



VOICES

"We want to make sure VA is our No. 1 care system for veterans. System Worth Saving is a unique program. We have this cooperative effort with the VA ... One of the things I want to hear from the VA staff is what they need from Congress."

-American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James, during a Jan. 29 System Worth Saving site visit and town hall meeting at the James Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, Fla.



\$18.8 billion

Amount in VA disability benefits secured in Fiscal 2023 for veterans after free representation from accredited American Legion service officers, up by more than \$2 billion over the previous year.



865

Number of Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge by American Legion national staff claims specialists for veterans appealing their VA decisions in January.



550

Number of dispositions received on appeals from veterans disputing their VA claims decisions in January from the U.S. Board of Veterans Appeals, only 11.1% of which were denied.



60

American Legion service officers who received accreditation in January, authorizing them to represent veterans in their VA benefits applications and processes.



2

Number of homes – with six children altogether – that were stabilized in January, thanks to American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants.



9

Virtual meetings American Legion volunteers and staff conducted with representatives of the Tampa VA Medical Center in advance of the System Worth Saving visit during the last week of January. The meetings are a new feature of the SWS visits, as a way to increase their effectiveness.



52

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



13,703

Organic downloads of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast in January, a new monthly record without paid advertising.



\$113,038.63

Amount in national American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in January to 34 students.



\$500,000

Amount in grants awarded in the last two years by The American Legion Department of New York to help organizations that work to reduce veteran suicide or homelessness.



322

American Legion Baseball teams, representing 45 departments, that in January began registering for the 2024 season.



68

Eagle Scout recognition certificates issued in January by The American Legion's Americanism Division.

VOICES

"The guys that are showing up with shovels have full-time jobs. It's had more of an impact than I thought – and not just on our members, but also on the people that are helping out. A lot of guys have been stepping up. And this is hard work. But it's worked out really well."

- Kevin Snyder, service officer for American Legion Post 140 in Kingsley, Iowa, who has helped lead snow-removal services for disabled veterans as part of the local American Legion Family's Buddy Check program



70+

American Legion Be the One T-shirts purchased and distributed among members of Post 34 in Charlestown, R.I., by Robert Laquerre, who posed for a Jan. 1 group photo in the shirts to pledge their support for the organization's suicide-prevention mission.



\$10,175

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in January to organizations that help young people facing challenges beyond their control.



\$2,000

Amount in one American Legion National Emergency Fund grant issued in January, to a Tennessee veteran who faced severe property damage after tornadoes there.



8

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in January, including four from Wisconsin, two from Iowa and one each from Utah and South Dakota.



28,520

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition sent to American Legion posts in January through the national Military Surplus Program, overseen by the National Security Division in Washington, D.C.



2

New American Legion posts chartered in January, in Georgia and in Pennsylvania.



4,883

Individuals who took advantage of the new multiyear American Legion membership renewal option in January.



14

Number of American Legion departments that submitted applications for national Employment of Veterans Awards in January to the Veterans Employment & Education Division.



13

Junior ROTC and ROTC recognition awards provided in January to high schools and universities for excellence in military and scholastic achievement from the American Legion National Security Division.