



FEBRUARY 2020 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



"We have a right to expect the Taliban to abide by the agreement so that peace can finally come to this troubled region. The Taliban have violated agreements before, and we maintain a healthy dose of skepticism, along with a commitment to never again ignore threats that could lead to another 9/11."

- American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford after a late-February agreement between the United States and the Taliban to initially reduce American military personnel in Afghanistan to 8,600, eventually bringing the number to zero, ending the nation's longest continuous war



\$226,441

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in February to seven different organizations that provide support and services for young people facing difficulties beyond their control.



12

Number of American Legion districts across the country that conducted membership revitalization events in February with support from national staff.



1,126

Number of VA hearing presentations prepared by American Legion staff experts on behalf of veterans filing for disability claims in February.



\$54,516

Amount presented by The American Legion Department of Kansas' District 2 after a February Hold 'Em card tournament to support the Veterans Community Project of Kansas City. The program, which builds tiny homes and provides other resources for veterans in severe need, has received \$103,000 in aid from the district over the last 36 months.



\$32,399

Amount in American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in February.



4

New conditions recommended by the National Academy of Medicine to be added to VA's list of those presumptively caused by exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War: bladder cancer, hyperthyroidism, hypertension and Parkinson's-like symptoms.



31,565

Number of Blue Water Navy veterans and survivors who applied for VA disability benefits for conditions presumptively caused by Agent Orange in the first month after they became eligible again Jan. 1, 2020. They had been denied eligibility since 2002 because they did not meet the "boots on the ground" criteria in Vietnam, imposed that year.



17

Number of minor children of eight veteran families who received help in February from \$10,711 in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants to help pay for shelter, utilities, food and clothing during financial hardships.



1,343

Number of American Legion Junior Shooting Sports competitors participating in the first round of the national postal round in February. Of them, 150 qualified to advance to the second round in their quest to shoot in the national championships next summer.

MOMENT IN HISTORY

March 9, 1969: The American Legion is front and center on television's most popular stage, "The Ed Sullivan Show." The appearance, to honor the organization's 50th anniversary, features an original composition, "The American Legion," performed by Meredith Willson. National Commander William C. Doyle of Vineland, N.J., presents the famed Sullivan – a member of the organization's 50th anniversary entertainment committee – with a 50th Anniversary medallion in a shadowbox on the show. The Legion's national champion color guard, from Post 985 in Chicago, appears onstage during the performance.



71 and 52

Average number of days to complete supplemental and higher-level review appeals of VA claims decisions, respectively, against a target of 125 days for each lane, in the first quarter of Fiscal 2020, under the American Legion-supported Appeals Modernization and Improvement Act, which was signed on the stage of the 99th American Legion National Convention.



67

Percentage of respondents in a 2019 American Legion Online Mental Health Survey who reported willingness to get formal suicide-prevention training to reduce the rate of self-inflicted deaths among veterans.



432

Number of miles Nebraska Post 159 Legionnaires Ken Hanel and Daryl Harrison plan to walk in May to raise awareness of U.S. Highway 20's designation as "Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway."



1,613

Number of service members, veterans and their family members participating in eight American Legion-supported career events nationwide in February. States served included Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Detroit, Minnesota and Illinois.



851

Number of American Legion-represented appeals granted in favor of the veteran or remanded for further documentation among 1,111 dispositions by the Board of Veterans Appeals in February.



\$35,600

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants disbursed in February to provide comfort items or activities for sick, wounded or disabled U.S. military personnel and veterans.



\$17,250

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants approved in February for veterans and one post for relief from flooding in Missouri and the earthquake in Puerto Rico.