

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



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Urbandale-Johnston VFW Post 9668

April 2024 Newsletter



From the Post Commander



It is newsletter time again and I am writing this on a very cloudy, cold, windy day with occasional sleet and snow hitting my west windows, I'm sure you have all heard the phrase "in like a lamb, out like a lion". This is a proverb that refers to the weather in March. It suggests that if March starts off calm and mild (like a lamb), it will end with fierce and stormy weather (like a lion). Conversely, if March begins with harsh weather, it's expected to become gentler by the end. This saying reflects the unpredictable nature of March weather, which can see a mix of winter and spring conditions. Today I'm not sure which way this month is going to end, and I think the weather persons on TV aren't sure either. Either way, I am ready to say "Hello April" !

So, - what do we know about April:

It's the fourth month of the year and the second month of spring and always starts off with a bang with April Fool's Day, which provides ample opportunity to tell jokes and pull some pranks to the best of your ability.

April is a month of deep spiritual significance marking the rejuvenation and renewal of life. It is a time for new beginning, hope and growth, reminding us of the cyclic nature of existence, evolving and growing with life.

The etymology of April is not clear, but some historians believe that it comes from the Latin words aperire (to open) or apricus (sunny) because April is seen as the month of Sun and growth. This is in keeping with this also being designated National Garden Month and Keep America Beautiful Month. Earth Day, April 22, and National Arbor Day, April 28.

VFW Post 9668

6805 Douglas Avenue
Urbandale, Iowa 50322

WEB Pages

w.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.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

April 8, 2024 a total solar eclipse will pass to the southeast of Iowa, and be best observed around 2:00 P.M.

April is a great month for meteor showers. One of which is the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year.



The other one is called the Eta Aquarids meteor shower that can be seen onwards from April 21st.

Crisis Reached in United States Relations With Mexico

Exclusive Associated Press Service
Oakland Tribune. LAST Edition

WED. LAST W. WEATHER—OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 15, 1912. 18 PAGES. NO. 13

TITANIC'S PASSENGERS SINKING

WAR WITH MEXICO NEAR
ILL-FATED VESSEL BEGINS TO FOUNDER WHILE LIMPING TOWARD HALIFAX AFTER ALL ABOARD ARE RESCUED

Monster of Ocean Body Damaged by Collision With Iceberg; Many Notables on List
Wireless Calls for Help Crash Out in Night, Calling Cretaceous of Sea to Stand By



W...
BLOODSHED IS FEARED IN CHICAGO
SEEK DISMISSAL OF 80 RUEF INDICTMENTS
Attorneys Make Plea Before the District Court of Appeals
BOMBS EXPLODE WRECKING N.Y. STORE
Internal Machine De...
Troops and Police Are Called to Prevent Riots

On April 14, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sank on her first and only voyage.

JOHNSTON IJAG IS HOSTING

FREE

VETERANS MEAL

APRIL 6TH 12-2PM

LOCATION:

CAMP DODGE MAINTENANCE ARMORY

BUILDING 1350

7105 NW 70TH AVE.

JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **GUEST SPEAKER**
- **MENU: CHOICE OF SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE OR ALFREDO, CORN, GARLIC BREAD, & RELISH TRAY**
- **DESSERT**

**PLEASE RSVP TO BRE SUNTKEN BY MARCH 29TH
BY EMAIL; BREANNAH.SUNTKEN@IJAG.ORG OR
BY PHONE AT; 712-358-3009**

★★★ **HONORING ALL WHO SERVED** ★★★

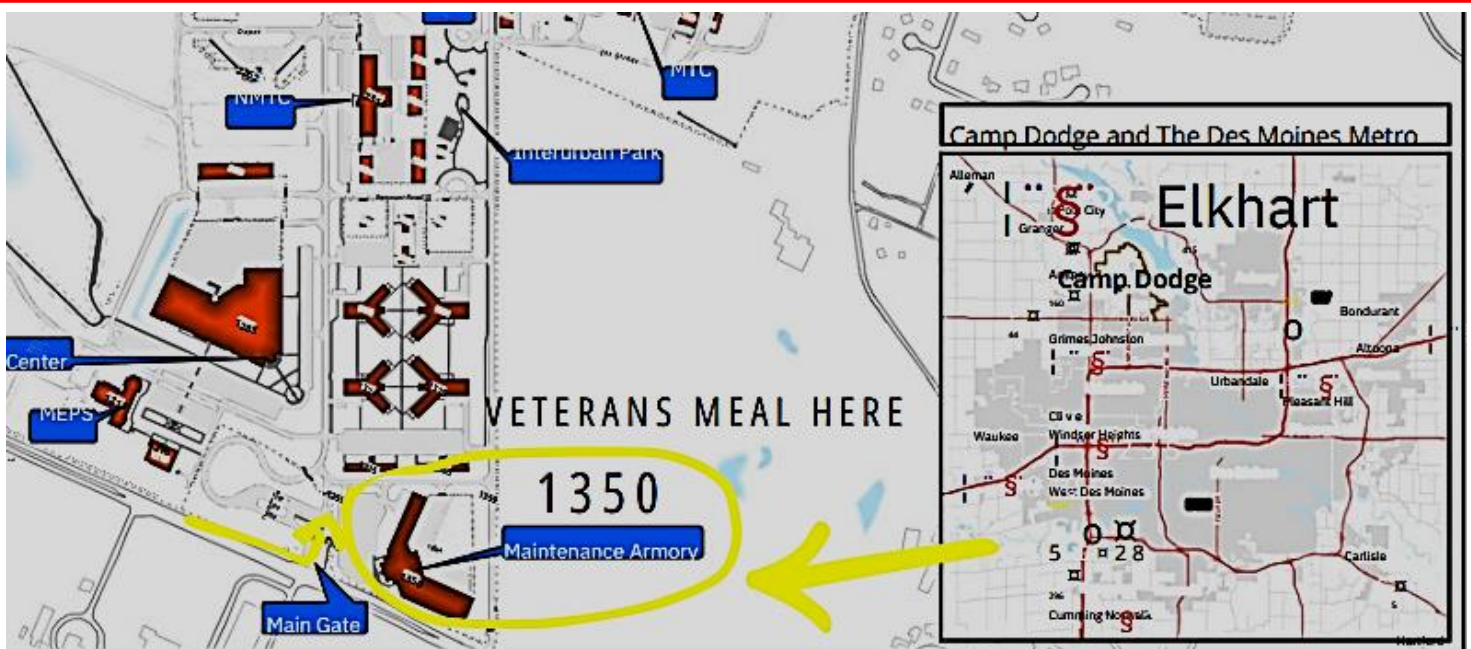
ATTENTION POST 9668

MEMBERS

Johnston iJAG (*Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates*) at Johnston High School is putting together a free Veteran's Meal to honor the sacrifice veterans have made for their country.

They are reaching out to local Veterans groups to see if there are any veterans that would be interested in attending their free meal and program. They are planning a spaghetti dinner, along with a guest speaker, and conversation and a tribute video. This is being held at Camp Dodge, Bldg. 1350 (see the invitation at left and map below).

This needs an RSVP by March 29, either to myself, or Bre Sunktken.





Mike Knight, Dennis Appelhons and Roger Rothamel, collected the 116 wreaths that were placed on Veteran graves at McDivitt Grove Cemetery on December 16, 2023.

**Wreath Retirement Pickup
March 13, 2024**



**Veterans do you feel overwhelmed?
You are not alone**



VETERAN RESOURCES

You are not alone. But if you feel like you are, please refer to one of the numbers below.

Polk County Veterans Affairs Website

Polk County River Place
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Phone (515) 286-3670
Fax (515) 286-2106
Veterans.Affairs@polkcountyiowa.gov
Visit the **Polk County Veterans Affairs website**

**Also check out our Posts'new website at :
urbandalevw9668.org**

Veteran Crisis Line
Call 988 press 1 or
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat>

Women Veterans Hotline
1- 855-829-6636

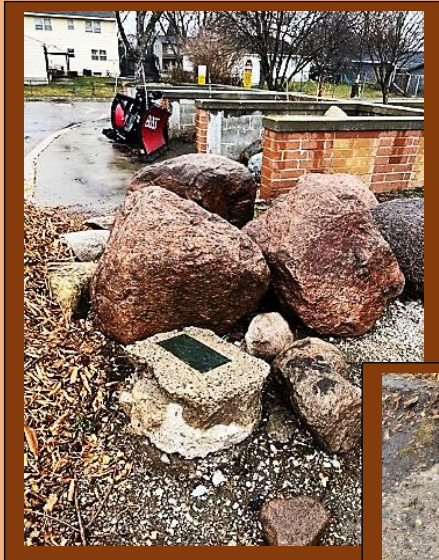
Caregiver Support
877-424-3838 ext 1

Quit Vet (tobacco)
1-855-QUIT-VET

War Vet Call Center
1-877-927-8387

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
877-424-3838 ext 1

American Legion Veterans Day Plaque presented to Urbandale High School in 1954 “lost” since 1977 - Found !



1916-1952 The first Urbandale school Buildings built at the

70th street and Douglas site. A new brick, three-story school building was constructed in 1925, after the wood frame two-room building was moved nearer to Monroe Court. In 1954 the school proposed to replace the original roof mounted flag pole to a new location near the front door of the school. The Urbandale Legion Post 663, in honor of Veterans Day, presented a plaque to the Urbandale High School to be installed at the base of the new flag pole. In 1977, the facilities were demolished and the land was sold This site is now a Walgreen’s Drugstore.

The plaque was recently discovered in a rubble pile at the north end of the Urbandale High School. The plaque will be installed along with the original school flag pole on the Urbandale Historical Society property at Airline & 70th Street.

Post Planning Meeting of March 18, 2024: During our last meeting we had numerous topics for discussion and possible solutions.

- We will be taking our concession trailer out of storage late May or early June to prepare for July and August events. Some repairs are needed. Also, we are going to have our “Walking Taco” menu again this year. How can we improve our operations?
- If you are interested in being in the Iowa State Fair “ Veterans Day at the Fair” parade; Mike Knight is your contact person – (free entrance tickets), If we have enough VFW members, we might be able to have our own vehicle.

- Our Post has been contacted by a group; Rebuilding Together, which is a leading volunteer organization that, in partnership with the community, rehabilitates the homes of veterans, older adults, people with disabilities, and families with dependent children. There is no cost to qualified families for the services provided. Legion Post 663 has worked with this group before and endorses their services. If you are aware of anyone as listed above needing assistance contact any of our Post officers

Important April Calendar Dates:

1 st : Post 9668 business meeting at 1900hrs*.

6 th : Army Day. U.S. inters WWI (1917).

9 th : National Former POW Recognition Day.

11 th : Persian Gulf War/Dessert Storm I Official Cease Fire, (1991).

14 th : Air Force Reserve Birthday. Purple Up Day (Operation: Military Kids), Wear PURPLE on April 14 th .

15 th : Post 9668 Planning Meeting: TBA/TBD.

20 th : VFW 5 th District Meeting at VFW Post 9668. Training at 0900 Hrs., Meeting at 1000 Hrs.

21 st : Patriot's Day (VFW).

22 nd : U.S. Army Reserve Birthday.

27 th : VFW IA 5 th District Trap Shot: 1000 – 1700 Hours, Isaac Walton League, Southren Warren County.

30 th : National Military Brats Day. Coffee and Camaraderie: TBA/TBD.

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

April Happy Birthdays

2 nd Matt Wolfe

2 nd Scott Schulte

6 th Larry Walraven

11 th Ken Meythaler

16 th Trea Blessing

20 th Craig Johnson

26 th Thomas Giampolo

26 th Zach McDowell

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

New Members

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

Business Meeting:

The April business meeting of Post 9668 will be Monday, 1 April 2024, at 7:00 pm, at Urbandale American Legion Hall. Please join us. The meeting in May will be Monday, 6 May 2024, at 7 pm.

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.