



VOICES

"In 2021, The American Legion started its Be The One movement to destigmatize and encourage the discussion of mental health, suicide and seeking help. This movement, in combination with our Buddy Check Program, created in 2019 and adopted by VA through 2023 legislation, are examples of The American Legion's constant vigorous support of peer-to-peer solutions for veterans' mental health complexities."

- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Tiffany Ellett, testifying June 21 before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, support of legislation that seeks to prevent veteran suicide



\$45.6 billion

Amount in VA disability compensation secured for veterans assisted by accredited American Legion service officers between 2019 and 2022. Service officers are now on pace to exceed last year's \$16.3 billion in benefits, as well as the overall caseload, in 2023, following passage of the American Legion-supported PACT Act last August.



\$55,000

Amount from American Legion Post 355 in Indianapolis since April – including a single donation of \$50,000 on June 6 – to the American Legion National Emergency Fund, which provides relief in communities devastated by natural disasters.



77,676

Number of veterans recruited by members into American Legion posts during the 2022-23 cycle, exceeding National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola’s goal of 70,000 traditional new members for the year.



705

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared for veterans appealing VA benefits decisions, free of charge, by American Legion national representatives in June.



\$29,889

June donation from American Legion Post 273 in Madeira Beach, Fla., to the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System’s Fisher House, to go along with over \$10,000 donated last December, to help families with lodging when a loved one is receiving care at the facility.



137

Number of U.S. Flag Code inquiries handled by the American Legion’s Americanism Division in June.



8,523

Tango Alpha Lima podcast downloads during June, the fifth-best month since the national American Legion program was launched in April 2020.



110

Points by which NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver Alex Palou of Chip Ganassi Racing led in the series championship standings after winning four out of five races through July 2, including Mid-Ohio. Three of those wins came behind the wheel of The American Legion's Be the One car.



35

Number of new American Legion accredited service officers certified by National Headquarters in June.



1,109

Correspondences from veterans looking for help with their VA appeals, handled in June by American Legion staff benefits representatives in Washington D.C. and Indianapolis.

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"Past Carthage Post Commander Janice Gravely said it well, 'We are each other's keepers, and SAVE empowers us with tools to Be the One who makes a difference.' I'm really happy that we were able to answer the call to Be the One. It helped not only the call to action locally but modeled what American Legion posts do. They make community and country better by leading in difficult things. I am very proud of John B. Lyman American Legion Post 904 for leading in this way."

- Alexandria Bay, N.Y., Post 904 Adjutant and Service Officer Dean Erck, following a VA SAVE training class conducted at his post; the session was attended by members of the entire American Legion Family from multiple posts, units and squadrons, as well as Department Commander Dave Riley



756

Dispositions achieved in June through free American Legion representation before the Board of Veterans Appeals, 79.7% of which were decided in favor of the veteran or remanded for further documentation.



June registrants for a July 1 5K run/walk, hosted by American Legion Post 180 in Vienna, Va., to raise awareness about Be the One, among the first post-led events to be held on the first of the month, per a new nationwide initiative.



Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships awarded in June to 20 recipients.



Number of American Legion Scouting certificates awarded nationwide in June, including 109 Eagle Scouts, 16 Gold Awards, three Sea Scouts and three Summit Awards.



Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in June to organizations that provide services for children facing difficulties beyond their control.