



VOICES

"Civic education is essential to the preservation of a republic because a republic depends not on force, but on the informed, responsible participation of its citizens. Without a citizenry that understands how its system of government works – and why it exists – the structure of self government slowly erodes from within. The American Legion is committed to constitutional scholarship and an understanding of American government for all citizens."

- American Legion Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis May 6 in a report to the National Executive Committee prior to passage of Resolution No. 6, "Restoring Civic Knowledge and Patriotism through Education"

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669

Record number of American Legion Legacy Scholarships announced by the Committee on Youth Education May 6 to be awarded, in the amount of over \$1.7 million, to children of military personnel who lost their lives on or after 9/11 or became 50% or greater service-connected disabled.

\$14.8 billion

Amount in VA disability benefits and appeals awards secured for veterans and surviving spouses, a record pace, by May 1 of the current fiscal year, thanks to free claims and appeals assistance by American Legion service officers and appeals representatives.

6

Number of consecutive years (2020-25) in which veterans and surviving spouses have received increased VA benefits awards due to free assistance by American Legion service officers and appeals representatives. The rate for 2026 is on pace to break another record.



\$19,806

Funds raised during the Spring Meetings of The American Legion in early May, surpassing \$100,000 so far, toward National Commander Dan K. Wiley's goal of \$150,000 for the Veterans & Children Foundation, as part of the Legion Family USA 250 Challenge.



6

Number of veteran-friendly bills passed May 18 by the House of Representatives, including five for which The American Legion provided testimony.



108

Number of veterans assisted May 20 at the American Legion-led 10th South Jersey Regional Stand Down, at the All Wars Memorial Soldiers Home in Atlantic City, N.J.



5,500

Volunteer hours recorded by Alexis McCullough of Bourbonnais, Ill., on a Gold Star Families Memorial project in honor of her late father, Army Col. Mark McCullough, who passed away in 2019. The monument was dedicated in May 2025 after \$120,000 in donations and 380 volunteers participated. She received a \$10,000 scholarship in May as The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.



53

Number of contestants who competed in The American Legion National Oratorical Contest May 16-17 at Hillsdale College in Michigan.



\$25,000

Amount in scholarship money awarded to Juliet Hetzel of Colorado Springs, Colo., after she won the 87th American Legion National Oratorical Contest May 17 at Hillsdale College in Michigan.



\$33,500

Amount of one American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant issued to send 500 qualified veterans to a Tacoma, Wash., Rainiers Minor League Baseball game in June.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



"As veterans, we understand the importance of honor and remembrance for those who came before us, which is why Wreaths Across America Day is so important. With this new agreement, our respective organizations will be able to build upon that for the good of our communities, states and nation."

- American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley after the May 11 completion of an official Memorandum of Understanding with Wreaths Across America, formalizing collaboration

"The American Legion has long been a valued partner in helping honor our nation's heroes on National Wreaths Across America Day. This formal partnership allows us to deepen that relationship, expand awareness of both organizations' missions, and provide American Legion posts with another meaningful way to engage their communities while supporting veterans and military families year-round."

- Wreaths Across America Executive Director Karen Worcester, after the MOU was signed

\$110,553

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in May to 23 students.

18

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded in May by The American Legion's national Americanism Division.

1,141

American Legion Baseball teams that began the 2026 registration process in May, bringing the season total to 2,731 so far.



\$2,133

Amount of one American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grant issued in May stabilizing the home of a child whose veteran parents were faced with unexpected financial hardship.



139

American Legion Eagle Scout recognition certificates issued in May, to go along with one Girl Scout Gold Star certificate.



17,360

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition, to go along with 33 rifles and 75 clips, distributed to 22 American Legion posts and 14 departments through the Military Surplus Program administered by the National Security Division.



\$17,500

Amount of one American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grant disbursed in May to a youth-serving nonprofit organization benefiting children physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.



2

New American Legion posts chartered in May, both in California: No. 945 in Dublin; and No. 1989 in Temecula.



8

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in May, across seven state detachments.