



## VOICES

*"There must be 200 people up here that I knew. Whether I knew them or not, they are all brothers and sisters."*

*-American Legion National Vice Commander Paul Kennedy, who served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 2008, and represented the national organization in Memorial Day ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*



# 36

Laps led by Alex Palou, who won pole position and drove The American Legion's Be the One car in the Indianapolis 500 May 29, before a collision in the pit dropped him back to 28th place with about 100 laps to go. He battled back to 4th before it was over, while teammate Marcus Ericsson, 2022 Indy 500 champ, took 2nd in a car bearing American Legion/Be the One branding.



# 1<sup>st</sup>

Place of Palou, in the American Legion Be the One car, racing May 13 in the GMR Grand Prix at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, a race he controlled from start to finish and won by nearly 17 seconds over second-place Pato O'Ward.



# \$220,049,147

Amount in appeals awards secured over the last five fiscal years by American Legion claims specialists representing disabled veterans, free of charge, who had disputed earlier VA decisions.



# 8,285

Number of Memorial Day ceremonies and events with local American Legion post participation, as reported in the 2022-23 Consolidated Post Report, with less than 70% of posts submitting.



# 8,307

American Legion programs and activities executed in the 2022-23 membership year in support of the Department of Homeland Security or other disaster-preparedness efforts.



# \$1,479,113

American Legion Legacy Scholarship funds in 2023, a record, awarded to 321 applicants who had at least one parent who died while on active duty, or received a 50% or greater VA disability rating, since 9/11.



# 83

U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded in May by the national American Legion Americanism Division.



# \$2,700

Amount in May American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants that assisted in keeping five children from two families of veterans in stable environments.



# 25

Number of resolutions passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee at the Spring Meetings in May. The resolutions include one to strongly oppose any effort to tax or require means testing for VA disability benefits.



# 2,737

American Legion Baseball teams that by the end of May had started the registration process for the coming season.



# 8,162

Downloads during May of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast, making it the fifth best month ever.

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*“VA implemented a host of successful programs and authorities to address veterans homelessness in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, including provisions related to access to case management, caregivers, state veterans homes and temporary housing. With the federal public health emergency expiring on May 11, we must efficiently phase successful programs out of emergency authorities. The American Legion is proud to support the CHARGE Act of 2023, which will ensure our homeless veterans continue to receive the resources and services they deserve.”*

-American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola in a May 2 statement in support of the Critical Health Access Resource and Grant Extensions (CHARGE) Act of 2023



# \$797,251

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants approved in May for 16 non-profit organizations that support young people by addressing their physical, mental and emotional needs.