



VOICES

“There is no single deed that The American Legion can accomplish that outweighs the prevention of a veteran from taking their own life. Nothing. That’s what Be the One is. It’s our mission to be the one to save one.”

- American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer in his March 13 testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs



5,704

Veterans who joined The American Legion for the first time or renewed in March who took advantage of the new multi-year membership option.



1 million

VA benefits claims processed by March 4, earliest to hit that number of any year in history, largely due to the influx of applications from veterans seeking care and relief made available through The American Legion-backed PACT Act.



80

Buddy Checks conducted in January and February by Heinline-Hanks American Legion Post 38 in Fair Grove, Mo., where membership renewals had increased 89% by March.



8

Number of children whose homes were stabilized through American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants in March.



1,132

Veterans who received face-to-face benefits assistance through the American Legion Department of South Carolina's three-day Veterans Experience Action Center program conducted March 21-23.



12,108

Year-over-year increase through March, compared to 2023, in American Legion membership, with 32 departments reporting growth over the previous year.



63

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



962

Downloads – most in March – of the Tango Alpha Lima American Legion national podcast episode featuring Modern Elder Academy founder Chip Conley.



\$14,737,702.35

Amount in youth scholarships awarded, local and national combined, by The American Legion in 2023.



\$604.12

Amount of one March American Legion National Emergency Fund grant issued to a member in Louisiana whose home was damaged by a tornado.



23

ROTC and Junior ROTC awards distributed in March by the National Security Division to high schools, American Legion departments and one university.



95

Eagle Scout certificates awarded from American Legion National Headquarters in March.

VOICES

"In Michigan, our kids can't graduate or get their diploma if they have (lunch) debt. They can also be cut off as far as meals go. So this actually inspired a lot of conversation within our membership meeting where members were like, 'Can we make this an annual thing?' So many members wanted to get on board with this, and everybody had their own little idea as far as to improve working with the schools and ensure that we continue to do this particular program. It was quite successful."

- Howell, Mich., American Legion Post 141 member Bobby Brite, whose executive committee agreed to donate more than \$1,000 to pay off student lunch debts in three school districts, ensuring that no child in the district will go hungry the rest of the year



31

Number of homeless veterans who received mid-March assistance – seven truckloads of household items that included microwaves, vacuum cleaners, cookware, bedding, brooms and more – from Sons of The American Legion Squadron 4 in Wichita, Kan.; the veterans are participants in VA's Homeless Program.



7,384

Individual e-mails sent to members of Congress in support of national American Legion legislative priorities via the Grassroots Action Center in March.



147

Personal engagements with members of Congress in support of American Legion legislative priorities in March.



\$26,256

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships awarded to 11 students in March.



4,456

Number of American Legion posts that conducted Buddy Check operations last year, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



3

New charters granted in March, one to American Legion Post 444 in Wichita, Kan., one to Iowa Sons of The American Legion Squadron 215 in Grand River, Iowa, and another to Russellville Squadron 20 in Arkansas.



35,960

Rounds of ceremonial ammo distributed to 32 American Legion posts in March through the Military Surplus Program, managed by the Legion's National Security Division in Washington, D.C.