



## VOICES

*"Since Aug. 20, 2021, more than 200 aircraft and 35,000 Afghan evacuees have arrived in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, home to Kaiserslautern American Legion Post GR01. These evacuees were sheltered, fed and cared for by volunteers in the surrounding community ... Legionnaires came from as far away as Frankfurt, and Kitzingen in the Bavarian area of Germany. District Auxiliary President Sonja Dennis, her husband James, District Secretary Christa Purdy and other groups responded with much-needed items ranging from basic necessities, such as food and clothing (men's, women's, children's) to different types of fruits.*

*"Post GR01, along with Commander Curley Morgen and Past Department Commander Robert Gray, made several trips to local vendors and purchased clothing, fruit, cases of Lay's potato chips (a special request from the evacuees) shower clogs, shoes, especially jackets in preparations for the fall weather, blankets, several electric water warmers, socks and numerous other items."*

*-Michael P. Young, American Legion Department of France Family Support Network chairman, on efforts by Legionnaires in Europe to assist thousands of U.S.-allied Afghan refugees who were forced to escape after the Taliban takeover in August*

 **258**

Number of employers who met with 248 job seekers at a Sept. 22 hybrid virtual/in-person career fair put on by The American Legion, Texas Veterans Commission and Texas Workforce Commission. The in-person portion of the event drew 37 employers to meet with 115 job candidates, and 23 interviews were scheduled. Among the job seekers were 25 wounded warriors from Fort Hood's Soldier Recovery Unit.



# \$4,734.92

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed in September to individuals and posts that were damaged by Hurricane Ida.



# 17

Number of veterans in September who used free national American Legion representation in their efforts to upgrade the characterizations of their military discharges.



# 1,468

Number of VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in September free of charge by American Legion national representative for veterans disputing VA claims decisions.



# \$85,151

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in September to non-profit organizations that provide vital assistance services for young people who face physical, environmental, mental or emotional challenges and conditions over which they have no control.



# 12,098

Audio downloads of The American Legion's national Tango Alpha Lima podcast in September, shattering all previous one-month records. The podcast also had 5,634 views on YouTube during the month. The September performance was fueled by the 20-20-20 series of firsthand accounts from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 – 20 interviews in the 20 days leading up to the 20th anniversary of 9/11.



# 505

Combined attendance in all program segments of the 2021 national combined Americanism/ Children & Youth Conference in September. The conference had sessions for Boys and Girls State directors, American Legion Baseball directors and department chairmen, Children & Youth department chairmen, oratorical contest department chairmen, Junior Shooting Sports Program department chairmen and Scouting.

## TESTIMONY

*"It has come to The American Legion's attention that tuition and fees at flight schools have increased dramatically, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars per student. Flight schools have inflated prices, and been successful doing so, by exploiting an unforeseen and unintentional loophole in the Post-9/11 GI Bill."*

*-American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Division Policy Coordinator David Proferes, on Sept. 21 before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, in support of the Fly Vets Act, which would cap flight-school tuition and fees and curb exploitation of GI Bill benefits*



# 6

Number of new Sons of the American Legion squadrons chartered in September, one each in Iowa, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota and Ohio.



# \$11,000

Amount in national American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grants provided in September to American Legion local posts that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# \$8,713

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in September.



# \$360,000

Minimum amount raised for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation through the second year of 100 Miles for Hope, exceeding the goal by at least \$60,000.



# 55

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



# 291

Number of American Legion Scouting Achievement Certificates awarded in September.

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LEGION**