



## JULY 2020 MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



### VOICES

*"For too long, our Vietnam veterans have had to fight for, and have been denied, the critical health care they need to treat medical conditions resulting from exposure to Agent Orange."*

- American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford after a bill to expand health-care benefits for Agent Orange-exposed veterans suffering with bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism passed by a 94-6 vote in the Senate on July 22

 **\$43,000+**

Amount raised in The American Legion Department of Missouri Gold Star Tribute, its sixth annual in-state ride for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which assists the children of military personnel who died or became over 50 percent disabled since 9/11. Sixty-three Legion Riders traveled 700 miles over three days, collecting donations, despite limitations caused by the coronavirus pandemic.



**82**

Number of U.S. flag-respect inquiries handled by The American Legion's Americanism Division in July.



**1,700**

Minimum number of COVID-19 tests provided daily and free of charge by members of American Legion Post 65 in South Phoenix, Ariz., working with HeroZona, in July.

 **\$3,000,000+**

Amount in college scholarships awarded to participants of The American Legion Oratorical Contest since its inception as a national program in 1938.

 **5**


Number of individual veterans who received American Legion National Emergency Fund grants in July, in disaster relief after three floods and one tornado.

 **72**

Percentage of cases judged in favor of the veteran, or remanded for further documentation, by the Board of Veterans Appeals after representation by American Legion national claims experts in July.

 **250,000**

Number of protective masks donated to The American Legion July 28 in Washington, D.C., from Taiwan Ambassador Bi-khim Hsiao in a ceremony at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office.

 **1,015**

Number of informal hearing presentations prepared free of charge by American Legion national experts in July, free of charge for veterans applying for VA disability benefits.

 **100**

Percentage of American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors donations used to directly purchase comfort items, equipment and recreational experiences for recovering U.S. military personnel and veterans.

 **10,000**

Number of protective face masks donated in July from The American Legion to the Soldiers Home in Holyoke, Mass., to help residents and staff there amid the coronavirus pandemic.

## TESTIMONY

*"The current unemployment rate for veterans has more than doubled in the last year. With nearly 17,000 servicemembers leaving active duty service every month, these numbers will not fall any time soon. If done correctly, the Economic Recovery Act will help veterans, young and old, transition into new jobs."*

*- American Legion Deputy Director of Health Policy  
Katie Purswell, in a July 23 testimony before the House  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs*



 **\$97,895**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in July to 31 recipients.



**89**

Number of American Legion recruiters nationwide who signed up 50 or more members each, thus earning Gold Brigade honors, for the 2019-20 membership year.



**120**

Number of BSA Eagle Scout achievement certificates requested from The American Legion's national American Division in 2020, through July.



**7,000**

Minimum pounds of food distributed in June and July by The American Legion Department of Michigan and Gleaners Community Food Bank to veterans, seniors and families in need in southern Michigan.