



VOICES

"We hear a lot about cost from Washington these days. But what is a life worth? What do you tell a parent, spouse or a child about fiscal budgets when their loved one is gone? We have spent trillions rebuilding other countries from the ravages of war. These men and women, however, are also a cost of war and those bills must be paid. Nobody should oppose this bill!"

-American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard, in his opening comments for the Spring National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis, urging Senate passage of the PACT Act that would expand VA health care and disability benefits to some 3.5 million more veterans exposed to toxic contamination in military service



\$9 million

Amount surpassed this year, since 1988, in donations from Sons of The American Legion, in support of the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation, which helps organizations that provide assistance to young people facing difficulties beyond their control.



\$650,000

Approximate amount in donations – including \$500,000 from the Sons of The American Legion for the Veterans & Children Foundation – received at the Spring 2022 National Executive Committee meeting to support the organization’s programs.



17

Bookings in May for American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard’s twice-yearly radio tour in which he urged passage of the PACT Act to radio audiences from New York City to Tacoma, Wash., reaching tens of millions of listeners.



6,395

American Legion posts that conducted Memorial Day events or programs in the 2020-21 membership year, with only 62% of posts submitting Consolidated Post Reports for the year.



\$10,000

Amount in scholarship funding awarded to Christopher Adam of Mechanicsburg, Pa., for being named The American Legion’s Eagle Scout of the Year. He designed and built a World War II D-Day memorial at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, a two-year project that involved 2,385 volunteer hours and more than \$42,000 in fundraising.



91

Number of veterans who benefited from \$15,200 in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants in May, which are used to provide comfort items, entertainment opportunities and recreational equipment for wounded and sick military personnel and qualified veterans.



\$705,937

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarship funding approved in May for college students who have lost a parent during active-duty military service or have a parent who received a combined 50% or greater VA disability rating since 9/11.

RESOLVED ... May 4-5, 2022

By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion

-Urges the United States government to adopt immigration reform policy that emphasizes border security, focusing on funding for barriers where needed, fielding of advanced technologies, and fully manning the border.

-Urges the United States government to enact laws that improve visa security through thorough vetting of applicants; reducing visa overstays; ending visa programs that are vulnerable to exploitation by bad actors.

-Urges the United States government to streamline the legal immigration application process so as to help reduce and discourage illegal immigration.

-Urges the United States government to reform the asylum system and adhere to laws requiring detention and expedited due process and/or removal of illegal border crossers .

-Urges the United States government to strengthen immigration reform agreements with transit countries to discourage the flow of immigrants that attempt to enter the United States illegally.



3

Number of American Legion-sponsored NTT/ INDYCAR series drivers who qualified in the top 12 for the 106th running of the Indianapolis 500: Alex Palou, Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan, who drove the Legion's No. 1 "Be the One" car to a third-place finish, raising awareness about veteran suicide prevention before a worldwide viewing audience.

90

Number of U.S. flags recently purchased by SSG M.W. Hosey American Legion Post 205 for classrooms in the fast-growing community of Trussville, Ala.



5,5990

Number of podcast downloads, the highest monthly total, not including months during which a special series was published.



\$3.5 million

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarships disbursed to more than 500 students since the program was introduced in 2004.



230

High school seniors from the San Antonio area planning to enter the U.S. Armed Forces who were recognized May 18 with the American Legion-supported 11th Annual “Night in Your Honor” event. Legionnaires from Texas’ District 20 were on hand to discuss the organization, services and support it can provide to new military personnel and their families.



7,460

Meals served by Castlewood’s Olson-Reid American Legion Post 250 in eastern South Dakota after devastating storms, including an EF-2 tornado, tore through the community May 12. Volunteers numbering 224 worked 1,342 hours over eight days to help the community through the crisis.



\$234,998

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant funds distributed in May to non-profit organizations that assist young people facing challenges beyond their control.



2,862

American Legion Baseball teams that had registered for the 2022 season through the third week of May.



107

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by the American Legion’s national Americanism Division in May.

 **\$18,326**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in May.

**101**

Eagle Scout certificates distributed from American Legion National Headquarters in May, to go along with one Gold Award, five Sea Scout Awards and 10 Summit Awards.

**100**

Approximate number of unserviceable U.S. flags exchanged for new ones on May 21 through American Legion Post 12 in Selma, Calif. The flag exchange has been a post initiative for 20 years.

**2,262**

American Legion posts enrolled in the Flag Rewards Program, offered by American Legion Emblem Sales, that presents 10-cent discounts on every dollar purchased from its inventory of U.S.-made flags.

**27**

American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance program grants issued in May, amounting to \$43,000, to assist local posts that suffered economic losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**20**

Sons of The American Legion detachments that achieved 100% of their membership targets, or higher, by the end of May.