



Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

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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

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are ready to excel in the New Year. Once again, I would like to thank those who volunteered in December. Our golf tournament raised \$3,300 for Boys State-great job and thanks for your donations and participation. Thanks also to the SAL who donated \$500 to Boys State. We conducted an American Flag retirement ceremony in December which went well and we retired 293 Flags.

We have instituted 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.

I delivered our 5-\$100 Walmart gift certificates to Team Rubicon at Punta Gorda Post 103. Team Rubicon is doing amazing work with the hurricane recovery in the Ft. Myers area.

Jacksonville's annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down is January 26-28. If you're looking for a great event to volunteer at, this is it.

First Blood will start doing blood drives at the Post on Friday, January 27th. If you donate blood, you will get a free steak dinner that night. As a reminder, we need more volunteers to help with the steak nights, maintenance days and other things around the Post.

Greg White

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$25 for dues to the Duval County Veterans Council

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

New: Madison Dicarlo, Milton Jones, Yasinjon Ocalan, Sharon Russell, Daniel Stienmann, James Watkins

Transfers: David Habell, Michael Duplessis

Taps: Martin Pfab, Jerome Suddarth

Booster List

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

In Remembrance USS Stark 2/23 Alison McCann 2/23

Regan Askwith 4/23

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/23

Bob Shellenberger 10/23

B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23

David & April Tolbert 11/23

Lynn Murray 3/25

Lance H. Davison 4/25

Penny Swiebel 5/26

Eddie George 1/27

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

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.**

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 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, then press 1 for Veteran** 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.

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.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down

Jacksonville's annual Homeless Veterans Stand down will be held in January. The schedule is as follows: the 26th is the set up day, the 27th is employment day and the 28th is resource day. This is a great event that provides our veterans, whether homeless or not, many resources and opportunities they may not otherwise have. It is a free event. If you have never volunteered before, this is a great event to learn how Jacksonville takes care of veterans.

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 expired 12/31/22. **The bartenders will be doing a 100% card check this month. If you don't have a 2023 card, you cannot be signed in. 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. 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

Happy New Year, I hope that 2023 brings you and yours blessings of love, happiness and peace of mind. Volunteers! We love them, from our steak teams to those that helped with the Golf Tournament hosted by our Legion on Dec 3. **Thank you to Sons Squadron Commander David Keasler and the Sons for their donation of \$500 for Girls State.** I appreciate the members that were able to attend the Auxiliary Christmas Party on Dec 3, we had nice conversations and everyone left with some nice Christmas gifts. 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 me.

Fifth District Auxiliary meeting is on Sunday, Jan 8 at American Legion Post 194 in St. Augustine. Monday, Jan 9 is Unit 316 General Meeting at 8pm, come early for bingo and stay after for the meeting. **We will have a sock hop on Saturday the 28th. Dress for the occasion.**

MEMBERSHIP: Thank you to those that have renewed and welcome to our new members. Dues are \$30, \$25 for over sixty, \$5 for Juniors. Contact Suzanne LaMonica (Membership Chairman) with any questions or concerns, email at suzlamonica@comcast.net.

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

Thank you to all who donated dishes and helped with the New Year's Eve Party.

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.

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

I want to say thank you to all who supported our Chapter and Post throughout the year, a lot occurred but in a blink of an eye we are into the new year. I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season, now it's time to continue with what we have been doing and doing it better. **Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday the 7th of January at 09:00.** Hope to see you all there.

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

First of all Merry Christmas to everyone and hope you all have a great New Year. I want to thank everyone who showed up for the clean up day Saturday Dec 17th, we got a lot of work completed.

Next House Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday the 3rd at 1800 (6 pm). January maintenance will be inside work on Sunday the 15th starting at 1000. Plan on cleaning the A/C filters and if we have received the spinner filters, we will change out the ones we didn't get to last time.

Jim Bright

Service Officer

VACANT

History Tidbit

2000-2001: 3/29/2000, Senate Joint Resolution 14, the constitution-al amendment that would return the people's right to protect the U. S. flag from physical desecration, falls 4 votes short of the necessary 67 needed to override a Presidential veto. 9/5/2000, the Legion presents the first "Spirit of Service" awards to active duty service members from each branch for their off-duty volunteer activities. 8/28-30/2001, The Legion passes a resolution to rekindle Blue Star Service Banner program. 9/12/2001, the Legion reactivates the Family Support Network following terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. 10/10-11/2001, the Legion establishes the Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of military members killed on active duty on or after 9/11/2001.

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

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 or by phone at 904-241-4310.

Sons of The American Legion

Please pay your 2023 membership dues. The 2022 cards expired 12/31/22. Thank you to the December 9th 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. Please consider joining the team. We are still looking for a Historian. New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting. Thank you to Cody Dyal who stepped up and was elected 2nd Vice Commander.

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).

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.**

AMERICAN LEGION DISPATCH

In January, *The American Legion Dispatch* will go to a digital format reaching a greater number of officers and leaders of the organization with additional resources. Enhancements to the monthly e-newsletter and a more robust web platform are in production. The *Digital Dispatch* currently has over 30,000 subscribers. Going digital will ensure that more officers-such as committee chairpersons and program managers-have access to information they need, and will deliver important information in a more timely manner. **The Digital Dispatch is free for those who register to receive it. Subscribe at legion.org/newsletters;**



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 American Legion Post 316
 1127 Atlantic Boulevard
 Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day GIN @ Texans 1 PM	2 Burgers & FF Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	3 Stuffed Peppers Bingo 2:00—4:00 House Com Mtg 6 Tap Trivia 7 PM	4 BBQ Chicken Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	5 Baked Ziti Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	6 Chili & Grilled Cheese Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	7 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
8 BOURBON 5th District 2 PM St. Augustine 194 Titans 1 PM	9 Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	10 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	11 Fish or Shrimp Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	12 Smothered \ Pork Chops Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	13 Chicken Soup Chicken Salad Croissant SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8 Doug Bracey	14 Doug Bracey
15 SCOTCH Maintenance Day Inside 1000	16 MLK, Jr. Day Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	17 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	18 Baked Fish Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	19 BLT & FF Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	20 Shrimp Po Boy Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8 Maybe	21 SUBVETS 1100
22 WHISKEY	23 Chicken & Dumplings Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	24 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	25 Meatball Sub Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	26 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	27 Potato Soup Grilled Ham & Cheese Blood Drive Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8 Double Shot	28 Auxiliary Sock Hop
29 WINE	30 Rib Dinner Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	31 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM		Lunch is Served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		