



VOICES

"This was such an honor to lay the wreath for The American Legion. I was just thinking of Tommy and him coming home after 41 years."

-American Legion National Vice Commander Randy Edwards, who served 38 years in the Army and Army Reserve, after placing a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day; the remains of Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Edward Knebel, who "was one of the reasons I joined the military," were identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, in 2009



\$10 million+

Amount in funds raised by the Sons of The American Legion for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation since 1988, as of May 2024; the SAL exceeded its goal this year of \$407,000 to break the \$10 million mark.



1 million

VA disability claims granted, as of May, to veterans who have qualified for benefits under The American Legion-backed PACT Act of 2022, which provides relief and care for those who were exposed to toxic contamination during military service.



631

Names of fallen soldiers engraved at the First Infantry Division Monument in Washington, D.C., including that of Sgt. Kevin A. Gilbertson, stepson of American Legion Department of Kansas Commander Randy Frank, who attended a May 26 ceremony.



17

Resolutions passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee during the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. They addressed matters of national security, membership, transition assistance and more.



14

Number of American Legion Family-staffed video gaming stations set up near the USS Iowa during LA Fleet Week, San Pedro, Calif., in the days leading up to Memorial Day, where active-duty sailors and Legionnaires made connections.



\$197,500

Amount in American Legion National Oratorical Contest scholarships awarded to contestants from across the country, and beyond, after competition at Hillsdale College in Michigan May 18-19.



13

Servicemembers identified or repatriated by DPAA during May.



6

New posts and squadrons chartered during May.



624

Downloads of the podcast episode featuring Miss America Madison Marsh, the first active-duty officer to win the crown. The episode was the most popular during the month.



12,309

Messages sent via the Voter Voice platform, including 8,381 for the Contract Our Veterans Act; 2,445 to Congress to Pass the VET-TEC Authorization Act; and 1,483 to President Biden regarding Diane Carlson Evans.



8

Number of points by which Chip Ganassi Racing driver Linus Lundqvist, behind the wheel of The American Legion Be the One car, led the NTT INDYCAR SERIES rookie points standings after the May 27 Indianapolis 500.



109

A record number of entries in the annual American Legion Media Awards Contest, the winners of which were approved by the Media & Communications Commission at Spring Meetings on May 6.

VOICES

"Throughout American history, all kinds of opinions, thoughts, and beliefs have been voiced no matter the sentiment, because whether or not you approve or hate what I say, you must support my right to say it. This is the power of free speech. And yet in recent years, we have seen a pushback on this fundamental right."

- American Legion National Oratorical Contest winner Aubrey Moore of Renton, Wash., sponsored by Post 186 in Seattle, who walked away from the competition at Hillsdale College with a \$25,000 scholarship



6

Number of 2023 postseason saves recorded by Arizona Diamondbacks closer Paul Sewald, who in May was named the 2024 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year. He played on the Las Vegas Post 76 team that won the 2008 American Legion Baseball World Series.



5,831

Members who took advantage of the multi-year option during May, raising the overall total to 26,673 by month's end.