AMERICAN LEGION

MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT
October 2026



$25,845,891,995

Record amount in disability benefits secured by accredited American Legion service officers for veterans in Fiscal Year 2026, according to data released in October. That total beat the record of $23,289,379,651, set the previous fiscal year. (**Read story here.**)

VOICES



"Buddy Checks are personal to me. I had a family member die by suicide. You just realize you need to reach out to these people and let them know that you are there for them."

— Department of Montana Commander Irene Dickerson

158

Wellness check-ins the Department of Montana made on Buddy Check Call Night, reaching around 75 veterans.

101

Years American Legion Post 82 in Elizabeth, Colo., has conducted a community holiday food drive. The drive kicked off Oct. 16 and will run through the weekend before Thanksgiving; last year's drive assisted 95 families. (**Read the story.**)

500

Estimated number of U.S. flags properly disposed of by American Legion Post 108 in Manson, Wash., during an Oct. 10 flag retirement ceremony. Severe fires forced the post to postpone its annual Flag Day retirement ceremony in June.

95,052

Emails sent to members of Congress via The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center in support of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, as of Oct. 30.

VOICES



"We're a small community with around 5,000 people total. There are a lot of patriots around here that fly their flags. And they are concerned that the flag gets disposed of in the right way. If it wasn't for us, they wouldn't be left with many options, other than to throw it in their garbage can. I've had a lot of positive comments about how appreciative (the community is) that we are here to do the proper disposal of the flags."

- ***Norm Manley,*** *service officer of American Legion Post 108 in Manson, Wash.* ***(Read the story.)***

62

Participants from across the nation and The American Legion Department of France who attended the Legion's third annual Department Service Officer Symposium.

8

Schools visited each fall by members of Great Bend, Kan., Post 180's American Legion Family for flag etiquette and history lessons to elementary students

10

U.S. Flag Code inquires fielded by the Americanism Division.

$2,230,085,597

Amount in VA benefits secured for veterans in September thanks to free American Legion representation.

18

Memorial bricks purchased by Sons of The American Legion members and placed at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in Indianapolis during Fall Meetings.

4

Training sessions conducted in October by Columbia University, educating American Legion Family members on how to Be the One to prevent a veteran from suicide.

$1,040,181

Amount of grants from the Child Wellbeing Foundation distributed for the 2027 calendar year. These grants will support programs, activities and research that benefit young people physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

8

Remains of POW-MIAs recovered by DPAA during the month.

$74,500

Amount of scholarship money disbursed during October to 19 recipients.

$248,750

Amount of Samsung American Legion Scholarships awarded to 99 high school students who attended either the 2026 American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State session.

$5,000

The amount donated by Bernard Hurst American Legion Post 77 in Brookville, Ind., to the Franklin County Community Foundation. The donation will assist those impacted by the state's historic August flooding.

33,480

Rounds of ceremonial ammo distributed through The American Legion National Security Division's military loan program, to go along with 54 rifles, 200 clips and two static displays to 36 posts in 19 departments.

$3,849.89

Value of two National Emergency Fund grants distributed to individuals following severe flooding in Indiana over the summer.

14

Resolutions approved by the National Executive Committee during Fall Meetings.

$3,651

Amount of Temporary Finance Assistance grants that assisted two veteran families with a total of seven minor children at home, thereby keeping the children in a stable environment.

$31,805.90

Four grants distributed via the Operation Comfort Warriors program.

67

Eagle Scout certifications awarded during October by the Americanism Division.

69

Clubs that started registration for Junior Shooting Sports.

807

VA benefit decision appeals for which dispositions were rendered by the Board of Veterans' Appeals after free American Legion representation in October.

1

New American Legion posts, located in Boquete, Panama.

2

New SAL squadrons, both in Pennsylvania.