



Crowds line overpasses in Virginia to watch Legion Riders as they make their way to the Pentagon parking lot for the Ride of the Patriots during Rolling Thunder. Photo by Cheryl Diaz Meyer/The American Legion

“It felt like this is what we are here for. This is what we do. We are here to help people. We truly joined their lives together.”

Desiree Guerra of Legion Riders Chapter 38 in Fountain, Colo., which facilitated and funded the wedding of two homeless veterans in Colorado

‘It’s for the cause, not for the applause’

It’s The American Legion’s fastest-growing program. And despite the American Legion Riders doing what they do for results, not recognition, more and more people across the country are learning about the great work they do on the local and national levels.

The 2017 Legacy Run raised a record \$1,224,653 – the fourth straight year the ride raised more than \$1 million – for college scholarships for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

Locally, Legion Riders chapters are making just as big an impact. Last winter, Chapter 38 in Fountain, Colo., teamed up with local police to deliver 100 food baskets to families in need the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Fundraising by the Riders and the entire Post 38 American Legion Family paid for the baskets. Last December, at a Wreaths Across America event at Danville National Cemetery in Illinois, Riders placed more than 5,900 wreaths – the bulk of which were provided through fundraising efforts from Chapter 210. Chapter 341 in Cicero, Ind., has conducted a very successful “Battle Ride” fundraiser for Operation Comfort Warriors for the last three years. And Chapter 103 of Ashtabula, Ohio, along with the post’s other Legion Family members, built a ramp for the house of the family of a temporarily wheelchair-bound 5-year-old son.

The American Legion Auxiliary (female relatives of Legion-eligible veterans) and the Sons of The American Legion (male descendants of Legion-eligible veterans) round out the American Legion Family, which works together at the post, department and national levels to serve our nation’s veterans, the military, their families and the country’s youth.

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- www.legion.org/auxiliary
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