



American Legion Urbandale Post 663



November 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

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Peg Mullen by Tuesday, 11.18.25. 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.





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“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.” - Jeff Miller

From the Desk of the Commander

I hope this finds all of you well, enjoying the wonderful fall weather and getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. As I reflect upon what I am thankful for, it occurs to me that, while it's nice to be able to have "stuff," it's the people we surround ourselves with that makes it worth getting out of bed each morning. Whether family or friends, I am thankful for the people in my life! People I can count on to help, people I can share my faith with, serving people in any capacity, people I can make decisions with to better our community, people that I can share my emotions with and people I can have fun with!

You see, it's all about the beautiful people we meet along the way that makes the journey adventurous, sometimes challenging and most definitely enjoyable. This Thanksgiving, please pause not only to give thanks for the "stuff," but to be heartily grateful for the people in YOUR lives!

My prayer for all of you is to be safe (especially if you're travelling), enjoy some terrific food and talk with, laugh with & love the people who surround you! May God bless all of you, your families and our GREAT country.

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

The October project for the Auxiliary was collecting funds at the HyVee to help the Legion fill the Christmas Bags. In November we have a couple of projects. Some of us will be at Camp Dodge helping to fill the Christmas packages for the 2700 who were deployed.

We will not have our next meeting on the 4th Tuesday. Instead we will plan to attend the Legion dinner on Thursday November 20. All of the Auxiliary members will bring a dessert.

Our membership is going well. As of now we are at 100% of our goal. Some of our regular members have not yet paid, but we are fortunate to have some new members.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to do great things.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Post 663



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From the Adjutant

Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving, and Well wishes to all of you. There will be numerous activities on Veterans Day starting with a program hosted by Post 663 on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbandale Council Chamber. Some of you may have been asked to participate in school activities, etc. (those events can be very rewarding.) There are numerous opportunities to enjoy meals and camaraderie with fellow veterans. HY-VEE for breakfast is always popular. Keep your eyes open for additional opportunities.

All your efforts to bring honor and recognition to Post 663 through your volunteer activities are appreciated, especially by those on the receiving end of those selfless hours that you have donated. Helping others less fortunate is a lot of what the American Legion is all about. I ask that you think about all those things that you do instinctively to help others in the community. As you ponder all of that, please write it down on a blank sheet of paper and document the volunteer activity, where, when, and how much time was expended. When you have done that, please give me a copy so that I can include it in the Consolidated Post Report which I'll be filling out later in the year.

Please contact me if I may be of any assistance to you.

Steve Smith, Adjutant Post 663

From the Membership Chair

We made great progress in our 2026 renewals this past month, thank you to everyone that is paid up for the upcoming year. There are still many of you that have not renewed yet - just a reminder to do so soon if you want to maintain your continuous years of membership.

A special thanks to everyone that shared my name and number during the Veteran Basket fundraiser at HyVee the first weekend of the month, I have received several calls inquiring about membership in our Post. It's very important that each of us promote our Post, to keep our membership strong. Feel free to give out my contact information to anyone that has questions about the American Legion, I'm happy to reach out to them. Thank you.

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair Post 663



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From the 2nd Vice/Comms

Hello Post 663! Reflecting back on the past month, I am grateful for the graciousness of Post members as I stumbled my way through leading the October Meeting. I remain grateful that the Post as a whole, as well as Post members as individuals, have been willing to trust the 'new officer' on the block as I bring new ideas to the table.

One of those new ideas was in place in time for the Post/Auxiliary Veteran Christmas Basket Fundraiser at Hy-Vee: VENMO. Having Venmo as a payment option for those cashless shoppers allowed the Post to receive over \$400 in donations. These donations are tracked via an Excel Spreadsheet with their purpose stated to ensure transparency.

Another new idea we are trying is a Facebook PAGE for the Post. Many of you are members of the Post's Facebook GROUP and may be wondering why we have a need for a GROUP and a PAGE. The GROUP remains a private group for members only. The PAGE will be accessible to all Facebook users. My hope is that the Facebook PAGE will help drive community engagement and bring awareness to our Post.

And last, but certainly not least, I am incredibly thankful for the patience everyone extended as I researched the process for ensuring that a Post Member taking a required minimum distribution and donating it to the Post as a qualified charitable donation is following the best practices with regards to the IRS. Please join us for the November Post meeting as I present my findings, the verification methods I applied to said findings, as well as a short presentation from Vinni Smith, Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Vinni Smith is a former Urbandale police officer and is a knowledgeable resource.

Nichole McDowell, 2nd Vice Post 663

November Post Meeting/Dinner

The Post's November meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 20, at 5:30**. We will be celebrating with a Thanksgiving Dinner. Please RSVP to Peg Mullen (515-205-6853 or legionpost663@gmail.com) to help with food preparation.

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.

Community Events



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Urbandale Veterans Day Program - The City of Urbandale has changed their annual Veterans Day Celebration to Monday, November 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbandale Council Chamber. This change is due to the City of Urbandale observing Veterans Day as a recognized holiday for their employees.

Hy-Vee Veterans Breakfast – Join fellow veterans and active-duty military members on November 11 from 6 to 10 am for a free dine-in breakfast.

Prairie Meadows Veterans Lunch - Visit Prairie Meadows Casino at 11 a.m. on November 11 for free lunch, live music and military displays.

November Food Drive – In conjunction with VFW Post 9668, the Post will host a Food Drive on November 15, from 10 am – 2 pm. The greatest need is for personal hygiene options (tp, toiletries, diapers, baby wipes) and monetary donations.

Reminders & Requests

Wreaths across America:

Please click [here](#) to support our Post's sponsorship of Wreaths Across America. Orders must be placed by November 29, 2025.

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 determine their preferred delivery method and advise Nichole McDowell (515-729-4600 or legionpost663@gmail.com).

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](#).

Please see the Des Moines Register Article available by clicking [here](#) for a compilation of Veterans Day deals and discounts from local and national brands around the metro. Both Fareway and Hy-Vee are offering discounts on groceries on Veterans Day!

(Please note that a printed list is included for those who receive a newsletter by mail.)