



**American Legion Urbandale Post 663**

**January 2024**

**6805 Douglas Avenue**

**Urbandale IA 50322**

**For further information Phone: 515-278-8940**

**www.urbandaleamericanlegion.org**

**OFFICERS LIST**

Commander	Mike Knight	515-556-9239	Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1st Vice	Connie Gregory	515-210-8158	Finance Officer	Don Swan	515-710-5350
2nd Vice	Larry Draughn	515-238-1856	Sgt-At-Arms	Mark Dreckman	515-491-8973
Adjutant	Steve Smith	515-745-7236	Membership	Peg Mullen	515-205-6853
Historian			Facility Manager	Fred Gagen	515-669-2612
Service Officer	Robert Morris	515-278-4231	Bldg. Rental	VFW Rental Team	515-681-9663
Auxiliary President	Joann Hotovec	515-306-1926			

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

**Commanders Comments:**

**From the Desk of the Commander:**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and will continue to have a Happy New Year in 2024.

I was very proud to represent Urbandale Post 663 in this year's Wreaths Across America at McDivitt Cemetery on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. The weather was wet and cold but nothing like last year. We more than doubled our turn out of people attending and with an increase of close to twenty wreaths to the total. The ceremony was attended with representatives from VFW Post 9668, Urbandale Lions Club, Urbandale Historical Society, Urbandale Parks and Recreation, Boy Scouts, Urbandale Fire Department and the Elks Club. The keynote speaker was Urbandale City Councilman Larry McBurney, who gave an outstanding speech on Veterans. The entire Ceremony was filmed by KCCI, Channel 8 and was later broadcasted on the 10PM News Show.

Post 663 will not have an Officers Meeting during the Month of January, but will have one the first of February 2024.

**Commander Michael Knight**

**Post #663**

**Membership Report:**

Thank you to all Post 663 members for a very productive 4th quarter of 2023. We were able to secure 2024 funding via the Urbandale City Council for several of our important initiatives in the coming year -- thanks to our Commander

and others for making that happen. We completed another successful Fifth Grade very grateful for everyone in our Post and Auxiliary, thank Essay contest, "What the Flag Means to Me" -- thank you to those members that helped read and score each essay, and present those awards accordingly. We assisted in the Wreaths Across America at McDivitt Cemetery with other civic groups, and had a wonderful turnout for our annual Veteran Holiday bag project. Thank you so very much to everyone who helped behind the scenes making that event possible, and to those who helped fill bags and deliver bags to local veterans. We finished the year with a fun holiday dinner, complete with entertainment from Carol Stark - thank you, Carol! And a very special shout out to our awesome Auxiliary Unit that is always so supportive and helpful with all of our projects, working right next to our Legionnaires I'm very grateful for everyone in our Post and Auxiliary, thank you for all of your support in 2023..

**Peg Mullen, Membership Chairperson**  
**rpun20@gmail.com**

**Urbandale Auxiliary Unit 663:**

Happy New Year from the Auxiliary! Our next meeting will be January 23 at 1pm at the Legion Hall. Our January project is providing 3 bags for the auction at the February conference. The proceeds will go to help with Girls State expenses. Our bags will have a baking theme and will be filled with various items for baking. Please bring your items to the January meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, let me know.

I will be happy to pick up your items. Thank you.

**Joann Hotovec, President American Legion Auxiliary, Urbandale Unit #663**



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

**No Officer's Meeting in  
January.**

**No Dinner Meeting and  
No Business Meeting In  
January and February**

**Service Officer:**

**Questions or Concerns about  
getting enrolled in the VA  
System** or questions about  
compensation, qualifications, the VA  
Hospital or just how to get your DD-214,  
Please call your Post # 663 Service  
Officer (Robert Morris at 515-278-4231)

**\*\*\* Perform Buddy Checks \*\*\***

Don't forget to check in with a buddy this  
month. A call, text or email to a fellow  
veteran can mean a great deal.

Check in with older veterans in your  
communities to make sure they have the  
supplies they need, are feeling healthy  
and help them acquire the resources  
they need. Of course, Buddy Checks  
can be done with phone calls and  
emails so as not to risk spreading or  
contracting coronavirus.

**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

**Dates to Remember:**

**Officer's Meeting Thursday  
February 1<sup>st</sup> @ the Post**

**January 15, Martin Luther King-  
Day**

**February 2, Ground Hog Day**

**February 14, Valentine's Day**

**Ash Wednesday**

**February 19, Presidents' Day**

**February 29, Leap Year**

**March 10, Daylight Savings  
Begins**

**March 17, St. Patrick's Day**

**March 19, Spring Begins**

**March 24, Palm Sunday**

**March 29, Good Friday**

**March 31, Easter Sunday**