



FEBRUARY 2021 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"COVID year or no COVID year, the children of those killed in action and the children of those who have come home from war carrying both the invisible and visible scars of war are still going to be going to college this year, and they're still expecting our help. This fundraising is so critical to us. That's why our Riders have such a passion for it."

- American Legion Riders Advisory Committee Chairman Mark Clark, in a February video announcing 2020's generation \$558,044 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund by Riders who had to find alternative means, due to COVID-19 restrictions, to assist college-bound children of fallen and disabled post-9/11 military personnel and veterans



2,000

Approximate number of meals provided to COVID-isolated veterans through February in a joint project of Bunkers at Tribute Golf Course restaurant and Montgomery-Plant-Dudley American Legion Post 10 in Wassau, Wis. The post helped raise more than \$30,000 for the ongoing effort.



\$8 million

Approximate amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued to veterans and American Legion posts since the NEF's formal creation 1989 to help cover costs of natural disasters.



921

Number of veterans, troops and spouses who registered for a Feb. 9 virtual career fair, co-sponsored by The American Legion's Department of Texas, the Texas Veterans Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission and the national American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Commission.



250

Number of local, national and international employers that participated in the Feb. 9 career event that drew applicants from 28 states, two U.S. Navy ships in the Pacific and jobseekers in Germany, Italy, Japan, Australia, Ghana, South Africa and Botswana.



\$50,000

Amount in funds donated by American Legion Post 178 in Rio Vista, Calif., in a collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, to build residential units for screened homeless veterans.



21

Number of veterans out of every 10,000 who experienced homelessness in 2019, compared to 17 of every 10,000 Americans, a gap The American Legion places as a priority to close, among its legislative priorities for the 117th Congress.



1,841

Number of times The American Legion's Tango Alpha Lima podcast was downloaded in February, third highest since it debuted in April 2020.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



\$3,200

Amount raised by American Legion Post 313 in Texas to help an 80-year-old Navy veteran whose home was consumed by fire in December. A Post 313 member also stepped up to remove debris from the site free of charge, estimated to have cost up to \$5,000 for the veteran.



51

Number of \$1,000 American Legion Mission Blue Assistance Program grants issued in February from National Headquarters to help COVID-affected posts cover facility costs.



739

Number of American Legion Baseball teams that began registering in February for the 2021 season.

VOICES

"She said she could help me. She came and did all the paperwork right there at my convenience. I can't go too many places. I don't feel safe. So, she came right to my house, and we did the paperwork, and she took care of everything for me. The award is nice, but I learned a long time ago money won't buy you happiness. Courtney gives me hope."

- Operation Iraqi Freedom Army veteran Shawn Meyer, who obtained the free services of South Dakota American Legion Department Service Officer Courtney VanZanten to enroll in VA and obtain a 70% service-connected disability. www.legion.org/serviceofficers



686

Number of competitors who shot in the first round of qualifying matches for the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Championships in February, 105 of whom advanced to the second round.



\$37,000

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant funds disbursed in February.



\$24,765.85

Amount in February American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) grants issued to purchase clothing and household goods, a stationary bike and help pay for participation in a warriors retreat in Virginia. OCW provides funds for comfort items, equipment and recreational activities for sick and wounded military personnel and veterans.



\$1 million

Goal of American Legion Post 136 in Greenbelt, Md., to repair and restore the 1925-erected Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial, which was saved from removal after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that the cross-shaped monument does not violate the Constitution.



35

Number of state veterans homes nationwide, out of 158, that had not reported to VA their coronavirus infection numbers through Feb. 9, leading American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford to call on those facilities to "obey the law" and fulfill their reporting duties to VA.



150

Number of American Legion-owned war posters, from out of its collection of about 3,000, that can be viewed on the Emil A. Blackmore Museum website at legionmuseum.omeka.net.



\$37,200

Rounds of blank, ceremonial ammunition supplied in February to American Legion posts requesting it through the Military Loan Equipment Program, operated by the Legion's National Security Division.



5

Number of new Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in February, two in Pennsylvania and one each in Indiana, Illinois and Rhode Island.



65,976

Number of visitors, most of any story in February on legion.org, to "What veterans need to know about getting vaccine from VA."



38

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



1,308

Number of VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in February by American Legion national claims experts.



192

Board of Veterans Appeals disputes granted in favor of the veteran in February after free representation by American Legion claims experts.