



VOICES

"I picked Buddy Checks because we have the ability to really get personal and one-on-one with the veteran. We talk with them about how it's going, what their needs are, if there's anything that we can do for them, whether it be in their home or out in the community, or maybe at their workplace. We're there to focus on what they need for their life and make sure they're doing OK in conjunction with the Be the One mission effort for The American Legion."

*- American Legion Department of Utah Area 2
Commander Ninzel Rasmuson, who coordinated a
massive Buddy Check initiative in March*

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\$150,000

Fundraising goal set by American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley through the American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge, in support of the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

1,760

Buddy Checks to veterans made March 15-16 by Department of Utah American Legion Family members as part of the USA 250 Challenge.

250

Number of Americanism lessons given by Florida Sons of The American Legion Squadron member Peter Puzzo through mid-March as part of his effort to fulfill the USA 250 Challenge.



\$4,469,622

Retroactive awards secured in March for veterans appealing earlier VA decisions regarding their claims, thanks to free representation from The American Legion.



18

Number of U.S. Navy sailors who received needed supplies, gift cards and support from the American Legion Family of Post 327 in Norfolk, Va., in March after they were evacuated from Bahrain due to the war with Iran.



12

Bills and pending legislation affecting VA addressed by American Legion Legislative Director Cole Lyle in a March 25 hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.



776

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



1,198

U.S. Board of Veterans' Appeals dispositions achieved for veterans in March after free representation by American Legion staff specialists, only 18.3% of which were denied.



26

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



18

American Legion service officers who received VA accreditation in March to represent veterans in their claims applications and processes.



\$2,259,345

VA debt waivers achieved for veterans in March after free representation by American Legion national staff representatives.

VOICES



"Recent military action reminds us of the cost of service, shouldered by a shrinking minority of American families. In our all-volunteer force, military service has become a family business. And while average time in uniform is just 4-8 years, the costs can potentially last a lifetime. As we mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, it is essential we examine those costs and make sure they are paid in full. That is precisely why Congress chartered The American Legion after World War I."

- American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley, testifying March 4 before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs

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\$4,000

Amount in national American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in March.

96

Number of volunteers who were signed up through March to assist with the American Legion National Oratorical Contest May 15-17 at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

347

Number of American Legion Baseball teams that began the 2026 registration process for the coming season in March, bringing the total number of teams to 1,044 so far in the year.

\$2,144,388,937

Total VA benefits secured for veterans and their families using free American Legion claims and appeals representation in February.

86

American Legion Eagle Scout national recognition certificates disbursed in March.

76

Ceremonial rifles distributed in March to American Legion posts and departments, to go along with 9,920 rounds of ammo, 225 clips and one static display, through The American Legion National Security Division's Military Surplus Program.

1,600

Meals prepared by 11 staff members of the American Legion Media & Communications Division, along with another organization, during a day of community service March 24 as part of the Final Four festivities in Indianapolis. The project, part of the USA 250 Challenge, was for Gleaners Food Bank, which will distribute the meals to those in need.

\$3,225

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants awarded in March to two struggling veteran families with five minor children at home.

\$888,700

Amount in American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grants disbursed to three youth-serving organizations in March.



5

Junior ROTC awards – three for military excellence and two for scholastic achievement – presented in March by The American Legion's National Security Division.



33

Servicemember remains that were recovered in March through The American Legion-supported Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.



3

New American Legion posts chartered in March, No. 347 in Scottsville, Ky.; No. 9 in Winnfield, La.; and No. 822 in Collegeville, Pa.



7

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in March: Bradford, Ark., No. 144; No. 34 in St. George, Maine; No. 1092 in Niskayuna, N.Y.; No. 109 in Montpelier, Ohio; No. 186 in Lebanon, Ohio; No. 36 in Centerville, Tenn.; and No. 301 in Woodville, Wis.