



VOICES

"Young people who have been told that military service will leave them broken or unsupported in the end will think twice about their propensity to serve at all. And that is a matter of national security. We need to change the narrative. We can change the narrative."

- American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., testifying Feb. 26 before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs



60

Percentage of constituent calls to members of Congress that are related to issues with the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to VA Secretary Doug Collins, who spoke Feb. 24 at the Commander's Call for the 65th American Legion Washington Conference.



1,431,061

Number of local veterans served through The American Legion's Buddy Check program after 2024 assistance numbers – a record 341,049 by no fewer than 4,624 posts – were tabulated from the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



\$19,038.18

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in February, all to assist after damages from the Los Angeles wildfires.



85

Participants in a Feb. 21 American Legion- Small Business Administration conference in Washington D.C. where they learned about accessing capital, navigating difficulties in business and franchise opportunities.



9

American Legion Samsung Scholars who participated in activities, tours and ceremonies as part of the 65th Washington Conference in the nation's capital.



\$17,000

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants disbursed in February, to the Birmingham, Ala., VA Medical Center and, through The American Legion Department of Indiana, to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.



275

Number of American Legion Baseball teams that had completed registration for the 2025 season through February.



91

Scouting recognition certificates distributed to local American Legion posts in February – 75 for Eagle Scouts, seven for Gold Star Girl Scouts and nine for Summit Awards.



\$535,000

Amount in American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation grants disbursed in February to assist non-profit organizations that help children facing challenges beyond their control.



125

Homeless veterans who received donated gift cards, blankets, personal hygiene products, socks and more Feb. 25 in a visit to three shelters in Washington D.C. by Past National Vice Commander Patricia Harris, Legionnaires and the American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division during the 65th Washington Conference.



3,737

Number of military and veterans memorials that had been posted on the national American Legion memorials database on legion.org through February.



661

Downloads of the American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast, highest in February, featuring Kamin Samuel, the Navy's first Black female helicopter pilot.

VOICES

"If I can train others that might catch somebody that I'll never know, that's another life saved. By being a trainer, the more you get out, the more people you train, people are going to get saved. It's just going to multiply to the point where hopefully there won't be any veteran out there that cannot find somebody to listen to them."

— Richard Schwerdtfeger of American Legion Post 374 in Des Moines, Iowa, during a Feb. 14 American Legion Be The One QPR (question, persuade, refer) training session at the Department of Iowa's Mid-Winter Conference, where 10 American Legion Family members were certified to assist veterans at risk for suicide and train others to help, as well.



146,583,674

Potential audience in the Washington, D.C., media market of a national American Legion press release that advanced the 65th Washington Conference.



\$5,432,942

Amount in retroactive VA benefits secured in February, with free representation from American Legion appeals experts, for disabled veterans who had disputed earlier claims decisions.



898

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared for veterans, free of charge, by American Legion claims appeals representatives in February.



331

U.S. Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions achieved in February, with free representation by American Legion national staff.



\$2,208,586

Amount in VA debt waived in February for veterans or family members using free American Legion representation.



93

New VA pension claims handled free of charge by American Legion representatives in February.



51

New American Legion service officers who received VA accreditation in February.



8

Number of brand-new U.S. flags distributed Feb. 11 by the American Legion Family of Post 77 in Henderson County, N.C., to schools that were damaged – and flags ruined – when Hurricane Helene struck last fall.



25

Number of Central Catholic High School Junior ROTC students in San Antonio, Texas, who were awarded "Cyber Patriot" scholarships through Task Force Movement, with support from Google and the Justamere Foundation; The American Legion has a seat on the steering committee of TFM, which made the announcement in February.



5

New American Legion posts chartered in February: 395 in Mobile, Ala.; 422 in Lee, Fla.; 422 in Lafayette, La.; 293 in Spring Mountain, Tenn; and 1938 in College Station, Texas.



11

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in February: four in Wisconsin; two in Minnesota; and one each in Florida, the District of Columbia, Connecticut, Texas and Ohio.



2,480

Rounds of ceremonial ammo, to go along with 68 rifles, distributed to posts and departments in February through The American Legion Military Surplus Program, administered by the National Security Division in Washington, D.C.



4

Junior ROTC achievement certificates distributed to local posts from The American Legion National Security Division in February, two for military excellence and two for scholastics.