

Issue: VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

Message Points:

- The American Legion is comprised of 55 state-level "departments" in each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, Philippines and Puerto Rico. There are approximately 14,500 local "posts" throughout the state level.
- Facts about membership in The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization.
- The 2008 current national membership tally — roughly 2.6 million — is consistent with the year-end totals for 1954 through 1986.
- The American Legion extended its service in communities across the country through the development of 87 new, revitalized posts in 2007.
- One of the newest and fastest growing activities in The American Legion, Legion Riders, raised \$556,929 by the 2008 Legacy Run to Phoenix in support of The American Legion Legacy Fund—a fund which provide scholarships to the children of active duty troops who died in the war on terrorism since September 11, 2001.
- The American Legion attracts younger veterans. Active-duty members are eligible to join - and they are joining. In fact, The American Legion has over 500,000 members who joined under the War on Terrorism, Persian Gulf, Lebanon/Grenada and Panama War periods of eligibility. Today's active duty service members continue to join. The American Legion created a program known as "TS2" Troop Support Services and "H2H" Heroes To Hometowns as an opportunity for its members to interact with the total force — Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve.
- The American Legion created a task force especially designated to assist Persian Gulf veterans and their families. The task force has helped individuals receive direct compensation and needed support through the service provided by The American Legion.
- The American Legion is "Still Serving America." This is only a part of what The American Legion did "for God and Country" in program year 2007-2008.
- Donated more than 2.1 million hours of service to communities.
- Post Service Officers handled more than 162,000 cases of veterans seeking benefits and just compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Devoted more than 2.3 million hours of volunteer service to Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals.
- Donated more than 94,000 pints of blood to collection centers nationwide, making The American Legion the nation's single largest blood donor.
- Annually spends nearly \$33 million on programs benefiting children and youth.
 1. Awarded more than 24,900 medals to Junior ROTC Students
 2. Sponsored almost 16,000 American Legion Boys State delegates.
 3. Sponsored more than 2,000 Scouting units serving 55,000 youngsters.
 4. Sponsored more than 2,300 American Legion Baseball teams and an additional 1,500 youth baseball squads.
 5. Awarded more than \$4 million in college scholarships to deserving students.