



## VOICES

*"It's good to look back and see what these kids have accomplished, something that you started or that you helped ... fun to watch them see what they can become, and what they have become."*

*- Loren "Bud" Sperry, Lake Stevens, Wash., American Legion Post 181, who, with fellow Legionnaire Ida Jewell of Bath, Ind., Post 122, stepped away from the National American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Championships after the July titles were won, leaving behind 55 years of combined volunteer service to the national competition*



# \$518,012

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in July to 159 students.



# 1 million

Number of PACT Act claims that have been granted, with some 888,000 veterans and survivors receiving service-connected benefits, for conditions related to toxic exposure; the PACT Act was the Legion's highest legislative priority in 2022 when it was passed after relentless lobbying on behalf of some 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans who had been sickened or lost their lives due to exposure in service.



# \$26,604.12

Amount of six American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in July to provide assistance to members and posts in Louisiana, Tennessee, Iowa, Texas and South Dakota after tornadoes, floods and devastating storms.



# 87

American Legion Baseball alumni who have now been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., following the July 21 additions of Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer and longtime manager Jim Leyland.



# 100

Number of young men from across the nation who gathered at Marymount University and toured Washington, D.C., including a meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris, for the 78th session of American Legion Boys Nation.



# \$42,000

Amount donated by American Legion Post 91 in Cambridge, Md., to the VA Maryland Healthcare System in a July lump sum, making it the single largest contribution ever from a veterans service organization to the Maryland facility.



# 25

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



# 730

Job candidates who participated in a July 25 virtual job fair for veterans, put on by MilitaryHire, WalMart and The American Legion, in which 618 online chats took place, and The American Legion's booth was visited by 104 attendees.



# \$3,262,743

Amount in retroactive disability benefits compensation awarded to veterans in July after free representation by American Legion appeals specialists.



# 15,203

Actions taken in July on The American Legion Legislative Division's Grassroots Action Center by members sending messages to Congress in support of Legion-backed bills. Receiving the most attention: the Major Richard Star Act, which would allow combat-injured veterans the ability to receive their earned retirement pay as well as VA disability compensation, without offset.



# 57

Number of new American Legion service officers who received accreditation in July.



# 907

Informal VA Hearing Presentations prepared in July for veterans filing appeals of decisions, using free American Legion representation.

## LETTER

*"As a nation that values loyalty and honor, the United States has a moral obligation to protect those who fought by our side. We made a promise to stand by the Afghan men and women who risked their lives for our mission; it is up to Congress to uphold this commitment."*

-American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, in a July 11 letter to Senate leadership calling for provisions to accelerate U.S. residency processes for Afghan allies now living in the United States and to authorize Special Immigrant Visas to those still living in Afghanistan, as identified by the Department of Defense, who have been in severe danger since the Taliban takeover of 2021



# 250,000

Pounds of fresh produce collected and distributed by American Legion Post 62 in Peoria, Ariz., in one year to fight food insecurity in the area, a cause Post 62 member Dwight Amery said had been elevated after he read an article about the issue in *The American Legion Magazine*.



# 1.1 million

Number of veterans and survivors who had been granted VA disability benefits three-quarters of the way through the 2023-24 fiscal year, a record high.



# 12

Number of American Legion departments that surpassed their membership goals for 2024 – including Puerto Rico, Florida, Virginia, Hawaii, Latin America, Idaho, Maryland, Rhode Island, Texas, Colorado, District of Columbia and Arizona.



# 498

Downloads of the audio version of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast featuring Army veteran R.C. Bramhall, author of a book about bizarre, paranormal and unexplained military tales. The episode was the best in July and most downloaded since mid-May.



# 54

Eagle Scout recognition certificates issued from American Legion National Headquarters in July, to go along with 10 Gold Star and six Summit Award certificates.



# 341

Attendees of the National American Legion Membership Workshop in Indianapolis July 25-27.



# 2

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in July, one in Orlando, Fla., and the other in Edinburgh, Ind.



# 30

Number of American Legion Junior Shooting Sports marksmen who qualified and competed in the national championships in July at Hillsdale College in Michigan.



New American Legion posts chartered in July: Lake City, Fla., and Bland, Va.