

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



Commander  
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Sr. Vice Commander  
Michael Knight

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Quartermaster  
Mark Newhall

Adjutant  
Jack Lingelbach

Chaplain  
Al McPherson

**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.

Urbandale-Johnston VFW  
October 2023 News

**FREE MEAL FOR  
ALL POST MEMBERS  
SEE PAGE 4 OF THIS  
NEWSLETTER**



From the Post Commander



As I sit down to review the events of this September, I can look out from my sunporch and see October sneaking into my backyard. My Red Maple is starting to turn at the top; my sunflowers have finished blooming and are drooping their heads waiting for birds and an occasional field mouse to pick out some seeds, and the cool nights make for a heavy dew glistening in the early morning sunlight.

What do we know about October? Well, sitting square in between September and November, October is the tenth month of the Gregorian calendar. October is a month of colorful transitions, cultural celebrations, and spooky fun, But its best known for its Halloween festivities. However, there are other national days, weekly observances, and monthly occasions. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is one of the month's hallmark events. National Hispanic Heritage Month, World Space Week, National Fire Prevention Week. World Homeless Day, and World Hunger Day. Another event is the Bavarian festival "Oktoberfest" which takes place every year in Munich, Germany, between the 16<sup>th</sup> of September and the first week of October. And, we can't forget the MLB World Series starts the last week of October.

But it wouldn't be October without Halloween, which is celebrated on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The celebration's origins go all the way back to Gaelic People of modern-day England, Scotland, and Ireland, who celebrated the festival of Samhain. Historians believe that Samhain is the origin of the holiday we know as Halloween, which in Scottish means "Saints Evening" and would have been written as All Hallows' Eve. Among other activities, the original celebrants of Samhain would dress in costumes or disguises and go door-to-door receiving gifts of food, much like how today's children dress up and receive treats. In the U.S., Halloween is the second biggest commercial and grossing holiday of the year after Christmas. Approximately \$8.8 billion US dollars will be spent to purchase around 600 million lbs. of candy this year. That is the equivalent of 6 ships the size of the Titanic!



## Update on our August Food Drive:

As reported in the September newsletter, Legion Post 663 and VFW Post 9668 summer food drive for the Urbandale Food Pantry collected \$310.00 in cash/checks. Since then, we have added another two "late arrived checks" for \$200.00, bringing our total to \$510.00 and 199 lbs. of food items. This is a record for cash/ checks since the beginning of our food drives.



Thanks to all of our volunteers and contributors.



**Homeless Veterans  
Stand Down**  
DES MOINES, IOWA

Friday, September 15, 2023 ~ 5PM-8PM  
Saturday, September 16, 2023 ~ 8AM-8PM  
Sunday, September 17, 2023 ~ 8AM-10AM

Located Northeast of the Capitol Building on the corner of  
E 12<sup>th</sup> and Des Moines St.

Post 9668 Trustee, Keith Cottington has volunteered with this event for several years and serves as the Assistant Chief of Security. The event offered a wide range of services such as employment assistance, new and used clothing, dentistry and medical care, shelter assistance, claims assistance, veterans benefits, legal assistance, school supplies, COVID vaccines, flu shots, haircuts and more. Meals were served throughout the weekend. Keith indicated that they had some issues obtaining all the volunteers that they needed this year, but were able to serve over 300 veterans.



Keith would like to see more volunteers from our Post for next year. If your interested in volunteering or have questions about the event, please contact Keith Cottington at: [keithcottington.hvs@gmail.com](mailto:keithcottington.hvs@gmail.com) .

### Make a difference:

- educate people about homeless issues
- celebrate and support local good works
- highlight local issues in the media
- donate to local service providers
- volunteer and provide hands on help

The above event for homeless veterans keys right into the coming **World Homeless Day** observed

every year on October 10. The purpose of this day is to bring to focus the issues of homelessness and inadequate housing being experienced within your own community.

This is an opportunity for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness through improved policies and funding.



## **MILITARY FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL 2023**

**CAMP DODGE POOL PAVILION**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 - 2-4PM CDT**

This event is for Military Families with Dependents

### Event Overview

- Pre-Registration Deadline - Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Or register on-site the day of the event
- Dress up as your favorite character
- Indulge in a little treat with Candy
- Hone your skills at Activities
- Show your creativity with Crafts
- Warm up with some hot chocolate



Make sure to have an ID ready when you enter the front gate at Camp Dodge. Once you get through the gate you will follow the signs to a parking area near the Pool Pavilion.

Please check-in at the registration tent.

**Post 9668 Veterans - - “ Listen Up”!** Especially you younger veteran members or any of you wanting to gain additional schooling to further your career.

**VFW, Sport Clips Award Nearly \$750,000 to Student Veterans.**

More than 160 student vets were awarded a VFW Help A Hero Scholarship for the 2023 fall semester. The Student veterans will collectively receive nearly \$750,000 in post-secondary scholarships to help them achieve their academic goals while lessening their student loan burden. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Help A Hero Scholarship was established through a strong relationship with Sport Clips Haircuts to help ease the financial burden service members and veterans face when achieving their post-secondary educational goals.

The Help a Hero Scholarship is a powerful way for us to say thank you to those who served by ensuring recipients have the financial resources they need to complete their education while setting them up for success in their chosen careers after the military.

**Applications for the fall 2024 semester are currently being accepted.**

To find out more on the Help A Hero Scholarship or to apply, visit [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship).



**All VFW Post 9668**

**Members / Guest**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**A *FREE* BRATTS & BURGER MEAL IN  
APPRECIATION OF ALL OF OUR POST MEMBERS.**

***POTATO SALAD, BAKED BEANS, CHIPS,  
AND VARIOUS BEVERAGES PROVIDED.***

**Door Opens at 5:30 -- Happy Hour      Serving 6 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday, November 8**

**American Legion Hall  
6805 Douglas Ave. Urbandale, Iowa.**

# Trunk-or-Treat

Urbandale PD parking Lot

**Thursday, October 26, 2023**

5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Urbandale Police Department parking lot (3740 86<sup>th</sup> St. Urbandale, 50322,) for the annual Trunk-or-Treat event.

**Post 9668 will have a decorated vehicle trunk and treats to hand out.**

*Volunteers contact the Commander*

COFFEE & COMRADERIE  
DES MOINES



**Saturday, October 28, 2023**

**0900 – 1200 hours, VFW Post 9127  
4029 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines, Ia.50310**

## Important October Calendar

### Dates:

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Post 9668 business meeting at 1900hrs\*.**

7<sup>th</sup>: War on Terrorism began (Afghanistan War), (2001).

**9<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Day.**

**13<sup>th</sup>: U.S. Navy established (1775).**

**14<sup>th</sup>: Fall Family Festival. Saturday, 14 October, 1400 – 1600 Hrs., Camp Dodge Pool Pavilion, IANG Warrior and Family Service Branch and Youth Program.**

**20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>: 2019 Big 10 Conference, Itasca, IL.**

**21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>: VFW IA Fall Pow-Wow: DSM Airport Holiday Inn. CANCELED.**

23<sup>rd</sup>: Grenada Campaign began (1983).

26<sup>th</sup>: Day of the Deployed.

**26<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Urbandale Police Department Trunk n' Treat:**  
1730 – 1930 hours, Urbandale PD parking lot.

27<sup>th</sup>: Navy Day.

*28<sup>th</sup>: Coffee & Camaraderie.  
0900– 1200 hours, VFW Post 9127/Beaverdale.*

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

## October Happy Birthdays

7<sup>th</sup> Dan Follett

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

## 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 October Meeting: The October business meeting of Post 9668 will be held at Urbandale American Legion Hall, on Monday, 2 October, 2023. Please join us in person. If you have any questions, contact me or Michael Knight.