



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
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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

We are now into February, and everyone should have renewed and received their updated membership card for 2023. We had a visit from our Department Commander, Department 3rd Vice Commander, Northern Area Commander and 5th District Commander for lunch on Jan 13th. **The 5th District Commander congratulated us on leading the District in membership and being the first Post in the District to reach the 85% goal.** We also discussed the future of The American Legion, the importance of Buddy Checks and how volunteers make things happen. Thank you to all who volunteered in January, and keep those renewals coming. **Don't forget, every month on Friday is steak night along with the Queen of Hearts drawing.** As of this writing, the Jaguars made an amazing comeback against the Chargers and are still in it. What a great season. We will have our official 5th District visit by District Vice Commander Joe Maichle. All are welcome to attend the meeting and meet the Vice Commander. **Don't forget the chili cook off on Super Bowl Sunday. Happy Valentine's Day.**

Greg White

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: Randall Baise, Robert Cook, Kristopher Gabriel, Ovide Heald, Michael Mann, Newman Roberts, Seth Southard, Glenn Trivietts

Transfers: Clyde McClain, Sr.

Taps: Harry Harper, Michael Bourgeois

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 Swibel 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 to the Post, feel free to provide that info and your war era/birthday on the back of the renewal notice. The card 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.** 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.

VA Mental Health Care Update

Starting this past January 17th, **ALL VETERANS are able to access emergency mental health care FREE OF CHARGE** at any VA medical facility or outside clinic, regardless of whether they are already enrolled in VA health care services as part of VA's suicide prevention effort. The new policy applies to all veterans with any separation status except dishonorable discharge, regardless of whether they qualify for other VA medical services. VA will waive costs for VA care or provide reimbursements for emergency mental health care in facilities outside the VA system. Costs can include appointment fees, transportation costs and other related follow-up expenses. The new plan also calls for VA to cover the costs of up to 30 days of inpatient or residential care for treatment of those mental health issues and up to 90 days of outpatient care if veterans are experiencing an acute suicidal crisis. Veterans suicides has dropped to the lowest rate since 2000, but veterans are still significantly more likely to die by suicide than their civilian peers. This new benefit removes cost from the equation when veterans are at imminent risk of self-harm and allows them to access life-saving care when they need it most, regardless of whether the veteran has ever enrolled in or used VA healthcare benefits. **Veterans experiencing a mental health emergency can contact the Veteran Crisis Line through 988 option 1 for a VA staffer or 1-800-273-8255 option 1. Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit VeteransCrisisLine.net for assistance.**

Newsletter Notice

This will be the last newsletter those members who have not renewed for 2023 will receive. Please pay your dues and stay on the mailing/email lists.

Trivia/Queen of Hearts Restart

Trivia will start again this month on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM with a new person conducting the contest. Get your team together and join the fun. Queen of Hearts started in January and is doing well. Come out and take your chance.

National Emergency Fund Grants

In 2022, the NEF issued 104 grants totaling \$264,761 to help Posts, Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion affected by natural disasters. 98 grants went to Florida Legion Family members and Posts greatly impacted by Hurricane Ian in September with grant applications continuing to come in. The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members, and up to \$10,000 for Posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster. NEF applicants must be current on their membership prior to the disaster and at the time of application submission, and must provide photos, receipts, insurance paperwork, and FEMA statements if possible.

Super Bowl Chili Cookoff

Bring your best chili on Sunday the 12th. Judging at 4 PM. Then stay for the Super Bowl. Thank you to everyone who brought in dishes for the Sunday games this season.

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	Cody Dyal
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 notes on page 1 concerning paying your dues online as another issue has developed, and concerning the newsletter. This is the last newsletter for those without a 2023 card and 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 February to all! Welcome to our new members and those that have renewed for 2023. Currently Unit 316 is in 13th place out of 16 Units in District 5. **Please if you have not renewed, please do so promptly.** If you have friends and family that are eligible to join invite them to our Post to complete an application. If you have questions or concerns regarding membership, please contact Suzanne Lamonica (Membership Chairman) at suzlamonica@comcast.net.

Thank you to our volunteers for their time in the kitchen during our steak nights, which are the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 5pm-8pm. If you want to volunteer on the grill, fryer, take orders, plate, clean up? Contact me via phone, text or email. We are always looking for volunteers, you will be provided 4 drinks, dinner and tips.

UPCOMING: Valentine's Prime Rib Dinner on Saturday the 11, please donate a cake for our cake walk. Feb 18 **ABC School starts at 10am at Post 283** (9459 Ft. Caroline Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32225), learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary policies and procedures. Auxiliary steak nights are Feb 3 and 17. Fifth District Auxiliary meeting is on Sunday, Feb 12 at 2pm, Post 250 (2608 Black Creek Dr., Middleburg, FL 32068). Monday, Feb 13 is Unit 316's General Meeting at 8pm, come early for bingo and stay after for the meeting. **SAVE THE DATE: April 1 The Military Child Table Setting Ceremony will be at Post 283** (9459 Ft. Caroline Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32225) starts at 11:00am (be there by 1030). If you have Juniors that want to participate, please contact Julie Kay (Juniors Activities Chairman) at juliekay.mi@gmail.com. Attend and show your support. 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**

Trivia will start again this month on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM with a new person conducting the contest. Get your team together and join the fun. **Queen of Hearts started again last month** and the pot is growing.

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 2023 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.

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. Please note: 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 hope everyone made it safely through the new year and off to a good start, as a reminder if you have already renewed your yearly membership thank you. If you have not please see Annie at your soonest or leave a check with an envelope in the Riders mailbox located next to the Post's front door. Keep an eye on the various social media systems you frequent for upcoming rides and events you might be interested in attending as a Chapter and bring them to our attention so we can get something set up, in case you're not aware we do not see all postings. **Don't forget to give your motor-cycles a pre-ride for safety check if you have not rode in a while.** **The February meeting has been scheduled for Saturday the 4th at 9 AM,** hope to see you 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

The **House Committee will meet Monday, February the 6th at 1800.** **Next maintenance day will be Saturday the 18th at 1000, will work on cleaning the outside sheds** to allow us to utilize them better.

If you have ideas of what more can be done outside and inside the hall to make improvements, please submit them to myself or the Commander. Have a great month.

Jim Bright

Service Officer

VACANT

History Tidbit

2002-2004: November 2002, The Legion launches the national "I Am Not A Number" campaign to identify and document the delays veterans face in obtaining medical care from VA. 10/17/2003, Legion efforts on Capitol Hill break the deadlock on the Disabled Veterans Tax when Congress creates a 10-year phase-in for service-connected disabled retirees to receive military retired pay and VA disability compensation without subtraction from either. Legion efforts also result in passage of the Military Family Relief Act. 9/3/2004, Legion lobbying leads to more progress in elimination of the Disabled Veterans Tax with passage of the law that eliminates the 10-year phase in for 100% service-connected retirees. 9/19/2004 Legion launches a national program, the Blue Star Salute, where Posts hold public events to recognize troops, their families and local businesses on Armed Forces Day.

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

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

Sons of The American Legion

Please pay your 2023 membership dues. We are doing well on membership so let's keep it up. **If you have not renewed, this will be your last newsletter.** **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the January 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. 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.

David Keasler

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;** you will be directed to sign in to your **MyLegion.org** account, then opt in to receive the *Digital Dispatch*.



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



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WINE	Lunch is Served 11:00—1:00 Mon-Fri		1 Pulled Pork Sandwich Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	2 Groundhog Day Pepper Steak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7pm	3 Taco Soup & Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	4 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
5 Four Chaplains Sunday BEER	6 Liver or Meatloaf House Com Mtg 6pm Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	7 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	8 Chicken Fajitas Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	9 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7pm	10 Ham or Turkey Wrap SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	11 Auxiliary Valentine's Prime Rib Dinner 5 PM
12 Lincoln's B-Day Super Bowl RUM 5th District 2 PM Middleburg 250 Chili Cookoff 4pm	13 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	14 Valentine's Day Chicken Marsala Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	15 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	16 Smothered Pork Chop Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7pm	17 Sloppy Jo & FF Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	18 Maintenance Day Sheds 1000 SUBVETS 1100
19 VODKA	20 President's Day Beef Stew Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	21 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	22 Ash Wednesday Washington's B-Day Baked Fish Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	23 Kielbasa Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7pm	24 Tomato Soup Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	25
26 GIN	27 Stuffed Chicken Breast Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	28 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM				