



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

1127 Atlantic Boulevard, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516
Offices/Club (904) 249-0202 /Fax (904) 249-2058
E-Mail is alpost316@bellsouth.net
Web site: alpost316fl.org
CHARTERED 1974



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

September 2021
VOL. 34 NO. 09
CIR:285sm786em19pu

*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

Greetings everyone,

As I sit here trying to come up with the words for this newsletter, I think back to the newsletter I wrote one year ago. In it I said, "we need to take care of home first". We need to ensure our home is fully taken care of including the physical structure, the fiscal wellbeing, and the mental/emotional wellbeing. We also need to take care of our Post home in the same manner. Those words still stand today. I also want to thank all those people who have stepped up to take Officer, Program Chairmanship and House Committee positions. The only Officer position not filled at the time of this writing is for Judge Advocate. If you are well versed in Legion knowledge, please consider volunteering for this esteemed position. To all the new individuals who have volunteered as Program Chairmen I thank you too. Again, we are making forward progress.

As always, I want to personally invite every member to attend all possible functions at our Post. **The most important activity you should attend is our monthly meetings.** At our District meeting we were asked what our goal for the upcoming year is. I stated my goal was to increase member participation from the current 2% or less to at least 3.5% of our 849 members. The American Legion General Assembly and the Auxiliary General Assembly meet on the second Monday of the month at 8:00 pm, the Sons General Assembly and the ALR General Assembly meets on the first Saturday of the month. The Riders meet at 9:00 am and the Sons meeting is held at 1030 am. Remember, this is our Post, show up to these meetings to hear and to be heard. Secondly, I ask that you continue to support our Post meals, functions, and bingo games. Third, we have established a Post clean-up/maintenance day on the 3rd Sunday of the month starting at 10:00. I would like to see Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and ALR members who are able to participate to be on hand and give our Post a little helping hand during these activities.

Remember to continue to check our Post website and Facebook page for the most current information. <https://alpost316fl.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/alpost316/>

Fall Conference will be held November 5-7, at the Renaissance Sea-World Orlando. Fall Conferences are a great experience for first time attendees as well as seasoned officers. Fall conference has been designed to serve as an all-inclusive training opportunity through lectures classes and distinguished guest speakers. If you are planning to attend and I hope you are, the hotel registration cutoff date is 7 October. Here is the link for hotel reservations: <https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/hotel-information/>

Lastly, I want to invite all to the POW-MIA Ceremony at the National POW-MIA Memorial which is located on what was known as Cecil Field Naval Air Station. It will be on Saturday 18 September. The Ceremony begins at 2:00 pm however there will be activities all day. Please go to the website <https://www.powmiamemorial.org/national-pow-mia-recognition-day-2021/> to register if you want to purchase lunch and for more information.

Denny Luke

Executive Committee and General Assembly

No money spent

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

New: Johnathan Coffman, Michael Cooke, James Drake, Kenneth Harris, Derek Pratt, Adam Putman, Tom Rusbridge, Chris Vermeersch

Transfers: None

Taps: Glenn Wright

Booster List

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

B. W. Pete Wait III 9/21

John Balch 9/21

Lynn Murray 2/22

In Remembrance USS Stark 2/22

Wallace Williams 3/22

Richard Goodman 3/22

Penny Swiebel 5/22

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/21

Bob Shellenberger 10/23

Lance H. Davison 4/25

Eddie George 1/27

Dart League

We'd like to start a dart league this month. The sign-up list was posted for all of August. We need at least 24 people so we can have 6 teams and use all three dart boards on the dance floor. We will hold a meeting at 6:30 PM on Thursday the 9th. Please be there that we can get the league organized and ready to play. If you have any questions, please call Liz.

September 11th is the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

In commemoration, The American Legion will conduct a special podcast series—20 stories, 20 episodes, 20 years. The podcasts started Aug. 16th and conclude Sept. 10th with The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast releasing one episode each weekday, which are also on file at National. Special guests include a Legionnaire and ferry boat captain who helped people flee New York City; a retired Marine lieutenant colonel who spent the day with the president and vice president as they discussed America's response; Jessica Lynch, the first female POW to be rescued. Each episode can be downloaded in audio format at www.legion.org/tangoalphalima or the video can be watched on YouTube.

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.

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 | Steve Bartelt |
| 4th Vice Commander | Joey Perez |
| Finance Officer | Randy Casey |
| Adjutant | Claython McConico |
| Chaplain | Joe Nolan |
| Service Officer | Paul Rastatter |
| 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

The 2022 cards are here and you can pay your dues now. [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.

National went to a new system on April 1st. In order to renew online, you must have a myLegion account which you can create 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 go to your account in myLegion.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

Thank you to our volunteers that have contributed to the success of our Auxiliary steak nights: Annie, Brenda, Denny (Legion), Emma (Junior Auxiliary), Russell (Legion), Suzanne and Torrie. I also want to thank the members that donated side dishes for the 5th District meeting that was held at our post on Aug 8. We had 46 Auxiliary members from around the 5th District (Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns) that attended. Round of applause to Liz, she made her famous fried chicken and set out a spread fit for a King. We all enjoyed a fantastic after meeting meal and conversation. Our happenings: **steak nights are Sep 3 and 17 from 5-8 pm.** Our **Annual International Dinner is on Saturday, Sep 11 from 5-8 pm**, with a cake walk at 6:30 pm. This dinner is potluck style and only \$6. Bring your fav dish to share, we're also requesting cakes for the cake walk. Thank you in advance for your donations. Annie and Suzanne will be hosting their **Annual Oktoberfest Dinner on Oct. 2**, save the date. MEMBERSHIP cards for 2022 are in, dues are \$28, after Nov 11 will be \$30. Over 60 years is \$25, and Juniors \$5. See Suzanne Lamonica to pick up your card, questions? Send an email to Suzanne at Suzlamonica@comcast.net. All year round we collect manufacturer coupons for overseas military families, pull pop tabs to help families at Ronald McDonald House, toiletries for those in need, and school supply drive for children in our community. American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida President Wanda Brandt's theme for this term is **Dare to Commit**. Can you Dare to Commit? Advocate for our Veterans? Renew your passion? Encourage others? I'm sure you answered yes to at least one, otherwise you would not be part of this wonderful organization. I look forward to seeing you at our **General Meeting on Monday Sep 13 at 8 pm**. We need your ideas for events & fundraising, and support. **Dare to Commit** for our Veterans, military families, community, children & youth, and our post.

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 meal nights) **are volunteers who depend on tips.** Please remember to tip them.

Monday Bingo is at 6:30 and **has a progressive lucky ball jackpot. The Riders serve a variety of different items, 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 race day Sundays and official NFL clothing on Sunday game days and get drink specials during the seasons.

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

Well September is finally here. I hope it cuts down on the humidity for a while, don't forget the POW/MIA ride on the 18th. Denny has put a lot of effort into making the ride happen to Honor the community associated with the National Memorial at Cecil Field. I want to say Thank You to Denise and the others that stepped in during my absence to keep things going. Sorry I could not make some events but Dr.'s orders. I hope that our members who have recently been down due to COVID continue with the recovery process for a full recovery. As always the Kitchen can use your help for Monday Nights. Our next meeting will be on 4 Sept. at 0900 (9am) with a ride to follow weather permitting. Thank you.

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

Roof project is complete. Bar manager provided a list of items needing attention. Some have already been taken care of, others will be worked on our upcoming maintenance day, while others need further research. Upcoming maintenance day Sunday August 22nd at 10am. Starting in September, all maintenance days will be the 3rd Sunday at 10am every month. Please come out and help your post get cleaned up and running smoothly. Please feel free to provide comments/concerns to us.

Al Yardley

Service Officer

Paul Rastatter

History Tidbit

Mitchell Lounsberry

Burn Pit Update

The VA recently began processing disability claims for veterans suffering from respiratory conditions related to their military service 1990 to now. The new expansion of eligibility applies to veterans of the Persian Gulf War (Desert Shield & Desert Storm), as well as those who served during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. Veterans who served in the following areas are eligible: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea and airspace above these locations. Veterans who served in the following areas after Sept. 19 are eligible for expanded benefits: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria and Uzbekistan, including Karshi-Khanabad (K-2) Air Base. Expanded benefits for these areas include veterans suffering from chronic asthma, rhinitis or sinusitis. Affected veterans may also be eligible for disability compensation. Veterans must have been diagnosed or treated for one of the qualifying conditions either during their service or within 10 years after discharge. No proof of exposure is necessary. Veterans need not have been physically present at a burn pit or spent prolonged service amid the smoke from burning oil wells to qualify. Veterans are urged to visit the VA's website to check eligibility and to apply for health care or submit a compensation of benefits claim. Those who previously applied for either health care or compensation and were denied should apply again if they feel they are eligible under the new regulation. Veterans can also visit the VA's Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposure website for more details.

Two New VA Mortgage COVID Relief Programs

These programs are designed to help VA guaranteed home loan holders bring their mortgages current and resume making regular payments to avoid foreclosure. They are offered as a last resort and under limited

Sons of The American Legion

The 2022 cards are available. Please pay your dues and be an Early Bird. Thank you to the August 13th steak team. Our steak night is the 10th 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 4th at 1030. All are invited to attend. This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting and help make this year the best it can be.

David Keasler

circumstances. Requirements for both programs: must currently live in the property; must have been up to date, or less than 30 days overdue, on mortgage payments as of 3/1/2020; must have missed at least one payment after that date; must have entered into a forbearance agreement with the lender; must have recovered from any COVID-related financial hardship and cannot be delinquent on more than 30% of the property's appraised value. The VA Partial Claim Payment Program runs until 10/28/2022. Under this program, the VA will make any overdue mortgage payments to the lender and then create a second mortgage on the property. The second mortgage is interest free, and no payments are due until the veteran sells the home or pays off the original mortgage. At that time the borrower must repay the VA any money received before they own the house free and clear. The Refund Modification Program can give borrowers up to 20% reduction in their monthly mortgage payments. Again, the VA makes any overdue payments to the lender and creates a second mortgage. The lender is encouraged to modify the original mortgage by adding up to 10 years to the repayment schedule making it easier for the veteran to resume making payments Contact your lender or a VA loan technician at 877-827-3702 for more details.

New Wave of Scammers

The VA and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) are warning consumers of a new scam targeting Vets with VA guaranteed home loans. The scammers usually pretend to be affiliated with the government or a mortgage company and attempt to scam Veterans out of money by some new and novel methods, along with some techniques that have been around for years, albeit with either a new COVID-19 related twist or new technology that makes it easier for scammers to conceal their identity. The scammers try to get Vets to refinance their homes, agree to loan modifications, start sending their mortgage payments to a new address, try to convince Vets that their homes are facing foreclosure or that they owe late fees. Vets have reported phone calls that appear to come from the local VA office, with the caller telling the Vet their mortgage has been transferred to a new servicer. As a result of this supposed transfer, the Vet now owes months worth of mortgage payments. To avoid foreclosure, the Vet is told they must make several hundreds or thousands of dollars worth of back payments to the new mortgage holder at a new address usually through money orders or gift cards. These methods of payment cannot be traced. Other calls or letters promise unusually low interest rates for refinancing a mortgage, but require the Vet to pay several fees upfront before receiving any services. Once the Vet pays the fees, the "mortgage company" either denies the application or ceases communications with the Vet. Other new scams cite existing federal mortgage assistance programs related to COVID-19 financial relief initiatives. The scammers tell the homeowners that the Vet either must turn over the title of their property or sign confusing paperwork without reviewing it, claiming the relief programs are about to end and things must be done quickly. As usual, the scammers play upon fear and confusion and rapidly disappear once they get what they seek—your money. The CFPB warns that if you suspect a scam, you should first contact the VA or your mortgage lender to determine whether the offer is real. If it is not, you should cease all communications with the scammer and contact your State Attorney General's Office and the Federal Trade Commission so they can bring the bad actors to justice.



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial
 American Legion Post 316
 1127 Atlantic Boulevard
 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516



September 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| SCOTCH | Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri | NEED LUNCH WORKERS | 1 Italian Ziti Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash | 2 Pepper Steak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts | 3 BLT Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8 Mitch Harding | 4 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030 Mitch Harding |
| 5 WHISKEY | 6 Labor Day Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night 7 PM House Com 7 PM Riders Food | 7 Spaghetti w/Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night | 8 Taco Stuffed Peppers Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash | 9 Tomato Floren- tine Soup Sandwich Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts | 10 Reuben Sandwich SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8 | 11 Patriot Day International Dinner 5-8 PM |
| 12 WINE Grandparents Day 5th District 2 PM Jacksonville 88 @Texans 1 PM | 13 Stuffed Pork Chop Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night 7 PM Mtg Night 8 PM Riders Food | 14 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night | 15 Clam Chowder Tuna or Egg Salad Sandwich Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash | 16 American Legion Day Stuffed Chicken Breast Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts | 17 POW/MIA Day Taco Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8 | 18 Air Force B-Day Air Nat Gd B-Day SUBVETS 11:00 |
| 19 BEER Post Maintenance Day 1000 Broncos 1 PM | 20 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night 7 PM Riders Food | 21 Chicken Marsala Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night | 22 Fall Begins Shepherd's Pie Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash | 23 Cold Cut Subs Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts | 24 Potato Soup Grilled Cheese Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:00 Queen of Hearts 8 Doug Bracey | 25 Doug Bracey |
| 26 Gold Star Mother's Day RUM Cardinals 1 PM | 27 Beef Tips Bingo 6:30—8:30 Men's Night 7 PM Riders Food | 28 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night | 29 Fish or Shrimp Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash | 30 Patty Melts Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts @Bengals 8:20 pm | | |