



## JUNE 2021 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



### **VOICES**

*"During my time in country, I saw many interpreters come and go. Some fled, others were abducted, and many were killed while serving with me and other American troops in combat. They left behind friends and family not knowing if they could ever return in search of a better life once they helped Americans and coalition forces ... We cannot hesitate to pull out all of our interpreters that meet the requirements for the Special Immigrant Visas. We strongly encourage the U.S. government to fulfill their obligation to our heroic Afghan interpreters by keeping our Afghan allies safe."*

*- American Legion National Security Division Policy Adviser Nick Riffel, a two-tour combat veteran of the war in Afghanistan, in a June 16 American Legion press conference calling on the White House to act urgently to safely evacuate some 18,000 Afghan translators and others who assisted coalition forces and are now in danger. Joining The American Legion in the press conference were Reps. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., and Jason Crow, D-Colo., both combat veterans of the war. A week later, President Biden announced plans to relocate the U.S. allies to other countries as their visas are processed.*



# 3,474

Number of June downloads (through June 29) for the Tango Alpha Lima podcast, easily making it the second-best month of audience engagement in its 15-month history.



# \$36,166

Dollars raised in 100 hours in a June matching-gift campaign for 100 Miles for Hope, which benefits the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



**1,539**

Number of informal hearing presentations prepared by American Legion national veterans claims specialists in June, representing veterans and families free of charge in their efforts to obtain VA disability benefits.



**105**

Number of U.S. flag inquiries fielded by The American Legion Americanism Division in June.



**239**

Appeals of VA claims decisions granted in favor of the veteran in June, thanks to free American Legion representation before the Board of Veterans Appeals.



**337,000+**

Facebook followers reached in the Rally Around the Flag campaign in the 50 days leading up to Flag Day 2021. The American Legion social media graphics campaign averaged more than 440 engagements for each of the 50 posts.



**100**

Approximate number of New Jersey American Legion Family members who joined National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford and American Legion Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp in a 1K awareness walk on June 9 to promote the Buddy Check program.



**15k**

Estimated number of U.S. flags from across Minnesota properly retired June 12 in a ceremony led by Forest Lake American Legion Post 225 at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake.



# \$317,000

Amount raised by the Sons of The American Legion in support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during the 2021 program year, contributing to a total raised of over \$435,000. The CWF uses the funds to provide grants to organizations that support children facing physical, emotional, environmental or spiritual problems.

## TESTIMONY

*"The American Legion believes that a peer-support approach to mental health and suicide prevention is instrumental to anything we do when it comes to our efforts. Something I learned in the military as a sergeant major, was that it was devastating every time I lost a Marine. It was even more difficult with the veterans who had just gotten out, and I felt helpless trying to reach and assist them."*

*- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Mario Marquez, testifying June 23 before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in support of legislation calling on VA to conduct a national Buddy Check Week to reach out to veterans in need. The American Legion Buddy Check program was launched in March 2019, and more than 3,600 local posts conducted Buddy Check activities in the 2019-20 membership year alone. Peer-to-peer support is a top legislative priority of The American Legion.*



# 359

Number of new American Legion members recruited in 2020-21 by Martha Bigbie, commander of Lester Keate Post 90 in St. George, Utah. She was one of 65 who earned Gold Brigade status for the membership year, having signed up 50 or more to the organization.



# \$28,885

Amount in American Legion youth scholarships disbursed from National Headquarters in June.



# 27,280

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition sent from American Legion National Headquarters to 26 different posts and 17 departments through the Military Equipment Loan Program. Also distributed were 155 clips and 113 rifles.



# 253

Number of individual American Legion achievement certificates fulfilled for Scouting programs in June, including 220 Eagle Scout awards, two Boy Scouts of America Venturing Summit awards, two Sea Scouts Quartermaster awards and 29 Girl Scouts USA Gold Awards. The June fulfillment brought the number of achievement awards for Scouts to 1,155 for the year.



# 12

Number of American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants disbursed in June, amounting to \$75,186, that provided 1,164 veterans with comfort items in their recoveries from illnesses or wounds.



# 16

Mission Blue Post Assistance grants distributed in June to help American Legion posts that were adversely affected economically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# 840

Number of military and veteran jobseekers who met virtually with 314 employers in an online job fair June 10 produced by The American Legion, the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA