



VOICES

“Every day that this delay goes on, veterans are unable to receive care. This is wrong. We will not stand by and allow veterans to be denied their duly owed health care. For cancer patients, a one-month delay makes all the difference. The American Legion demands that Congress end this delay and allow our veterans to receive the health care they desperately need and have earned.”

- American Legion Legislative Director Lawrence Montreuil at a July 28 press conference on Capitol Hill after the Senate’s cloture vote the previous day did not achieve the necessary tally of 60 to advance the PACT Act, the most comprehensive legislation in history to provide relief for veterans exposed to toxic contamination in the service, including some 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans affected by burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. The House has passed the bill twice, and the Senate passed it 84-14 in June before it was called back due to a technical issue that has delayed its advancement to the president’s desk.



9,000

Approximate number of American Legion members who in 24 hours used a July 29 Legislative Action Alert message to directly urge senators to stay in Washington and pass the PACT Act before the August recess.



92

Veterans who attended a July 4 “Escape the Fireworks” special event at American Legion Post 155 in Crystal River, Fla., when 50 were expected to show up; the event was offered as an opportunity for veterans with PTSD to escape the explosions of fireworks.



3

American Legion posts that now offer Project ATLAS telehealth clinical pods for rural veterans to have online VA appointments with their health-care providers, following the July 6 opening of a site at Post 5 in Emporia, Kan.



5,092

Visits to employers' virtual booths in a July 13 online career fair presented by The American Legion, the Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission; 230 registered jobseekers engaged with 184 hiring organizations.



200

Centers throughout the country set up to respond to 988 suicide crisis calls; The American Legion strongly urged implementation of the three-digit emergency number to help reduce the veteran suicide rate.



5th

Auto-racing star Jimmie Johnson's best-ever finish since switching to INDYCAR competition, notched at the Hy Vee Salute to Farmers 300 at Iowa Speedway on July 25; Johnson drives The American Legion-sponsored 48 car in the NTT INDYCAR Series and promotes the Legion's "Be the One" campaign to reduce veteran suicide.



\$34,300

Funds raised and delivered by Wisconsin American Legion Riders in support of the Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wis. The money will help the 155-acre park improve access for people with disabilities, build a new visitors center and enhance mental health services for veterans.



98

Teens who descended on Marymount University in Arlington, Va., in July for the 76th American Legion Boys Nation. Prior to their arrival, participants had submitted 110 bills and resolutions for consideration.



\$1.5 million

Fund established July 15 by The American Legion Department of New York to provide grants for non-profit organizations in the state that have programs directed at veteran suicide and homelessness prevention.

VOICES

"We're going to talk to each other, we're going to identify the problems, and we're going to work together to fix the problems. It has to be us that makes the change, and it's constant work. That's who we are as The American Legion. It's in our DNA. We're here to help veterans."

- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella, leading a July 11 System Worth Saving town-hall meeting with dozens of veterans who use the Columbia, S.C., VA Medical Center



\$5,000

Scholarships awarded each to Mikole Hogan of Montgomery, Texas, and Samantha Zermeno of Fort Mill, S.C., after they won the American Legion National Junior Shooting Sports Championships in the Precision and Sporter categories, respectively, July 23 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.



146

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by The American Legion Americanism Division in July, including media with Fox News Digital and the Jackson Hole, Wyo., News.



5,142

Number of Tango Alpha Lima downloads in July. That represents the highest total for the podcast since the 9/11 series in August and September 2021, other than months with extra episodes.



\$164,282

American Legion youth scholarship funds awarded in July.



157

Scouting certificates issued in July from The American Legion, including 16 for Eagle Scouts.



178

Applicants from non-profit organizations through July for 2023 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants. Recipients will be determined in October.



\$50,000

Assistance provided July 14 to the family of 20-year-old Marine Cpl. Kelsee Lainhart of Dearborn County, Ind., from Post 235 in Milan after the post learned of the family's difficulties navigating the system of care after Lainhart was paralyzed from the chest down due to a suicide bomber attack in the August 2021 chaos at Kabul International Airport that killed 13 U.S. troops.



52,322

Number of times an Instagram reel featuring Boys Nation participants enjoying their July 22 ice-cream social was played through Monday, Aug. 1. Multiple Boys Nation video reels were posted on The American Legion Instagram platform, but it was the traditional ice-cream social video that led the traffic.



100+

Blankets delivered to the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, Mo., July 23 by American Legion Riders, decked out in their 100 Miles for Hope shirts who promoted the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



\$1,600

National Emergency Fund grant money disbursed in July to assist a veteran whose home was damaged in a tornado in Oklahoma.



350

Attendees of the American Legion National Membership Workshop July 27-30 in Indianapolis.



6

New American Legion posts chartered in July, Michigan 15 and 722; Florida 416; Iowa 739; Mississippi 2022; and Texas 229.