



VOICES

"This is not a drill. Not a media event ... I am calling on you to step in and do what you can to provide assistance for military families, servicemembers and others who are affected in your communities. When down times occur, American Legion Family members have always risen to the occasion to uplift others, even save lives, for generations."

- American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley in an Oct. 30 message to the membership as the federal government shutdown neared entering its second month



23,267

Messages sent in October through the American Legion Grassroots Action Center calling for payment of U.S. military personnel during the federal government shutdown.



75,000

Approximate number of student veterans whose GI Bill tuition and housing benefits were delayed in October, due to the government shutdown.



\$4,554,351

Amount in retroactive VA benefits awarded to veterans for the month, thanks to free American Legion claims appeals representation.



350

Number of participants in an Elizabethtown, Ky., Be the One veteran suicide-prevention walk in August.



7,223

Minimum number of Be the One veteran suicide-prevention events coordinated by 2,917 American Legion posts in the 2024-25 membership year, according to the newest Consolidated Post Report.



361,871

Veterans reached in the 2024-25 membership year through The American Legion's Buddy Check program, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



433

Number of VA claims decision appeals decided in favor of the veteran in October, after free American Legion representation.



1,044

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



\$251,250

Amount in American Legion Samsung Scholarships approved in October to assist a record 101 students who had participated in American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs.



\$851,542

Amount in American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grants awarded to youth-serving organizations in October by the CWF Board of Directors.



25

Number of new American Legion service officers who received VA accreditation to assist veterans, free of charge, with their disability claims and other matters.



20

Number of U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded in October by the American Legion's Americanism Division.

TESTIMONY

"The system is in urgent need of reform, not because veterans are gaming the claims process, but rather because government has allowed its complexity to increase unnecessarily. The VA claims process has grown in complexity over the years, becoming a labyrinth designed for administrative convenience, rather than serving veterans."

- American Legion Claims Disability Specialist Marty Callaghan in an Oct. 29 Statement for the Record before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the increasingly complex VA claims-application process



\$20,000

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued in October: \$10,000 for the Willing Warrior Retreat in Haymarket, Va.; and \$10,000 to District of Columbia Post 46 to purchase shoes for a homeless veterans standdown.



\$37,215

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed to 17 students in October.



64

Eagle Scout recognition certificates issued from American Legion National Headquarters in October, to go along with three for Sea Scouts, two for Gold Star Girl Scouts and one Summit Award.



10

School districts represented in an Oct. 24 Operation Democracy Civics Summit at Nassau Community College where American Legion Family youth programs were promoted to students and educators in advance of the nation's 250th anniversary.



\$1 million

Amount of a state grant awarded to American Legion Post 141 in Howell, Mich., for its decades of service to the community and state, particularly during times of disaster; the funds will be used for a post renovation.



7

New American Legion posts chartered in October, in the Departments of Arizona, Arkansas, Florida (2), Indiana, Oklahoma and Puerto Rico.



7

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in October, in the Detachments of Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma and Puerto Rico.



107,175

Minimum units collected through The American Legion Blood Program in the 2024-25 membership year, by nearly 63,000 donors nationwide, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



11,160

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition issued to posts and departments in October through The American Legion Military Surplus Program, to go along with 39 rifles, 50 clips and one static display.