



NOVEMBER 2019 **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT REPORT**

A Report from American Legion National Headquarters



VOICES

"It is important that Americans never forget that there are still more than 82,000 men and women who were taken prisoner or never had a full accounting. The American Legion reveres their memory and will continue to honor them..."

- American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford, following a Nov. 7, gathering at the White House where President Trump signed bipartisan legislation to require certain federal properties to display the POW/MIA flag every day



\$1,357,541

Minimum value of financial contributions made to VA hospitals by American Legion posts in the 2018-2019 membership year, with only 69 percent reporting.



1,016

Number of VA hearing presentations prepared on behalf of veterans by national American Legion benefits claims experts in November.



6,560

Minimum number of Veterans Day events coordinated by American Legion posts in 2018, with just 69 percent of posts submitting reports.



\$7,000

Value of donated goods for veterans, including gift cards, coats and quilts, delivered to the Charleston, S.C., VA Medical Center by American Legion Post 178 from Murrells Inlet, the 14th consecutive year the post has made such a delivery.



10

Number of American Legion district revitalization events conducted in five departments in November.



70,000

Minimum number of pints donated through The American Legion's annual holiday blood drive last year; the drive is now under way, through Dec. 31.



25

Number of minor children assisted throughout the United States in November by The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program, which provides grants for needy military and veteran families to pay for shelter, utilities, food or clothing.



58

Number of American Legion College Class of 2019 graduates, representing 40 departments, who completed the program at National Headquarters in November. It was the second largest Legion College class in history.



13

Number of applications for corrections submitted in November by The American Legion on behalf of veterans seeking reconsideration of the characterizations of their military discharges.

MOMENT IN HISTORY

“Suddenly we heard a shell with its strange, dying whistle pass through the air. Then I said to my wife, ‘Maud, this is not maneuvers.’ I sprang out of bed and rushed to the radio. Sure enough, it was war! The announcer kept shouting in a nervous, breathless voice, ‘Pearl Harbor is being bombed. This is war, no fooling -- this is not maneuvers — it is the real McCoy.’”

-From the Dec. 7, 1941, diary entry of American Legion Department of Hawaii Vice Commander A.A. Kempa, who recorded efforts local Legionnaires made amid the chaos and destruction of the Pearl Harbor bombing that pushed the United States into World War II. That morning, Kempa wrote, he helped organize a team of 40 Legionnaires to fight fires burning all over. Legionnaires also helped direct traffic, assist with the wounded and calmed panicking citizens as the city was blacked out, under martial law



 **\$26,850**

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants distributed in November to assist organizations and programs that help children facing difficulties beyond their control.

 **ROAR**

The American Legion Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) team visited the VA regional office in Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 4-6, to assess performance and learn about its claims management services.

 **505**

Number of appeals granted for American Legion-represented veterans disputing VA benefits decisions in November.

 **\$13,681**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships awarded in November.