



# 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**

August 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

As we enter August, I am getting settled into my position as Post Commander. I would like to thank everyone for their assistance making for a smooth transition. The Legion currently has several officer positions vacant. If you are interested, please feel free to volunteer. Congrats to Bryan Canto for being elected 2nd Vice Commander. We will host the first District meeting on Sunday the 13th. All are welcome to attend, and side dishes to share are needed. Legion steak night is the 25th and volunteers are welcome.

## Bill Knipper

### 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:** Hamish Gunn

**Transfers:** Michael Boyle

**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**

## 2024 Membership Renewal Notices

Once again, **National has changed the renewal notice** you receive from them. **Please remember, the Post has no control over what National does.** All of the issues on the 2023 notice like "Member since 2023" and the sample card they put on the back of the renewal notice, have been removed. The spots for updating/providing your information are now on the back of the notice. **If there are blanks on the back, please fill in the information and also provide your birth date when you mail in your dues.**

### 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

You may pay dues online at our official dues rate of \$40. You can only get our senior dues rate of \$32 or early bird rate of \$35 by using the renewal notice and mailing your \$32/\$35 to the Post. **Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2024 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 and a new membership number and put you in the headquarters Post which is Orlando 400. Post 316 will lose you as a member and get no credit for your renewal.**

### Department Raffle

Department has started an online raffle to benefit Department programs. A winner will be drawn on a Friday every two weeks beginning 7/28. An early bird winner of \$1,000 will be drawn every two weeks beginning 7/21. Thus, every Friday will have a winner. Details can be found at [www.floridalegion.org/raffles](http://www.floridalegion.org/raffles). Thus there are two ways to win on each cycle with a winner drawn every Friday. When you purchase your tickets, you can select Post 316 from the "Support Your Local Post" dropdown menu when submitting your tickets. On a quarterly basis, the Post will receive 10% of the amount spent by those designating the Post. If a member who has designated Post 316 wins the 50/50, the Post will receive a \$500 bonus. You do not have to be a member to play, but you have to be in Florida-the number won't work from outside the state.

### VA Sexual Assault Hotline

VA announced that veterans, their families, caregivers and survivor can now **confidentially report incidents of sexual assault or sexual harassment at VA facilities** by calling 1-800-698-2411, option 9. This new capability is part of VA's "no wrong door" reporting policy for sexual assault or sexual harassment. Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors are also encouraged to report incidents as soon as they occur, including while they are still at the VA facility. These incidents can be reported directly to VA police, VA staff, or local law enforcement, and now by calling the number above.

### Veteran Suicide Prevention

USAA is looking to bring together the military and veteran communities along with corporations, researchers and philanthropy in a more privatized approach to solving the veterans suicide issue by encouraging those organizations to join the "Face the Fight Coalition." National conducted an electronic vote on Resolution 1 that permits The American Legion to join the Coalition. **Four focus areas** will be emphasized: increased safe and secure firearm storage; increased equitable access to and delivery of effective care; identify and support veterans at risk by partnering and investing in non-clinical VSOs to implement suicide prevention strategies; integrate suicide prevention resources into military and financial readiness education with veterans and caregivers.

### 5th District Meeting

**Post 316 will host the first 5th District meeting** for this year on Sunday, August 13th at 2 PM. All are invited to attend and meet members from other Posts. We usually get about 14 Posts represented. We ask for side dish donations for the food we serve after the meeting.

### PACT Act Deadline

While there is no deadline for filing a claim under the PACT Act, there is a **filing deadline of August 9th** if you want your claim to be retroactive to the date the law was passed. Claims filed after August 9th will only revert to their filing date.

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

### Post Officers

Commander	Bill Knipper
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	Bryan Canto
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	Shane Adcox
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	Tom Mari, Jr.

### Executive Board

Jim Bright, Steve Bartelt  
John Tinsley, **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	Cathy White
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 have been 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 utilizing the renewal notice.

## **Clarence Hill**

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

Thanks to our steak teams for July. We need help for Friday, August 4. We will be serving steaks on the 4th and 18th. **Saturday the 19th, we will serve a fried chicken dinner with proceeds to Girls State.**

Congratulations to Cathy White, our new Historian. **We have a donation box for school supplies to support the education program.** We will continue to collect food and toiletries for our less fortunate and homeless veterans. Our 2024 membership cards are here. **This year's dues are \$40, \$38 for Early Bird, \$35 for Seniors over 60 and \$5 for Juniors.** The National organization increased their dues, so we had to increase ours.

We are planning to do a monthly dinner to raise funds. If you can volunteer or have an idea for a fundraiser, let me know.

We still have openings on our Executive Committee available.

**We will host the 5th District meeting on Sunday, August 13 at 2 PM. Side dishes to share are requested.** Our next meeting is on Monday the 14th at 8 PM. Hope to see you there. We can only be a success by working together. For God and Country.

**Liz Hill, [lizardlassie@aol.com](mailto: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 volunteers who supported our functions. **Thanks to Joan and Suzanne for calling bingo.** We are looking for another caller for bingo and someone to sell Queen of Hearts tickets on Friday. If you can help, please give me a call. There has been an interest in starting a dart league in September. There is a sign-up sheet in the bar. Come on out and join us. Once again, thanks to all our volunteers. **We need help repairing bar stools if anyone can volunteer.**

**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 2023.**

**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

Welcome to Summer Heat & Rain! Check your tires for tread and pressure. Get that rain gear out and dust it off. We had a good turnout for our first meeting of the year but always have room for more! Welcome to our new members-Madison Dicarlo, Tom Stephens, and Ocalan Yasinjon.

I want to take a moment to thank some members and some who are not. First, thank you to Suzanne LaMonica for calling Bingo on Monday nights, without her our dinners would be not so much. Next, a huge thank you to TracyLyn Jenkins and friend for stepping in on Monday to cover when Ron and I could not—they did awesome! And finally, thank you to Pops from ALR 283 for helping in the kitchen on our steak night—we sold out!

On Saturday, July 15 we joined ALR 9 for a plaque presentation to honor Waycross law enforcement for their services and support and to help raise funds for one of their own Connie Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> dist. Auxiliary who is fighting cancer. If interested you can donate also, let me know.

**Mark your calendars for some upcoming dates:** September 16 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual POW/MIA Ride please sign up as space is limited. We need some help with registration if you are interested, please reach out to me, Denny, or Virma. The website is <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/special-events/pow-mia-ride> this is a police escorted ride over all 7 bridges.

On September 30, we will ride to Cedar Key. All bikes (regardless of size, shape, or style), cages, and even Jeeps are welcome, so look for the event page. We are still making plans for our Zombie Ride on October 28. We are looking for bottle donations to raffle at each stop. Make plans to get your face painted and ride with us then come back to the post to enjoy some food and fun and attend the Witches Brew put on by the Auxiliary.

**Reminder...**our next meeting is Saturday, August 5 at 9 am. Come out fill up the meeting hall and make your voice heard! Plus take a chance to win the 50/50! We are planning to ride to Renegades on the River – weather permitting and if not, we can take cages but let's still go! The 5<sup>th</sup> District meetings are being held at our post on Sunday, August 13 for Legionnaires, Auxillary & Riders – everyone is welcome to attend so come out and show your support!

**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 outside work day is scheduled for August 19th starting at 1000. Hope to see you there.

**Jim Bright**

## Service Officer

**VACANT**

## History Tidbit

**2017-June**, VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act is passed by Congress in concert with The American Legion to hold VA employees more accountable. This gives the VA Secretary the authority to terminate the employment of VA employees who do not hold the standard of the VA's mission to help veterans. **August 16**, the Harry Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the "Forever GI Bill" because it removes the time limits for veterans who wish to use it for college, is signed into law by President Trump. It's named for Past National Commander Colmery who drafted the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (original GI Bill) in 1944. **August 23**, President Trump signs the Veterans Appeals and Modernization Act on stage at the 99th American Legion National Convention in Reno, NV. It is the first time in history a President has signed a bill into law on an American Legion National Convention stage. **August 24**, Denise Rohan of Wisconsin is elected National Commander, the first woman to hold that position in the Legion's history.

**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.**

## Sons of The American Legion

We are accepting 2024 dues now. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the July 14th steak team. **Our steak night is the 11th 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 be handed to you or be in the box behind the bar.

**Our meeting is the 5th at 1030 along with installation by the District SAL Commander.** This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. **Historian is 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).

## BE THE ONE Campaign

At the Spring NEC meetings this past May, the NEC passed Resolution 13: Be the One Days to provide a new method for raising awareness of the Legion's "Be the One" veteran suicide-prevention initiative. The Resolution urges American Legion Family members and American Legion posts to set aside the first day of each month as an opportunity to reduce the stigma around mental health issues. Legion Family members are urged to wear a "Be the One" item to signal their commitment to the initiative. This can be a great way to keep awareness high about this important issue all year long. Resolution 7 passed at the same Conference establishes the last Saturday in April as "American Legion Family Day" and encourages posts to open their doors to their community with the intent to educate, recruit, recognize and give back to those members that support the post and to place special emphasis on "Be the One."

## 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.

## 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.



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 American Legion Post 316  
 1127 Atlantic Boulevard  
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## August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WHISKEY</b>	Lunch is Served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri	1 Stuffed Peppers Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	2 BBQ Pork Sandwich Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	3 Spicy Shrimp Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM SAL Pizza Night	4 <b>Coast Guard B-day</b> Chef Salad Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	5 <b>Riders Mtg 0900</b> <b>SAL Mtg 1030</b>
6 <b>WINE</b>	7 <b>Purple Heart Day</b> Stuffed Pork Chop Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	8 Spaghetti w/ Sausage or Meatballs Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	9 Pepper Steak Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	10 <b>DOD B-Day</b> King Ranch Chicken Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM SAL Pizza Night	11 Italian Hoagie SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	12 @ Cowboys 5 PM
13 <b>BEER</b> 5th District 2 PM Atlantic Bch 316	14 <b>V-J Day</b> Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	15 Chicken or Veal Parmesan Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	16 Cold Plate Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	17 Beef Enchilada Casserole Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM SAL Pizza Night	18 Sloppy Joe Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	19 SUBVETS 1100 Maintenance Day 1000 Aux Fried Chicken Dinner 4 PM @Lions 1 PM
20 <b>RUM</b>	21 Chicken & Dumplings Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	22 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	23 Beef Tips Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	24 Chicken Vermicelli Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM SAL Pizza Night	25 Ham or Turkey Wrap Legion Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Queen of Hearts 8	26 <b>Women's Equality Day</b> Dolphins 7 PM
27 <b>VODKA</b>	28 Hamburger Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	29 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 Tap Trivia 7PM	30 Meatball Hoagie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	31 Pork Stir Fry Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7PM SAL Pizza Night		