



## OCTOBER 2020 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



### **VOICES**

*"The American Legion knows from 100 years of experience that it's veteran-to-veteran contact that can make the difference for someone in a crisis situation. So, we're putting some muscle behind this effort and giving our members the tools they need to reach out to fellow veterans in their hometowns who may be hard hit by the triple whammy of the pandemic, isolation and the holidays."*

*-American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, announcing new tools for Buddy Check teams to check in on mental health and well-being concerns among veterans amid the COVID-19 pandemic*

 **3,683**

Minimum number of American Legion posts that conducted Buddy Checks in the 2019-20 membership year, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report, tabulated Aug. 31, with about 71% of posts reporting.

 **\$740,889**

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants awarded to 17 different nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of young people facing physical, emotional, spiritual or environmental challenges beyond their control.

 **\$27,470**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in October.



**3,000**

Minimum number of American Legion service officers in the United States and abroad, whose twice-yearly training programs are funded by the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



**16**

Number of American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in October, totaling \$12,280, for veterans and posts that suffered damages due to Hurricane Laura and wildfires in the West.



**4**

Number of new American Legion posts chartered in October: TH02 in Thailand, 22 in Hawaii, DR01 in the Dominican Republic and 939 in Illinois.

## RESOLVED

*"To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."*

*-Adopted as The American Legion's official mission statement after the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 38 during the Fall Meetings, conducted virtually. The NEC also modified a previously adopted motto for the organization, which now states:*

**"The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America"**



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



**\$114,848**

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued to 65 different applicants after natural disasters through Oct. 8, 2020, damaged or destroyed veteran homes or American Legion post facilities.



# 19,840

Number of blank rounds provided in October by The American Legion National Security Division, fulfilling Military Equipment Donation Program requests from more than 23 American Legion post honor guards; also distributed from the surplus military equipment loan program were 46 ceremonial rifles and 80 clips.



# 20

Percent increase, year over year, in military suicides in 2020, according to the Department of Defense. That, coupled with increased VA mental health-care appointment volume in 2020 attributed to the pandemic, shifted the American Legion Buddy Check program to focus on mental health and well-being.



# 700

Number of miles exceeded by South Attleboro, Mass., American Legion Post 312 Commander Maurice "Ted" Tobin by late October in his fulfillment of the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge in support of The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. By the end of October, the number of registrants had passed 4,700, and National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford raised the goal to 5,000 participants by Veterans Day.



# \$1,500

Amount in one-time, non-repayable American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants available for eligible military and veteran families with minor children at home who are facing financial hardships that threaten family stability. TFA grants are funded through the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



# \$1,000

Amount in relief funding an American Legion post can apply to receive after a Fall National Executive Committee resolution was passed to help qualified posts in good standing whose operations were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities or insurance.



# \$83,562

Donations delivered on Oct. 13 to American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford for the Legacy Scholarship Fund following a 2,300-mile Pony Express Ride by American Legion Riders of multiple states, in support of college funds for the children of military personnel killed or disabled since the terrorist attacks of 9/11.



# 2

Number of American Legion-backed suicide-prevention bills signed into law Oct. 17, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 and the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.



# 10

Number of 55-gallon barrels of supplies -- including toothpaste, toothbrushes, candy, books, sporting goods and other comfort items – gathered and shipped in October to deployed military personnel, from members of American Legion Post 52 in Bellaire, Ohio.



# \$39,000

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued to three recipients in October to provide comfort items for military personnel and veterans recovering from wounds and illnesses sustained while in service.



# 3,404

Number of sacred sites uploaded into the American Legion military and veterans memorials database as of Oct. 23, following one week alone that added 93 new submissions from 10 different states.



# 89

Number of Denver-area homeless veterans who received winter clothing, food and personal supplies in October, thanks to American Legion Post 1992 in Aurora, Colo., working with the Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission and other local agencies.



# 1,655

Number of requests for Scouting achievement certificates from The American Legion Americanism Division through October: 1,434 for Eagle Scout awards; 151 Girl Scouts USA Gold Awards; 54 BSA Venturing Summit Awards; and 16 Sea Scouts Quartermaster awards.



# 57

Number of U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded in October by The American Legion national Americanism Division.



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA