



# 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 start by saying we are almost there on membership. As of this writing we are at 825 members which is 94% of our 874-member goal. We only need only 49 members to sign up and/or renew to get us to 100%. If you know a member who has not renewed for 2022 or someone that could be a member, please talk to them and encourage them to renew or join.

Department Convention will be held at the Hilton Orlando in Lake Buena Vista from 16 - 19 June. This is a great event to attend, please consider doing so. There is a Delegate signup sheet in the Post, we can send 10 Delegates so if you plan to attend, please sign the sheet. Remember the Post subsidizes Delegates so there is a little financial assistance for those who sign up and attends.

That said, because Convention is being held mid-June, we will need to hold our Post elections on 21 May 2022 from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. As of our General Assembly meeting on 14 March the following have been nominated as officers for the 2022-2023 Legion year. Commander - Denny Luke, 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice Commander - Clarence Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice - Joey Perez, Chaplain - Joe Nolan, Sgt-at-Arms - Al Yardley, Executive Board - Lester Saunders, John Tinsley, Greg White, Thomas Root, and Jim Bright. Our Election Chairman is Wayne Green, and committeemen Paul Langan, they could use another volunteer or two.

There will be another round of nominations during our May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. I only see 2 new names on the ballot so far and no one is being challenged. For those that want change now is the time to stand up. If we keep nominating and electing the same people, why would you think change will be forthcoming?

At our 11 April meeting we did not have a quorum of 10 at neither the Executive Board or General Assemble meeting. Quite frankly this is appalling! I understand those who were excused due to health, work and/or travel reasons but I do not understand the other Officers who missed the E-Board. Nor do I understand why some of our E-Board members failed to attend the General Assembly meeting. Had they attended we would have had a quorum. Likewise, I do not understand why out of our 825 members in good standing we cannot make quorum on meeting nights. Sadly, I believe there were enough Legionnaires sitting in the Canteen during the meeting that, had they came to the meeting room, we would have had a quorum.

Enough about my previous disappointment, let's move forward in the belief "you" will attend the last meeting on 9 May, which is the last meeting prior to our Post elections on 21 May. I highly encourage "you" to attend both events. Attend the Post meeting, nominate and/or accept a Post leadership position. Just please, be sincere and be ready to fulfill the responsibilities with the position you aspire to. If you look past all the negativity and divisiveness that routinely circulates from around the bar, we (Post 316) actually do good in our community. I am proud to say our Post Service Officer, Paul Rastatter, was contacted by a disabled veteran who needed assistance in removing unwanted items and a field day of his domicile. This was doubly important because he just received custody of his two small children and was fearful the Department of Human

Services would visit and disapprove of the clutter and general condition of his house. Three of our Post members and a member of Post/ALR Chapter 129 joined us in our endeavor to make his dwelling more habitual (Job well done). I also had the privilege of representing Post 316 at Jacksonville University NROTC awards and Change of Command Ceremony. What a group of fine individuals! We as a Post Family also participated in the Opening of the Beaches Parade. During this month I will be attending various Grade, Middle and High Schools in our area presenting American Legion School Medals. My point is, we are about so much more than the Canteen banter. Come on out, get active and make our Post as great as it can be.

**Denny Luke**

## Executive Committee and General Assembly

**No quorum, no money spent**

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

**New:** no quorum, no vote

**Transfers:** no quorum, no vote

**Taps:** Stennett (Skip) Miller

## 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 8/22 In Remembrance USS Stark 2/23**

**Alison McCann 2/23**

**Regan Askwith 4/23**

**Bob Shellenberger 10/23**

**B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23**

**Lynn Murray 3/25**

**Lance H. Davison 4/25**

**Penny Swiebel 5/26**

**Eddie George 1/27**

## 2022-2023 Nominations

The first round of nominations was held. Nominated thus far are: Commander: Denny Luke. 1st Vice Commander: Clarence Hill. 4th Vice Commander: Joey Perez. Chaplain: Joe Nolan. Sgt-at-Arms: Al Yardley. Executive Committee: Lester Saunders, John Tinsley, Greg White, Thomas Root, Jim Bright.

There were no nominations for 2nd or 3rd Vice Commanders, Finance Officer or Historian. Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Service Officer are appointed.

Nominations will be taken in April and May. The election will be held May 21st from 0800 to 2000 due to the early scheduling of the Department Convention.

There is no limit on the number of nominations for any position, so please consider attending a meeting and accepting a nomination.

## Sunday Food

There is a sign-up list on the west wall to better organize Sunday food such that we are not overflowing on some days and have little on others. **Reimbursement of up to \$25 can be provided based on donations and receipts.**

**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	Teresa Frank
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**

Please pay your 2022 dues now. We are near 95% and need a final push to get to 100%. 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.. Please see the Membership Update on page 3. You can create an account by visiting [legion.org/renew](http://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, \$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 only get discounted rates by paying \$32 or \$35 utilizing the renewal notice.

## **Clarence Hill**

### **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE**

Happy Day to all! A round of applause to Suzanne LaMonica (Membership Chairman) for all her work in helping us exceed our Auxiliary membership goal! We appreciate all Auxiliary members that have renewed and joined. ALA Juniors and Young Sons of the 5th District held a beautiful ceremony on Saturday, April 2 "The Military Child Table Setting, you can see the ceremony and pictures on our Facebook page at @alpost316. We had our first round of nominations of Officers for the upcoming term, join us Monday May 9 for the final nominations and elections of Officers for 2022-2023.

Our volunteers are amazing, and I truly appreciate them very much! Thanks to Kevin (Sons), Lisa, Reagan (Legion), Kathy (Auxiliary Unit 233), Liz, Patty, Denise, and Phyllis. Auxiliary steak nights are the first and third Friday of the month from 5pm-8pm. If you want to volunteer on the grill, fryer, take orders, plate, clean up? Contact Denise Strickland (2nd Vice) at [dndfishing@aol.com](mailto:dndfishing@aol.com).

Dept. President Luncheon on Saturday, May 7 at Post 129 (Jax Beach in the NON-SMOKING Lounge) at 11am. Currently we have 12 members attending, if you want to attend this free event to socialize with other Auxiliary members, please send me an email. Monday, May 9 is our General Meeting with final elections at 8pm. Saturday, May 28 is DCC (District Constitutional Conference), registration at 8:00am, Memorial Service at 8:30am, and Conference beginning at 9:00am, at American Legion Post 137 (5443 San Juan Ave, Jax, FL 32210). We will be voting for our new 5th District President and Delegate and Alternative to National Convention. Let's have a super attendance, to thank outgoing 5th President Annie Anderson (Past President of Unit 316) for her leadership and service! For God 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 awarded  
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 6:15 PM by the 40 & 8

Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 8:00 PM

**If you know of any family needing help with food, please let Liz know. Thank you for all your support in 2021.**

**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 2022 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 with a progressive lucky ball jackpot. The Riders serve a variety of different items, so the price varies based 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 Sunday race day and get drink specials.**

**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 6:15 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.**

**Liz Hill**

## Legion Riders

Welcome to May, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time and effort to recent activities the Chapter has held and participated in. Don't forget our Florida Lottery \$2 Scratch Off Raffle is going on. One winner will be drawn on 2 July, so if you need more tickets let me know. Again elections are upon us, and will be held in June for Chapter offices, come on out and get involved. Cinco de Mayo is approaching so keep an eye on the newsletter for the event. The May meeting will be on May 7, at 09:00 for the general assembly with the E Board meeting at 08:30. Hope to see you there

**John Tinsley**

## 2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those deployed service members and their families.

**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

**Al Yardley**

## Service Officer

**Paul Rastatter 215-906-5168**

## History Tidbit

On August 9, 1921, the Legion's efforts resulted in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. On June 15, 1923, the first "Flag Code" was drafted during a Legion conference in Washington, D.C. Congress adopted the Code in 1942. On July 17, 1925, the Legion created the Baseball program. Today, more than 50% of Major League players and nearly 90 members of the Hall of Fame are graduates of the program. About 82,000 youths play on Legion-sponsored teams each year.

**Mitchell Lounsberry**

## Mortgage and Rental Relief Programs

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP):** "Eligible household" must include one or more individuals who are obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling in Duval County and **must demonstrate all 3 of these criteria:** 1. one or more individuals has either a. qualified for unemployment benefits or b. experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hard-ship due, either directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 and can attest to such in writing. 2. One or more individuals can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which may include a past due utility or rent notice or eviction notice, unsafe or unhealthy living conditions or any other evidence of such risk, as determined by the City. 3. The household has a household income that is not more than 80% of the area median income (AMI) for the household. Priority is provided to households that have incomes below 50% AMI or have one or more members who have been unemployed for at least 90 days. Residents can apply online with the application available at <https://www.coj.net/erap>.

**Mortgage Relief Program (MRP):** Individuals requesting assistance must be the owner and occupant of the property. Up to 6 months of delinquent mortgage payments or \$7,500, whichever is less will be provided. Payments will be made directly to the mortgage company. Federal Guidelines require qualifying families and individuals to have an income that falls below 80% of the AMI. Those interested must create a MyJax account at [myjax.custhelp.com](http://myjax.custhelp.com). Applicants must submit a completed application and all required documentation through their MyJax account.

AMI 80% requirements are:

Household size	Total Income
One person	\$41,900
Two people	\$47,900
Three people	\$53,900
Four people	\$59,850
Five people	\$64,650
Six people	\$69,450

## Sons of The American Legion

Congratulations and thank you. The Squadron has reached the 100% goal. Thank you to the April 8th steak team. Our steak night is the 13th 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 7th at 1030.** This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. The first round of nominations were held at the April meeting. Nominated this far are: Commander-David Keasler; 1st Vice-Tom Horn; 2nd Vice-Kevin Berton. Nominations will continue at the May meeting for these positions and for Finance Officer, Historian, Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms. Please attend and accept.

**David Keasler**

Seven people	\$74,250
Eight people	\$79,050

**VA is processing claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service.**

**They are: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinsonism associated with Agent Orange exposure, asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) associated with particulate matter exposure during military service in SW Asia/certain other areas.**

**VA has also extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to Dec 31, 2026.** VA presumes certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These include: chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders, and undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances. A wide variety of symptoms can qualify a Gulf War Veteran for presumptive service-connection. Veterans who are experiencing unexplained medical issues are encouraged to file a claim

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance

FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. To be eligible, you must meet these conditions: 1. Death must have occurred in the U.S. 2. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien. 3. There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien. 4. The death certificate must attribute the death to COVID-19. If the death occurred between Jan 20 and May 16, 2020, and the death certificate doesn't attribute the death to COVID-19, you may submit a signed statement from the medical officer who certified the death certificate, or the local coroner of medical examiner, linking the cause of death to COVID-19. Expenses may include, but are not limited to: transportation to identify the deceased individual; transfer of the remains; a burial plot or cremation niche; a marker or head-stone; clergy or officiant services; cremation or interment costs. You will need to have the following information available when you contact FEMA to apply: your name, SSN, date of birth, mailing address and contact phone number; name, SSN and date of birth of the deceased individual; location or address where the individual died; documentation and receipts for funeral assistance received from other sources, including burial or funeral insurance, donations, other government programs or non-profit organization assistance; the name and above information of up to one co-applicant, if anyone besides you incurred funeral expenses for the deceased individual(s). To apply, call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at 844-684-6333 from 9 AM to 9 PM ET Monday to Friday. Submit documents online through [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov), or fax to 855-261-3452, or mail to: COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, PO Box 10001, Hyattsville, MD 20782.



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May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>May Day</b> <b>BEER</b>	2 Baked Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food House Com 6:30 Men's Night 7PM	3 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	4 Italian Sub Ladies' Night Pass the Trash 7PM	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> Meatball Sub Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	6 Chef Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	7 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
8 <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>RUM</b>	9 Baked Ham Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	10 Stuffed Peppers Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	11 Chicken Alfredo Ladies' Night Pass the Trash 7PM	12 Pulled Pork Plate Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	13 <b>Military Spouse</b> <b>Appreciation Day</b> Beef Barley Soup Sandwich SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	14
15 <b>Peace Officer</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>VODKA</b> Maintenance Day	16 Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	17 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	18 Sloppy Joes Ladies' Night Pass the Trash 7PM	19 Patty Melt Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	20 BLT Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	21 <b>Armed Forces</b> <b>Day</b> SUBVETS 1100
22 <b>Maritime Day</b> <b>GIN</b>	23 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	24 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM	25 Chicken or Beef Quesadilla Ladies' Night Pass the Trash 7PM	26 Pork Loin Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts	27 <b>National</b> <b>Poppy Day</b> Taco Salad Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	28 <b>5th District CC</b> <b>Registration 0830</b> <b>Post Everlasting 9</b> <b>Conference 0930</b>
29 <b>BOURBON</b>	30 <b>Memorial Day</b> No Lunch Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	31 Chicken Marsala Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia Night 7PM		<b>Lunch is served</b> <b>11:00—1:00</b> <b>Mon—Fri</b>		