



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



June 2026

Commander	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1 st Vice	Jim Cade	515-205-7054
2 nd Vice (Comms)	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600 namcdowell2@gmail.com
Adjutant	Stephen Smith	515-745-7236 ss49er@hotmail.com
Service Officer	Mark Jewell	515-954-8584 markjewell496@ymail.com
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	Nichole McDowell	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

JUNE DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Peg Mullen by Tuesday, June 16, 2026 for dinner on Thursday, June 18, 2026. RSVPS may be made through Peg's cell phone at 515-205-6853 or to the Post email legionpost663@gmail.com. June's Meal will be burgers cooked by Stephen Smith. Following dinner Pat Finnerty will be speaking on Urbandale resident Glenn McDole's service in the Pacific Theater in WWII/

"I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom." — John Thune





American Legion Urbandale Post 663



From the Desk of the Commander

Post 663, I first want to thank all those who made our Post Everlasting Ceremony a success---I received many accolades from the families in attendance. I, specifically, want to thank Nancy Upton for preparing our delicious meal and bringing it to the post. I think I can speak for all of us that Nancy can cook for us ANYTIME!

Well, summer is upon us and with that, summer brings good times, good friends & families together and GREAT food! Summer also brings an elevated risk for accidents to happen---we're all driving a bit more or further, going on vacations, grills/smokers are running, maybe walking outside a bit more often, working in the yard and just being outside for those summer activities. PLEASE think things through, have enough gas in the tank, increase our daily fluid intake (talking about water here 😊) and telling people where you're going & when you're expected to return.

The next event for us is the 4th of July Parade. Again this year, our 2nd Vice, Jim Cade, will be pulling his trailer for us to be on through the parade. As usual, we will be taking July off and will resume our officers meeting and dinner meeting in August. Enjoy your summer, be safe and may God continue to bless all of you and your families.

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

The Auxiliary's May project was receiving donations for our poppies. We received \$1276.35 for our veterans! In June we will have four door prizes to give away during the dinner on June 18.

Also at June's dinner I will collect any clothing to be given to the vets at Stand Down in September. They do have storage room available for us at this time. .

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663

From the Adjutant

Guess what? It's Summer! Memorial Day has come and gone and now we can all get back to the fun stuff, like mowing the lawn, tending to the garden, and finding new ways to volunteer. This is the time that I need to complete the "Consolidated Post Report". It gives me great pleasure to brag about the hours that Post 663 spends "Giving Back" to our communities and individuals. So pat yourselves on the back and provide me with a brief description of your volunteer activities since July, 1 2025 and how many hours you donated. So far I only have two submissions, but one of them is 6 pages long!



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



Meanwhile, hopefully we'll see you at the 4th of July parade. We need at least 4 walkers (one at each corner of our truck/float) to ensure safety during the parade. We also need walkers to hand out candy since the parade rules won't let us throw it. If you can help and want to have some fun, please be at the Post by 8:15 a.m.

For God and Country,

Stephen Smith, Post 663 Adjutant

From the Membership Chair

The 2026 membership year is wrapping up, and we will begin a new membership year starting July 1, 2026. The American Legion is like a magazine subscription – they prefer you pay before your current subscription expires, to promote consistency and longevity. If you have not paid for 2026 yet and are planning to do so – I need your dues by the end of June so you are not dropped from Legion communication. Please consider renewing – your membership is critically important – it takes all of us to provide the level of support we know is needed to our local veterans.

Also, please remember to spread the word about our Post - guests and new members are always welcome at our dinner meetings and other events. Any questions about membership, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you.

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair Post 663

From the 2nd Vice

Hello Post 663! We have received confirmation from the City of Urbandale that we received \$3,175 in funding for Boys State Sponsorships and the Flag Essay Contest. I was initially anticipating that we would receive more based upon the PDF copy of the budget the City posted on their website. Alas! What I discovered on the PDF copy was an error - the column labeled 'Adopted' ought to have said 'Requested'. I'm still optimistic about the level of support we are receiving from City Officials as we continue to explore ways to revitalize our Post for the benefit of us Legionnaires.

I've applied for a grant through the Iowa Heart Foundation to update our AED. While the AED at the Post is functional, it has not been serviced since 2014. With the assistance of an Urbandale Fire Department Paramedic, I did determine that the Post AED is able to be used in an emergency.

I updated the newly created Post 663 Flyers to include in the City of Urbandale's Welcome Basket to new residents. These flyers can also be posted at community bulletin boards around the metro. Please let me know if you'd like any - I'm happy to print and provide them. Laminated copies are available at the Post to be taken to community events.



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



While not specific to our Post, in May I was inspired by our Auxiliary's support of the Iowa Veterans Home. VALOR, the veteran employee resource group at my employer, recognized May as National Military Appreciation Month by hosting a new/gently used book drive. I'm pleased as punch to announce that VALOR will be donating 465 books to the Iowa Veterans Home!

Lastly, the City of Urbandale Library is allowing us to use the glass front display case in their entryway during the month of July. This is a wonderful way to bring community awareness to our Post and it's long history as well as recruit veterans to join the Post. Please let myself or any officers know if you have photos or memorabilia to display. I'd love to conduct a few member interviews and type for inclusion in the display as well.

Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663

June Post Meeting/Dinner

The Post's May meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, at 6:00 with cocktail/social beginning at 5:30. Please RSVP to Peg Mullen (515)-205-6853 or legionpost663@gmail.com). Following our Post meeting, Pat Finnerty from the Urbandale Historical Society will present a program on Glenn McDole's experience as a Marine in the Pacific Theater in WWII.

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 and by purchasing through the Post you don't have to deal with shipping delays or wait times!

Community Events

The Hall remains open every weekday from 8 am to 1030 am for Coffee, Conversation, & Continuing Education.

Walk or Ride in the Fourth of July Parade with Post 663! Meet at the Post on July 4 at 8:15 a.m.

Date TBD: Post 663 Rummage Sale! Have too much stuff? Need to downsize? Pay \$10 for a table inside Post 663 during our Post 663 Rummage Sale. All proceeds are yours to keep. Unsold items may be left at the Post and we will arrange for the DAV thrift store to collect as donations.

[Want to see an event included? Talk to Nichole McDowell at 515-729-4600 or legionpost663@gmail.com](mailto:legionpost663@gmail.com)



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



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](#).