

Urbandale-Johnston VFW Post 9668
August 2023 Newsletter



Commander

Dennis Appelhons
Ph. 515-631-2910

Sr.Vice Commander

Michael Knight

Jr. Vice Commander

Matt Wolf

Quartermaster

Mark Newhall

Adjutant

Jack Lingelbach

Chaplain

Al McPherson

VFW Post 9668
6805 Douglas Avenue
Urbandale, Iowa 50322

WEB Pages

w.w.vfw9668.org

Facebook at VFW Post 9668

Post 9668 Email is

Cmdr@vfw9668.org or

Adj@vfw9668.org.

Post meetings are the 1st
Monday of each month, 7:00
P.M. at the American Legion
Hall, 6805 Douglas Ave.
Urbandale, Iowa.



From the Post Commander



SUMMER



Calling August – Can you believe the year is half over already! We are heading into the end of the good ol' Dog Days of summer, and it seems we are going to start a very busy last half of the year. August is the calm before the (*back to school*) storm, and the time to start gearing back up. It seems that this summer is going way too fast.

Lets recap some of last months activities. It actually started during our 2022 4th of July concession trailer event at Lions Park. It was suggested that we could do a little remodeling of our trailer to make it easier for people to move around and increase the service area for our food products. We also discussed adding other food items (*Walking Tacos*) to our menu. By June 26, 2023, all of this was completed. Without any trial runs, we went headfirst into the 3 day Urbandale 4th of July event. What a Learning experience for us all. Although the counter top remodeling worked out great, we soon faced problems keeping up with pizza orders, and toco meat and supplies.

The electrical problems from previous years also continued to plague our trailer and shut us down several times. We were able to operate for the three days, but decided we had to have the trailer fully rewired for future use for August 12, at Adel Sweet Corn Fest. The trailer is scheduled to be totally rewired by a certified electrician on August 2, 2023.

July 4, 2023
Lions Park

(left -right)

Dennis Appelhons
Roger Rothamel
Mark Newhall
Tom Jamison
Larry Cramer



Mark Newhall, James Yates, Tom Jamison, Larry Cramer, Gordon Hyke, Dennis Appelhons.

Mark recommended setting up our Post VFW canopy and Post 9668 Story Board on the East side of our trailer. Not only did it offer shade for our volunteers and customers, the story board presented our Post's involvement in Urbandale, Johnston and surrounding community activities. Many customers and passing public lingered to read our board.



VFW 124th National Convention Phoenix, AZ Phoenix Convention Center July 22-27, 2023



Carol Whitmore was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 27, 2023, at the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Carol served in the U.S. Army from 1977 to 2013, earning her VFW eligibility by serving in Iraq. In recognition of her service, she received the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (six), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, among many others. [Read her full official biography](#). She joined the VFW in 2012 at Post 9127 (Beaverdale) in Des Moines, Iowa, where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life membership.

In 2022, she was elected as designee for National VFW Commander-in-Chief for the year 2025, becoming the first woman and first Iowan to hold the position. She has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with her election as the VFW Department of Iowa Commander from 2018 to 2019, in which she achieved All American status. On the national level, she served on the Legislative Committee, the General Resolutions Committee, and on the National Council of Administration from 2019 to 2023. Carol attended the University of Northern Iowa and Hawkeye Community College, where she received her nursing certification. She is retired. She is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, the VFW National Home, the American Legion and its Auxiliary, and a member of the Iowa Veterans Commission. Carol and her husband, Brad, reside in Des Moines, Iowa.

Jack Lingelbach, Adjutant, VFW Post 9668

Urbandale/Johnston

VFW IA 5th District

Post Inspector/Buddy Poppy Chair

VFW Depart. of IA

Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms/Color Guard/Life

membership/Membership Chairman/State Fair

Booth C0-Chair/Big 10 Co-Chair

Jack Lingelbach was a registered delegate, to the National Convention representing the Post, District 5, and State level positions he holds.

Congratulations Carol

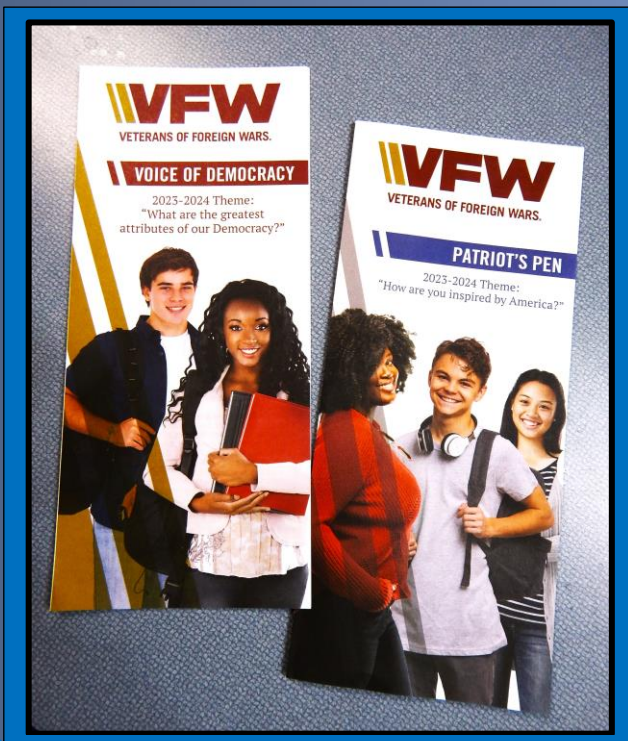


Hoo-Ah!

National Night Out

August 1, 2023 5-7:30 P.M. Urbandale Police Department

The Annual “National Night Out” is a unique crime / drug prevention event designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for local anti-crime programs, and to strengthen community and police partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Urbandale-Johnston VFW Post 9668 has participated in this event for the last eight years promoting our community involvement and educational scholarship programs for middle school, and high school students. There are also annual teacher awards and scholarships for veterans returning to school.



Standing next to Post 9668’s Story Board is (left to right): Larry McBurney (Post member and City Council member), Al McPherson, Dennis Appelhons, Roger Rothamel, and Larry Cramer.



Purple Heart Day August 7: Each year on August 7, our nation recognizes the men and women who are Purple Heart recipients. The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving, on or after 5 April 1917, with the U.S. military. The Purple Heart, the first U.S. military decoration, instituted by General George Washington in 1782 and awarded for bravery in action. The Purple Heart is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members.

August 10 – 20, 2023



**August 14, VETERANS DAY
at the Iowa State Fair
Parade at 11:00 am.**



Saturday August 12, 2023, Post 9668 will host our Ice Cream concession trailer at the Adel Sweet Corn Fest in Adel, Iowa. We will be setting up our trailer around 8:00 A.M. and will be ready to receive the crowd after the morning parade until the event closing time of

5:00 P.M. We usually have two shifts of volunteers for the day changing out between 12 and 1 P.M. We will have a signup sheet at our August 7th Post meeting.



Navajo Code Talkers Day

Navajo Code Talkers Day, is celebrated every year on August 14. This is a day that holds great importance in the history of the U.S.



This is because the day recognizes the contributions of Navajo marines during World War II.

August 14, 2023

Navajo marines encoded and transmitted messages using a complex Navajo language-based code during a time when secret communication was essential to win a war. The code was never broken by Japanese forces in the Pacific and proved to be of great assistance to the U.S. Marines. On this day, celebrate the great American heroes and their service to the nation.

It all started in 1942 when the U.S. was fighting World War II in the Pacific and needed an unbreakable code to ensure the success of military operations. During this time, Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary who had grown up in the Navajo Nation, suggested using the Navajo language as a code. After this, there was no turning back and the U.S. government recruited over 400 Navajo men to serve during the war. The Navajo Code Talkers successfully transmitted more than 800 messages without error and helped the U.S. win the war.



We will again sponsor a food drive with the American Legion and Boy Scouts for donations to the Urbandale Food Pantry.

Food Drive

Saturday
August 26, 2023 - 10:00 to 3:00

The American Legion Building
6805 Douglas Ave, Urbandale

Curb side Drop Off including Monetary support (cash)
Please make checks out to Urbandale Food Pantry

 <p>VFW Post 9668 Urbandale/Johnston</p>  <p>Boy Scout Troops 43 and 98</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Items Needed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Meats in a can</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Canned Fruits</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Peanut Butter</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Tuna and canned meats</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Cereal</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Canned Vegetables</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Pasta/Sauce</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Personal Hygiene Drive</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Toilet Paper</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Shampoo</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Laundry detergent</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Body wash / soap</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Toothpaste</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Deodorant</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Diapers</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Wipes</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Items Needed	Meats in a can	Canned Fruits	Peanut Butter	Tuna and canned meats	Cereal	Canned Vegetables	Pasta/Sauce	Personal Hygiene Drive	Toilet Paper	Shampoo	Laundry detergent	Body wash / soap	Toothpaste	Deodorant	Diapers	Wipes	 <p>Urbandale American Legion 663</p>  <p>Urbandale Food Pantry</p>
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August 26,
2023
10:00 to 3:00
P.M.

Important August Calendar Dates:

- 1 st : Air Force Day.
- 1 st : National Night-Out, 5-7:30 pm at the Urbandale Police Department. *
- 4 th : U.S. Coast Guard established (1790).
- 5 th : Cootie Pup Tent #1: Meeting at VFWPost 738, 1100 hours.
- 5 th : 36 th Annual Iowa National Guard AlumniDay, 0700 – 1300 hours, Freedom Center (S-70), Camp Dodge. <https://squareup.com/store/iowanationalguard>
- 7 th : Purple Heart Medal established (1782). Vietnam War Began (1964).
- 10th: Agent Orange Awareness Day, 1900 Hours, Vietnam Memorial, Iowa StateCapitol Grounds.
- 7 th : Post 9668 meeting at 7pm.
- 10 th – 20 th : Iowa State Fair*.
- 12 th : Adel Sweet Corn Fest*.
Coffee and Camaraderie: 1000-1200 hours, TBD/A.
- 14 th : ‘VETERANS DAY’ at IA St. Fair. Parade at 11 am.
- 14 th : Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945). National Navajo Code Talkers Day.
- 17 th : Joint Military Retiree Appreciation Day:

- 17 th : Joint Military Retiree Appreciation Day: Thursday, 17 August, 0700 – 1230 hours, Holiday Inn, Merle Hay Rd., Urbandale, IA.
- See Commander Appelhons for more details.
- 26 th : Food Drive, 1000-1500 Hrs. Urbandale American Legion Hall

When you are making out your schedule for the next month, please keep the post activities in mind.

August Happy Birthdays

- 1 st Bruce Oestreich
- 7 th Frank Eaches
- 12 th Paul BrisBois
- 13 th Dennis Appelhons
- 14 th Chuck Schwab
- 19 th Tracy Page
- 20 th Troy May
- 21 st Gordon Hyke
- 22 nd Chris Hupp
- 25 th Larry Morrison
- 30 th Sam Rosewall

Do not see your birthday, contact the adjutant at Adj@vfw9668.org .

New Members

Justin Enderson

Information:

Phone number for the Headquarters, Department of Iowa V.F.W., is (515) 255-2139, Fax: 515-255-2130. Hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday – Friday. The office is closed on Federal Holidays.

ATTENTION - -

Post 9668 August Meeting: The August business meeting of Post 9668 will be held at Urbandale American Legion Hall, on Monday, 7 August 2023. Please join us in person. If you have any questions, contact me or Michael Knight.