



OCTOBER 2019 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"We believe clergy and religious leaders are an important link to helping their congregants get the mental health care they need. We believe you may be the first person (veterans) turn to for comfort, guidance and help when they are facing mental health issues."

- VA suicide prevention case manager Christa Sutton, speaking to American Legion department chaplains gathered Sept. 21 in Indianapolis during the Combined Americanism Conference, where she discussed the "public health crisis" of veteran suicide and how The American Legion can help

 **25,594**

Minimum number of troop-support American Legion volunteers who participated in programs and efforts nationwide during the 2018-2019 membership year.

 **439**

Number of VA decision appeals cases handled and won by American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals representatives in September.

 **\$1,125,650**

Year-to-date American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants disbursed to help financially struggling veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces with children at home pay for essential needs, following \$11,245 awarded in September, stabilizing homes for 18 children nationwide.



66

Number of years Korean War veteran Alvin Cousin fought with VA to prove he was injured in the Army before he was finally awarded a 40 percent disability rating and retroactive benefits to 1953 thanks to representation from American Legion Department of Connecticut Service Officer K. Robert Lewis.



3

Number of new American Legion posts chartered in September: 2019 in Arizona, 310 in Georgia and 1831 in Alabama.



\$13,000

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants distributed in September after floods in Kansas, North Carolina and Missouri.

VOICES:

WHY I JOINED THE AMERICAN LEGION

"In 1960, my 5-year-old sister was diagnosed with an inoperable abdominal tumor. My father, who joined The American Legion in the 1950s, was self-employed and had no health insurance. Every penny he had went toward medical bills for my sister. That year my three siblings and I were not going to have a Christmas until the local Owosso Post 57 stepped up. They (the post and Auxiliary) provided us with a tree and all our gifts. During the early 1960s, I got to know these men and women very well. They were, and are, my heroes."

– David L. Mogg, Owosso, Mich., Post 57



3,167

Number of American Legion posts that reported conducting an American Legion 100th Anniversary celebration event in the membership year that ended June 30, 2019.



1,191

Number of VA hearing presentations prepared by American Legion VA claims specialists on behalf of veterans in September.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

Sept. 21, 1937: The American Legion National Convention Parade in New York City lasted nearly 18 hours, drew national media coverage and included more than 250,000 marchers and spectators.



400+

Number of American Legion youth program directors, chairpersons and volunteers from across the nation who came to Indianapolis for the 2019 Combined Americanism Conference in September, with sessions on Boys State, baseball, oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting, department chaplains and children and youth programs.



\$53,150

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarship funds disbursed in September.



20,248

Number of new Legionnaires recruited through Oct. 1, 2019, with nine months to go in the 2020 membership year.



63,815

Number of new Legionnaires recruited by local posts in the 2018-19 membership year.



\$121,830

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants paid in September to non-profit organizations that help kids facing difficulties beyond their control.