



VOICES

"We are pleased to see that Congress has not only reached an agreement on the funding measure but also included important provisions that support America's veterans. With the passage of the historic PACT Act this summer, Congress is closing 2022 with some meaningful victories for veterans."

- American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, following the late-December passage of an omnibus appropriations bill that includes a National Buddy Check Week, VA care for all World War II veterans and thousands more Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan allies of U.S. forces, who are now refugees



4,000

Number of additional Special Immigrant Visas authorized for Afghan refugees who were allies of U.S. forces in the global war on terrorism, through the late-December passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which contained multiple provisions supported by American Legion national resolutions and legislative priorities.



37%

Veterans identified as concerns for exposure to toxic contamination while in the military, after more than 19,000 were screened between September and December, to determine eligibility for disability benefits under The American Legion-supported PACT Act, signed into law last August.



2,504

American Legion posts that conducted blood-donation events during the 2021-22 program year, which generated no less than 92,162 units, a 15-year high.



4,077

Minimum number of American Legion posts that conducted Buddy Check operations in the 2021-22 membership year.



6

Number of American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants approved in December.



\$29,500

Worth of gaming equipment delivered in December at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, thanks to an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant, in support of Stack Up, a non-profit that promotes positive mental health through gaming.



54

Number of veterans from across the country who graduated from the mid-December American Legion College leadership program in Indianapolis.



3,500

Approximate number of nautical miles 71-year-old Robert Owens, Newport, Calif., American Legion Post 291 member, set out in December to row across the Atlantic Ocean as part of a team that, in part, spread the message of the Legion's Be the One initiative to reduce veteran suicide.



65

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by The American Legion's Americanism Division at National Headquarters in December.



409,892

Minimum number of hours logged by American Legion members in the VA Volunteer Services program during the 2021-22 membership year.

VOICES

"The rucksacks we carry represent the heavy burden carried by generations of warriors who have served in our nation's ranks since 1775, as well as the weight of a nation ... to live up to the promise that we will never leave a fallen comrade behind."



- Marine Corps veteran Justin LeHew, upon meeting up with American Legion Auxiliary National President Vickie Koutz, American Legion National Security Division Director Mario Marquez and Oregon Legion Family officials, including Past National Commander Charles M. Schmidt, near the end of a 3,365-mile march from the USS *Constitution* in Boston Harbor to the Pacific Coast to raise awareness of the more than 81,000 Americans still listed as missing in action or as prisoners of war



59

American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued through early December, amounting to more than \$116,000, to assist victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida, to go along with truckloads of relief supplies from 29 American Legion departments across the country.



2

New American Legion posts chartered in December, one in California and another in Florida.



30%

Increase in downloads in 2022, year over year, for The American Legion's Tango Alpha Lima podcast, which has grown to more than 137,000 total downloads since its debut in April 2020.



84

Number of American Legion Baseball alums who will have been enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y, after five-time All Star Fred McGriff joins the class of 2023 in July. McGriff, a first baseman in the Majors, played Legion ball for Tampa, Fla., Post 248.



14

Number of years The American Legion Family of Kansas has conducted its annual Operation North Pole at Fort Riley, where this year's tradition included the distribution of about 600 toys for military children.



66

Certificates of American Legion national recognition disbursed to 66 Eagle Scouts in December.



+32,000

Difference in number of wreaths placed by South Carolina Post 71 Legionnaires Tony Venetz, a Gold Star Dad, and Ralph Wainwright when they had their first Wreaths Across America event at one cemetery less than a decade ago, compared to this December when their efforts helped inspire the Legion Family in the area to celebrate the lives of veterans at 38 cemeteries in South Carolina and Georgia.



8

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in December, from six different states.



200

Number of children in Albuquerque, N.M., who received Christmas gifts in December thanks to a toy drive by Carlisle Bennet American Legion Riders Chapter 13. Post 13 there had games, pizza and a visit from the Clauses on Dec. 10 in what is a multi-decade tradition there.