



## National Emergency Fund

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"... **devotion to mutual helpfulness.**" This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires, Sons and their family members. The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion Family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than **\$8 million** in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

The Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) provided immediate financial assistance to paid members of the American Legion including all Sons of The American Legion members and posts. The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts.

A few highlights worth noting from just last year in 2017 are:

- In September 2017, Post 81 in Melbourne, Fla., dispatched a truck with relief supplies for hurricane victims in Texas. The next day, Hurricane Irma caused heavy roof damage and flooding at the post building. Nine days later, thanks in part to a NEF grant, Post 81 was operating once again, serving its community.
- For 40 years, American Legion member Ray Kacer has lived in his home a mile from the Colorado River in Wharton, Texas. Until Hurricane Harvey rolled through, the home had never flooded. NEF funds helped Kacer and his family recover as they began to rebuild their lives while their home underwent a major restoration.
- Post 230 in Spring Lake, N.C., used NEF funds as part of its recovery after a hurricane-spawned storm left the building under several feet of water. The post reopened in the fall of 2017.

2018 so far has brought another wave of disasters including the most extensive wild fires in the West and the devastation of "Michael" in the Southeast, these disasters are seemingly never ending.

I urge every member reading this to consider dedicating their next Squadron/Post fundraiser wholly or at least in part to this invaluable fund. No matter where you live, this fund could very well make a world of difference in **your getting back on your feet** in a time of need. You may not live in an area susceptible to hurricanes or wild fires, but tornadoes can be a part of your reality. Moreover, where does one live that is not subject to their home being lost due to lightning strikes? The fund will be there for you, please be there for the fund, please consider donating to our NEF.