



VOICES

"Fitness and wellness go hand-in-hand with the Be the One campaign. Be the One to listen. Be the One to reach out. Be the One to stop one veteran from committing suicide. Having the wellness side has been proven to be the key factor in an individual's mindset. So having this event just made sense."

- Vienna, Va., Post 180 First Vice Commander Dave Wallace, following a July 1 5K walk/run that promoted the national American Legion Be the One initiative; the National Executive Committee passed a resolution in May urging local posts to have a Be the One event on the first day of each month.



5

Bills addressed by American Legion Veterans Benefits Policy Analyst Joshua Hastings in a July 12 hearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Legislation supported by the Legion in the hearing included measures to expedite and improve accuracy of temporary VA disability rating processing; require training of VA employees on the reporting of internal wrongdoing (whistleblowing); establishment of a VA Acquisition Review Board; and restoration of the VA Accountability Act.



122

Bills drafted and submitted by the 100 American Legion Boys Nation senators during their 2023 session in Washington, D.C.; included were measures to support teachers and to improve mental health care/reduce suicide rates.



80

Points by which INDYCAR SERIES driver Alex Palou, racing in the No. 10 American Legion Be the One car, led Josef Newgarden in the season points chase after the July 23 Hy-Vee One Step 250 in Iowa. Palou took third in the race, with five to go in the series.



25+

Number of veterans service organizations, including The American Legion, who united to send a letter July 18 urging Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act that would provide special immigrant status to at-risk Afghan allies of the United States in the Global War on Terrorism.



\$17,000

Approximate amount in funds raised by North Branch American Legion Riders Chapter 85 in Minnesota to assist active-duty military families during the holiday season, through a Christmas in July ride on July 8; the amount was more than three times greater than in 2022.



57

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



27.2%

Increase in Tango Alpha Lima audio downloads, year over year, in July, when there were 6,720 downloads of the national American Legion podcast, compared to 5,282 in July 2022.



\$5,000

Scholarship funds awarded to each of the 2023 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports champions – Jacob Wisman of Independence, W.Va. (Precision) and Charles Bratton of Clover, S.C. (Sporter) – after the national finals July 22 in Colorado Springs, Colo.



27

American Legion national youth scholarships awarded in July, amounting to \$79,493.

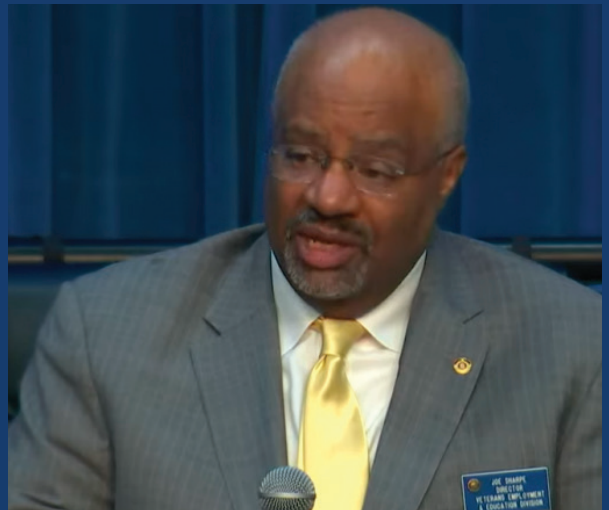


\$34,965

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

VOICES

"The current programs in many installations are very impressive. They assist veterans with employment. You have various pathways . . . The issue is, for Black veterans, is if they're going to improve the economic outcomes, they have to take advantage of the resources that are already there. In order to be able to do that and learn of the resources and the various programs the federal agencies have and the private sector has, they have to be allowed to take full advantage of those programs. That's currently not happening. A lot of it is due to commanders' input. They're not allowing these individuals to get to these programs and take advantage of what's out there in a timely fashion."



- American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division Director Joseph Sharpe, in a July 25 Department of Labor panel discussion to commemorate the 75th anniversary of desegregation in the U.S. military



\$20,600

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants disbursed in July, purchasing for recovering military personnel and qualified veterans home exercise equipment, a mattress, desk chair and stand-up desk.



85

Former American Legion Baseball players who have been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N.Y., following the July 23 enshrinement of five-time Major League All-Star first-baseman Fred McGriff, who played for American Legion Post 248 in Tampa, Fla., and third baseman Scott Rolen, who played Legion ball in Jasper, Ind., was named an All-Star seven times, and was the 2005 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year.



49.9%

Increase in accounts reached by the national American Legion Instagram feed in July, over the previous month's reach; the total following grew to more than 19,200 in the month.



808

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in July by American Legion national claims specialists, free of charge, on behalf of veterans appealing their VA benefits decisions.



14,880

Rounds of ammunition distributed to 11 local posts and eight departments through the national American Legion Military Surplus Program, to go along with 50 clips, 18 rifles and two static displays.



107

American Legion service officers accredited in July to serve veterans and their families, free of charge, with their VA and state veterans benefits.



196

Appeals granted in favor of the veteran in July after free representation by American Legion national staff VA benefits specialists.



\$4,500

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants issued in July to stabilize homes for veterans with minor children at home which are facing unexpected financial hardship.



4

New American Legion posts chartered in July: two in Texas, one in Idaho and another in Delaware.



5

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in July: two in Michigan, one in Washington, another in Ohio and one in North Dakota.



330

Number of participants attending the 60th American Legion National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis July 28-29.