

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



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Urbandale-Johnston VFW Post 9668

May 2024 Newsletter



MAY IS NATIONAL  
**MILITARY**  
APPRECIATION MONTH

From the Post Commander



Hello  
**MAY**



**MEMORIAL DAY**



Heroes never die. They live on forever in the hearts and minds of those who would follow in their footsteps.

~ Emily Potter

VFW Post 9668

6805 Douglas Avenue

Urbandale, Iowa 50322

WEB Pages

[w.w.w.vfw9668.org](http://w.w.w.vfw9668.org)

Facebook at VFW Post 9668

Post 9668 Email is

[Cmdr@vfw9668.org](mailto:Cmdr@vfw9668.org) or

[Adj@vfw9668.org](mailto:Adj@vfw9668.org).

Post meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday of each month,

7:00 P.M. at the American  
Legion Hall, 6805 Douglas

Ave. Urbandale, Iowa.

## What do we know about the month of May!

May is the fifth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

The name May originated from the Latin word *Maius*, named after the Greek goddess of growth, Maia. So it's no surprise that May is the most common month for gardeners to start planting seeds in their flower beds and gardens..

May is known as a month of transition. Living in the northern hemisphere the fresh cold winds are gone (usually), as are the rains of early spring (usually). By the time May comes around, the spring flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, and life is starting to seem a little more joyful day by day!

### Best known dates or events we can look forward to:

**May 1** is **May Day**. Mark the return of spring by bringing in branches of forsythia, lilacs, or other flowering shrubs from your area . Remember when we used to make and give out May baskets ?

**May 4** **The Kentucky Derby**, takes place on the first Saturday in May every year. This is one of the oldest Horse races in the world and has been running every Year since 1875.

***The Run for the Roses***

The logo for the Kentucky Derby, featuring a stylized horse head in a circle above the text "KENTUCKY DERBY".

KENTUCKY  
DERBY

May 5 is **Cinco de Mayo** (“The Fifth of May”).

This day celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862.



May 8 is **Victory in Europe Day**.

It was on May 8th, 1945, that German high command unconditionally

surrendered to allied forces bringing an official end to World War II.



May 12 is **Mother's Day**—don't forget! Do you have something planned to show appreciation for your mother?

Mother's Day actually began as a women's movement to better the lives of Americans. During the Civil War, Ann Jarvis and daughter, Anna and Julia Ward Howe organized women's brigades, encouraging women to help without regard for which side their men had chosen. After the war, a Mothers' Friendship Day was organized to promote peace between former Union and Confederate families. Julia Ward Howe was a famous poet and reformer. In 1861, she authored the famous Civil War anthem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which was first published in February 1862.



**May 18, 2024 PASS THE WORD 10:00–2:00 PM**

**Post 9668 and American Legion Post 663 are conducting their Spring Food Drive to benefit the Urbandale Food Pantry.**

**Legion Hall 6805 Douglas Ave.**

**May 18 is Armed Forces Day**, which honors those who serve in all branches of the United States military.

**Armed Forces Day** is a special holiday for people all over the world to come together and thank the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. First conceived by President Harry S. Truman the holiday was established in 1949. The creation of a single day celebration for all five branches of the United States military made sense due to its recent unification under the Department of Defense. Today, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of every May, this year falling on May 20. Be sure to mark your calendar & support our military!

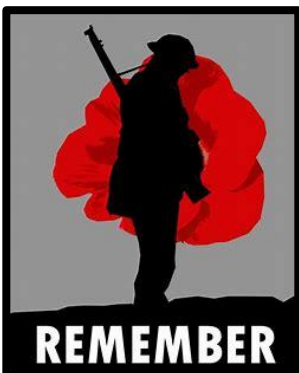
## **Buddy Poppy Distribution**

**May 17 and 18: 8:00-11:00, 11:00-2:00, 2:00-5:00.**  
Windsor Heights Sam's Club

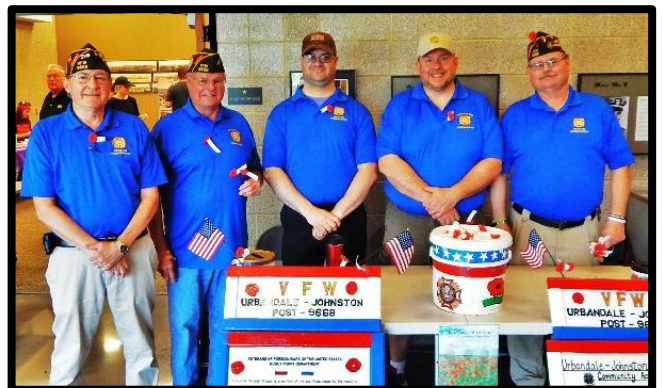
**May 24 and 25: 8:00-11:00, 11:00-2:00, 2:00-5:00.**  
Urbandale HyVee, Johnston HyVee, & Fareway, Grimes HyVee.

If you have not already signed up for one of these locations and shift times, contact the Commander, Senior Vice Commander or Adjutant. We still need volunteers at all of the above locations.

**May 27: Memorial Day at Camp Dodge.** Gold Star  
set up around 5:00 AM, in museum and Pavilion. Museum  
We still need volunteers for both locations. 5:00-10:00  
Contact the Commander or Adjutant to help out..



Memorial Day is an American Holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.





## VETERAN RESOURCES



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

### 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

## 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](mailto:Veterans.Affairs@polkcountyiowa.gov)

Visit the **Polk County Veterans  
Affairs website**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>: Post 9668 Planning Meeting: 7:00 PM, Legion Bldg.**

Coffee and Camaraderie: Saturday, 18 May 2024, (See Calendar bottom left)

If you are interested in being in the Iowa State Fair “ Veterans Day at the Fair” parade; Mike Knight is your contact person (515-556-9239)– (free entrance tickets), If we have enough VFW members, we might be able to have our own vehicle.

**Important Calendar Dates:**

**National Military Appreciation Month**

1<sup>st</sup>: Loyalty Day

4<sup>th</sup>: **VFW National Day of Service.**

6<sup>th</sup>: **Post 9668 business meeting at 1900 hrs. \*. Post Officers elections.**

6<sup>th</sup>: Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day.

8<sup>th</sup>: *V-E (Victory in Europe) Day declared, 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1945).*

10<sup>th</sup>: *Military Spouses Day.*

12<sup>th</sup>: *Mother’s Day.*

15<sup>th</sup>: *Women’s Army Corps Founded (1942).*

17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>: **Memorial Day Buddy Poppies: Sam’s Club\*.**

18<sup>th</sup>: *Armed Forces Day.*

18<sup>th</sup>: **Food Drive, 1000-1600 Hrs. Urbandale American Legion Hall.**

20<sup>th</sup>: **Post 9668 Planning Meeting: TBA/TBD.**

26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>: **Memorial Day Buddy Poppies Grimes, Johnston & Urbandale sites.**

24<sup>th</sup>: *IA Barnstormers Military Night, Well Fargo Arena, 1900 Hours.*

27<sup>th</sup>: **Memorial Day. Buddy Poppies at IA Gold Star Museum (0500-1100 Hrs.) \*.**

30<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June: **VFW Department of IA 102<sup>nd</sup> State Convention at the DSM Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines, IA.**

**Coffee and Camaraderie:**

**Saturday, 18 May 2024, 0900 – 1100 hours, American Legion Post 731, 1511 S. Union St., DSM.**

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

**May Happy Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> Kyle Johnson  
11<sup>th</sup> Jason Coltrain  
12<sup>th</sup> Gary Peitzman  
14<sup>th</sup> Terry Schultz  
19<sup>th</sup> Roger Rothamel

**Do not see your birthday, contact the adjutant at [Adj@vfw9668.org](mailto: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 May business meeting of Post 9668 will be Monday, 6 May 2024, at 7:00 pm, at Urbandale American Legion Hall. Please join us. The meeting in June will be Monday, 3 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.