



THIS IS



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



Veterans.  
Youth.  
Defense.  
Americanism.  
Communities.

**Making positive differences in America and beyond, one century to the next.  
Legacy & Vision: 1919-2019**



# The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization

**Working and volunteering** in communities, states and around the world, The American Legion has been dedicated to veterans, troops, national security, youth and patriotism since its founding nearly a century ago.

More than 2.1 million wartime veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are members of The American Legion. Joining them are nearly 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary, the nation's largest patriotic women's association, and more than 360,000 Sons of The American Legion, male descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. They work as one great American Legion Family of shared values, at more than 13,500 local posts worldwide, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

As a federally chartered organization, The American Legion upholds a sacred duty to provide free expert assistance for all who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their families.

The American Legion is at work today in rural towns, urban neighborhoods, military installations and college campuses everywhere.

Each local post has its own unique identity, but they are all connected by common core values. A post in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for instance, provides care for children with cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and other serious diseases. The American Legion in Wyoming coordinates the state high school rodeo championships. An American Legion post in central

California operates a multi-county ambulance service. Another, in Alabama, offers after-school mentorship for students seeking direction. A post in Connecticut built, owns and operates a housing facility to help homeless veterans restart their lives. Local examples of The American Legion's highest values are found worldwide, where differences are made daily for individuals, communities, states and the nation.

The Legion's fastest-growing membership segment is the post-9/11 generation. More than 100,000 strong and increasing, these young veterans help lead the organization in every way, alongside those who served in Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Vietnam, Korea and World War II. No matter the war era, our members are indelibly connected through love of country, hope for the future, remembrance of the fallen and duty before self.

The Constitution.

Law and order.

Americanism.

Memories of the Great Wars.

Individual obligation.

Peace, good will, prosperity, justice, freedom and devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Such values are embedded in the language of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. Generation after generation, one century to the next, the words have come to define a purpose as meaningful today as ever before.



## A legacy of American Legion accomplishments and impact

- Consolidation of multiple disconnected federal offices, agencies and bureaus into one Veterans Administration in 1930
- Formulating, drafting and fighting for passage of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944, which educated millions, triggered a half-century of U.S. prosperity, revolutionized higher education and made home ownership possible for average Americans
- Establishment of a U.S. Flag Code and standard rules of respect and display
- Collaborated with Columbia University to prove that exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange caused deadly diseases and adverse health conditions among veterans
- Introduction, growth and continued administration of unparalleled youth programs in government (Boys State and Boys Nation); constitutional understanding and public speaking (American Legion Oratorical Contests); healthy competition (American Legion Baseball and Junior Shooting Sports); and more
- National leadership to help the Department of Veterans Affairs improve health-care accessibility, benefits processing, upskilling, assistance, and improve management accountability
- Leadership in veteran care and advocacy, including employer-apprenticeship, a successful business tax program, representation in Washington, and the military-to-civilian career transition program

nization.



## Services that make differences

**Representing at no cost** more than 700,000 veterans and their families seeking VA disability and medical benefits every day.

**Participating in more than 1,000 job fairs** and other career events for veterans and their families every year nationwide.

**Fighting for fair conversion** of military experience into credit hours for civilian careers in specialized fields such as emergency medicine, commercial driving, civil engineering and hazardous materials handling.

**Providing comfort items** for hospitalized military personnel recovering from wounds and illnesses.

**Supporting and helping** homeless veterans

**Spending millions of volunteer hours** at VA medical facilities at an estimated annual value of \$20 million.

**Supporting veterans** suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

**Addressing and lobbying Congress** and the White House to provide timely VA health care, efficient benefits processing, effective GI Bill education provisions, a decent quality of life for active-duty military personnel and other issues important to Americans.

**Assisting during natural disasters**, from converting local posts into clinics after hurricanes and tornadoes, to providing food, relief items and other needs to displaced citizens.

**Providing financial assistance** to needy military and veteran families with young children at home.

**Awarding grants to organizations** that provide support for children in need.

**Awarding college scholarships** to children of U.S. servicemembers killed while on active duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

**Mentoring youth through** American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation, as well as local, state and national American Legion Oratorical Contests.

**Running hundreds of youth programs**, including more than 3,000 Scouting units, nearly 4,000 American Legion Baseball teams, dozens of Junior Shooting Sports clubs, Junior ROTC and Junior Law Cadet programs.



**Providing citizenship and naturalization** education and support for legal immigrants seeking to become Americans.

**Serving as the nation's foremost authority** on U.S. flag respect, procedures and code.

**Educating school children** on such topics as flag respect, military service, history and patriotism.

**Providing and distributing U.S. flags** for the graves of American military personnel laid to rest at overseas cemeteries.

**Demanding full accounting and repatriation**, when possible, of all U.S. military personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action.

**Participating at thousands of patriotic observances** and events around the world each year at the local, state, national and international levels.

**Handling honor guard services and memorial tributes** for fallen military personnel and veterans, from individual funerals to memorial dedications.

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# Help us help others. Join now.



Anyone who has served on federal active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and has been honorably discharged, is eligible for membership in The American Legion. Because eligibility dates remain open, all members currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces are also eligible for membership.

**AUG. 2, 1990 TO TODAY** *Persian Gulf/War on Terrorism*

**DEC. 20, 1989 TO JAN. 31, 1990** *Operation Just Cause (Panama)*

**AUG. 24, 1982 TO JULY 31, 1984** *Lebanon/Grenada*

**FEB. 28, 1961 TO MAY 7, 1975** *Vietnam*

**JUNE 25, 1950 TO JAN. 31, 1955** *Korea*

**DEC. 7, 1941 TO DEC. 31, 1946** *World War II*

*U.S. Merchant Marines from this era are also eligible.*

[www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join)

**(800) 433-3318**

## Get involved

Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary offer membership opportunities to the families of Legion-eligible veterans, and The American Legion Riders offers additional opportunities to members of all three organizations.



[www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)



[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)



[www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)

## Support

Tax-deductible donations help support the many Legion programs serving veterans, youth, families and communities across America.

[www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate)

**(800) 433-3318**



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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(317) 630-1200

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

[www.legion.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion) [twitter.com/AmericanLegion](https://twitter.com/AmericanLegion)

## FOR VETERANS

- Free assistance for veterans and families applying for VA benefits
- Relentless advocacy for a strong VA health-care system
- Free representation for veterans appealing claims decisions
- More than 1,000 job fairs and career events
- Support and assistance for homeless veterans

## FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

- American Legion Baseball
- Scholarships
- Flag education programs
- Oratorical competitions
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- Junior ROTC
- Scouting

## DEFENSE

- Cash grants for military families who have temporary financial needs
- Comfort items for hospitalized military personnel
- Advocacy for fair military retirement benefits
- Family Support Network of volunteers to help military families
- Representation in Washington to support proper DoD funding
- Assistance in cases before military discharge review boards

## AMERICANISM

- National leadership in U.S. flag protection and respect
- Services to help legal immigrants become U.S. citizens
- Support for public expression of the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem

## COMMUNITY

- Honor and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed
- Emergency relief in times of natural disaster
- Leadership at patriotic ceremonies and special events
- Connections with local schools and home-school students
- Numerous local programs and initiatives, tailored to each community's needs