



VOICES

"Today marks a victory for our nation's veterans and their families, and serves as another example of the influence the Legion's voice has in Washington, D.C. As we have done for 107 years, The American Legion will continue working to ensure our veterans have access to the health care and benefits they earned."

- American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley, following an announcement by VA to halt a rule change that could have reduced veteran disability rating status for those who receive medication for their conditions

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Days after American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley issued a statement opposing VA's announcement to enforce the rule that stood to affect disability ratings for veterans receiving medication that the decision to do so was halted by VA Secretary Doug Collins.

\$6,599

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants awarded in February to three veteran families with six minor children, which were facing severe financial crises that stood to destabilize their homes.

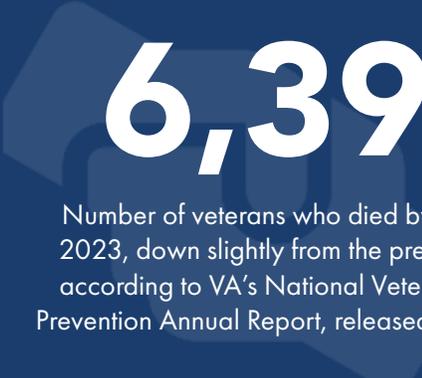
14

High school students who competed Feb. 19 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus for the America 250-Ohio History Bee, in partnership with The American Legion Department of Ohio and the state's America250 Commission; the competitors were the top finishers in the department's Americanism and Government Test this year.



\$4,637,227

Amount in retroactive benefits secured in February for veterans who used free American Legion appeals representation after disputing earlier VA claims decisions.



6,398

Number of veterans who died by suicide in 2023, down slightly from the previous year, according to VA's National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, released in February.



1,049

Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions rendered in February for American Legion-represented veterans disputing VA claims decisions, of which 403 were granted in favor of the veteran and 355 were remanded for further documentation.



805

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared for veterans appealing their VA claims decisions in February with free representation by American Legion appeals representatives.



33

New VA pension claims worked, free of charge, by national American Legion representatives.



6

Statements issued by National Commander Dan Wiley in the second half of February: three about VA's disability rule change, two on the war in Iran and another about the partial government shutdown.



41

Newly certified American Legion service officers who received VA accreditation in February.

\$2,216,731

Amount in VA debt waivers granted for veterans or their families in January, thanks to free American Legion representation.

VOICES



"For more than a century, The American Legion has been guided by a simple truth: We do not leave anyone behind. That commitment does not end when a conflict ends. For families still waiting for answers, and for those still missing, this mission remains deeply personal."

- American Legion National Security Division Director Sean Counihan, who spoke Feb. 21 at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency update for families in North Charleston, S.C., attended by about 400 family members of missing U.S. military personnel

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20

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

6

Number of American Legion Baseball alums who made the U.S. team roster for the World Baseball Classic.

427

Number of teams that began the registration process for the 2026 American Legion Baseball season in February, bringing the total to 697 by March 1.

\$4,480

Amount in national American Legion youth scholarships awarded in February.

73

Years retired Navy Capt. Royce waited to receive the Medal of Honor after he shot down four Russian MiGs in a 35-minute dogfight during the Korean War.

44

Number of American Legion Scouting recognition certificates awarded in February, including 40 Eagle Scouts.

2,280

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition distributed in February through The American Legion's Military Surplus Loan Program, under the National Security Division in Washington.

4

Previously missing U.S. servicemembers recovered in February by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

114

Number of attendees at the American Legion National Regional Information Conference in Atlanta on Feb. 7.



1

New American Legion post chartered in February, No. 1907 in Guthrie, Okla.



11

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in February, in eight different detachments.