



# 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**

March 2023  
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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

Thanks to all who volunteered in the month of February. Valentines Day's prime rib dinner was great with over eighty-five dinners served. Great job to Liz and Kadence. The Super Bowl chili cook-off was a good one. All of the chilis were good. Thanks to all those who entered and congratulations to Liz for winning. As of February 16th, the Post is at 91.35% membership-great job. We just need that little more to get to 100%.

**We are now into March and our nominations for Post Officers will begin this month.** If you are interested in running, please let us know. You must be at the meeting to accept the nomination or provide an acceptance letter to me. We will be discussing moving the election to May again this year due to the timing of when we have to have the report in to Department.

Don't forget, we could always use help on steak nights.

**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 Triviers

**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:

**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 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](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) for assistance.

### 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.

### Habitat for Humanity

The Beaches Habitat has a **Senior Home Repair program to address health, safety and accessibility issues.** Repairs could include roof/flooring repairs, construction of wheelchair ramps, window/door replacement and plumbing/HVAC repair. Program is open to seniors (60 and older) living east of the intracoastal and who own and reside in their home. Habitat finances the repairs with an interest-free loan whose monthly payments are calculated based on income. Seniors must demonstrate the need, be willing to partner and be able to repay the loan. For information or assistance, contact Taryn Stevens, construction coordinator, at 904-595-5806.

### Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner

The Legion will serve a Corn Beef Dinner on Saturday the 18th beginning at 5:00 PM. There will also be a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the Autism Society.

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

### Post Officers

Commander	Greg White
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	<b>VACANT</b>
3rd Vice Commander	<b>VACANT</b>
4th Vice Commander	<b>VACANT</b>
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Bill Knipper
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	<b>VACANT</b>
Judge Advocate	<b>VACANT</b>
Historian	<b>VACANT</b>
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	<b>VACANT</b>
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	<b>VACANT</b>
Secretary	Suzanne Lamonica
Treasurer	TracyLynn Jenkins
Chaplain	Diane Conrad
Historian	<b>VACANT</b>
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. **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 1, 2021. You can create an account by visiting [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) and follow the steps.** 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**

Thank you to our volunteers for our recent successful events. We appreciate our Post 316 family and guests that show their support, to benefit Auxiliary Programs. We need volunteers for steak night, which is the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. As a volunteer you get 4 complimentary drinks, 1 dinner, and tip\$. Let me know if you're available. Membership questions, contact Suzanne LaMonica at [suzlamonica@comcast.net](mailto:suzlamonica@comcast.net).

Fifth District Auxiliary meeting is on Sunday, Mar. 12 at 2pm, Post 401 (Hilliard, FL). Monday, Mar. 13 is Unit 316's General Meeting at 8pm, come early for bingo and stay after for the meeting. **SAVE THE DATES:** April 1 The Military Child Table Setting Ceremony will be at Post 283 (9459 Fort Caroline Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32225), starts at 11:00am (be there by 10:30am). If you have Juniors that want to participate, please contact Julie Kay (Juniors Activities Chairman) at [juliekay.mi@gmail.com](mailto:julikay.mi@gmail.com). Attend and show your support.

For God Country,

**Virna Luke, [Socialalr5thFl@gmail.com](mailto: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.** We need volunteers to sell the tickets. Please see Liz if you can help.

**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 logo shirts on race day Sundays to 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 6:30 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

Welcome to March, I remember hearing about some Roman talking about the 15th. Anyway we start off with an **Oyster Roast after our March meeting** and we need everyone's support to make it a success. The riding season is getting in full swing, hope you are getting out there. As a reminder to all, if you have some favorite place or someplace in the local area you want to ride to, get with myself or Denise. If another Chapter is planning a fun run, let us know so we can get out there and represent. Speaking of representing, **it's time to think about nominations for elections of Chapter Officers and think about what position you would like to fill**, something to think about. As always, we need help in the kitchen for Monday nights, so step up and sign up. We also have steak night this month and will need help with the grill and kitchen.

**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

We have gotten a new preamble printed and should have it before the next meeting. We installed a new ceiling fan in the men's restroom, as well as replaced the lights in both restrooms.

**The next House Committee meeting will be held on Monday the 6th of March at 1800**, please note the date change.

**The next maintenance day will be inside work on Sunday the 19th of March starting at 1000**, hope to see you there.

Have a great month.

**Jim Bright**

## Service Officer

**VACANT**

## History Tidbit

**2005-2008:** 5/7/2005: The Legion lobbied successfully to remove the proposed increases in VA prescription co-payments and institution of user fee for Priority Group 8 veterans using VA health care. August 2005: Delegates to the 87th National Convention in Honolulu unanimously voice their support for the global war on terrorism with Resolution 169. 10/17-18/2007: The **Legion NEC passes Resolution 35 and adopts The American Legion Riders as a national program of The American Legion**. The first American Legion Riders chapter was established by American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, MI, in 1993.6/30/2008: President George W. Bush signs into law the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a next-generation GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion. The bill renews the federal government's commitment to veterans by providing them with substantially better education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect 8/1/2009 and sent an unprecedented number of veterans to college.

**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](http://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

## Sons of The American Legion

**Please pay your 2023 membership dues.** We are doing well on membership at nearly 90%, so let's keep it up. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the February 10th 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. **Nominations for 2023-2024 will begin this month.** New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting.

**David Keasler**

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](http://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](http://legion.org/newsletters); you will be directed to sign in to your MyLegion.org account, then opt in to receive the Digital Dispatch.**



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 American Legion Post 316  
 1127 Atlantic Boulevard  
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March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>GIN</b>	<b>Lunch is Served</b> 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		1 Italian Hoagie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	2 Patty Melt Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	3 Soup & Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	4 <b>Riders Mtg 0900</b> <b>SAL Mtg 1030</b> <b>Riders Oyster</b> <b>Roast 1:00</b>
5 <b>BOURBON</b>	6 Fried Chicken House Com Mtg 6 Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7 PM	7 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	8 Fish or Shrimp Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	9 BLT & FF Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	10 Brauts SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	11
12 <b>Daylight Savings</b> Time Begins <b>SCOTCH</b> 5th District 2 PM Hilliard 401	13 Baked Ham Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7 PM Mtg Night 8 PM	14 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	15 Shepherd's Pie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	16 Meatball Sub Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Beef Veggie Soup Grilled Cheese Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	18 SUBVETS 1100 <b>Corn Beef &amp; Cab-</b> <b>bage Dinner 5:00</b>
19 <b>WHISKEY</b> <b>Maintenance Day</b> <b>Inside 1000</b>	20 <b>Spring Begins</b> Chicken & Dumpling Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7 PM	21 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	22 Bean Soup Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	23 Pork Loin Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	24 Taco Salad Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	25
26 <b>WINE</b>	27 Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7 PM	28 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	29 <b>VN Vets Day</b> Baked Chicken Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	30 Stuffed Chicken Breast Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	31 Ham or Turkey Wrap Riders' Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	