



# 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**

May 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

May is over, thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped. **June starts the hurricane season so start preparing now.** I hope everyone had a great Mother's Day. Father's Day is June 18-happy Father's Day to all you Dads. With the days starting to get nicer and backyard cookouts start getting more often, stay safe when firing up those grills.

We had a slow start on the roof replacement as the city was holding up the builder's permit. The roof replacement is now completed.

The Post election was the Saturday after this newsletter went to the printer. Please support next year's officers. There was no one running for 8 out of the 14 elected offices. Nominations and elections will be held at each Post meeting to fill these positions. Please consider stepping up and taking an office. Installation will occur after our State Convention June 15-17. The schedule has not been published by the new 5th District Commander as he will be installed at Convention.

**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: None  
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:

Clarence & Liz Hill 8/23	Bob Shellenberger 10/23
B. W. Pete Wait, III 10/23	David & April Tolbert 11/23
In Remembrance USS Stark 3/24	
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.

#### Post 316 Installation

**Installation** of 2023-2024 Officers for the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders **will be held on Saturday, June 24 at 4 PM.** Members and guests are invited. **Side dishes** to be served after the installation would be appreciated.

#### 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.

#### 2024 Membership Cards

We will receive the 2024 membership cards at the State Convention this month. As National only recognizes annual dues and Paid Up For Life, they will be sending out the first renewal notice to arrive in early July. We cannot stop that first renewal notice. If you have years left on your 3-year membership, please ignore it and throw it away. You will get your 2024 card with a letter letting you know your status. National is now finally considering establishing multiple year memberships. Once established, the Post will be able to report your 3-year membership on the first transmittal and you will no longer receive that first renewal notice. A start date has not been established yet.

**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**

We still need help as renewals have really slowed down and we are at 96%. If you know a member who hasn't renewed, please encourage them to renew. If you know a Veteran, please encourage them to join. 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.** Page 3 has details on establishing an account.

**Dues are \$40 (\$35 Early Bird dues until Veterans Day) for 59 and younger, \$32 for 60 and older (year-round).** Our 3-year renewals are \$100 for 59 and younger and \$90 for 60 and older. **If you pay online to national, you will be charged \$40-national only recognizes our official dues.** You only get discounted rates by paying \$32 or \$35 utilizing the renewal notice.

## **Clarence Hill**

## **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE**

Happy Day to all! On Monday, May 8 we had our final nominations and election of Auxiliary Officers for the 2023-2024 term. Officers are as follows: President-Liz Hill; 1st Vice-Annie Anderson; Secretary-Sharon Harville; Treasurer-TracyLyn Jenkins; Chaplain-Diane Conrad; Sgt-at-Arms-Kathy Deem; Assistant Sgt-at-Arms-Suzanne Lamonica; Executive Committee-Brenda Sahioun. Installation of Officers to follow in June/July, hope to see you there! Thank you to our Volunteers who are AWESOME! 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 Liz Hill at 904-234-2692.

If you have not received your 2023 membership card and have paid, please see the bartenders, the cards are behind the bar in a box. If you need further help with Auxiliary membership, contact Suzanne at [suzlamonica@comcast.net](mailto:suzlamonica@comcast.net). Department Convention is from June 15-18 in Orlando. Our next meeting is Monday, June 12 at 8 pm, we look forward to seeing you there, to help with planning to benefit Auxiliary programs. 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 is in full swing on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM** with a new person-join the fun.

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 June, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time and effort to recent activities the Chapter has participated in. Election for 2023-2024 Chapter officers was held in May. Installation will be late June/early July. The June meeting will be on June 3, at 09:00 for the general assembly and the E-Board meeting at 08:30. Hope to see you there.

**John Tinsley**

## 2nd Vice Reverbs

Please remember those deployed service members and their families.

**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

No Input.

**Jim Bright**

## Service Officer

**VACANT**

## History Tidbit

**2012-2013:** October-VA guarantees its 20 millionth home loan. 1936-1937 National Commander Harry Colmery and 1943-1944 National Commander Warren Atherton escorted the original GI Bill of Rights through Congress in 1944, arguing passionately for veterans educational benefits, government assured health care and what they called "readjustment allowances." Today, Colmery and Atherton are lauded as the "fathers of the GI Bill" and its successors. 8/30/2013-National Commander James Koutz announced that the American Legion family raised more than \$1.1 million for Operation Comfort Warriors during the 2012-2013 fundraising year.

**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 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

## Sons of The American Legion

[We are still accepting 2023 membership dues.](#) We are doing well on membership at over 97%, so let's keep it up. [We will receive the 2024 cards at the State Convention this month.](#) 2024 dues will also be accepted now. [SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.](#) Thank you to the May 12th 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. [Elected for 2023-2024 are: Commander-David Keasler, 1st Vice-Tom Horn, 2nd Vice-Cody Dyal, Finance-Clarence Hill, Chaplain-Will Olliphant.](#) Offices open are Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting and consider taking an office.

## David Keasler

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.](#)

## American Legion Scam

There is an unauthorized "My Legion App" currently available from the Android and Apple stores. It was created by an organization identified as "Giant Killer." Please do not engage with this seller as they **do not have permission to use the Legion likeness.** The app is a scam and is charging a monthly fee. National has no plans to produce a fee-for-service app, but is actively working on a mobile app focused on helping local Posts and individual members. When it is ready, it will be announced through official Legion channels and will be identified with The American Legion as the "seller" once published to the stores.



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



## June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Lunch is Served 1100—1300 Mon—Fri		1 Steak or Chicken Caesar Salad Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	2 Taco Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	3 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
4 WINE	5 BBQ Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	6 D-Day 1944 Spaghetti w/Meatball or Italian Sausage Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	7 Pork Ribs Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	8 Vegetable Beef Soup/Sandwich Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	9 Shrimp Po Boy SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	10
11 BEER	12 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	13 Lasagne Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	14 Flag Day Army B-Day Pepper Steak Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	15 Italian Hoagie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	16 Chef Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	17 SUBVETS 1100
18 Father's Day RUM	19 Juneteenth Baked Ham Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	20 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	21 Summer Begins Kielbasa Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	22 Tuna Melt Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	23 Ham or Turkey Wrap Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	24 Installation of 2023-2024 Officers at 4 PM
25 VODKA	26 Liver & Onion Or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	27 Chicken Marsala Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7 PM	28 Smothered Pork Chops Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	29 BLT's Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	30 Bean Soup-Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Riders Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	