



## VOICES

*"I don't think a lot of Americans realize the drug trafficking and the search and rescues ... They put their lives on the line for us, just the same way the other branches of the military do. They defend our shores, our borders. It's quite the job."*

*-American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola during a visit with U.S. Coast Guard units on the Oregon coast, where he pledged the organization's ongoing commitment to the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, which would prevent a lapse in pay for personnel in the event of a government shutdown, as occurred in early 2019*

 **1,000**

Approximate number of veterans who work for Indianapolis-based U.S. Infrastructure Company (USIC), which on Veterans Day announced that every veteran in the company would be offered a membership in the Legion, paid for by USIC, which also made a charitable donation to the organization.

 **29**

American Legion departments that contributed relief items to Florida residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, to go along with financial contributions from all 55 departments.



# \$60,482.17

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in November to 24 individuals and one post that suffered damages caused by Hurricane Ian.



# 771

Be the One veteran suicide-prevention bracelets and information packets distributed by American Legion members to fans in less than 90 minutes at the Nov. 15 Portland Trail Blazers National Basketball Association game.



# 912

Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions achieved in November for veterans, with free assistance from American Legion claims specialists, including 266 cases granted in favor of the veteran, 466 remanded for further documentation and only 141 denied.



# \$64,420

Operation Comfort Warriors grant amount presented to The American Legion Department of Maine in support of Operation Reboot Outdoors that will benefit hundreds of veterans per year for the duration of the program.



# 15

American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in November, for a total of \$46,294.30.



# 143

New VA pension claims handled free of charge by American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation staff specialists in November.



# 62

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by American Legion national staff in November.

 \$2,200

American Legion national Temporary Financial Assistance grant funds disbursed in November to help military and veteran families with children at home that are facing unexpected financial hardships.

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*"There's a lot of people out there that are alone, and they don't know that they have us. We're veterans. We have to take care of each other. When people are at the end and feel like they have nothing else, they have us. It starts with us."*

-Georgia American Legion Rider Jeff Tuck, at the department's 1st District "Be the One" retreat Nov. 5 to address mental health and reduce veteran suicide.



 6,788

Number of American Legion posts that conducted Veterans Day ceremonies in their communities in the 2021-22 membership year, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report, with 67% of posts reporting.



11

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in November throughout the country.

 6,345

Number of Tango Alpha Lima podcast downloads in November, the highest monthly total since January 2022 when additional episodes were presented for a special four-part series on PTSD/suicide prevention.



American Legion Baseball alumni who are on the Baseball Writers of America ballot to be immortalized at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 2023. The players are Jeff Kent (Bellflower, Calif.), Scott Rolen (Jasper, Ind.) and Gary Sheffield (Tampa, Fla.).



Rounds of ceremonial ammunition distributed to 31 American Legion posts through the surplus military loan program overseen by The American Legion National Security Division.