



VOICES

"It's a family. It's The American Legion Family. We will be back. We will rebuild. We're a part of this community. This is a good community. It's a strong community. It will return, and hopefully, it will return better than ever."

- Tom Doran, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 283, Pacific Palisades, Calif., who was among thousands who lost their homes in the January wildfires in Los Angeles and assisted with relief efforts



\$87,994.58

Amount of 23 American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued in January to assist Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion in recovery from natural disasters.



8.2 million

Approximate number of Veterans Crisis Line calls fielded by VA since 2009 when the mission of the late Dr. Janet Kemp, VA's first director of suicide prevention, was formally supported by resolution at the 91st American Legion National Convention, in Louisville, Ky.



22

Number of homeless and at-risk veterans who will be housed in a new facility at American Legion Post 3 in Westfield, N.J., where ground was broken Jan. 14. Four other New Jersey posts have similar facilities in the works.



254

Number of Washington, D.C., media outlets that published a news release announcing The American Legion's Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball through Jan. 20.



825

Downloads, third most among the previous 50 episodes, of the American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast episode featuring Mary Gauthier, a singer-songwriter who supports veterans.



22

Number of Medal of Honor recipients who attended The American Legion's sold-out Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball on Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C., after Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.



870

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared, free of charge by American Legion staff appeals representatives, for veterans disputing their claims decisions in January.



44

Certified accreditations of American Legion service officers in January.



\$3,991,092

Retroactive VA disability benefits secured for veterans using free American Legion representation in appeals of their claims decisions.



253

Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions received on cases worked free of charge by American Legion representatives in January, including 55 (21.7%) granted in favor of the veteran, 138 (54.5%) remanded for further documentation and 50 (19.8%) that were denied.



57

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



21

American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in January, amounting to \$54,866.

VOICES

"Sometimes, VA makes mistakes. Just because VA said something doesn't always make it true, or in accordance with your evidence. Remember, you're your own best advocate. VA, they're doing their job, and they're trying to do their best job. But at the end of the day, who's going to fight better for you? Nobody but yourself."

- American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division healthcare analyst Andrew Petrie, at a Jan. 4 breakout session on the PACT Act and the massive increase in claims from post-9/11 veterans exposed to toxic contamination in the service



786,654

Participants in the American Legion Grassroots Advocacy Center, managed by the national Legislative Division, as of Jan. 1, 2025.



\$3,472,478

Amount in VA debt waivers granted in January with free assistance from American Legion national representatives.



353

Number of American Legion Baseball teams that in January began the registration process for the centennial season of play.



\$2,000

Amount in gift cards donated in January by American Legion Post 27 in Wyandotte, Mich., to the local police department to assist community members they encounter who are in need.



2

Increase in American Legion Baseball alumni set to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in July, when it was announced Jan. 21 that former Legion players C.C. Sabathia and Dick Allen will be enshrined. Pitcher Sabathia played for Post 550 in Vallejo, Calif., and infielder Allen, who died in 2020, played for Post 749 in Wampum, Pa.



2

New American Legion posts chartered in January, Indiana FireVets No. 911 and No. 294 in Rutledge, Tenn.



5

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in January: Arkansas 111, Idaho 203, North Dakota 69, Florida 239 and Nebraska 353.



\$28,062

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



1

Operation Comfort Warriors grant issued in January, to help meet basic needs, like food and clothing through the Birmingham, Ala., VA Medica Center-Phoenix Clinic.



\$4,485

Temporary Financial Assistance grant funds disbursed in January, stabilizing homes for four children in the homes of veterans in need.



71

Scouting recognition certificates distributed from The American Legion National Headquarters in January: 65 Eagle Scouts, three Sea Scouts and one Summit Award.



422

Participants in the Department of Utah's Be the One Facebook group, an active forum where American Legion Family members exchange information about the organization's primary mission.