



American Legion Urbandale Post 663

September 2026

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2 nd Vice (Comms)	Nichole McDowell	515-729-4600 namcdowell2@gmail.com
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Membership	Don Swan	515-710-5350
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Building Rental	Jim Cade	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

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING RESERVATION - Please RSVP to Don Swan by Tuesday, September 15, 2026 for the Thursday, September 17, 2026 Dinner.. RSVPS may be made through Don's cell phone at 515-710-5350 or to the Post email legionpost663@gmail.com. *September's Meal will be either pasta and salad OR chicken and noodles with mashed potatoes.* Following the meal and meeting, Karla Wright with the Daughters of the American Revolution will have a presentation.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." Theodore Roosevelt



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From the Desk of the Commander

As fall arrives in Iowa, we welcome cooler mornings, changing leaves, football weekends, harvest season and that familiar sense that another busy summer is giving way to a season of gratitude and reflection. It is also a meaningful time for us at American Legion Post 663 to continue serving those who have served us.

Coming up September 18–20 is the VA Homeless Veterans Stand Down---an important opportunity to support veterans who are experiencing homelessness or facing difficult circumstances. We are grateful for everyone who helps make this outreach possible.

We are also gearing up for our Veterans Basket donations at Hy-Vee and will soon begin putting those baskets together. Your donations, time and helping hands allow us to remind local veterans that they are remembered and appreciated.

Prayers are needed for the men and women who are serving our country, have left everything behind to do so and their families, who nervously await the day when they can again hug and shower their Soldier, Airman, Sailor, Marine or "Coastie" with love!

May God continue to bless you, your families, our community, state and nation!

Rob Stark, Commander Post 663

Urbandale Auxiliary

The September project for the American Legion Auxiliary is the Des Moines Veterans Stand Down held September 18-20. It is located at [1422 Scott Ave](#) in De Moines, just off SE 14th St under the viaduct. We are seeking volunteers to help provide coverage to hand out the children's backpacks.

Our next meeting will be September 22 at 1pm at the Legion Hall.

Joann Hotovec, Auxiliary President Unit 663



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<u>From the Adjutant</u>	<u>From the Membership Chair</u>
Just like many of you, I blinked, and Summer is over. That doesn't mean that we can now go into "Winter hibernation mode"! On the contrary, now is the time to look around and see who could use your help. I encourage you all to explore some of the many volunteer activities that are available to you. Many of them are very rewarding and will keep you active. And, if you happen to note those activities on your planning calendar you can easily come up with a summary to be included in the Annual Consolidated Post Report next June. With that said, have a great Labor Day weekend. For God and Country, Stephen Smith	The 2027 membership year has kicked off, thank you to those of you that have paid your 2027 dues already! If you paid your 2026 dues, you are in good standing until 12/31/26. If you go ahead and pay your 2027 now, the Legion should stop sending you reminder notices -- unless they cross in the mail with your renewal check. Let me know if you have any questions about your membership status as we move into fall. Thank you to everyone that supports our monthly meetings and other events -- we appreciate your commitment to Post 663. Peg Mullen

<u>From the 1st Vice</u>	<u>From the 2nd Vice</u>
Karla Wright from the Iowa Society of the DAR will present on the Daughters of the American Revolution after the September Dinner. After the October dinner, guests from the City of Urbandale will host a program on the Urbandale Police Department Bond Referendum. Jim Cade	We remain in the queue for an AED Placement grant. 'Not yet' is always better than 'No'. Other grants continue to be explored. We've got guest speakers lined up from the City of Urbandale, IA Service Dogs, The Final Salute, Casting Away Disabilities and more over the next however many months. We are also taking recommendations! Nichole McDowell



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<u>From the Service Officer</u>	<u>Flags for Sale</u>
Our first rummage/garage sale was held on 8/27. Hosting the sale brought exposure to the Post, recruitment of a new member with another 2 or so interested, three potential rentals, non-members inquiring about participating in future sales, Post Members able to minimize their 'stuff' while enjoying conversation with other members, and Larry Draughn was thoroughly baffled by the cowl (NOT TOWEL) that Nichole McDowell was knitting. We're looking at Spring 2027 for the next sale. Mark Jewell	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.

SEPTEMBER 26, 7-11 pm WWII Era USO Dance, Free, Open to the Public The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum hosts a vintage dance featuring original WWII Era Big Band and vocal music hits. Period apparel/uniform (or current service uniforms) are encouraged. Soft drinks and light snacks courtesy of USO Iowa. Held at the Recreation Hall (Bldg 3572) Camp Dodge. Questions to michael.vogt@dpd.iowa.gov or 515-252-4531

Veteran Coffee Social at the VA Main Campus Coffee and Snacks provided, held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 8:30 am- 10:00 am in the Main Lobby by the Canteen on the VA Main Campus (3600 30th St, DSM)

SEPTEMBER 26, 9am - 5pm, SEPTEMBER 27, 9am - 1pm WWII Living History Event, Free, Open to the Public Discover what life was like for U.S. military personnel during WWII. Meet military historians, explore Allied and Axis bivouac areas, view period military vehicles, weapons, and equipment. Held at the Iowa Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge. Questions to michael.vogt@dpd.iowa.gov or 515-252-4531

OCTOBER 3, 9:30am - 1pm, Unclaimed Veterans Service The Final Salute is conducting a visitation, service, and burial for 16 unclaimed veterans at Lutheran Church of Hope, 305



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Dartmoor Drive, Waukee IA 50263. Visitation begins at 9:30, the service begins at 11:00 with burial to follow at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter.

OCTOBER 10, 4pm - 7pm City of Urbandale Block Party The City of Urbandale is hosting a downtown Block Party behind the old Dairy Queen on Douglas Avenue. The event will include several food trucks, approximately 20 vendors, a local DJ, beer garden, face painting, axe throwing, etc. Post 663 will have a table set up among the vendors to visit with guests about joining the Legion. Put the date on your calendar now!

Want to see an event included? Talk to Nichole McDowell at 515-729-4600 or legionpost663@gmail.com

Reminders & Requests

Newsletter: The Post will have two methods of distribution - mailed & emailed. 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).

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](#).