



## VOICES

*“With the increase of veterans enrolling in VA care, the patient advocates have a heavy workload and at times are not able to assist veterans to the extent needed. The American Legion supports the Veteran Patient Advocacy Act and the improvements it will bring through establishing a standard of at least one advocate per 13,500 veterans. The availability of patient advocates is a priority of The American Legion and will continue to be a focal point when speaking with veterans about their representation as a VA patient.”*

*-American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Tiffany Ellett, testifying before the House Veterans Affairs Committee’s Subcommittee on Health Care, March 29*



# \$300,000

Approximate number of VA claims filed since the American Legion-supported PACT Act became law in August, among some 3.5 million veterans eligible for health care and benefits for exposure to toxic contamination while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



# \$31 billion

Approximate amount in VA disability benefits secured for veterans by accredited American Legion service officers over the last two years.



## 3

Congressional hearings in a two-day span in late March where The American Legion provided in-person testimony in support of resolutions/positions on employment, VA health-care legislation and protections for disabled veterans charged excessive legal fees for VA claims representation. The American Legion provides free of charge.



## 50

Approximate number of participants in a 2.2-mile "Be the One" march March 25 in Bristol, Tenn., to spread awareness of The American Legion's national initiative to prevent veteran suicide.



# \$3,000 - \$8,000

Range of legal costs commonly charged by unaccredited lawyers representing veterans in VA disability cases that American Legion accredited service officers provide free of charge, according to congressional testimony delivered March 29.



## 750k

Number of VA disability cases worked at any one time, free of charge, by accredited American Legion service officers nationwide.



## 320

Meetings between American Legion representatives nationwide and their congressional representatives in March, as reported on the Legion's national Grassroots Action Center.



# \$29,739.95

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in March.



# 157,563

Minimum number of veterans assisted through referrals from local post American Legion service officers last year, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.



# \$18,000

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in March, to six individual victims of natural disasters.



# 48

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



# 363k

Approximate amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors funds disbursed in 2022 to help 38 sick or wounded active-duty military personnel, 10 American Legion posts/districts, nine veteran-support events and five VA facilities.



# \$111,200

Amount in Operation Comfort Warriors funds presented March 25 by the American Legion Family of Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis, topping last year's contribution of \$106,000.



# \$547,500

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in March to three youth-serving organizations.

## VOICES

*"Veterans have sweated, bled and sacrificed for this country. There is absolutely no way The American Legion would allow unelected bureaucrats from the CBO to reverse the hard-fought gains that veterans have made over the last couple of years . . . The American Legion is committed to ensuring that the promises made to veterans are promises kept."*

-American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, in response to March reports of the Congressional Budget Office considering VA cuts to rein in the federal budget deficit



# 13

Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in March, to go along with one new American Legion post.



# 16

Number of Junior ROTC Awards delivered by The American Legion's National Security Division in March, five to departments, six for military excellence and five for scholastic excellence.



# 14,880

Rounds of military-surplus ceremonial ammo disbursed from The American Legion National Security Division to 15 American Legion posts and 13 departments in March.



# 8,693

Number of Tango Alpha Lima downloads during March, the fourth-highest total of the podcast that celebrated its third anniversary April 1. Also of note: Two of the three top months for downloads included special series, meaning those months had far more episodes than the four released during March 2023.



# 1,224

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge for veterans by American Legion appeals specialists in March.



# 50

Accredited service officers certified by The American Legion in March.



# 78.8%

Percentage of appeals decided in favor of the veteran or remanded for further documentation in March after free American Legion representation before the Board of Veterans Appeals.