



VOICES

"American Legion Family members – you are the power behind our voice on Capitol Hill. Our injured servicemembers should not lose their full retirement pay because of a disability they sustained while protecting our nation. Correcting that injustice is a priority for The American Legion. And Legionnaires from every state are making their voice heard."

*- American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley delivered some of the **8,740** petitions on Nov. 12 from the membership seeking passage of the Major Richard Star Act that would remove the injustice of military pensions forfeited by the amount of disability compensation they are due.*

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\$23,289,379,651

Amount in VA disability benefits secured for veterans, a record, through the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, thanks to free assistance from accredited American Legion service officers.

393

Bills introduced in the 119th Congress that were reviewed for feedback and support by American Legion Government Affairs staff.

291

Congressional meetings conducted by The American Legion Legislative Division through November this year.



699

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge by American Legion appeals representatives in November for veterans disputing their benefits decisions.



13

In-person testimonies and statements for the record submitted to the 119th Congress by The American Legion through November.

\$2,367,725

Retroactive awards secured last month for veterans who succeeded in their appeals of VA claims decisions, with free American Legion representation.



20

Number of American Legion service officers who received VA accreditation in November.

9,920

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition, to go along with 33 rifles, 75 clips and one static display, disbursed to 12 American Legion posts and nine departments through the Military Surplus Program administered by the National Security Division.



39

Number of missing military personnel accounted for in November through the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.



853

Board of Veterans' Appeals dispositions obtained, free of charge, in November for American Legion-represented veterans disputing their VA claims decisions. Among those, 33% were ruled in favor of the veteran, and 37.4% were remanded for additional documentation.



9th

Ranking, as reported in November, of The American Legion's Tango Alpha Lima among the top 100 podcasts for veterans in the nation, according to Feedspot, a digital platform dedicated to curating podcasts and ranking them based on quality and relevance.

\$6,500

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants awarded in November to military and qualified veteran families with children at home who were facing economic crises.

\$49,777

Amount in national American Legion youth scholarships disbursed to 19 students in November.

VOICES



"We had a small number of family members come through that had lost loved ones to suicide who shared their stories and tears with us and their thanks for putting this together to bring awareness and hopes that maybe it would prevent one more from giving in and one less family to have to endure the tragedy."

- American Legion Department of Oklahoma Commander Steven Thomas, who led a 22-hour vigil Nov. 22 before a flag-draped coffin at the Grove Community Center in Grove, Okla., to raise veteran suicide awareness; about 100 American Legion Family members and others stood for 22 minutes each.

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54

Number of National American Legion College graduates who completed training and received their diplomas on Nov. 21.

106

Number of American Legion Junior Shooting Sports teams that had begun registration, 52 of which had completed it, for the 2026 season by the end of November, nearly double the amount from the previous year.

\$10,000

Amount of one American Legion National Emergency Fund grant disbursed in November, to Post 77 in Belvidere, Ill., after extensive storm and flood damages.



64

Number of Scouting recognition certificates issued from The American Legion's Americanism Division in November.



8

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in November, including two each in Massachusetts, North Carolina and Wisconsin; one in Alabama; and one in South Dakota.



\$3,000

Amount in an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant disbursed in November to the Birmingham VA Medical Center, sponsored by Post 911. Of that, \$1,500 was used to purchase personal care items for wounded and at-risk veterans at the hospital; the other \$1,500 went to the Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center to purchase smart home technology, equipment for their woodshop and recreational items for blind veterans.