



JUNE 2019 MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"The number of bikes is not important. It's the hearts we touch."

- Stan Mauldin, American Legion Riders Chapter 233, Loganville, Ga., who co-founded Ride for America, which on Memorial Day 2019 drew more than 1,400 motorcycles for a police-escorted 38-mile run to honor fallen U.S. servicemembers

 **\$1,122,624**

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarship funds awarded in May 2019 to 57 qualified applicants, the children of U.S. military personnel who lost their lives or became over 50 percent disabled on or after 9/11.

 **43**

Increase over 2018, by team numbers, in registration for the 2019 American Legion Junior Baseball season.

 **15,000**

Minimum number of meals served in one week by American Legion Post 20 in Oklahoma after flooding of the Arkansas River left citizens stranded and first responders in need of support.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

Flash Mob

"Everyone wore red, white or blue long-sleeve T-shirts with the American Legion Auxiliary on the front, with 'Promoting Patriotism Since 1919' underneath the seal. Six members started singing. On cue, members started removing their coats and moving to the center of the steps to sign. It was very exciting, and cold."

- Former South Carolina American Legion Auxiliary President Linda Smiley, looking back on a spontaneous event March 23, 2014, when Auxiliary members began to sing "It's a Grand Old Flag" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion – who were in the city for the annual Washington Conference – began chiming in. Soon enough, it was a "flash mob" of more than 200 flag-flying singers whose outburst of patriotism churned up 37,000 video views on Facebook and another 28,000 on YouTube mission statement.



1,210

Number of VA Hearing Presentations prepared in May by American Legion national claims specialists.



902

Number of dispositions handled by The American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals in May that were ruled in favor of the appealing veteran or sent back for more documentation.


\$18,524

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance funds disbursed in May alone to assist qualified veteran and military families with minor children at home. Funds were used to maintain shelter, pay utilities, purchase food and clothing.



1,141

Number of dispositions handled in May by The American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals on behalf of veterans disputing their claims application decisions.



3,405

Number of American Legion Baseball teams that registered by June 1 for the 2019 season.



967

Number of Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in May by American Legion national VA claims specialists.



10

Number of Career Fairs/Summits in May that The American Legion participated in:
Departments: Puerto Rico 1; Nevada 1; Texas 2; Missouri 1; Kansas 1; New Mexico 1; Massachusetts 1; Virginia 2. Allowing The American Legion to get in front of an estimated 1,400 servicemembers, veterans, and spouses.



4

Number of new American Legion posts chartered in May: California Post 10, California Post 1601, Texas Post 284 and Arizona Post 146.



1

Number of Yellow Ribbon events in which The American Legion participated, in support of 429 service members and their spouses.



\$1,704

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in May for floods in Illinois and Nebraska.



55,673

Number of click-throughs on the May 16 American Legion Online Update e-newsletter, highest of 2019.