



JANUARY 2021 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"The American Legion Family congratulates President Biden on assuming the most powerful position in the free world. We are eager to work with the administration to improve the lives of our military, veterans and their families. As the nation's largest veterans organization, our members are dedicated to strengthening America. We also promise to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. We offer the same assistance and support to the new president as we have to all of his predecessors since our founding in 1919."

- American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford following the Jan. 20 inauguration of Joe Biden as 46th President of the United States



3,542

Number of VA decision appeals granted in favor of the veteran during 2020, thanks to assistance from free American Legion staff claims specialists. Over 75 percent of cases with American Legion representation were ruled in favor of the veteran or sent back for further development or study.



\$3.7 billion

Approximate amount in VA benefits secured for veterans in 2020 using free, accredited American Legion department service officers nationwide and beyond.



93

Number of American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued in 2020, amounting to more than \$160,000 in natural disaster relief from Puerto Rico to Tennessee to California.



800

Approximate number of veterans who received Buddy Checks by Las Vegas American Legion Spirit of Freedom Post 76 between mid-December and mid-January.



\$88,000

Amount in national Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grants disbursed in January to American Legion posts that have suffered economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



2

Operation Comfort Warriors grants awarded in January, one to purchase an iPad for a Puerto Rico veteran whose medical appointments went virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic and another for an adjustable bed for a veteran who was injured when he was hit by an under-age drunk driver.



6,000

Number of meals estimated to feed struggling families after a recent \$2,000 donation by Erwin Prieskorn American Legion Post 46 in Ann Arbor, Mich., to Food Gatherers, the county's food rescue and food bank program.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



700+

Number of Valentine's Day cards and letters sent to U.S. military personnel serving away from home in 2020 from American Legion Post 202 in Newton, Conn. Community members and students write notes in the cards in January, and they are sent in time to arrive for Valentine's Day.



10

Number of American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued in January, amounting to \$20,093, to individual members and one post to provide relief after natural disasters.



55

Number of U.S. Flag Code inquiries handled in January by The American Legion's national Americanism Division.

VOICES

"I tried to reach out to every veteran community for help, and it was Post 257 that has gone above and beyond for my family. The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance grant establishes hope in someone who has contacted and spoken to everyone for any kind of help. We are extremely thankful and blessed."

-U.S. Marine Corps veteran Walter Culberson, who lost his job in April due to the coronavirus pandemic, and received a national American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grant, as well as gas and grocery cards from Desmond T. Doss Post 257 in Ooltewah, Tenn., to cover essential costs until he got a new job. The TFA program is funded through tax-deductible donations to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. legion.org/donate



\$82,250

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in January to organizations that assist children facing challenges and difficulties beyond their control.



\$53,959

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarship funds disbursed in January.



30,000

Number of care packages to be distributed before Sept. 11, 2021, to New York City police officers and dispatchers through Operation Gratitude, planned largely by American Legion Kimlau Post 1291 member Wilem Wong, an Army Reserve veteran who deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as a sergeant assigned to NYPD's Health & Wellness Section. New York City Police Post 460 is actively engaged in the sorting and distribution process of the packages, which contain hand warmers, lip balm, coffee, candy and handwritten thank you notes.



\$181,769

Amount in American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants distributed throughout 2020 that helped thousands of troops and veterans by purchasing comfort items ranging from smart TVs to winter coats.