



# 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**

December 2022  
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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

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and **I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.** Thank you to all who helped with the Early Bird dinner.

Elected Post Officer position availability are still 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice Commanders and Historian. Appointed positions open are Service Officer and Judge Advocate. Please consider attending a meeting and stepping forward. Let me know if you are interested in an appointed position. We could use a Service Officer. Your help and ideas are needed. This is your Post and needs your help, ideas and participation.

**We are instituting the Legion's buddy check program.** If you know a member who hasn't been seen in a while, give them a call and see how they are doing and if there is anything we can do for them during the holiday season. Invite them to attend a meeting, steak night, bingo or just to enjoy sports on TV.

**Our Toys for Tots bin needs help this year. Please bring in a new and unwrapped toy to donate.** If you play bingo and bring a gift, you get a free card for the first jackpot game. There are kids out there who could use a smile at Christmas. Deadline is the 13th.

The fence installation and moving the gates to the rear of the property is complete. Our \$2,500 donation to the Department Hurricane Relief Fund was delivered at the Fall Conference.

**Our annual Pearl Harbor Day Golf Tourney is the first Saturday.** We have 13 teams entered and numerous hole sponsorships. It's not too late to sponsor a hole for \$50 or simply making a donation. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out at the Post the last couple of months. Your time/effort is what keeps us going.

**Greg White**

### Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$4,050 for 9 Boys State Delegates

Approved \$100 to sponsor 2 holes in the golf tourney

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

**New:** J. K. Hensler, Maurice Jordan Jr., Alexandria Kay, Travis Mattson, Faalagia Peau

**Transfers:** None

**Taps:** None

### Booster List

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

<b>In Remembrance USS Stark 2/23</b>	<b>Alison McCann 2/23</b>
<b>Regan Askwith 4/23</b>	<b>Clarence &amp; Liz Hill 8/23</b>
<b>Bob Shellenberger 10/23</b>	<b>B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23</b>
<b>David &amp; April Tolbert 11/23</b>	<b>Lynn Murray 3/25</b>
<b>Lance H. Davison 4/25</b>	<b>Penny Swiebel 5/26</b>
<b>Eddie George 1/27</b>	

### Membership Cards

National has greatly revised the membership program this year. There are a lot of issues with what was provided, but our procedure hasn't changed. You will note changes to the renewal notice you receive from National. **Please remember, the Post has no control over what National does.** Ignore the line that says "Member since

2022"-it is on every renewal notice no matter how long you have been a member. Note that the card they have put on the back of the renewal notice is a **sample card** so it also has a 1 for continuous years. They have also removed the blanks for updating/providing your email address and phone number. If you are mailing your dues to the Post, feel free to provide that info as well as your war era and birthday on the back of the renewal notice. The notice provides a procedure for paying online. **Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2023 unless you are behind and want to catch up your years and do not click on the \$25 or \$30 options.** This is the new member option. **If you click on one of them, the system will make you a new member starting with one year, a new membership number and put you in the headquarters Post which is 400 in Orlando. Post 316 will lose you as a member and get no credit for your renewal.**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Tickets go on sale for Post 316 members only at 9:00 AM on Friday, Dec. 2nd. Tickets will go on sale for everyone else on Friday, Dec. 9th. Reserved seating begins at 6:00 PM on New Year's Eve. Side dishes and desserts will be appreciated.

### Be the One Campaign

The American Legion launched this campaign to encourage American Legion Family members, servicemembers and others **to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.** The National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report indicates suicide is the No. 1 issue facing veterans and 17 veterans die by suicide daily, which is more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. This campaign will: destigmatize asking for mental health support creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need; provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities; and deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support. Those who are not veterans may have family members or friends who are veterans and may be the first to recognize signs that help is needed. This campaign encourages you to Be the One to: ask veterans in your life how they are doing; listen when a veteran needs to talk; reach out when a veteran is struggling; pledge to Be the One at [betheone.org](http://betheone.org) by signing up for email updates. If you are a veteran and are feeling stressed, The American Legion encourages you to Be the One to: talk with others about how you are feeling; ask for help when you know you need it; know there are millions of people ready to help you; remember that your family and friends care. **A new and simpler number went into effect in July. You can access the VA resources that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: call 988** and you will be connected to a counselor at one of the more than 200 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network crisis centers across the country.

### TOYS FOR TOTS

The box is here to support this Marine Corps Reserve Program. Please bring a new unwrapped gift to donate. Bring a gift on a bingo day and get a free card for the first jackpot game.

### Beaches Honor Guard

BHG provides the honor ceremony for a service person's last tour of duty. Their numbers are dwindling and they could use some volunteers to assist them. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month. John Poe is their Director and can be reached at 904-294-4949.

**POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.**

### Post Officers

Commander Greg White  
1st Vice Commander Clarence Hill  
2nd Vice Commander **VACANT**  
3rd Vice Commander **VACANT**  
4th Vice Commander **VACANT**  
Finance Officer Randy Casey  
Adjutant Bill Knipper  
Chaplain Joe Nolan  
Service Officer **VACANT**  
Judge Advocate **VACANT**  
Historian **VACANT**  
Sergeant-at-Arms Al Yardley

### House Committee

Chairman: Jim Bright

### SAL Officers

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

### Executive Board

John Tinsley, Thomas Root  
Jim Bright, Steve Bartelt  
Les Saunders

### Legion Riders

Director: John Tinsley

### Auxiliary Officers

President Virna Luke  
1st Vice President Liz Hill  
2nd Vice President **VACANT**  
Secretary Suzanne Lamonica  
Treasurer TracyLynn Jenkins  
Chaplain Diane Conrad  
Historian **VACANT**  
Sergeant-at-Arms Kathy Deem  
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Tammy Knowles  
Membership Suzanne Lamonica

### Auxiliary Executive Committee

Brenda Sahioun, Annie Anderson  
Montana Jenkins

Club Manager Liz Hill

## Legion First Vice Vibes

**Please see the important note on page 1** concerning paying your dues online as another issue has developed. The 2022 cards will expire 12/31/22. **The bartenders will be doing a 100% card check this month.** Please Note: We cannot accept credit card payments as Department will not process them for us. Please pay your dues by check, money order or come in and pay cash.

**National went to a new system on April 1st. 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.** See Page 3 for details on establishing an account.

**Dues are \$40 for ages 59 and younger (\$35 for Early Bird 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 only get discounted rates by paying \$32 or \$35 utilizing the renewal notice.

## Clarence Hill

### AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Special thanks to Nicole Thigpen, CDR White, our Juniors and friends for helping to decorate for Halloween. Also thanks for the volunteers, those that donated food and cakes for our Witches Brew Halloween Party. It was a lot of fun and we raised funds to support Auxiliary Programs. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers that helped with our steak nights in November: Liz, Fatima, Alison and friends. Auxiliary steak nights are Friday the 2 and 16 (we need a steak team for Dec 16, if you can volunteer, contact me).

We enjoyed the visit of Nancy Chandler, the 5th District President, in our general meeting on Nov 14. She announced that the **Department President, Jane Hardacre, will be visiting the 5th District the second weekend in December. Jane will be at Post 316 on Friday evening the 9th! Join us in welcoming her.**

**Our annual party for Auxiliary Unit 316 members will be on Saturday, Dec 3, at 7pm.** Join us for an evening of fun, cheer, and social time. Bring a dish/snack to share, and a gift if you want to participate in the gift exchange. Suggested value of the gift \$20.

Sunday, Dec 11, is 5th District meeting at Post 129 (Jacksonville Beach) at 2pm, wear your pajamas and bring an unwrapped toy to be sent down south to Hurricane Ian affected areas to support children in the community. Speaking of Hurricane Ian, **Unit 316 donated \$300 in a gift card to support the rebuild of destroyed posts in Ft. Myers/Bonita Springs.** Our very own Annie Anderson, along with Julie Kay (Unit 233 President) traveled to the affected area and delivered necessities. You can see the pictures and videos they shared on Facebook, go to group page **Florida 5th District American Legion Auxiliary.** Regarding membership, if you have not paid your dues, please do so promptly. Dues can be mailed in or dropped off in the Auxiliary box at the Post (next to the front door); for administrative purposes, please write your name, membership number, and call back number on the envelope. Contact Suzanne Lamonica (Membership Chairman) [suzlamonica@comcast.net](mailto:suzlamonica@comcast.net) to pick up your card(s) and with any questions you may have related to membership.

**Out next Unit 316 General Meeting is Dec 12 at 8pm.** 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 Tap Trivia 7 PM  
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 6:30 PM by the 40 & 8  
Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 8:00 PM-volunteers needed

**If you know of any family needing help with food, please let Liz know. Thank you for all your support in 2022.**

**Lost & Found.** If you are missing any item, like jackets, 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 NFL clothing on Sunday game day and get drink specials.** These special prices are only available on Sunday. Games on other days do not have the 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. Seats at the games are for player only. Players are restricted to playing one game at a time.**

Liz Hill

### Legion Riders

November was a great month to get out and support our sister Chapters hosting events. I hope you participated. Remember, our Chapter is nothing without the participation of the members. Thank you to those that do. The ALR Christmas Party is December 17th at 6 PM. As before, our Chapter will provide a spiral cut ham and a turkey breast, please bring a side dish and White Elephant gift if you want to participate in the gift exchange (which is good to raise a few eyebrows). As always we need volunteers in the kitchen for Monday night bingo. If you volunteer, please advise Liz what you intend to serve so it can be posted for Legion family member's information. We are also scheduled for a steak night for December 30th and will need a kitchen crew.

Hope to see you all at our meeting on December 3rd at 9 am.

**John Tinsley**

### 2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those deployed service members and their families.

**VACANT**

### 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

Next **House Committee meeting will be held on December 6th at 1830.**

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We have finally gotten the fence and gates in place and they look good. We plan on **working outside on December 17th**-picking up in the yard, trimming bushes and getting rid of weeds.

**Jim Bright**

### Service Officer

**VACANT**

### History Tidbit

1995-1999: 1/30/95, Legion accepts scaled down Enola Gay exhibit "without political commentary," ending the greatest controversy in the Smithsonian Institute's 149-year history. 10/1/95, Legion forms Persian Gulf Task Force to enhance service for the newest generation of wartime veterans, thousand of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the region. 9/16/96, Legion awards \$20,000 college scholarship to each of 10 inaugural Samsung American Legion High School scholars. 6/11/97, National Emergency Fund surpasses \$1 million mark in cash grants given to flood victims primarily in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota. 9/3/97, Legion presents its first National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award at the 79th National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

**VACANT**

### Online Legion Account

To register in MyLegion.org, **you must have your email attached to your name in the online National roster.** If it is not in your profile, the account you establish will be a non-Legion account. See 1st Vice Clarence Hill if you are not sure. To establish the account, go to mylegion.org and select "Register." Enter the email in the **Register window** and click next. Then follow the prompts. After you create your password, the email must be verified. The system will send you a one time password (OTP) to verify it. Once your account is established, click on "My Account" and your information will be displayed to you and you can make additions or corrections as needed. **With this system, you can print your own replacement cards if you lose yours.**

### PACT ACT SCAMS

As with all new benefits, scammers are quick to jump in and try to take advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There has been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing emails and calls targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf. Find a VA accredited representative near you for help in filing a claim for free. That's why Posts have Service Officers

### Sons of The American Legion

**Please pay your 2023 membership dues. The 2022 cards expire 12/31/22.** Thank you to the November 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.** This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. Please consider joining the team. We are still looking for a Historian. New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting. We'll be discussing our annual donations for Boys and Girls State as well as hurricane assistance.

**David Keasler**

### PACT Act

The bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was signed into law 8/14/22 by President Biden. The law will allow vets to obtain disability compensation for their exposure related injuries without having to prove respiratory illnesses or cancer diagnoses were related to their service-related exposure to open-air burn pits. In the past, the VA stuck to strict scientific evidence before granting presumptive status for illnesses linked to military service, and some 70% of claims were rejected due to lack of evidence. The law will **allow the VA to provide benefits and care to vets suffering from some 23 toxic exposure-related respiratory illnesses and cancers** to be phased in over the next 3 years. Vets will also see their VA medical coverage on discharge increase from 5 years to 10 years. 2017 discharged Vets will automatically be increased, while those discharged between 2014 and 2017 may apply for the increase. Vietnam Vets exposed to Agent Orange, presumptive status for monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) goes into effect immediately, while high blood pressure benefits won't go into effect until late 2026. There is also funding for the VA to hire more people to process the increase in claims. Info is available at VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

### Habitat for Humanity

**The Beaches Habitat has received a generous donation from Lowes this year that they have set aside for Veterans in the Beaches area that have emergent repair need or need to add a wheelchair ramp.** This is only for the Beaches Area which extends to San Pablo Road and includes Ponte Vedra. For information or assistance, contact their CEO, Steve Gilbert, at [sgilbert@beacheshabitat.org](mailto:sgilbert@beacheshabitat.org) or by phone at 904-241-4310.

### Camp Lejeune Justice Act

From August 1953 to December 1987, servicemembers and their families were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. Congress passed a law that established presumptive conditions for those exposed to include the following cancers: esophageal, lung, breast, bladder and kidney, as well as leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma, neurobehavioral effects and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Presumptive conditions shift the burden of proof away from the veteran, which streamlined and simplified the disability claims process. **Predatory law firms charging exorbitant fees have engaged in aggressive marketing campaigns to include television advertisements and social media digital marketing campaigns targeting veterans. Some take 2/3 or more of the settlement. This is why the Legion has service officers to help with the claims process.** While Post 316 is currently without one, the service officers for both Post 129 in Jax Beach and Post 283 in Arlington assist our members. If you intend to file a lawsuit and hire a lawyer, be sure to understand exactly what the relationship is. **At the National Fall Conference in Indianapolis last month, the NEC passed a resolution calling on Congress to provide the necessary oversight during the implementation of this act to ensure veterans receive fair consideration of their lawsuits and protections against predatory law firms.**



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



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WHISKEY</b>		Lunch is Served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		1 Baked Chicken Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	2 Chef Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	3 Pearl Harbor Day Golf Tourney-8:00 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
4 <b>WINE</b> @ Lions 1PM	5 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	6 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	7 Pearl Harbor Day Hamburger Steak Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	8 Patty Melt Salad Croissant Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	9 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	10
11 <b>BEER</b> 5th District 2 PM Jax Bch Post 129 @ Titans 12PM	12 Stuffed Pork Chops Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	13 Nat'l Guard B-day Chicken Bruschetta Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	14 Meatball Sub Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	15 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	16 Potato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	17 SUBVETS 1100 Maintenance Day Outside 10:00
18 Hanukkah <b>RUM</b> Cowboys 1PM	19 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	20 Space Force B-day Spaghetti w/Meat- balls or Sausage Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	21 Winter Begins Baked Ham Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	22 @ Jets 8:15PM Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	23 Bean Soup Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day <b>VODKA</b>	26 Boxing Day Burgers & FF Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	27 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	28 Tuna Noodle Casserole Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	29 BLT & FF Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	30 Vegetable Beef Soup-Salad Riders Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	31 New Year's Eve