



MAY 2021 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"We believe in a Forever GI Bill, but not a Forever War. The American Legion will always support our country's right to defend itself, but we also believe it's time to start bringing our troops home from these endless wars."

-American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, addressing the National Executive Committee virtually May 5, regarding the announced drawdown of troops from the global war on terrorism



\$2 million

Commitment from Veterans United Home Loans, announced May 27, prior to the Indy 500, to support The American Legion and the Legion-sponsored 48 car of Chip Ganassi Racing in a collaboration to raise awareness and develop programs to prevent veteran suicide.



\$357,228

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarship funds awarded in May to 32 recipients, children of military men and women who either lost their lives or became 50% or more disabled while on active duty since 9/11.



\$13,000

Amount raised by mid-May for the Legacy Scholarship Fund by West Virginia American Legion Riders through its first department Legacy Run, which also included participants from Ohio, Maryland and Virginia. The run was covered by Fox News.



305

Number of appeals ruled in favor of the veteran in American Legion-represented cases before the Board of Veterans Appeals in May.



1,366

Number of VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge in May for veterans served by national American Legion claims specialists.



\$17,000

Amount raised in April by the Connecticut American Legion Family through its Kids Walk and other programs to help the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, Conn. This is the 25th year the department has mobilized to help the hospital.



12

Number of American Legion posts that received \$1,000 grants through the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program in May to reduce the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



1,200

Approximate number of active-duty personnel, U.S. military ID cardholders and local national workers who received COVID-19 vaccinations at Ansbach, Germany, with assistance from American Legion Post 1982 there.

\$10,000

Scholarship awarded to John McPhie of Irvine, Calif., who was named The American Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year for 2021. His Eagle Scout project was the assembly and provision of emergency paracord bracelets for military use. John's brother Michael was American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year for 2020.

VOICES

"Behind lies an old world torn apart through centuries of discord; countries marked by an eternal struggle of people against ambitious dictators; nations where hopes are born and die with people starving and hope gone. Ahead lies the United States, the only major power free from the scars of war; its pattern of life intact – the great beacon of freedom in a dark and troubled world.

"Speeding along, one gains a new conception of our country; new determination to help keep our people from going through what I saw in Europe; new dedication to the hope that our nation will never have new cemeteries such as I visited on Memorial Day, and new determination that The American Legion will stand firm and strong for the kind of Americanism that has given our people advantages enjoyed by no others on the face of the globe."

- American Legion National Commander Edward Scheiberling, writing as he returned from a May-June 1945 tour of European cemeteries and memorials where he honored the fallen of two world wars

10

Number of participants in this year's 100 Miles for Hope program who had perfect scores – having maximized their daily activities (running, walking, swimming, yoga, etc.) – through mid-May. The challenge, which runs through the 102nd National Convention in August, has nearly 3,000 registrants. To register, visit legion.org/100miles.

16

Pounds lost by American Legion Department of California Judge Advocate Chris Yates in six weeks after starting his 100 Miles for Hope challenge to benefit The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. His donation goal for the challenge: \$3,000 against which he had raised \$1,875 by the third week of May.

\$38,000

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant money awarded in 2020 and 2021 to the Birmingham, Ala., VA Health Care System to assist visually impaired and homeless veterans. The American Legion Department of Alabama delivered the most recent gift of \$11,500, in clothing and household goods, May 21.



2,911

Number of American Legion Baseball teams registered for the 2021 season, representing 49 departments.