



### American Legion Urbandale Post 663

June 2023

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.urbandaleamericanlegion.org](http://www.urbandaleamericanlegion.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:

Greetings fellow Legionnaires, I hope you are getting ready for a great summer.

I want to let you know that we are not having a Dinner/Meeting for the month of June. The next thing I want to tell you about is from this moment on if you have any questions 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**).

**On June 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00 Post 663 along with VFW Post 9668 will perform our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at Camp Dodge in Urban Park.** This will be followed by a free BBQ provided by the VFW. But before this event, the Gold Star Museum will present (Live Stream) at 9:00 AM the USS Iowa Submarine Christening, which will be open to the public with Christy Vilsack performing the Christening.

**This year we will be participating in the annual Urbandale 4th of July Parade.** Jim Cade has purchased a tent for our float and has been working very hard to install it with all of the trimmings. Jim has asked that if you would like to partake in the Parade by riding on the float, please be at the Post no later than 0800 on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Jim will need extra time to get the remodeled float into position and by getting it in place, shortly after 0800, it will help him immensely. I also want to say that shortly after 0800 the city will start to block off streets, which will make it harder to get to the Post.

**Please start thinking about the Iowa State Fair Veterans Day Parade being held on Monday, August 14th beginning at 11:00 AM.** If you want to be part of the Parade please let me know. If it is like last year I hope to get 15 wristbands with allowance for three cars. If you just want to go to the Fair that day on your own, entry will be at a discounted rate.

**Commander Michael Knight**

Commander Post 663

#### Membership Report:

The American Legion awards continuous membership year 'tacks' in 5 year increments to members. For example, after 5, 10, 15, etc, years of continuous membership, with no break in membership time. I suspect some of you are overdue for a continuous membership tack. I tried to send out a few last fall, but quickly learned doing so will not work via the USPS. The tacks arrived damaged, not at all, or were returned to the Post with \$3.47 postage due. Clearly none of those options will work for us going forward. If you believe you have passed a 5 year increment of continuous membership and would like the corresponding tack, please contact me directly and we'll figure out a way to get it to you. If you fall into that category starting in July -- when the 2024 membership dues is due, same process. Your new 2024 membership card sent out by me will include your years of continuous membership on it, which if it is an increment of 5, we can make arrangements to get you your tack of 5, 10, 15, 20, etc, years. You will begin receiving 2024 dues notification in July 2023. Remember, the sooner you pay your dues, the sooner you will stop receiving 'reminders' regarding your dues. Any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Peg Mullen, Membership chairperson  
rpusn20@gmail.com

#### Urbandale Auxiliary Unit 663:

Thanks to each of you who helped distribute poppies this month, And also to all who helped with a donation.

Our project for June is to help fill gift bags for those who are participating in the Urbandale Alumni Association golf tournament. We will be at the Legion Hall at 10 am. on June 21.

I made 2 more trips downtown with loads of plastic bags. Keep them coming. We are close to enough for the first bench.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday June 27 at 1pm at the Legion Hall. We will be making plans for our breakfast to be held at 9am on July 28.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President, Urbandale Unit 663 hotovec@centurylink.net



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

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

**June 6, D-Day 1944**

**June 14, United States Army  
Birthday**

**June 18, Father's Day**

**June 19, Juneteenth**

**June 21, First day of Summer**

**July 4, Independence Day**

**Website update:**

This is my newsletter update on the website: [urbandaleamericanlegion.org](http://urbandaleamericanlegion.org)

Kathy and I are working to update the website monthly. We have the rental agreement on a drop down for printing.

We have the new "Spotlight" posted with Chaplain Max Meier. And pictures from Post Everlasting Event, Poppy Day, and other events throughout this year.

We are averaging around 80 looks every month, which will probably increase with the upcoming events for summer.

Please take the time to check it out.

Connie Gregory  
First Vice Commander

**\*\*\* 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.**