



MARCH 2021 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"Veterans in Wickenburg, regardless of whether or not they belong to a veterans service organization, will soon have the option of visiting their VA health-care provider via the telehealth system in Wickenburg rather than traveling to a VA medical care facility in Prescott or even Phoenix. The benefits of using telehealth are considerable, especially in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic."

- American Legion Department of Arizona Commander Ken Queen, following the opening of the Project ATLAS tele-health clinic at Post 12 in Wickenburg, Ariz. It is the second such venue launched in association with Philips International, following Springfield, Va., Post 176, to give VA patients far from medical facilities convenient ways to meet virtually with care providers.



2,000

Number of individual COVID-19 vaccinations conducted by VA on one March day at Herman Kent American Legion Post 777 in Jamestown, N.Y. As vaccines became available across the country in the first quarter of 2021, posts from Butte, Mont., to Fort Myers, Fla., began working with VA to provide venues and access to vaccine for veterans.



1,000+

Number of participants who pre-registered for the second 100 Miles for Hope Challenge prior to its kickoff April 1, to benefit The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.



7

Number of American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants approved in March, totaling \$11,500, to purchase stationary bicycles, a mattress, recreational therapy for veterans with PTSD and other comfort items, benefiting more than 150 individuals with service-connected wounds or illnesses.



70

Number of American Legion posts nationwide that received Mission Blue grants from national headquarters in March to help offset costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$69,800 awarded in the month brings the program total to \$366,616, assisting 367 posts within 42 departments.



1,462

Number of informal hearing presentations prepared free of charge in March by national American Legion VA claims specialists to assist veterans with their disability claims.



361

Number of VA claims decision appeals granted in favor of the veteran in March thanks to free assistance from American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals representatives.



52

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



1

Number of golf shots it took National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett to finish a 174-yard hole on March 15, The American Legion's 102nd birthday. He used a 7 iron to record his third-ever hole in one.



875

Attendees of the March 30 American Legion Training Tuesday session that covered updates to the MyLegion.org platform that assists officers and membership administrators and offers helpful features for individual members.



47

American Legion Department Oratorical Contest champions certified in March. Because the National American Legion Oratorical Contest was canceled for 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, each certified department champion receives a \$5,000 academic scholarship from national headquarters.



4,409

Number of March downloads of Tango Alpha Lima, The American Legion's 1-year-old podcast, beating the previous high month of 2,133, set in July 2020.

VOICES

"The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is honoring my father's service and commitment to the years that he served ... allowing me to have a better opportunity than my father previously had. The American Legion is providing me the support and ability to pursue my dreams early on in life – it's providing me the support through medical school, being able to care for my patients in the community."

- Claudia Maynard, medical student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine, who was recently awarded an American Legion Legacy Scholarship; scholarships are awarded to the children of servicemembers and veterans who lost their lives on active duty or have a 50% or greater service-connected disability rating.



33

Percentage of veterans who were defined as "under-employed" prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a point the March 2021 American Legion-Lumina Foundation report, "The Future of Credentialing of Servicemembers and Veterans" makes in its effort to improve the licensing and credentialing landscape for veterans seeking to leverage their military training into careers in specialized fields.



2.2 million

Estimated number of female U.S. military veterans in 2045, doubling the percentage from 9-18%, a point made to Congress in March 4 testimony from American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, calling on improved, gender-specific services for women at VA health-care facilities.



3,000+

Number of vintage war posters owned by The American Legion National Headquarters, many of which have been curated into an online exhibit produced by the Emil A. Blackmore Museum and viewable at legionmuseum.omeka.net.