



VOICES

"Some veterans are being taken advantage of while others are content to pay the exorbitant fees."

- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James after the National Executive Committee passed, by email vote, a Dec. 12 resolution clarifying the organization's stance against unaccredited parties charging fees and percentages of compensation due to veterans in their VA disability claims



\$62.1 billion

Amount in disability compensation awarded to veterans between 2020 and 2023 after free assistance from accredited American Legion service officers.



43,154

Number of appeals cases handled free of charge by American Legion staff representatives, 2021-23, for veterans who disputed their VA claims decisions. Successful appeals provided more than \$264 million in relief for those veterans during that three-year span.



\$368,686

Highest single retroactive payment secured for one veteran who appealed an initial VA benefits claim decision in December after free assistance from American Legion staff representatives.



64

Number of American Legion service officers who received accreditation in December to represent veterans in their VA claims processes.



4,223

Number of cemeteries where some 3 million graves of veterans were decorated in Wreaths Across America activities, strongly supported by American Legion Family groups nationwide, in December.



\$68,000

Amount of an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant, the largest ever, awarded to the Central Alabama Veterans Healthcare System Nov. 30 that will be used to purchase smart TVs, video games, iPads, golf equipment for a newly modified and wheelchair-accessible mini-golf course and more to help recovering veterans relieve stress and to help them socialize with others.



75

U.S. Flag Code inquiries handled by The American Legion Americanism Division in December.



\$4,000

Value of toys and clothing donated Dec. 12 by The American Legion Family of Post 3 in Alexandria, La., for the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office for distribution to children in need before Christmas.



\$16,560

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships awarded in December.



21,000+

Christmas cards sent in December to deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces, to go along with 40 care packages, from American Legion Family members of Pat Tillman Post 117 in Phoenix.



72.3%

Percentage increase in total audio downloads (120,122) of The American Legion's Tango Alpha Lima podcast in 2023 compared to downloads in 2022.



\$5,280

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants awarded in December to organizations that assist young people facing difficulties.

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"There's no shame in the game. Let's get them the help they need. They answered the nation's call. I'm very happy we're taking this stance."

- American Legion Department of New Jersey Executive Committeeman Tony Gladden, a contractor for the Army Reserve at Fort Dix, who has been promoting RED Friday and the national Be the One veteran suicide prevention mission to his co-workers



17,360

Rounds of ceremonial ammo distributed in December to 12 American Legion departments and 23 posts through the National Security Commission-managed Military Surplus Program. For the year, the program has distributed 307,520 rounds, 2,206 rifles, 2,000 clips and 18 static displays.