



## VOICES

*"We come together, discuss ideas, share stories, shoulder one another's burdens and rally to a cause greater than our own self-interest. I believe that The American Legion is a natural steppingstone for passionate and motivated SVA chapter members to continue serving their communities. That service can continue. You are not always going to be a student. But you are always going to be a veteran. Stand up there for your fellow veteran. Stand up there beside us."*

*- American Legion National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey, speaking at the 2022 Student Veterans of American National Conference Jan. 8 in Orlando, Fla.*



Number of American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals claims 125 days or older by the first week of December 2021, effectively zeroing out a backlog of some 4,800 "legacy cases" that existed at the beginning of the year. The Legion appeals unit was able to attain for appellants some \$47 million in VA award grants during the year.



# 6

Number of states where an American Legion-supported pilot risk-assessment model was tested over the last two years to achieve an efficient, effective method to prevent colleges and institutions from exploiting GI Bill-using students and taxpayers. Congress has mandated such risk assessments starting in October 2022, and Education Counsel, the National Association of State Approving Agencies and The American Legion worked together to develop the model and test it.



# 6x

Increase in single-month downloads of the American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast, January 2022 over January 2021, after 8,710 new downloads of the program in January, buoyed by live appearances at the Student Veterans of America National Conference and a series of episodes on veteran suicide prevention.



# 38

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



# 10,698

Books sent to the children of U.S. military personnel around the world in 2021, thanks to a \$31,000 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant to United Through Reading, which promotes literacy and builds bonds through reading between kids and deployed parents.



# 900

Approximate number of homemade cookies – to go along with thousands of store-bought ones, hundreds of candy canes, cards and other items – collected and delivered by American Legion Junior Shooting Sports participants and supporters from Bryan, Texas, for local National Guard personnel deployed to the Mexico border.



# \$17k

Approximate amount raised in December and delivered in January by American Legion Riders Chapter 61 in Avondale, Ariz., to help the family of a 22-year-old police officer who was shot on duty and remained hospitalized for weeks.



# \$1,148

Raised by Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 in San Antonio, Texas, to purchase new shoes this winter for Highland High School students there. Since the founding of Project Shoes, Post 828 has raised and presented nearly \$10,000 to fulfill what Commander Al Alford calls “a very strong commitment to helping the children and youth in our community.”

## VOICES

*“The American Legion is a community organization. We want the organization to survive and do well, but we also want the community to do well and produce quality citizens. It’s just our goal to help the community. It goes a long way toward making everybody better. The American Legion strives for that. It’s what we do.”*

*- Chester, W.Va., American Legion Post 121  
Commander John Hissam, whose post recently provided funds to cover half the cost of a new police cruiser for the city whose two other law-enforcement cars each had reached more than 160,000 miles.*



# \$78k

Amount in American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance grants in January to provide financial relief for local posts whose business operations were affected by the COVID pandemic.



# 3

New American Legion posts chartered in January: No. 415 in Florida, No. 236 in Georgia and No. 445 in Indiana. In addition, five new Sons of The American Legion squadrons were chartered during the month, two in Minnesota and one each in Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska.



# 133

Number of individuals recognized for achievements in Scouting in January with certificates from American Legion National Headquarters.



# 27,280

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition sent to 26 local American Legion posts and 16 departments – to go along with 150 clips and 53 rifles – through the military surplus equipment loan program in January.



# 4

Number of Junior ROTC/ROTC participants selected to receive national awards for scholastic and military excellence. The awards, administered by the Legion's National Security Commission, are going to students at New Hampstead High School in Georgia and Greenville High School in Ohio.



# \$30,095

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in January to non-profit organizations that provide assistance to children facing challenges not of their own making.



# \$32,576

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in January.