



VOICES

"The American Legion was founded after World War I ravaged Europe. We are extremely concerned about the horrific consequences that occur during war. There is absolutely no justification for Russia's aggression. Our resolution calls for peace in Ukraine and, in conjunction with NATO and the Russian Federation, supports a European security architecture which considers the national security interests of all parties ... We agree with the White House's decision to not send troops to Ukraine, as we continue to support a strong national defense and a strategy of vigilance."

- American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard, after the National Executive Committee passed a resolution Feb. 28 to state the organization's position on Russia's Feb. 24 military invasion of Ukraine



\$3,002,140

Amount in emergency aid provided directly to veterans in need from local American Legion post funds in the last membership year, according to the 2020-21 Consolidated Post Report, with just 62% reporting.



\$59,000+

Average annual starting salary of an employee trained through the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) pilot program, initially authorized in the American Legion-supported Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. VET TEC connects student veterans with VA-approved training providers to acquire high-demand skills and certifications in technical areas such as information science, computer programming and data processing. According to Feb. 2 American Legion testimony before Congress, 4,700 veterans have participated in the program, with an 88% graduation rate and a 72% employment rate.



79.7%

Appeals of disputed VA claims decisions either approved outright in favor of the veteran or remanded for further documentation in February after free American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals representation.



31

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by The American Legion national Americanism Division in February.



\$11,390

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in February to non-profit organizations that assist young people trying to overcome difficulties not of their making.



707

American Legion Baseball teams, representing 43 departments, that started their online team registrations as of February for the 2022 season.



133%

Increase in the number of American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast audio downloads in February 2022, compared to February 2021.



\$50,000+

Amount raised for homeless-veteran support programs in Wisconsin after a third “Sleepout for Veterans” overnighter, led by Sons of The American Legion Squadron 294 in Hartland, raised awareness. More than 30 American Legion Family members slept in tents and cardboard boxes Feb. 11-13 in bitterly cold weather to clearly understand what homeless veterans deal with every day, especially during winter.

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“I was like, oh man, this is awesome. If you have PTSD, the ocean is a great place to relax and think about life, clear your head and your heart ... I can’t thank (The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors) program enough. I think it’s a great program to help a lot of veterans.”

-James Gafney, twice-deployed Army veteran of the war in Afghanistan, who received a paddle board through an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant in a ceremony conducted Feb. 18 at Hollywood, Fla., Post 92 by The American Legion Department of Florida. Gafney had broken his back twice, once while on active duty and again in retirement, preventing him from being able to run or bicycle to exercise, strengthen his core and stay healthy.



3,725

American Legion posts that performed Buddy Check operations in the 2020-21 membership year, providing outreach to no fewer than 234,601 veterans and their families.



74

Number of scouts recognized for achievements in Scouting in February with certificates from American Legion National Headquarters.



24,728

Rounds of ammunition for American Legion ceremonies distributed through the National Security Division’s military-surplus program in February.



\$90,184

Amount in American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grants distributed in February to local posts whose operations have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



1,370

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge for veterans by national American Legion benefits-assistance specialists in February alone.



8

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in February.



\$5,503

American Legion National Emergency Fund grants distributed in February to veterans.



75,959

Pints of blood collected from 50,753 American Legion members nationwide in the last membership year.



\$9,251

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in February.