



VOICES

"I'm so proud and privileged to be racing for a cause ... with The American Legion and the Be the One campaign. I think that we're raising the awareness of the issue. It all starts by just asking our veterans if they need help. You never know. You can be the one to save a veteran's life today."

-2023 NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion Alex Palou, in an interview with NBC Sports, before completing his dominant season with a third-place podium finish Sept. 10 in the Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey, behind the wheel of the No. 10 American Legion Be the One car of Chip Ganassi Racing



3

Hours to go before a federal government shutdown was averted Sept. 30 when Congress approved a 45-day stopgap budget measure that would continue operations for the time being. If the shutdown had occurred, all U.S. military branches, many VA functions and other federal services would have been halted, including pay for military personnel. American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer called on Congress to find a solution in late September and reiterated the need for passage of the Pay Our Troops Act, which would protect members of the Armed Forces in the event of government shutdown.



72,138

Number of U.S. World War II military personnel who remained unaccounted for in September 2023, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, as American Legion posts and members conducted remembrance ceremonies across the country. Another 7,486 from the Korean War were unaccounted for. Vietnam War: 1,578. Cold War: 126. Iraq and other countries: 6.



361

Florida American Legion Riders and supporters who took part in the Sept. 16 Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride & Ceremony.



34,843

New monthly record for Tango Alpha Lima audio downloads, shattering the previous record of 12,098. A single episode was responsible for 27,606 of those downloads.



1 million

PACT Act claims filed by mid-September from veterans seeking VA health care and disability benefits over exposure to toxic contamination, whose conditions were finally recognized only after American Legion-urged legislation was passed and signed into law in August 2022.



70

U.S. Flag Code inquiries handled by the national Americanism Division in September.



\$98,655

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in September to assist 32 different students.



\$24,165

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in September, in support of non-profit organizations, agencies and services that help young people facing obstacles beyond their control.



100

Approximate number of veterans who attended a Suicide Prevention Summit Sept. 29, coordinated by the Kansas City VA Medical Center, where topics included community-based solutions, Vet Centers, gun safety, the role of caregivers, women's health, family support and The American Legion's Be the One initiative.



47

Ceremonial rifles distributed to American Legion posts through the Military Surplus Loan Program, administered by The American Legion National Security Commission.

VOICES

"I am proud to live in a country like ours where people stand up and give their lives in the defense of others and do so with little or no thought of themselves or time to consider the consequences. They simply do it because their instincts say it is the right thing to do. I hope – no, I pray, that America never stops raising these kinds of people. I know that Tennessee won't."

-American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer, speaking at a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony at Knoxville National Cemetery in Tennessee



\$15,299.32

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in September to help with recovery from flooding in Vermont and the effects of Hurricane Idalia in Florida.



293,498

Veterans contacted through American Legion Buddy Check operations in the year ending May 31, 2023, bringing the total number of veterans assisted by the program to over 1 million since its inception in 2019, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



\$3,925

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants awarded in September, stabilizing homes of veterans facing unexpected financial emergencies.



421

Participants in The American Legion Family Combined Americanism Conference over two weekends in September, attending in person or virtually.



\$36,894.69

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued to 13 recipients in September to provide comfort items, recreational experiences and other amenities for recovering military personnel or qualified disabled veterans.



50

Scouting certificates awarded from the American Legion Americanism Division in September, including 43 to recognize Eagle Scouts.



33

Number of American Legion Junior Shooting Sports teams that signed up in September for the 2024 postal match season.



7

New Sons of the American Legion squadrons chartered in September.