



VOICES

"For veterans of the post-9/11 era, it recognizes illnesses caused by airborne toxins from burn pits. It also provides long-awaited relief for those who passed through the contaminated air base known as K2 early in the war. It expands care and disability benefits to veterans suffering with Gulf War Illness and accepts the scientific reality that previously ignored conditions are connected to Agent Orange exposure. To sick veterans exposed to radiation from atomic testing, time is of the essences for the PACT Act. The House has done its part. Now, it's up to the Senate."

-American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard, in a video message to urge Senate passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, which would provide long-awaited relief for veterans exposed to burn pits, contaminated base water, Agent Orange, atomic radiation and more.

 **\$203,500**

Amount in scholarships awarded to competitors in the 83rd American Legion National Oratorical Contest April 24 in Indianapolis. Taking first place and a \$25,000 scholarship was Emma Noble of Birmingham, Ala., sponsored by Matthew Blount Post 555 in Pelham.



1,117

Minimum number of American Legion posts that participated in veteran career events during the 2020-21 membership year, with only 62% of posts reporting.



32%

Increase in American Legion Emblem Sales U.S. flag sales in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the previous high quarterly sales, in 2019. Emblem Sales had record sales of American-made flags in January, February and March of 2022.



250

Miles already recorded by the first week of April by Tammie Jaragoske, a military mom from Aberdeen, S.D., who participates in The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope challenge in honor of her three servicemember sons.



\$180,000

Amount raised through April by The American Legion's Department of South Dakota in its "Send One" campaign to purchase Honor Flight trips to Washington for veterans to see the memorials and monuments to their wartime service. The initial fundraising goal was \$50,000.



26.2

Miles marched April 16 in the "Tough Ruck" prior to the Boston Marathon by The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope team of National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey, American Legion Media & Communications Commission Chairman David Wallace, South Dakota American Legion Service Officer Courtney VanZanten and National Guard Sgt. Robert Maldonado. Hosts of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast were on hand to cover the ruck live from Boston.



1,000

Approximate attendance for the April 7 rededication of Louisiana State University's Memorial Tower in Baton Rouge, La. American Legion National Vice Commander Cory Bates was among the speakers at the event for the iconic tower, which Louisiana American Legion posts originally funded in the early 1920s.

TESTIMONY

"Providing claims assistance should not be about the money. It should be about service to veterans and their families. The American Legion has been assisting the veterans' community for more than a century, and we are thoroughly invested in that community. Our dedication goes far beyond filling out some paperwork."

-American Legion Deputy Director of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Marty Callaghan, testifying April 27 before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Oversight and Investigation, regarding predatory claims companies who charge veterans for services that The American Legion's accredited representatives provide free of charge.



77.9%

Percentage of VA disability claims appeals granted in favor of the veteran or remanded for further documentation in April after free representation from American Legion national claims specialists.



42

American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance grants issued in April, amounting to \$65,200, to American Legion posts in 22 departments whose operations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



91,121

American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast audio downloads since its debut April 1, 2020.



13,727

Rounds of ammo provided through the Military Surplus Program, administered by The American Legion National Security Division, in April, to go along with 117 rifles, for use in 19 different departments.



30

Number of ROTC and Junior ROTC awards requested and sent from The American Legion National Security Division in April to 14 American Legion departments honoring cadets for scholastic and military achievements.



\$2,674

American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors funds used in April to purchase home exercise and recreational therapy equipment. OCW grants purchase comfort items and make other items or experiences available to improve life for wounded, sick or disabled military personnel and qualified veterans.



\$2,000

Amount raised in April by American Legion Post 973 in Chicago to support Ukraine as the war with Russia continues.



1,315

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared by American Legion VA claims specialists working free of charge on behalf of veterans in April.



88

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



\$52,000

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in April to five youth-serving non-profit organizations.