



# 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**

July 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

July is here and my one year mark is over. I thank everyone who helped and made this year a success. The following is a portion of the many things we accomplished this year: retired over 1600 American flags; replace the front portion of the fence; replaced the roof; had a blood drive; replaced the lights in the restrooms; replaced the fan in the men's room; raised over \$3,000 for Boys State; donated \$4,000 to help rebuild American Legion Posts severely damaged during the hurricane; presented scholastic excellence and military excellence medals to JU NROTC students in November and April; presented school awards medallions/certificates to 1 middle and 7 elementary schools to one boy and one girl who best demonstrated courage, honor, scholarship, leadership, patriotism and service; achieved over 96% membership.

The 4th of July is right around the corner-be safe, fireworks are a lot of fun but can be dangerous if used the wrong way. The roof replacement has been completed and what a great job. Once again, we always need volunteers to step up and help. Again, thanks for your support over the last year and please continue that support for the new Commander.

### Greg White

Thank you for electing me Post Commander. Thank you to Greg White for the superb job he did this past year. There are a number of offices that are open as indicated on the top of the 2nd page. Please consider stepping forward and filling those positions. Have a safe and happy 4th of July. We can always use help in the kitchen for steak night which is the 4th Friday of the month so will be the 28th of July.

### Bill Knipper

#### Executive Committee and General Assembly

**Approved \$1,200 to buy chairs**

**Approved \$300 for 5th District Convention Hospitality Room**

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

**New:** Shane Adcox, Joe Alvares, Kary Blaylock, Romona Bratcher, Tim Cox, Pierre Dumas, Kerri Hicks, Ken Norton, Ryan Patterson, James Peck, Faith Reagan, Tom Reagan, Dan Vargas, Bob Whitkop

**Transfers:** George Bunnell, Bryan Canto

**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 for assistance.**

### Membership Management

**MyLegion.org** is a one-stop-shop for managing your American Legion membership. Within the **MyAccount** section, members can easily manage their subscriptions to e-newsletters and The American Legion Magazine. There are a variety of e-newsletters to subscribe to such as the Dispatch, American Legion Online Update, Flag Alerts, Legion Riders and more. Members also can renew their membership, print a current membership card, view member-only discounts, manage their personal profile and receive information on giving opportunities. Overall, MyLegion.org provides a hassle-free way for members to stay informed on matters related to their American Legion membership, with options tailored to their preferences and needs.

### 2024 Membership Cards

We received the 2024 membership cards at the State Convention. 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	Bill Knipper
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	Greg White
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	<b>VACANT</b>
Judge Advocate	<b>VACANT</b>
Historian	<b>VACANT</b>
Sergeant-at-Arms	<b>VACANT</b>

### 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	<b>VACANT</b>

### Executive Board

Jim Bright, Steve Bartelt  
**VACANT, VACANT**  
**VACANT**

### Legion Riders

Director: Denise Strickland

### Auxiliary Officers

President	Liz Hill
1st Vice President	Annie Anderson
2nd Vice President	<b>VACANT</b>
Secretary	Sharon Harville
Treasurer	TracyLynn Jenkins
Chaplain	Diane Conrad
Historian	<b>VACANT</b>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kathy Deem
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Suzanne Lamonica
Membership	Nicole Thigpen

### Auxiliary Executive Committee

Brenda Sahioun, **VACANT**  
**VACANT**

Club Manager Liz Hill

## **Legion First Vice Vibes**

The 2024 cards are at the Post and are being processed. Honorary Life and 3-year member cards will be mailed. We ended the year with 96.37% and hope to do better this year. 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 or \$40 utilizing the renewal notice.

## **Clarence Hill**

### **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE**

As your new President, I would like to thank Virna for all she did this past two years. I am looking forward to working with our new Officers and I encourage all Auxiliary members to come forward and volunteer. **Our success depends on you.** Our steak nights are the 7th & 21st so kitchen help will be needed. We would like to serve a Saturday dinner once a month to raise money for our programs. The 2024 cards are here so please renew early.

Several positions are open on our board as shown above. We will have nominations at our meeting on July 10th at 8 PM. Hope to see you there.

**Liz Hill, lizardlassie@aol.com, 904-234-2692**

### 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  
Thursday-SAL Pizza Night  
Friday-Steak Bingo at 6:30 PM by the 40 & 8  
Friday-Queen of Hearts drawing 7:45 PM-**volunteers needed**

Thank you to all who helped with food donations this past year. We appreciate your support and a huge thank you to Bill VanPatten for bringing us something to eat every Sunday. Thanks to Renee, Gary & Donna for Queen of Hearts, and Lindsay and Nicole for selling bingo cards. A BIG thank you to all our volunteers.

**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 7:45 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

Thank you for all your support and participation for these last 8 years. It has truly been a wonderful experience as well as a very fulfilling time. The many rides we've participated in, the donations we've made to important charities, the fun runs for group activities, and the comradeship we've developed have been awesome. I wish success to Denise for the coming year. Again, thank you.

### John Tinsley

Welcome to July. I would like to take a moment to thank John for all his years of leading the riders. I would like to welcome the new leaders: Director-Denise Strickland; Asst. Director-Denny Luke; Finance: Clarence Hill; Secretary-TracyLyn Jenkins; Road Captain-John Tinsley; Chaplain-Pete Waite; Quartermaster-Ron Wilhite; Sergeant-at-Arms-Kathy Deem; Membership-Annie Anderson. Installation is June 24 at 4pm at the Post.

As the incoming Director, I would like to get out and recruit new members and build our chapter to what it once was. I would like to plan more fundraising opportunities and social gatherings for us and all the post (Legionnaires, SAL, AUX, riders & guests) so get those wheels spinning. If you know of any rides, meet-ups, or something you think we should attend please feel free to email me at [dndfishing@aol.com](mailto:dndfishing@aol.com) or text me at 904-699-5914. We also have an event calendar for the Mighty 5th at <http://sites.google.com/a/alr5thfl.org/american-legion-5th/district-calendar> go check it out for happenings.

I would like to plan another ride to Cedar Key, but we can discuss this in our next meeting. Remember come out on Monday nights to play bingo and get your dinner. You may not be able to cook but can still show your support by coming out, we serve 5:30—7:15ish pm!

Reminder: our next meeting is July 1 at 9am for general assembly, please come out and make your voice heard. Plan to take a ride—wonder where our new road captain will lead us.

### Denise Strickland

#### 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

Hope everyone has enjoyed the great weather. The next inside work day is scheduled for July 16th starting at 1000. Hope to see you there.

If you want to mark your calendar for the August work day, it will be held on the 19th at 1000 and will be an outside work day.

### Jim Bright

#### Service Officer

VACANT

#### History Tidbit

**2014-2016:** In the midst of a VA waiting-list scandal that resulted in the deaths of veterans waiting for care, The American Legion calls for the resignations of several top officials, including VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. The scandal would ultimately engulf multiple facilities and offices; the Legion kept the issue in front of the public and Congress via articles and testimony. August 2014: National Commander Mike Helm announces that Legion Family members and friends donated more than \$4 million (his goal) to Legion charities and programs during his year in office. July 2016: The Legacy Scholarship is extended to children of post-9/11 veterans who have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater.

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.

## Sons of The American Legion

We ended the 2023 year at 97.3%. **We received the 2024 cards and are accepting 2024 dues now. SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the June 9th steak team. **Our steak night is the 14th 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 1st at 1030 along with installation.** This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. **Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms are still open.** New faces and new ideas are needed, so please attend the meeting and consider taking an office. **Thursday pizza night is going well,** come out and try one and even lend a hand.

### 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](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*.

#### American Legion Scam

There is an unauthorized "My Legion App" available from the Android and Apple stores. It was created by an organization identified as "Giant Killer." Do not engage with this seller-**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.



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



July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Lunch is Served 1100—1:00 Mon—Fri				1 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
2 VODKA	3 Lasagna Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	4 Independence Day NO LUNCH Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	5 Baked Ravioli Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	6 Tacos Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	7 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	8
9 GIN	10 Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	11 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	12 Fish or Shrimp Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	13 Chicken Bake Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	14 Meatball Sub SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	15 SUBVETS 1100
16 BOURBON	17 Fried Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	18 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	19 Pork Loin Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	20 Patty Melt Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	21 Nacho Supreme Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	22
23 SCOTCH	24 Baked Chicken Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	25 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	26 Beef Barley Soup/Sandwich Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	27 Shepherd's Pie Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	28 Ham or Turkey Wrap Legion Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	29
30 WHISKEY	31 Chicken Fried Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM					