



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

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CHARTERED 1974



HOME POST OF FLORIDA'S FIRST AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER 2009-2010 - CLARENCE E. HILL

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Legion and Auxiliary meetings, second Monday of the month at 8pm.
Post Hours: 8am - midnight Mon - Thurs; 8am - 2am Fri - Sat; 1pm - midnight Sun

Commander's Corner

Good day everyone.

I want to thank each and every one of you for giving me the privilege of serving you. My promise to you is that I will be an involved and active Post Commander whose only purpose will be to make our home bigger and better. I cannot accomplish much by myself however with your assistance we can make our Post Great Again.

That is what I wrote one year ago, and I want to echo the same sentiment again this year. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you this past year and I am looking forward to doing the same for this upcoming year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity again! I especially want to thank all those members who took time out of their life to swing by our Post and vote. I saw members who had not been in the Post for months, for a couple individuals it had been extremely way too many months. I was really encouraged when members stopped by my table to thank me for the saw small changes and improvements they saw being made. They said they want to see the continuation of efforts being made to make Post 316 better, which is solely why they came in to vote. I was humbled but again reminded them, change can only be made through membership involvement. Once again, I beg you to come out to the General Membership Meeting and let your voice be heard! Become a Program Chairman/Chairwoman, volunteer for a committee or fill a vacant Officer position, together we can and will be strong and make our home great again. I cannot do it alone but together we can accomplish unimaginable undertakings. I am looking forward to working closely with the Auxiliary Unit, the Sons and the ALR for achieving all future Post goals and objectives.

I want to congratulate all newly elected 2021 Post Officers which are as follows: 1st Vice CDR. Clarence Hill, 2nd Vice CDR. Mitch Harding, 3rd Vice CDR. vacant, 4th Vice CDR. Joey Perez, Adjutant Claython McConico, Finance Officer Randy Casey, Historian Mitch Lounsberry, Chaplain Joe Nolan, Sergeant @ Arms Al Yardley, Executive Board members John Tinsley, Mark Swinton, Ron Wilhite, Lester Saunders, and Greg White. I am looking forward to serving with this fine group and I am sure we will come together with only one purpose, to serve you and make our Post Home bigger and better. The House Committee is appointed, the current members are: Al Yardley, Thomas Root, TracyLyn Jenkins and Tom Horn. They will retain their position for the upcoming Legion year. When you see them, thank them for their service.

Department Convention is 1- 4 July, I hope to see any who can make it down there. Directly after Convention is Installation at 1300 on 10 July. I invite all to come out and support your Officers as they are Installed. On 8 August we will host the first District meeting for the 2021 -2022 Legion year. This meeting is open to all and I encourage you to attend. It will be a great opportunity to meet fellow Legionaries from other Posts and to witness Legion procedures and protocol above Post level.

Lastly, I want to "over" emphases, we need to hear your thoughts and desires concerning our Post. We have a great group of motivated leadership, however without your involvement and

support nothing will change from status quo. Let us not be stagnant summer pond water but rather clean clear crisp whitewater rapids rushing forward to a common goal, the betterment of our Post Home.

Denny Luke

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$25,183 to hire Dubos Roofing to redo the roof
Approved renewing the game machine certificate at \$30/game

We welcome these new members and thank them for choosing Post 316 as their Legion home:

New: Douglas Barwell, Lonzo Brown, Vincent Jackson, Michael Renner, Jr., John Stevens

Transfers: James Cargill, Timothy Copeland, William Crawford, David McFadden, Tommy Stephens

Taps: Bruce Drinkwater

Booster List

The booster list is for members and member's businesses only. **Gold boosters are \$25 annually.** Our Gold Boosters are:

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/21	B. W. Pete Wait III 9/21
John Balch 9/21	Lynn Murray 2/22
In Remembrance USS Stark 2/21	Wallace Williams 3/22
Richard Goodman 3/22	Penny Swiebel 5/22
Bob Shellenberger 10/23	Lance H. Davison 4/25
Eddie George 1/27	

Historian's History Tidbit

The American Legion's relentless work on behalf of disabled veterans led to passage of the World War Veterans Act of 1924, linking military service to several classes of physical disability.

The federal government's disorganized and often corrupt collection of agencies to help veterans was consolidated first into the Veterans Bureau in 1921, which also became entangled in corruption, before services were greatly improved under The American Legion urged creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930. As the early VA took shape, The American Legion began fighting for adequate funding for the agency so it could provide quality care.

Individual members of The American Legion began volunteering in VA health care facilities where they could provide firsthand over-sight, adding credibility to their lobbying efforts.

Mitchell Lounsberry

LUNCH SCHEDULE

We are struggling to provide lunches every day of the work week. Liz can no longer keep up with the current schedule. Lunches will have to be cut back to fewer days unless people come forward to help. For info, contact Liz at 904-234-2692.

It is required that you wear a mask when entering.

POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.

Post Officers

Commander	Denny Luke
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	Mitch Harding
3rd Vice Commander	VACANT
4th Vice Commander	Joey Perez
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Claython McConico
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	Mitchel Lounsberry
Sergeant-at-Arms	Al Yardley

House Committee

Chairman: Al Yardley

SAL Officers

Commander	David Keasler
Adjutant	Clarence Hill
1st Vice	Tom Horn
2nd Vice	Ray Hinson
Finance Officer	Will Oliphant
Chaplain	Lester Verrette
Historian	Tom Mari
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kevin Berton

Executive Board

Greg White, Mark Swinton
Ron Wilhite, John Tinsley
Les Saunders

Legion Riders

Director: John Tinsley

Auxiliary Officers

President	Virna Luke
1st Vice President	Liz Hill
2nd Vice President	Denise Strickland
Secretary	Suzanne Lamonica
Treasurer	Alison McCann
Chaplain	Diane Conrad
Historian	Annie Anderson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kathy Deem
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	TracyLynn Jenkins
Membership	Suzanne Lamonica

Auxiliary Executive Committee

Fatima Bartelt, Nicole Thigpen
Sharon Harville

Club Manager Liz Hill

Legion First Vice Vibes

You must have a 2021 card to be served. We are at 98%. The Post will get the 2022 cards at Convention the first week in July. The first renewal notice from National will go to every member in July. National only recognizes one rate, so the notice will say \$40. The over 60 rate of \$32 and the Early Bird rate of \$35 is only good when you pay at the Post utilizing the renewal notice or in person. Cards will be mailed to everyone with time left on their 3-year dues with a letter telling you your status. If you don't get the 2022 card by the end of July, you probably have no years left on your dues. Please check with me if you have any questions.

Please Note: We cannot accept credit card payments as Department will not process them for us. Please pay your dues by check or come in and pay cash.

Please include your branch of service with your renewal payment.

You can renew online by visiting www.legion.org/renew. You can also register for the Automatic Annual Renewal Program.

You can only Pay Up For Life online and the \$100 discount is still in effect. Just visit legion.org, search for PUFL offer.

2022 dues are \$40 for ages 59 and younger (\$35 until Veterans Day), \$32 for 60 and older (year-round). Our 3-year renewals are \$100 for 59 and younger and \$90 for 60 and older. **If you pay online to national, you will be charged \$40-national only recognizes our official dues.** You can only get discounted rates by paying \$32 utilizing the renewal notice.

Clarence Hill

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Thanks to all who volunteered and donated this past year. You are more than appreciated. Thanks to all who supported us by cooking steaks and thank you Kadence-you are a hard-working Junior Girl. We would not have had the successful year that we had without the team effort. We sent 9 girls to Girls State, donated to the VA hospital, helped the homeless and worked with the USO-just to mention a few things.

Congratulations to Denise Strickland Thompson for being elected to 2nd Vice President Again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our Auxiliary. You are what makes this the greatest veterans organization. Please continue to support our newly elected Officers. **Installation is Saturday the 10th at 1 PM.** Please wear blue pants and white shirts to be installed and please bring a dish to share.

For God and Country, **Liz Hill**
I want to start by thanking Liz Hill for serving as President, she has been an influence, a guide and strength to our unit. Even through the pandemic, she carried Unit 316 to success, we surpassed our membership goal, held various fundraisers, and made donations to support our Veterans, military families, and community. Much respect Liz.

Now, thank you to those members present at our meeting on Monday, May 10th for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Unit President for the new term. I appreciate all the Officers that will be serving in their leadership roles with vast experience and commitment to the success of our unit. **We have installation of Officers on Saturday, July 10th at 1:00 PM; all are welcome to attend,** hope to see you.

As the preamble of The American Legion Auxiliary states "to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion." I look forward to working side by side with our Legionnaires, Sons, and Riders.

We have volunteer opportunities, on the first and third Friday of the month, we host Auxiliary Steak Night. A team of 3-4 is perfect, (grill, fryer, take orders/money, deliver food to the table), if you can help, contact me or Denise Strickland.

Our general meeting is the second Monday of each month at 8:00 pm. Mark your calendars, come early for Bingo and food. See you July 12th.

If you have not received Unit 316 Auxiliary Blast (newsletter), please send me a message to have your email address added to the distribution list. **Happy Independence Day.**

For God and Country, **Virna Luke, Socialalr5thFl@gmail.com, 817-791-3583**

From the Bar:

Monday-Men's Night-7 PM-\$.50 off drinks

Monday-Bingo 6:30—8:30 **Riders serving food-volunteers needed**

Tuesday Bingo 2-4 PM-volunteers needed

Tuesday Trivia 7 PM. Prizes

Wednesday-Ladies Night-7 PM-\$.50 off drinks

Wednesday-Pass the Trash 7 PM-volunteers needed

Thursday-Bingo 2-4 PM-Volunteers needed

Thursday-Luck of the Draw Darts-7 PM

Friday-Steak Bingo at 6 PM by the 40 & 8

Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 8:00

Lost & Found. If you are missing any item, like cell phones, car keys, etc., please see Liz.

Customer Consideration: Please do not move other customer's drinks, money or property at the bar as this causes issues and accusations. If you want their seat, please ask them or ask the bartender to ask them.

The **Queen of Hearts** contest is conducted every Friday night with the drawing held at 8:00 PM. **You must be present, be a 2021 regular member of a VSO (no associate members can play and no signed-in guests can play) have your membership card on you, & pick the Queen of Hearts to win.**

DO NOT USE Handicap parking spaces for overnight parking.

All kitchen workers (lunches, Friday steak crews, Saturday dinners, Monday/Tuesday sandwich nights) are volunteers who depend on tips.

Monday Bingo is at 6:30 and has a progressive lucky ball jackpot. **The Riders serve a variety of different items now, so the price varies base on your order.** Tuesday and Thursday Bingo is at 2 PM with a progressive lucky ball jackpot.

Pass the Trash is Wednesday night at 7 PM. Come early to get a seat at the bar. If you would like to deal, please let Liz know.

Red shirt Friday drink specials are served every Friday. **You must be wearing a RED shirt to get the special.**

Wear official NASCAR clothing on Sundays and get drink specials during the season.

We ask your cooperation in not bringing in or ordering outside food during times someone is serving food. Remember, they are donating their time and effort to prepare, serve and clean up. **The meals are fund raisers for our various programs. If you do not wish to buy the meal, please eat before you come to the Post or wait until the meal is done. Please do not bring in your own snacks, sodas, water, or any item we sell at the bar at any time.** When ordering food from outside the Post, please be sure to order plates and cutlery if needed. We will be locking the storage room at 6:00 PM nightly and on the weekends.

When you sign in a guest, that guest must leave when you leave.

Steak Bingo is conducted by the 40/8 at 6 PM every Friday steak night. Eight games are conducted-7 for steaks and 1 for road kill (ribs).

As a reminder, **the bartenders' priority is serving drinks to customers at the bar and in the line. If you wish to be served, use the waitress station-do not stand at the end of the bar or between people sitting at the bar.** If you want to redeem or buy a ticket for any machine, you will have to wait until the bartender finishes with drinks. **The Post has 72 hours to pay out on the machines and the bartenders cannot pay tickets of \$501 or more, or prior day tickets. You are limited to redeeming \$1,000 a day. If the bartender runs out of money, you may have to return later. The Manager will only redeem tickets Monday through Friday during normal business hours.**

We serve lunch Monday—Friday from 11 AM to 1 PM. We need help to continue this schedule.

Liz Hill

Legion Riders

Welcome to July, the celebration of our independence and formation of this great nation. I want to thank everyone that participated in the escorts for our brothers that have passed in the previous month. Additionally thank you to those that volunteered to hold a Chapter office for the coming year, as a reminder the installation of Chapter and all Post officers will be on Saturday July 10th at 1 PM at the Post, please attend if you are in town. Make sure your hurricane plans and supplies are up to date, as hurricane season is once again in full swing. We do have a Riders Steak night this month on Friday the 30th, as always we will need a crew to cook, clean and serve. Our next meeting is Saturday the 3rd at 9 AM hope to see you there.

John Tinsley

2nd Vice Reverbs

Looking forward to a productive and entertaining 2021-2022.

Mitch Harding

Chaplain's Corner

If you know of any sick or distressed Legionnaires please feel free to contact me at anytime 223-8053.

Joe Nolan

From the House Committee

Good day everyone. We are addressing the immediate needs first and plan to continue to make changes needed as we can. Please feel free to provide suggestions. **Our next meeting will be Monday, June 7th at 7 PM.**

Al Yardley

Service Officer

The **Post needs someone to be trained as the new service officer.** If you'd like to serve, please let the Commander know.

If you need help with your claim, please contact Post 129's service officer, Danny Rodriguez at 904-806-6231.

VACANT

Post 316 Social Media

Our **Post 316 Facebook Page** at <https://www.facebook.com/alpost316>.

Our website is online at www.alpost316fl.org.

Project Vet Relief (PVR)

An emergency program between PVR and the Florida Veterans Foundation has been established to address critical needs of Florida Veterans that face a crisis due to COVID-19. A team of PVR staff will take requests and have Service Officers or PVR advocates conduct interviews of applicants. The Florida Veterans Foundation will establish a statewide donation platform and forward funds as they are received to PVR. A condensed application form is available on their websites.

Existing guidelines: 1. Be a Veteran, Active Duty, or Immediate Family Member (spouse, legal guardian, child). 2. Acceptable discharges: Honorable or General under Honorable conditions. 3. Florida resident for a minimum of 120 days. 4. Show sustain-ability-balance of income and expenses. 5. Experiencing an unforeseeable emergency. 6. Provided for necessities: shelter, utilities, food (in the form of a gift card), and some transportation and medical expenses. 7. Funds are granted one-time annually per household. Additional process for COVID-19: 1. Applicants are experiencing loss of income-must show proof via pay stubs or letter from employer. 2. Phone interview with local Vet Relief Advocate will be accepted for the safety of our volunteers. 3. To avoid depletion of funds, a monthly cap of financial assistance will be put in place.

Jennifer Cooper, Project Vet Relief Coordinator

www.projectvetrelief.org, 407-295-2631

FEMA Funeral Assistance

If you lost a family member due to COVID-19, FEMA is providing assistance in the form of reimbursement for funeral expenses. There is no application form to fill out, it is all accomplished by phone. The below link will take you to the FEMA website which provides all the information you need. If you have questions after reading the info online, contact FEMA directly at the phone number on the website:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq>

Sons of The American Legion

Congratulations on achieving 100% membership. The 2022 cards will be available starting in July. Please pay your dues and be an Early Bird. Thank you to the June 11th steak team. Our steak night is the 9th this month.

Dues are **\$15 for 20-years and younger and dual members, \$20 for 21 and older. We offer 3-years at \$35 for 20 and younger and dual members, \$50 for 21 and older.** If you pay by mail, your card is mailed out the next day. If you pay in person, it will either be handed to you or be in the box behind the bar. **Our meeting is the 3rd at 1030.** The current Officers list on page 2 were re-elected for the same positions for 2021-2022 **Installation will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 10th. All are invited to attend.** This is your SAL and can only be what you help make it to be.

David Keasler

Blue Water Navy Update

VA announced it will re-adjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. This review is part of the VBA's implementation of the 11/5/2020 US District Court of the Northern District of California decision to re-adjudicate previously denied claims as applied in Nehmer vs. US Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims re-adjudicated.

Re-adjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned. Visit VA.gov for more information.

National Commander's Flag Day Message

The American Legion National Commander published the following message on June 14, Flag Day:

The American flag has been a constant source of inspiration throughout our nation's history.

While the number of stars has increased over the years, so, too, have the challenges it has faced. Today, the flag still waves proudly, standing as a symbol of democracy, freedom and hope.

It's no coincidence that our flag has helped America and its communities heal in times of distress. Our flag signaled the birth of a new nation. Restored order after the Civil War threatened our nation's existence. Served as hope in Iwo Jima, Europe and else-where as the tides turned in WW II. Created unity after the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

Our flag's meaning, influence and inspiration have been passed down from generation to generation. That sacred duty has been a point of pride for many American Legion members who have instructed students on flag etiquette, performed flag retirement ceremonies and erected flags at veterans' graves.

It has almost been a century since The American Legion led the creation of the U. S. Flag Code, a set of guidelines still in existence today. The Code protects Old Glory from harm. But it is up to us to continue to preserve its legacy for future generations.

Today, Flag Day, is a great reminder of the importance of the Red, White and Blue. Join me in honoring the flag, passing its meaning on to youth and protecting it at all costs. Not just today, but every day.

Veterans Strengthening America,

James W. (Bill) Oxford, American Legion National Commander



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July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BOURBON	Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri	NEED LUNCH WORKERS		1 Sloppy Joes Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	2 Turkey or Ham Wrap Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8	3 Rider's Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
4 Independence Day SCOTCH	5 Stuffed Pork Chops Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night Riders Food House Com 7 PM	6 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2—4 Trivia Night	7 Baked Chicken Ladies' Night Pass the Trash	8 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	9 BLT SAL Steak 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8	10 Installation 1:00
11 WHISKEY	12 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night Mtg Night 8 PM Riders Food	13 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2—4 Trivia Night	14 Meatball Hoagie Ladies' Night Pass the Trash	15 Taco Salad Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	16 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8	17 SUBVETS 1100
18 WINE	19 Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night Riders Food	20 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2—4 Trivia Night	21 Baked Fish Ladies' Night Pass the Trash	22 Creamy Paprika Pork Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	23 Shrimp Po Boy Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8	24
25 BEER	26 Beef Tips Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night Riders Food	27 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 2—4 Trivia Night	28 Chef Salad Ladies' Night Pass the Trash	29 Italian Pasta Casserole Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	30 Buffalo Chicken Wrap Riders Steak 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8	31