



VOICES

"One of the missions I've appreciated of The American Legion for a long time is the mission of Americanism, of love of God and country, of fostering that spirit amongst the next generation. I'm looking out at an incredible group of young men here who have a chance to be a part of shaping that next generation."

- U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, a member of American Legion Post 225 in Forest Lake, Minn., speaking July 23 at the Pentagon to participants in American Legion Boys Nation



70,000

Estimated number of veterans who stand to receive relief from possible foreclosure after President Trump signed the American Legion-supported VA Home Loan Program Reform Act July 30.



\$769,191

Amount in American Legion youth scholarships disbursed in July to 250 students.



30,000

Approximate number of VA job cuts, most through early retirement, normal attrition, and a federal hiring freeze, expected to occur before the end of the fiscal year. Announced July 7, this is roughly two-thirds less than VA's goal reported earlier in the year. Of the less-than-expected reduction, American Legion National Commander said, "We commend VA leadership for conducting this assessment in a reasonable, deliberate manner, guided by analysis across the enterprise in consultation with Legionnaires and input from major stakeholders. This approach was critical to making informed decisions that should ensure delivery of health care and benefits to veterans is not compromised."



1,027

U.S. Board of Veterans' Appeals dispositions achieved during the month, of which 369 were granted in favor of the veteran, and 374 were remanded for further documentation, after free representation by American Legion appeals representatives.



892

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared for disabled veterans appealing claims decisions during the month, free of charge, by American Legion claims representatives.



\$3,383,797

Amount in retroactive veterans benefits awarded to disabled veterans in the month after free assistance by American Legion appeals reps.



242

American Legion Child Well-being Foundation grant applications received by the end of July for 2026 consideration.



49

Number of American Legion service officers who received certification/accreditation by VA during the month.



\$1,980,151,732

VA benefits secured in the month ending July 1 for veterans who received free representation from accredited American Legion service officers and appeals representatives.



100

Number of young men who participated in American Legion Boys Nation July 18-25.



10

U.S. Flag Code inquiries handled by The American Legion's national Americanism Division in July.

VOICES

"Our generation . . . we are a group of individuals that are asking for that type of outside environment. We're trying to, especially here in Ohio, push away from the stigma of the canteen. We want the outdoor. We want the ability to get on our phones, get on social media and have this presence where we're out there in the limelight, in the community, being seen and . . . having that out there front and center. That's what this type of youth movement and the younger generation is looking for."

- American Legion Department of Ohio Second Vice Commander Gary Cox Jr., U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, who joined INDYCAR driver Graham Rahal in the July 3 kickoff to The American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge



10,000

Amount of an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant awarded in July, to Project Healing Waters of Rapid City, S.D.



\$10,000

Amount of one July American Legion National Emergency Fund grant for a post in Kansas after severe damages caused by wind, hail and rain there.



29

Number of American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program competitors who gathered July 24-26 at Hillsdale College in Michigan for the national championships, won by two Georgians: Katlyn Sullivan (precision) and Bethany Shirley (sporter).



89

Number of American Legion Baseball alums who are now enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, following the July 27 inductions of CC Sabathia (Post 550/Vallejo, Calif.) and the late Dick Allen (Post 749/Wampum, Pa.).



620,182

Number of National Headquarters Facebook views of postings from the 2025 American Legion Boys Nation session in Washington, D.C.



794

Downloads of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast, second highest of the previous 25 episodes, featuring Army veteran, Legionnaire and fitness guru Jennifer Campbell.



7

Number of children whose homes were stabilized thanks to American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants in the amount of \$7,500 in July.



399,411

Sons of The American Legion membership by July 31, an all-time record.

 **327,000+**

Views of reels posted on The American Legion's Instagram account in the two weeks leading up to July 25, fueled by American Legion Boys Nation and the Centennial Classic American Legion Baseball Tournament at Milbank, S.D.

**53**

Number of American Legion departments registered with at least one participant in the USA 250 Challenge, three weeks after National Commander James LaCoursiere kicked it off.

**69**

Number of Eagle Scout recognition certificates distributed in July, to go along with seven Girl Scouts Gold Star certificates, from The American Legion Children & Youth team at National Headquarters.

**4**

New American Legion posts chartered in July, one each in Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee and Texas.

**3**

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in July, two in Michigan and another in Florida.