



## AUGUST 2020 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



### **VOICES**

*"In 1983, The American Legion sponsored an independent study by Columbia University that established the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Congress received the results of this study in 1989. Since then, the Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized 14 diseases related to exposure from Agent Orange and other herbicides."*

*- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella in a teleconference Aug. 20 in support of The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act, which would add three conditions – bladder cancer, hypertension, Parkinsonism and hypothyroidism to the list presumed to have been caused by Agent Orange exposure*



# 3,414

Number of registrants in the 100 Miles for Hope campaign through August, three weeks after it was launched, where participants walk, run, swim, row, ride or propel themselves however they wish 100 miles before Veterans Day, in support of the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



# 202

Number of VA benefits decision appeals ruled in favor of the veteran in August after representation by American Legion benefits claims specialists.



# 9,873

Names of Missourians who gave their lives in service during World War II that were recited by members and friends of Emerson Marshall Sherwood Post 213 at Sylvan Springs Park in St. Louis in honor of the 75th anniversary of VJ Day.

 **\$625,000**

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund donations from the Department of Minnesota, in support of the Legacy Run, since 2017.



**245**

Average number of attendees per session for an American Legion virtual membership workshop in August. Eight sessions were conducted online over a four-day period. The theme: "Growing a Post."



**\$3,000**

Value of supplies – such as water, food, wash pans, blankets and pillow cases -- donated to American Legion Post 100 in Royse City, Texas, that Legionnaires distributed at homeless camps on the city's outskirts this summer.



**\$20,000+**

Amount raised for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund in a two-day motorcycle run in August by The American Legion Department of Minnesota's 10th District.



**500**

Approximate number of transitioning military personnel, veterans and their families who received career assistance in August through American Legion-assisted JobZone virtual career events at Andrews Air Force Base and Patuxent River, Md.



**70**

Approximate number of American Legion Riders and passengers from Grand Island, Neb., Chapter 53 who participated in an Aug. 22 Freedom and Independence Ride to support the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, the Central Nebraska Veterans Home and the Grand Island VA Medical Center. The chapter was chartered in January 2020.



**\$116,771**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in August to 25 recipients.

## TESTIMONY

*"VA identified an upward trend in suicides among veterans and despite attention, significant resources and efforts to reduce suicide in the veteran population, the numbers have not decreased. Many of our nation's veterans are struggling with mental health issues due to the pandemic and should not have to wait to get the care they need."*

*- Joint letter from The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars, to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, submitted in August seeking quick passage and signing of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019*



 **\$46,000**

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants processed in August for eight applicants that received comfort items ranging from television sets to iPads to an all-terrain wheelchair for a facility that provides post-traumatic stress disorder treatment.

 **81,900**

Approximate number of U.S. military personnel missing or unaccounted for worldwide through August, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Of those, 75,579 are from World War II.

 **\$13,100**

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grant money disbursed in August to veterans and American Legion posts that suffered natural disaster damages.