



Commander

Dennis Appelhons

Ph. 515-205-0300

Sr. Vice Commander

Michael Knight

Jr. Vice Commander

Matt Wolf

Quartermaster

Mark Newhall

Adjutant

Jack Lingelbach

Chaplain

Al McPherson

Urbandale-Johnston VFW Post 9668
February 2024 Newsletter



From the Post Commander



**HAPPY
FEBRUARY !!**

Did you know February is the month of love, winter, and history. It is also the shortest month of the year, but there is no shortage of fun and fascinating facts and events. Additionally, it is also a weird month that jumps between 28 and 29 days. February could have been the shortest month of the year. The original length of February was 28 days, but it was later shortened to 23 days in order to make the calendar align better with the lunar cycle. Eventually, Julius Caesar added two extra months to the calendar and restored its original 28-day length. Now, February has 29 days every leap year.

**Let's Look at a few of the
Significant events in this month:**

February 2 is Groundhog Day

the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early." Punxsutawney Phil", according to weather lore, will emerge from his burrow and if he sees his shadow on a clear day he will retreat, and there will be six more weeks of wintry weather. However, if he emerges from his burrow and does NOT see his shadow, then early spring weather is right around the corner.



February 14 is always Valentine's Day.

A popular day all over the world. In America alone, 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year. It is believed that this day originated from the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which celebrated fertility and love.

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.



February 14, - Ash Wednesday, for Western Christianity is the first day of Lent, six and a half weeks before Easter. Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God, and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It is commonly observed with ashes and fasting.

February 19, 2024

Presidents Day

February 12

is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
The 16th president of the United States.

February 22 is George Washington's
Birthday. The first president of the United States.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated on this date from 1879 until 1970. To give federal employees a three-day weekend, in 1968 the Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved it to the third Monday in February. The day soon became known as Presidents Day.



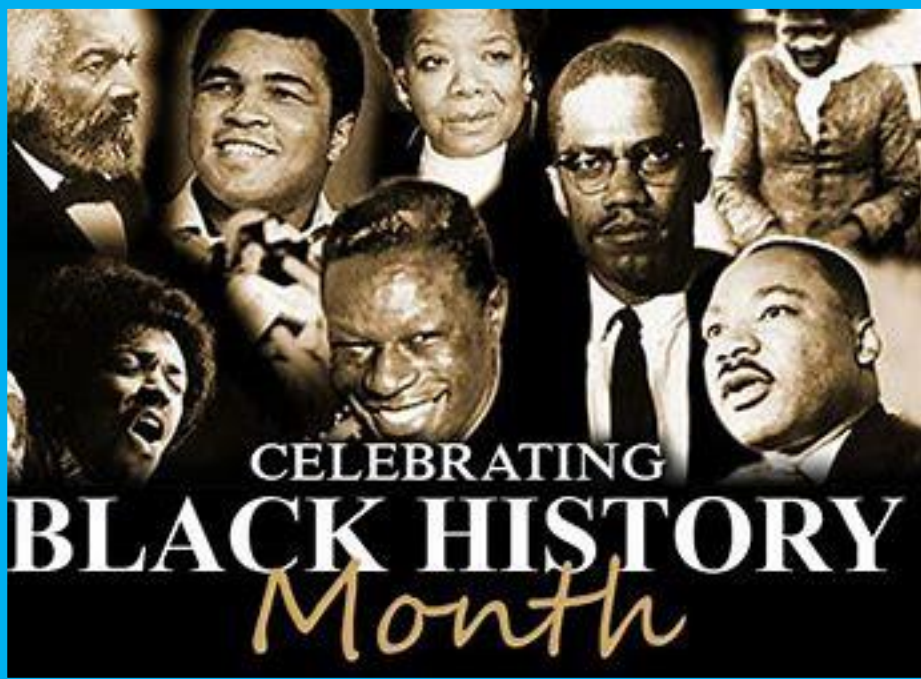
February 29, 2024

This is Leap Day! Happening once every four years, we are given an extra day in February. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data, 205,000 people in the U.S. have a February 29 birthday. In translation, that means you are probably 1 in 1,461. That also means you may celebrate your actual birthday four times lesser than most people. Some think this day brings good luck.

What are the monthly designations for February?



February is all about the heart. Although February 14 is all about celebrating love and giving your heart, this month is also National Heart Month in the United States. This time of year, it is to raise awareness about heart disease and the importance of heart health.



Black History Month is a salute to African Americans, celebrating their achievements and contributions throughout history. Initially, Black History Month was celebrated during the second week of February to coincide with birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Also known as African American History Month. Since 1976 every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month

February is also an important month for football fans, as two teams face each other in the February 11, 2024

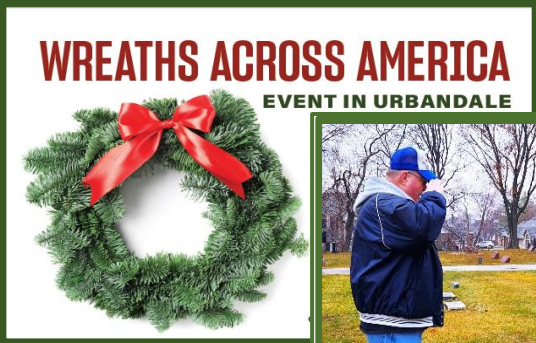


SUPER BOWL



POST 9668 ACTIVITIES

Additional photos from McDivitt Grove Cemetery
December 16, 2024



Merlea
Schultz



Terry Schultz
Post 9668 member



Sue
Lerdal

Post 9668 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Winners January 6, 2024



Senior Vice Commander Michael Knight presents Patriots Pen 1st Place winner Srihari Kumaresan with his medal.



Commander Dennis Appelbons presents Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner Wesley McDowell his certificate and check.



Avery Wagner 2 nd in P.P.	Wesley MaDowell 1 st in VOD	Dayton Simpson 3 rd in P.P.	Sriharie Kumaresan 1 st in P.P.
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Due to weather conditions, Hannah Schlueter, 2nd place, VOD winner was not present.



Parents of the winners attending and listening to each of the presentations before the awards were announced.



POST 9668 NEW
PHONE NUMBER IS
515-205-0300

10:00 TO 2:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 17, 2024

PASS
THE WORD

Food Drive
Saturday
FEBRUARY 17, 2024 from 10:00 to 2:00
The American Legion Building

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

 VFW Post 9668 Urbandale/Johnston	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>Items Needed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Food Drive</td></tr> <tr><td>Meats in a can</td></tr> <tr><td>Canned Fruits</td></tr> <tr><td>Peanut Butter</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuna and canned meats</td></tr> <tr><td>Cereal</td></tr> <tr><td>Canned Vegetables</td></tr> <tr><td>Pasta Sauce</td></tr> <tr><td>Personal Hygiene Drive</td></tr> <tr><td>Toilet Paper</td></tr> <tr><td>Shampoo</td></tr> <tr><td>Laundry detergent</td></tr> <tr><td>Body wash / soap</td></tr> <tr><td>Toothpaste</td></tr> <tr><td>Deodorant</td></tr> <tr><td>Diapers</td></tr> <tr><td>Wipes</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Items Needed	Food Drive	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	 Urbandale American Legion 663
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 Boy Scout Troops 43 and 98	 Urbandale Food Pantry																			

Greater need for Personal Hygiene and Cash

COMING SOON
A NEW POST
Web-page
The January 22nd Planning Committee authorized a Web Designer to develop a draft for review by the Planning committee.
Keep Watching!

AMERICAN LEGION HALL

URBANDALE

The Urbandale Historical Society Presents

URBANDALE AMERICAN LEGION POST 663
VFW 9668
Urbandale/Johnston

"Urbandale's American Legion and VFW Posts"

With Mike Knight and Dennis Applehorns

Sunday February 11, 2023
2-4 pm
Urbandale Public Library

Sunday February 11, 2024 ,
2-4 P.M. Michael Knight and Dennis Appelhons will present a program on the history of Urbandale American Legion Post 663 and VFW Post 9668 in Urbandale.
Come and see us at the **URBANDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

Dial 988 then Press 1, chat live, or text 838255. Support doesn't end with your conversation. Our responders connect you with resources that can help when you're in distress.

RENEWED INTEREST IN CREATING A PATRIOTIC MURAL ON THE EAST EXTERIOR WALL OF THE LEGION HALL AND FRONT CANOPY



Urbandale Parks and Recreation has contacted Legion Post 663 about this project that was "put on hold" during the pandemic. It appears that Urbandale, as well as Polk County Supervisors, have expressed interest in pursuing this project, with conditions as required by Polk County's approved development artist .

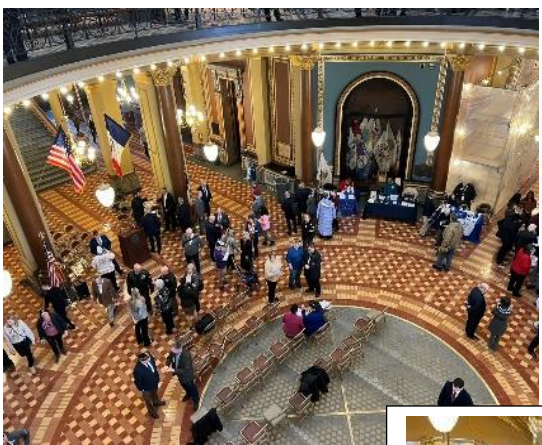


It was suggested that applying for a grant of up to \$5000, was not out of line for this type of project. Other grant sources and fundraising could be used for additional funding.

Other possible projects may include a "Freedom /Veteran/Memorial " boulder on the grassy median to the east of the front door or, on the west side near the storage building – it would have a flag and spot light.

**Veterans Day
on the Hill**

**January 17,
2024**



Urbandale City Councilman and Post 9668 Trustee, Larry McBurney, checking out Senator Grassley's chair in the Statehouse.



Important February Calendar

Dates:

4th: *USO 80th Birthday.*

5th: *Post 9668 business meeting
1900hrs*

8th: *Boy Scouts of America founded
(1910).*

11th: *Wreaths pick up, IA Veterans
Cemetery, 1000 Hours until complete.*

11th: *Urbandale Historic Society
presents; The Urbandale American
Legion and VFW Posts: Sunday,
1400 – 1600 hours, at the Urbandale
Public Library.*

12th: *Abraham Lincoln's Birthday.*

17th: *Food Drive: 10 am – 4 pm.
Urbandale American Legion Hall,
6805 Douglas Ave, Urbandale.*

19th: *82nd Coast Guard Reserve
Birthday. 77th Anniversary of Battle
of Iwo Jima.*

19th: Post 9668 Planning Meeting:
1900 hrs, Legion Hall.

27th – 3rd Mar: *Voice of
Democracy/Legislative Conference,
Washington, DC.*

21st: *President's Day.*

22nd: *George Washington's Birthday.*

23rd – 24th: 51st Mid-Winter
Department Conference at
Airport Holiday Inn in DSM.

24th: *Coffee and Camaraderie:
1000- 1200 hours, American
Legion Post 731,
1511 S. Union St., DSM.*

27th: *Persian Gulf Cease-Fire
Day.*

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

February Happy Birthdays

1 st	Larry Cramer
5 th	Lyndsay Thrane
8 th	James Yates
11 th	Richard Dull
19 th	Al McPherson
24 th	John Michel
24 th	Krystal Moriset

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

New Members

- - - -

Business Meeting:

The February business meeting of
Post 9668 will be Monday, 5
February 2024, at 7:00 pm, at
Urbandale American Legion Hall.
Please join us.

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.

----- Perform Buddy Checks -----

Don't forget to check in with a buddy this month. A call, text or email to a fellow veteran or even a neighbor can mean a great deal. Check in with older veterans in your communities to make sure they have the supplies they need, are feeling healthy and help them acquire the resources they need.

