



## DECEMBER 2020 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



### **VOICES**

*"In the coming months, the vaccine will be more widely available. Though a semblance of normalcy will someday return, we must never forget the sacrifices made by those who were determined to help their fellow Americans despite the dangers. The men and women of The American Legion will always remember our family, friends and neighbors who were taken by this horrible virus."*

*- American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford in a Dec. 16 statement following the first VA COVID-19 vaccination administered, Dec. 14, to World War II veteran Margaret Klessens, 96, in Bedford, Mass.*



# \$118,500

All-time Giving Tuesday record raised, primarily for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, on Dec. 1, propelled by a new alliance between The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing whose IndyCar driver Jimmie Johnson will drive the No. 48 in 2021 and 2022 road races displaying The American Legion emblem; IndyCar veteran Tony Kanaan will drive the 48 in oval-track races.



# 130

Number of bicycles collected by American Legion Post 9 in Owensboro, Ky., by Dec. 10 in a drive to give them to local children in time for Christmas.



Number of times the American Legion Constitutional Preamble has been changed since 1919, first after World War II to pluralize “the great wars” and again in 2019 to apply the organization’s mission to serve U.S. veterans of “all wars.”



Years in Major League Baseball pitched by notorious knuckleballer and Ohio American Legion Baseball alum Phil Niekro, who won 318 games as a pro, made the MLB All Star Team five times and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997. He passed away Dec. 26 at the age of 81.



4

New American Legion posts chartered in December: Wyoming 307, South Carolina 271, Tennessee 292 and Georgia 93.



Number of times American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford’s March 13, 2020, e-newsletter, whose subject line was “An Urgent Message About Coronavirus,” was forwarded, a high in forwards for 2020; next highest of the year was a message whose subject line was “Light Candles of Honor for Memorial Day” on May 19, with 41,167.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



Percentage of veterans’ claims appeals that were granted by the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), or remanded to VA regional offices for further development. American Legion claims specialists represented veterans (or family members) in 11,230 of the cases considered by BVA in 2020.



11

Number of American Legion National Emergency Fund grants, totaling \$17,815, issued to individual member veterans in December who suffered severe losses caused by natural disasters.



# 23,583

Number of American Legion VA Volunteer Services participants documented in the 2019-20 Consolidated Post Report.

## VOICES

*"Flying was great. Don't get me wrong. But what kept me coming back was the people and the mission. I think I got my first taste of that at Boys State and Boys Nation."*

*- Iowa American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation alum Air Force Col. Raja Chari who is now among the first 18 astronauts selected for NASA's Artemis Team, whose goal is to land the first woman and next man on the moon in 2024 and establish a lunar base by the end of the decade*



# \$4,442

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants disbursed to military and veteran families in need during December.



# \$101,000

Amount in American Legion Mission Blue post assistance grants approved in December within 25 departments where local posts suffered severe hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# \$47,000

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued in December, including one for \$17,000 awarded to the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation Dec. 3 to purchase winter clothing, socks, underwear and toiletry kits for homeless veterans in Indiana as the cold winter months began.



# \$40,049

Amount in national American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in November.