



## VOICES

*"We want to Be The One to start the conversation ... Be The One to listen to a vet who has an issue ... Be The One to help point a family with an issue to what they need."*

*-Crystal Lake, Ill., American Legion Post 171 Senior Vice Commander Robert Dorn, who on June 11 connected local veterans and first responders with an equine-therapy program via the post's year-old Vets for 4 Veterans and Blue Families initiative that amplifies the national American Legion's "Be the One" campaign to raise awareness and remove stigmas about mental health treatment and suicide prevention.*



# 84-14

Senate tally in favor of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, passed June 16, which would historically expand services and disability benefits for millions of former military personnel who were exposed to toxic burn pits, a contaminated air base in Uzbekistan, Agent Orange in previously denied locations and atomic radiation cleanup sites around the world. The House passed a similar measure, and the legislation was expected to reach President Biden's desk in mid-July.



# 9

Number of bills to improve VA health-care services and to honor the sacrifices of veterans signed into law by President Biden June 7 at a White House ceremony attended by American Legion national staff.



# 108%

Increase in audio downloads of the Tango Alpha Lima podcast in the first half of 2022, as compared with the first six months of 2021.



# 1,488

VA Informal Hearing Presentations prepared free of charge in June by national American Legion claims experts representing veterans appealing benefits decisions.



# 880

Board of Veterans Appeals dispositions rendered in June after American Legion representation, nearly 85% of which were granted in favor of the veteran or remanded for further documentation.



# 106

Active-duty troops, National Guard and Reserve personnel, veterans and military spouses who attended The American Legion and Hiring Our Heroes' Networking Reception on June 23 and The Department of Puerto Rico's Employment Workshops and Job Fair at Fort Buchanan on June 24.



# 81

American Legion service officer accreditations certified in June.

 **\$569,012**

Amount in contributions to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during the 2021-22 program year, which ended May 31, 2022. CWF provides grants to nonprofit organizations that help young people facing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual difficulties.

## STATEMENT

*"All Medal of Honor recipients are extraordinary, and Woody Williams was particularly special to The American Legion. He was a proud Legionnaire who demonstrated legendary valor at Iwo Jima and then spent a lifetime serving veterans and Gold Star Families. He was a true American hero in every sense of the word. We extend our condolences to his family."*

- American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard on the June 29 death of Hershel "Woody" Williams, 98, the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient



 **\$6,000**

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants issued to two veterans in June, one for damages caused by a wildfire in Tennessee, the other for a tornado in Texas.



**40**

Sons of The American Legion detachments that achieved 100% or higher for their 2022 membership goals by the end of June.



**100,000**

Downloads surpassed in June of the national American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast since it debuted in April 2020.



# \$38,268

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in June to 18 recipients.



# 101

Scouting certificates issued in June from The American Legion, including 16 for Eagle Scouts.



# 653

Number of veterans who benefited from five American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grants issued in June, amounting to \$43,349.



# \$140,500

Amount in Mission Blue Post Assistance grants (90) issued in June from American Legion National Headquarters to assist local posts whose operations were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# 49,600

Rounds of ammunition for ceremonial purposes sent to American Legion posts and departments through the Military Surplus Program administered by the National Security Commission.



# 72

Transitioning servicemembers, active-duty personnel and military spouses who attended The American Legion's Employment & Transition Workshops at Fort Hood, Texas, on June 13 and The American Legion's booth during the Fort Hood Mega Job Fair on June 14.



# 232

Number of U.S. Flag Code inquiries fielded by the national Americanism Division office in June, including news stories around Flag Day with Newsday and the East Hampton Star, as well as a podcast appearance with America's Work Force Radio on how to properly treat and display the flag.