them to Nichole McDowell (515-729-4600 or legionpost663@gmail.com). We have heard of a few members of the Post and Auxiliary who have found their newsletters in spam or junk folders - it never hurts to check there if you think you've been left off the list!

Social Media: The Post has a Facebook presence in the following ways: A private group specifically for members of Post 663 and a public page that represents the post. The intent of the public page is to assist in recruitment efforts as well as engage with the community. The Private Group is accessible by clicking [here](#) and the Public Page is accessible by clicking [here](#).