



MAY 2020 MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"I keep telling people it's not so much where your building is but where you build your community. If our community can be virtual, it's still a giving community. It's still people doing good things ... You can be somewhere else and you can still do something in the name of the post and in the name of The American Legion."

- Riverside, Ill., American Legion Post 488 Commander Joseph Topinka, whose members conducted virtual Poppy Day and Memorial Day activities in the midst of home-sheltering restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

 **\$669,931**

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarship college funds awarded May 9 to 35 children of U.S. military personnel who lost their lives or became over 50 percent disabled since 9/11.

 **166**

Number of Samsung televisions distributed to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, May 27, thanks to a \$42,000 grant from The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program.

 **6,321**

Number of respondents who indicated they were "somewhat" or "very" concerned about job security caused by the pandemic, from 22,844 who answered the question in an ongoing American Legion COVID-19 Survey conducted by the national Veterans Employment and Education Division.



\$13,750

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants distributed in May to veterans and posts damaged by flooding in Mississippi and earthquake in Puerto Rico.



81

Number of U.S. flag-respect inquiries handled by The American Legion Americanism Division in the month of May.



77

Percentage of VA decision appeals ruled in favor of the veteran or sent back for more documentation in May after free representation by American Legion claims specialists.



\$14,959

Amount in donations over a three-day period in early May during a special Giving Tuesday campaign to assist The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, which pays cash grants to needy military families with minor children at home and provides resources for American Legion service officers who provide free veterans benefits assistance nationwide.



2,500

Minimum number of U.S. flags placed at the graves of veterans buried at Sunset Hills Cemetery in a community Memorial Day event coordinated by American Legion Post 14 in Bozeman, Mont.



24

Number of American Legion Junior Shooting Sports competitors who received gold, silver or bronze medals in May for finishing first, second or third in national postal tournament competition.



\$16,658

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarship funds disbursed in May.

VOICES

"Having received so much and being blessed to live in this land of opportunity, I hope to use applied math to find solutions that improve life for my fellow man."

- 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Michael McPhie, 15, of Irvine, Calif., who receives a \$10,000 scholarship with the award he earned through a variety of achievements and service efforts, including interviewing former members of the military for the Veterans History Project, providing sandwiches for food pantries, tutoring former homeless children in computer programming, holding a 4.0 grade point average, doing cancer research at the University of California-Irvine and winning first place as a concert pianist in the American Fine Arts Festival International Music Competition last November



40.63

Percentage of respondents to the American Legion COVID-19 survey who indicated "communication with friends and family" was the most important helpful resource to address emotional well-being during the pandemic.



1,284

Number of hot meals distributed in a six-week period by members of George P. Vanderveer American Legion Post 129 in Toms River, N.J., to go along with 992 rolls of paper towels, 4,048 rolls of toilet paper, 295 crisis boxes, 1,000 oranges and hundreds of pounds of other fruits and vegetables, to assist community members in need during the pandemic, in a joint effort with a local food pantry and another non-profit, A Need We Feed.



2,859

Number of military or veteran memorials and monuments uploaded onto The American Legion's national database through May. Photos and descriptions from 66 different states and nations have so far come from 606 contributors. legion.org/memorials



300,000

Approximate number of living World War II veterans, from out of some 16 million who served during the war, who would be exempt from means testing to receive VA health care under the bipartisan, American Legion-supported WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act introduced May 21.



1,274

Number of Informal Hearing Presentations prepared by American Legion claims specialists in May to assist veterans in their VA claims applications.



5,874

Number of visitors, high for the month, to legion.org who read the May 20 roundup titled, "American Legion adapts, overcomes for Memorial Day" promoting virtual and improvised remembrance activities.



360

Minimum number of hot dog lunches served by masked members of the Newhall, Calif., American Legion Family of Post 507 May 16 and 23 during a veterans appreciation drive-through barbecue to feed families whose mobility was restricted due to the coronavirus pandemic.