

NOVEMBER 2021 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters

**VOICES**

"I think everybody who has served this country knows that there is a chance they might lose their lives, and not being remembered and not being known for what happened to them. This is a reminder that the country still knows, and the country still remembers."

-American Legion National Vice Commander Cory Bates of Rhode Island at a Nov. 9 ceremony to remember the 100th anniversary of the Unknown Soldier's arrival at the Navy Yard in Washington D.C.

**\$15 million**

Amount in funding authorized by legislation signed into law by President Biden Nov. 30 to improve maternity care by VA, a top legislative priority of The American Legion Legislative and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commissions in recent years.



200+

Handgun safes distributed free by members of the Longmont, Colo., United Church of Christ, in order to promote gun safety and raise awareness about veteran suicide following an American Legion-organized Veterans Day parade there.



88

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports teams, representing 714 competitors, that registered through November for national postal competition in 2021-22 season.



1,276

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in November, free of charge by American Legion national claims representatives, for veterans and their families disputing decisions about their benefits.



\$15,982.03

Amount disbursed via 11 American Legion National Emergency Fund grants in November, 10 of which went to veterans in Louisiana whose homes were severely damaged by Hurricane Ida and its aftermath.



1,100

Approximate number of communities nationwide without Toys for Tots programs, a gap The American Legion has been asked to help fill this holiday season, through a memorandum of understanding signed in November with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.



\$40k

Approximate amount in funds raised – *and climbing* – by American Legion Riders Chapter 57 in Lake City, Fla., since 2018, to support its local Toys for Tots program.



\$112,000

American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grants disbursed in November to 85 local post recipients in 24 departments, whose business operations were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, threatening their ability to keep the doors open.

TESTIMONY

"It is a priority of The American Legion that all our nation's veterans receive the quality care and support we expect from VA. The American Legion knows firsthand that VA is the best place for veterans to receive care. We also know there are always improvements that can be made especially when an issue like MST claims is identified."

-American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Katie Purswell, in testimony Nov. 17 before a House Committee on Veterans Affairs subcommittee to address inequities in the claims approval process for survivors of Military Sexual Trauma



7

Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued in November, amounting to \$14,326, to purchase items ranging from clothing to household goods to an elliptical strider bike for a disabled Army veteran in Iowa who cannot otherwise exercise by running or bicycling.



21,080

Rounds of ammunition distributed to American Legion posts and departments in November, to go along with 57 rifles and 37 clips, for ceremonial uses through the Military Equipment Loan Program managed by the American Legion National Security Division.



12

Number of veterans seeking changes in their military discharge characterizations who were assisted by The American Legion National Headquarters in November.



28

American Legion College graduates who completed training and received diplomas for 2020 in Indianapolis in November, following a year-long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Legion College is scheduled for Dec. 11-17.



\$34,384

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in November to support non-profit organizations that provide assistance to young people facing challenges beyond their control.



56

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



3,928

Downloads of The American Legion's national Tango Alpha Lima podcast in November, nearly triple the number of downloads for the same month in 2020.



2

Number of Major League Baseball MVP awards collected by Las Vegas American Legion Baseball alum Bryce Harper, who hit 35 home runs and 42 doubles for the Philadelphia Phillies in 2021. His league-leading slugging percentage earned him MVP honors, announced Nov. 18. He was also the MVP in 2015.



1,001,56

Page views by more than 476,000 unique visitors to the national American Legion website in November 2021, up from 878,693 page views in November 2020.



\$20,750

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in November.



4

Years in a row that American Legion Baseball alums have swept the Major League Baseball National League and American League Manager of the Year awards, most recently Tampa's Kevin Cash, who played for Tampa, Fla., Post 111, and San Francisco's Gabe Kapler, who played Legion ball in Woodland Hills, Calif. The awards were announced Nov. 16.