



SEPTEMBER 2019 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"About 200,000 veterans enter the civilian workforce each year, and statistics show that only one in four have the credentials needed for the best jobs. Others are forced to retrain, requalify, or in the worst-case scenario, start over, because the civilian system doesn't understand the military system. We don't speak a common language when it comes to skills."

*- Lumina Foundation CEO Jamie Merisotis, speaking at
The American Legion National Credentialing Summit Aug. 28 in Indianapolis*

 **1,000+**

Number of veteran and military family career events hosted, sponsored or supported annually by local American Legion posts and departments, in addition to those connected to the national organization.

 **125**

Number of veteran and military career events hosted, sponsored or supported by the American Legion National Employment & Education Division in 2019.

 **\$11,142,250**

Amount of money motorcycling veterans and their families have raised for the annual American Legion Legacy Run since 2006 to benefit the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college support for the children of military personnel who have died on active duty since 9/11 or children of Post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.



2,047

Number of American Legion posts signed up through Aug. 1 for the Flag Rewards program, which offers discounts to posts that purchase their community U.S. flags through American Legion Emblem Sales, up by 172 posts from the previous year.



3

Total number of times a team from Idaho has played for The American Legion Baseball World Series title: 1926 (runner-up), 2001 (runner-up) and 2019 (champion).



39,000

Estimated number of missing American service members around the world since World War II whose remains are believed to be recoverable, from among some 82,000 who are not yet accounted for during that span, from past military conflicts worldwide.



\$59,000,000,000

Valuation of education and training benefits received between 1944 and 1984 by approximately 18.2 million veterans using the American Legion-drafted GI Bill.



\$744,436

Amount in American Legion Legacy Scholarship funds disbursed in 2018 to the children of military personnel who have died on active duty since 9/11 or children of Post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.



6

Number of veterans, among the estimated 20 who die by suicide every day, who are enrolled in the VA health-care system.



\$35,000

Minimum amount in American Legion centennial coin sales made between Aug. 23 and Aug. 27 when the U.S. Mint had a booth at the 101st American Legion National Convention, in Indianapolis.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT

Just six months after it was conceived in Paris, France, The American Legion received its federal charter on Sept. 16, 1919, following House legislation that passed Aug. 27, 1919, and a Senate measure one week later.

The federal charter authorized the as-yet unincorporated organization in 1919 to proceed to the adoption of a constitution and bylaws, elect officers “and do all other things necessary” as outlined in U.S. Code, Title 36, Chapters 41-50. Under Chapter 43, “Purposes of corporation,” much of the language is borrowed from the original draft Preamble to The American Legion Constitution with some notable deviations, such as “to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth” and “to cement the ties and comradeship born of service.”

The original charter outlined the powers and authority of the organization, membership criteria, naming rights, exclusivity to manufacture and use The American Legion emblem, and a requirement that “the organization shall be nonpolitical and, as an organization, shall not promote the candidacy of any person seeking public office.”



\$1,357,541

Minimum amount in funds donated by American Legion posts to local VA health-care facilities in the 2018-19 membership year, with only 69 percent documenting their contributions on their Consolidated Post Reports.



100,000

Number by which new American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford has set as a goal for total membership growth during his year as leader of the nation’s largest veterans service organization, driven by his aim of a 90-percent retention rate and expansion of membership eligibility via the LEGION Act.



Number of months remaining to purchase the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative coins from the U.S. Mint before they are no longer available. Orders can be placed at www.legion.org/coin.



7,000+

Approximate number of VA employees who have been fired for negligence after new reform measures, triggered by the appointment-falsification scandal of 2014 that ultimately led to the VA MISSION Act of 2018, according to U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, who addressed the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis on Aug. 28.



Percentage increase in the marginal tax rate for some Gold Star families, raising taxes on children's benefits from \$1,000 to \$4,500 in certain situations, due to IRS definition changes that The American Legion and members of Congress are now fighting.



Number of motorcycle riders who joined 68 passengers and 72 supporters on the 2019 Legacy Run.



Number of no-hitters pitched in the American Legion Baseball Northwest Regional Tournament by Idaho Falls Post 56's Randon Hostert, a record, on the way to leading his team to the American Legion World Series championship in Shelby, N.C., Aug. 21.



1,400

Minimum number of new American Legion members who joined the organization in August for the first time due to the LEGION Act expansion war-era recognition by Congress.



Miles per hour – five times the speed of sound – a hypersonic weapon, now in development by U.S. adversaries, can travel, crossing the Pacific Ocean from Asia in a matter of 100 minutes, making it the top defensive priority for the Pentagon, according to Defense Undersecretary for Research and Engineering



Number of immigrants who became naturalized U.S. citizens in a ceremony conducted in conjunction with the 101st American Legion National Convention.



Number of VA hearing presentations prepared for veterans by American Legion claims experts in August.