



## VOICES

*"The stigma needs to end. If we are going to stop suicide, it is crucial that we look at this issue much differently than prior generations. If we wait for someone to make an attempt before we reach out, there is a very good chance that it will be too late."*

*- American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "James" Troiola, urging members of the National Executive Committee during the Fall Meetings to "Be the One" to help veterans at risk for suicide*



# 112,949

Claims filed by veterans as of Oct. 22 for VA benefits and health care authorized under the American Legion-supported Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) that was signed into law Aug. 10. The law expands eligibility for benefits to veterans affected by burn-pit exposure, Agent Orange in previously unrecognized locations, atomic radiation and other contamination.



# 19

Players in the 2022 Major League Baseball playoffs, plus three managers, who played American Legion Baseball.



# \$232,500

Amount in American Legion Samsung Scholarship funds awarded to 86 former Boys State and Girls State participants who were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the Fall 2022 Meetings in Indianapolis.



# 1,100

Approximate number of veteran, military and spouse career events conducted annually that are supported or directly coordinated by The American Legion.



# 535

Members of The American Legion Legislative Council who serve as direct liaisons to congressional representatives in their districts across the country, promoting issues of interest to veterans and the organization.



# 92,162

Units collected through The American Legion's Blood Donor Program in the 2021-22 membership year, with 67% of posts reporting their numbers.



# 43

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



# \$55,900

Child Welfare Foundation grant funds disbursed in October to five youth-serving non-profit organizations.



# \$46,190.55

National American Legion youth scholarship funds disbursed in October.



# \$3,522,973

Amount in emergency aid funds raised and delivered locally by American Legion posts in the last membership year, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report, with 67% of posts submitting reports.

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*"I think this is Americanism right here, because if we see a community in need in our country and we're not standing up for them in a big way, saying how can we wrap our hands around the situation and help them out, I don't feel like we're upholding that pillar."*

-Marcos Torres, commander of American Legion Staff Sgt. Jason Vasquez Post 939 in Chicago, which joined with the Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Puerto Rican Police Association to raise disaster-relief funds for Puerto Rico after the devastation of Hurricane Fiona



# 65

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports teams that had begun the registration process for 2022-23 Postal Match competition through October.



# 150

Eagle Scout certificates prepared and distributed by the Americanism Division in October.



# 5,995

Downloads of the national American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast in October, third-highest month on record, aside from months when special series episodes were posted.



# \$20,000

Approximate value of relief and recovery items collected in one October week by The American Legion Family of Indiana and Illinois and driven to Florida to assist victims of Hurricane Ian.



# 26,040

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition sent to 32 American Legion posts in 27 departments through the military-surplus loan program managed by the organization's National Security Commission.



# \$29,759.63

American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued to 19 individuals in October.



# \$8,349.08

American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants awarded in October to sick and wounded military personnel and disabled veterans.