



VOICES

"Now that Congress has provided the benefits veterans have earned, they should also fix the issue and ensure proper oversight within VA to prevent another accounting crisis in the future."

- American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere, following the Sept. 19 passage of emergency spending legislation to cover a shortfall for the 2023-24 fiscal year, as VA now faces a 2024-25 budget shortage of over \$12 billion



44,586

Number of messages sent through The American Legion Grassroots Advocacy Center web platform between Aug. 28 – when National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer called on members to contact Congress at once to pass emergency legislation to cover the shortfall – and passage of legislation to ensure no delays in VA disability payments.



\$19,174,807,247.71

VA disability benefits secured for all claimants represented by The American Legion in fiscal 2023-24.



\$92,000

Amount raised by American Legion Riders Chapter 226 in Mayo, Md., and presented in September to groups working to reduce veteran suicide.



70

New VA pension claims handled free of charge for veterans by trained American Legion specialists in September.



992

Number of VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared for veterans, free of charge, by American Legion appeals representatives in September.



\$14,007.83

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants disbursed to five Legionnaires and one Sons of The American Legion member in September.



40

Number of new American Legion service officers accredited in September.



\$3,000

Amount in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grant funds distributed in September, stabilizing homes for six children whose veteran parents were facing unexpected financial hardship.



2 million

Approximate number of food packages filled on Sept. 11 aboard the *USS Intrepid* in New York City, with help from New York Legionnaires and America250, as part of the National Day of Service and Remembrance, or 9/11 Day.



10,003

Number of people who had taken the free, 90-minute American Legion/Columbia University suicide prevention training program through September.



6

New American Legion posts chartered in September: Alabama 722, Alaska 99, Kentucky 346, Maine 215, New York 917 and Ohio 809.



6,533

September downloads of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast, most since February 2024, which was the second-best month ever.

VOICES

"This sculpture is dedicated to you, the men and women and families who have given everything physically and mentally in service of their country. And it is dedicated to those who have lost a part of themselves in the sacred act of service to protect our freedoms."

- Sculptor Sabin Howard, following the Sept. 13 unveiling and first illumination of "A Soldier's Journey" at the National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., attended by American Legion National Commander Jim LaCoursiere and Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joseph Navarrete; The American Legion has been represented by Jack Monahan of Connecticut on the National WWI Centennial Commission



\$3,548,310

Total retroactive awards secured by veterans through September by the national American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals team.



\$62,500

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant funds distributed in September.



13

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered throughout the country, including three in Iowa, in September.



58

Eagle Scout recognition certificates issued by American Legion National Headquarters in September.



\$38,840

Amount in American Legion national scholarship funds disbursed in September to 15 students.



4

Number of American Legion System Worth Saving VA site visits/town halls conducted in 2024, through September, most since before the COVID-19 pandemic paused the program.



2,700

Miles that American Legion Post 159, Venice, Fla., member Ron Zaleski set out to cover over 10 months, starting Sept. 11, to raise awareness about veteran suicide.



29,760

Rounds of ceremonial ammo distributed in September, to go along with 142 rifles, 200 clips and a static display, through The American Legion's Military Surplus Program, administered by the National Security Division.



50

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