



## VOICES

*"A deeper investigation into VBA's training infrastructure reveals that claims processors, raters and quality review personnel are critical to upholding the mission of the PACT Act. As our nation's technology capabilities and access improves, it is imperative that the claims process is continuously modernized and streamlined."*

*- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Policy Analyst Brandon McClain, April 9, in a Statement for the Record to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on issues with claims processing and compensation and pension exams*



# 50

Random sample number of cases from American Legion Regional Office Action Review team visits that showed 42% of claims had duty-to-assist issues where VA did not assist the veterans in obtaining necessary evidence; 30% of sampled cases ignored favorable evidence; and 12% of sampled cases were PACT Act claims involving errors or oversight.



# \$248.2 million

Amount in benefits secured free of charge by American Legion appeals representatives for veterans who had disputed their VA decisions, 2021-24.



# \$84.4 billion

Amount in disability benefits secured free of charge for qualified veterans using free, accredited American Legion service officers, 2020-24.



## 4

Number of current U.S. Senate bills The American Legion supports that address mental health and the prevention of veteran suicide, as submitted by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division in an April 29 Statement for the Record to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.



## 8

American Legion legislative testimonies submitted to the first session of the 119th Congress through April, providing input on a variety of bills affecting veterans and their families.



# 34 million

Potential SiriusXM subscriber audience of an interview with VA Secretary Doug Collins conducted by the Julia Mason Show that was attended by 11 American Legion volunteers and staff members. After Mason's segment, American Legion members from the Department of Maryland asked three questions to the secretary.



## 1,589

American Legion Baseball teams that were registered for the centennial season by the end of April.



## 50

Number of competitors who have qualified by the April deadline for the 2025 American Legion National Oratorical Contest May 16-17 at Hillsdale College in Michigan.



# 19,000

Number of people trained to detect and prevent veteran suicide through The American Legion Be the One/ Columbia University or QPR protocol by April 23.



# 18,000

Approximate number of runners and walkers who participated in the Crescent City Classic 10K in New Orleans April 19 where American Legion Department of Louisiana Commander Angela Gomon led an American Legion Family team in Be the One-branded tank tops to spread awareness of the organization's effort to reduce veteran suicide.



# \$3,482

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants disbursed in April, stabilizing the homes of six children.



# 25

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by the national American Legion Americanism Division in April.

## VOICES

*"It's about getting the mission across about why we do what we do. As Past National Commander (Daniel) Seehafer said, it's being a servant leader. Serving the community and those in need. It was an unexpected success, but a great one. And one that we're going to continue to do."*

– American Legion Department of Maryland Commander David Heredia, whose Patriot Social Hour program at different restaurants in the state has increased membership, raised funds for veteran services, provided VA claims assistance and driven awareness of the Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.



# \$35,459

Amount in American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grants disbursed in to three youth-serving non-profit organizations in April.



# 5,954

Audio downloads for the national American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast during April, the second consecutive month of 5,000+ downloads. The last time that occurred was January-February 2024.



# 15

American Legion Junior ROTC recognition awards – seven for military, eight for scholastic achievements – in April through the National Security Division in Washington.



# 3

American Legion posts newly chartered in April: North Chicago, Ill., 2566; Granite, Okla., 30; and Flower Mound, Texas, 469.



# 19,840

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition distributed to 22 different American Legion departments in April through the National Security Division's military-surplus loan program, to go along with 175 clips and 104 rifles.



# 5

Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in April, including one in Somerville, Tenn.; one in Wessington, S.D.; one in Hot Springs Village, Ark.; and two in Illinois (Athens and Bement).



# \$2,039

Amount of one American Legion National Emergency Fund grant disbursed in April, after devastation from the California wildfires.



# \$11,326

Amount in national American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in April.



# 59

Eagle Scout recognition certificates presented from American Legion National Headquarters in April, to go along with two Gold Star (Girl Scouts), one Quartermaster (Sea Scout) and one Summit Award (Venturing).