

SEPTEMBER 2022 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters

**VOICES**

"My platform and No. 1 priority for my year as national commander will be tackling the toughest challenge facing veterans: veteran suicide."

- American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola in his Sept. 1 acceptance speech after election to the highest office in the organization

 **\$3,000**

Value of a computer gaming system delivered Sept. 14 to American Legion Post 2 in Moundsville, W.Va., after winning the system in a drawing at the 103rd American Legion National Convention, from Regiment Gaming and Paradox Customs, which are helping the organization build connections with younger veterans through video-game competition.

 **45%**

Increase in call volume to the 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline, year over year, since the three-digit suicide-prevention line, strongly supported and promoted by The American Legion, debuted in July.



\$8 million

Approximate amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants that have been disbursed since the program was formalized in 1989, to assist veterans, posts and communities that have endured devastating natural disasters.



1,211

Number of Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in September by American Legion claims specialists, free of charge, to help veterans appeal their denial of VA benefits.



307

Appeals cases from veterans disputing VA benefits decisions that were ruled in favor of the veteran, thanks to free representation from American Legion benefits specialists in September.



\$7,000+

Amount raised Sept. 10 by American Legion Post 114 in Volga, S.D., after a goal was set at \$2,200, to increase local awareness about veteran suicide.



70%

Approximate percentage of Americans that supports U.S. acceptance of Afghan refugees seeking to flee the country after the August 2021 Taliban takeover; The American Legion supports accelerated visa processing for refugees and families that assisted U.S. military personnel and operations in the war there.



4

Number of Major League Baseball players who have hit more than 700 home runs in their pro careers, most recently American Legion Baseball alum Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals, who hit two homers on Sept. 23; the former Hi-Boy Drive/Post 340 player of Independence, Mo., joined Barry Bonds, Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth as the only players to surpass 700 homers in their careers.



\$27,737.45

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued in September to assist recovering military personnel and veterans with quality-of-life items, exercise equipment, service-animal training and one special event.

VOICES

"I'm not doing anything other than, to be honest with you, sharing my journey. If I make a major milestone for me, which is to achieve 100 miles, I post it on social media. One of the things I've done differently this year is for every 100 miles that I run, with a goal of doing 1,000 between now and Labor Day, is I do 100 in memory of a veteran who has fallen."

- Legionnaire Chris Yates of California, who was the nation's leading 100 Miles for Hope fundraiser for 2022, supporting the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, which provides needed resources for children, families and veterans seeking assistance



71

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by the American Legion's national Americanism Division in September.



19

American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in September, totaling \$96,495 in college funds.



6,059

Number of Tango Alpha Lima podcast downloads in September, the fourth consecutive monthly increase for the national American Legion program.



1,556

American Legion posts reporting in the last membership year that they operated local Homeland Security/Disaster Relief programs.



\$70,639

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants distributed in September to non-profit organizations that help young people facing challenges not of their making.



21,080

Rounds of ammunition delivered to 23 American Legion posts in 19 departments in September through the organization's Military Surplus Program, managed by the National Security Commission.



350

Attendees, both in person and virtually, of the combined American Legion Americanism Conference in September, which included sessions on American Legion Baseball, Boys State/Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports and the Oratorical Contest, to include 34 participants from 24 different departments who took part virtually in the national Children & Youth Chairman's Conference.