



## VOICES

*"While we rejoiced upon the passage of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, the need for modifications to streamline its implementation and protect veterans from bad actors quickly emerged. Billions of dollars have been spent by these companies on convincing, predatory marketing campaigns targeting sick Marines and their families. ... Thankfully, the Department of Justice recently announced the institution of caps on fees trial lawyers can charge in representing Marines and others impacted by Camp Lejeune toxic exposures. This recent news is a welcomed protection for thousands who have been impacted."*

*-American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, in a Nov. 8 press conference on Capitol Hill regarding a recent Department of Justice confirmation that fees charged by trial lawyers in Camp Lejeune Justice Act lawsuits are capped at 20% for administrative work and 25% for litigation under the Federal Tort Claims Act*



# 44%

Increase in rental prices near military bases since 2018 while military basic allowance for housing rates have increased only 18% over that time, a point made by American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer in a Nov. 21 letter to congressional leaders outlining the organization's priorities for the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.



# 18,206

Attendance at the Nov. 14 Utah Jazz-Portland Trailblazers NBA game – Military Appreciation Night – where Legionnaires promoted the Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.



# 70

Veteran job seekers who recently met with 40 employers at a career event coordinated by The American Legion Department of Puerto Rico.



# 7,033

Local Veterans Day events in which American Legion posts participated last year, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



# \$3,585,776.52

Amount that local American Legion posts provided in cash aid to benefit children in need in their communities in 2022-23, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



# 63

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by the national American Legion Americanism Division in November.



# 74

New VA pension claims handled free by American Legion representatives free of charge in November.



# \$32,711

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in November.



# 1,700/500

Winter hats and pairs of gloves or mittens, respectively, collected by American Legion Riders Chapter 55 in Hannibal, Mo., and distributed to children pre-kindergarten through fifth grade in the local school district where an estimated 90% of students were determined to be in need.



# 661

Number of downloads, third most over the last three months, of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast episode featuring Ms. International World and Air Force veteran Terace Garnie.



# 16

Children of veterans whose homes were stabilized despite unexpected hardships, through American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants in November.

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*"The Be the One mission is very near and dear to my heart. One of the reasons I started Best Medicine Brigade is because I lost a really good friend of mine to suicide. I love that the Legion is taking action and doing something about it. Not just talking about the problem."*

- Retired Army Lt. Col. Robin Phoenix Johnson, American Legion member, founder and executive director of the Best Medicine Brigade, which in November wrapped up its Operation Heal\*arious national comedy tour that crowned two champions – Navy spouse Sean Flanagan Nov. 9 in Las Vegas and Geoff Grooms, a Navy cyber officer, Nov. 4 in Los Angeles; the tour promoted the Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide



# 53

American Legion College graduates in the Class of 2023 who gathered at National Headquarters in November from 42 different departments and, in addition to their training, raised \$2,640 for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



# 30

Years since the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. was dedicated; the American Legion-supported monument was the theme of this year's Veterans Day Observance at the Wall, and former combat nurse and Legion member Diane Carlson Evans was keynote speaker for the event, which included ceremonies at the women's memorial she spearheaded between 1983 and 1993.



# 5

New American Legion posts chartered in November, two in Texas and one each in Arizona, Florida and Minnesota.



# 7

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in November, bringing the total up to 5,862 nationwide.



# 101

Attendees of the Nov. 28 Training Tuesday session that focused on The American Legion 21st Century Report.



# 804

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge by national American Legion claims representatives for veterans in November.



# \$200,676.28

Highest VA award retroactively approved in November for a disabled veteran after free representation by national American Legion appeals representatives.



# \$132,569.36

Largest VA debt waiver achieved for one veteran in November, with free assistance from national American Legion representatives.



# \$74,974.56

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued in November, five to individuals and one to an Alabama VA facility, to provide comfort items not otherwise covered by VA or the DoD for sick, disabled or wounded military personnel or veterans.



# 20

Number of countries represented when American Legion Post 209 in Colorado Springs distributed U.S. flags and "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" booklets to newly naturalized U.S. citizens in a ceremony there.



# 71

Eagle Scout certificates distributed in November from The American Legion's national Americanism Division.



# 19,840

Rounds of ceremonial ammo disbursed to departments and posts in November through The American Legion Military Surplus Program, to go along with 94 rifles, 175 clips and three static displays.



# 584

Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions achieved by American Legion national appeals representatives in November for veterans who disputed VA decisions, 201 of which were ruled in favor of the veteran, with another 273 remanded for further documentation.



# \$39,598

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in November to non-profit organizations that serve children facing challenges beyond their control.



# 260

Patients and staff members of the Chattanooga, Tenn., VA Outpatient Clinic who recently enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch outside the facility, courtesy of American Legion Post 112 in Dalton, Ga.