



# Celebrating 100 YEARS

With 100 years of service to veterans, service members, and communities, The American Legion remains **one of the oldest and most influential nonprofit organizations in the United States.**



## WORLD WAR I APR. 6, 1917–NOV. 11, 1918

**WAR ON AN INDUSTRIAL SCALE:** Due to the static nature of World War I trench warfare, fighting took place on a routine basis and soldiers were rarely safe from the threat of death.



## WORLD WAR II DEC. 7, 1941–DEC. 31, 1946

**D-DAY INVASION OF NORMANDY:** The most cataclysmic conflict in history, World War II reshaped the globe and laid the foundation for the modern world.

## KOREAN WAR JUN. 25, 1950–JAN. 31, 1955

**MAC ARTHUR'S BATTLE:** The Inchon landings took place on September 15, 1950, during the Korean War (1950-1953).



## VIETNAM WAR FEB. 28, 1961–MAY 7, 1975

In August 1964, a US warship was attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Congress passed the Southeast Asia Resolution which allowed President Johnson to conduct military operations in the region without a declaration of war.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

'10s

### Congress Charters The American Legion, 1919

Dedicated to a decade of making a difference serving veterans, military and their families.

'20s

### U. S. Veterans Bureau Created

The Legion's advocacy efforts result in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration.

### First "Flag Code" Drafted

The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington. Congress adopts the code in 1942.

'30s

### First American Legion Boys State Convenes

Mission: to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the federal government.

'40s

### GI Bill of Rights Born

Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write the first draft of what will later become the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.

'50s

### National Association for Mental Health Contribution

The Legion votes to contribute funds to the field of mental health, thereby playing a key role in launching the National Association for Mental Health.

### The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Formed

'60s

### Legion Voices POW Concerns

The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. *Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action.*

'70s