



VOICES

"Let's make a statement. We cannot allow this to happen."

- American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer in a call to action Aug. 28 at the 105th National Convention for members to use the Legion's Grassroots Advocacy Center platform to email Congress to demand passage of legislation to prevent VA disability check delays in October, due to a \$3 billion budget shortfall



17,363

E-mails sent through The American Legion Grassroots Advocacy Center by the end of Labor Day weekend, following National Commander Daniel Seehafer's Aug. 28 call to members to demand passage of a bill that would prevent delayed VA disability checks and cover the \$3 billion budget shortfall by the end of September.



82%

Percentage of VA health-care facilities reporting severe nursing shortages in 2024; reducing the shortage has been a top legislative priority for The American Legion for over a decade.



127 million

Number of VA patient appointments in 2024, up from 120 million in 2023, according to VA Secretary Denis McDonough, who addressed The 105th American Legion National Convention on Aug. 27 in New Orleans.



34%

Increase in VA enrollment (710,000 veterans) over the last two years.



5,300

American Legion Family members who took the Be the One veteran suicide prevention training during the 105th National Convention in New Orleans.



\$930,000

Total amount raised for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation by American Legion Riders following the five-day, 1,100-mile Legacy Run. The final total was collected onstage at the 105th National Convention Aug. 27 in New Orleans.



14

Number of previously missing U.S. servicemembers whose remains were accounted for or repatriated in August.



10,904

YouTube views of American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer's Aug. 27 message to the presidential candidates of both major parties, who did not accept invitations to speak at the 105th National Convention in New Orleans. His message: "Don't forget about veterans."



\$421,263

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed to 143 students in August.



38,000

Estimated number of U.S. servicemember remains that can still be recovered, according to Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, who spoke Aug. 28 at The American Legion's 105th National Convention.



22

Number of American Legion Baseball department scholarship winners submitted through August.



134

Registered participants in the Aug. 25 American Legion Small Business Workshop and networking event during the National Convention.

VOICES

"I don't mind running around being a pint low. It's something I've done since I was 17. I'm 66 now, and I'll keep doing it until they tell me I need to keep my blood."

- David Brewster of American Legion Post 94 in Dresden, Tenn., who joined dozens of other Legion Family members Aug. 26 during the National Convention in New Orleans to donate blood in a drive that aims to help the Red Cross battle a nationwide shortage.



11

Number of children of military-connected parents whose homes were stabilized in August thanks to American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants amounting to \$4,400. TFA grants are funded by the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



Number of backpacks stuffed with school supplies provided in August by American Legion Riders Chapter 129 in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., to Neptune Beach Elementary School for students otherwise unable to pay for them.



American Legion Baseball World Series championships won in the last three years by Troy, Ala., Post 70, following a comeback 5-3 victory Aug. 20 over Midland, Mich., in this year's title game in Shelby, N.C.



Amount presented by American Legion Riders Chapter 363 to the VA Central Iowa Healthcare System Aug. 3, the funds having been raised through the chapter's Veteran Suicide Prevention Poker Run/Benefit last spring.



Eagle Scout recognition certificates disbursed to posts across the country in August, to go along with five Gold Award certificates.



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



American Legion Child Welfare Foundation applications submitted through August for the 2025 grant year.



Rounds of ceremonial ammunitions distributed in August to eight American Legion posts, through the Military Surplus Program.



140

Number of care-item packages, to go along with \$2,000 in gift cards, delivered Aug. 26 by members of The American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Commission at homeless veteran facilities in New Orleans during the Legion's 105th National Convention.



158

Veterans, military personnel and spouses who partook of The American Legion/U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes career workshops, networking luncheon and job fair Aug. 26 in New Orleans during the National Convention.



902

August downloads of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast episode featuring Marine Corps veteran and comedian Bryson Banks, the most for any single episode since April 2 (Retired Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro).



\$2,670

American Legion National Emergency Fund grant to a member in the Philippines whose home was severely damaged by an Aug. 12 typhoon there.



\$37,220

Total amount of two American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants disbursed in August, one to send disabled veterans to a Tacoma, Wash., Rainiers Minor League Baseball game and another for a Warrior BBQ.



\$17,360,702,094

VA benefits secured, on pace to beat the previous year's record, free of charge through August 2024 by accredited American Legion service officers worldwide.



1,003

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge by The American Legion in August for veterans appealing their disability claim decisions.



12.4%

Percentage of American Legion-represented appeals denied by the Board of Veterans Appeals in August, compared to 29.9% approved and 54.9% remanded for further documentation.