



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

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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

December is here, but what an exciting November! I was looking forward to the holiday season. As the year is coming to a close, I would like to thank all our volunteers, the Post is a better place because of your efforts. I would like to give a shout-out to Madame President Liz who always steps up to assist in every way possible. I had the privilege of attending the JU ROTC awards ceremony, what an outstanding group of Cadets and future military leaders. Our Veterans Day annual ceremony was held on November 11th in the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park and went very well. Mark your calendar for December 9th and join us at the Post for the Navy-Army game.

New Year's Eve tickets are go on sale Dec. 6th for \$15 each as well as basket of cheer tickets, \$1 for one and \$5 for six. Have a wonderful holiday season! **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

Bill Knipper 904-535-7526

Executive Committee and General Assembly

Approved \$70 to purchase Post Everlasting certificates

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

New: Jeffery Davis, Garland Paulk, Jeremy Potter, Edward Tiglao
Transfers: Felipe Cuaresma, Robert Green, Herminio Millare, Steve Price, Michael Zluchowski

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:

In Remembrance USS Stark 3/24 Clarence & Liz Hill 8/24
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 birthday** when you mail in your dues.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Post has a Toys for Tots bin at the Atlantic Blvd entrance. The campaign runs from October 1st to December 11th. **Toys are for boys and girls ages 0-12 and must be new and unwrapped.** Gift cards may also be donated by giving them to Clarence, Liz or the bartender. Gift cards will be kept separate from the box and be turned in on the same date. **The Marines will pick the box up on Monday the 11th.**

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER VISIT

Department Commander Michael "Gambler" Raymond will have lunch at Post 316 from 1130 to 1230 on Friday the 8th of December as part of his official visit to the 5th District. If you'd like to meet him, please be here then.

New Year's Eve Tickets

Tickets for the New Year's Eve party go on sale on Wednesday, Dec. 6th for \$15 each! There will be food, favors and a champagne

Toast. The band this year is Double Shot. Basket of Cheer tickets are \$1 for one and \$5 for 6.

2024 Membership Cards

If you pay dues online, you will be charged our official dues rate of \$40. You can only get our senior dues rate of \$32 by using the renewal notice and mailing your \$32 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

The Department online raffle continues. **Due to those participants who designated sponsoring Post 316, the Post received \$49. Thank you to those participants and others are welcome to join them.** A winner is drawn on a Friday every two weeks. An early bird winner of \$1,000 will be drawn every two weeks. Every Friday has a winner. Details can be found at www.floridalegion.org/raffles. So 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. **Thank you to all who have supported Post 316.**

DUES INCREASE

At the National Convention in Charlotte at the end of August, a resolution came forward for a **\$5 increase in the National portion of the per-capita effective July 1, 2024** with the beginning of the 2025 membership campaign. It passed unanimously. The last time National raised dues was in 2017. The Department portion remains unchanged for now. The Post will be considering our dues at the beginning of the year with a likely \$5 increase in annual dues and an increase in the 3-year dues. **Those members who have years left on their 3-year payment will not be affected by the increase in dues until their 3-year period ends.** If you are interested in prolonging the impact of the dues increase, pay the 3-year rate this year. You can also avoid it all together by becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member which can only be done online.

Pearl Harbor Day Golf Tournament

Our 24th annual tournament will be held on Saturday, Dec 2nd. **Entry fee is \$75 pre player/\$300 per foursome. Hole sponsor is \$50.** Please consider sponsoring a hole, encouraging your friends and relatives to sponsor a hole and check to see if your company will sponsor a hole. Forms are at the Post.

Membership Card Check

The bartenders will conduct a 100% membership card check this month to remind you that if you have not paid your dues for 2024 you cannot be served or signed in as your **2023 card expires 12/31.** Please be prepared to show your card as the bartenders are simply doing their job. Please remember that you cannot pay your dues at the Post by credit card as we cannot process them. You'll have to use the ATM.

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	Joe Sawyer
4th Vice Commander	VACANT
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	Joe Nolan
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	Shane Adcox
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Tinsley

House Committee

Chairman: Jim Bright

SAL Officers

Commander	David Keasler
Adjutant	Clarence Hill
1st Vice	Tom Horn
2nd Vice	Cody Dyal
Finance Officer	Clarence Hill
Chaplain	Will Oliphant
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	Tom Mari, Jr.

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	VACANT
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. Our dues have not changed this year and are as noted below. **Expect a dues increase next year as the note on the front page indicates.** Please Note: We cannot accept credit card payments as Department will not process them for us. Pay by check, money order or come in and pay cash.

You can create your own national membership account by visiting 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.**

Dues are \$40 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 to the Post utilizing the renewal notice.

Clarence Hill

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Thanks to all who volunteered for steak nights in November (Kevin, Bill & Cody (SAL), Lisa and Kadence (Aux)) Thank you Fatima for jumping in and helping with the Halloween Party. Thanks to McKenzie, a Junior girl, for serving the Prime Rib dinner.

Our steak & salmon nights are the 1st and 15th from 5-8PM. **The Auxiliary Christmas Party is on Sunday the 17th at 4 PM.** Please bring a dish to share and a gift valued at \$20 if you would like to participate in the gift exchange.

Membership cards expire December 31st. If you have not renewed, please do so now. Dues are \$40, \$35 for over 60 and \$5 for Junior Girls. You will lose all privileges on January 1st.

Our Treasurer is resigning and will have to be replaced, and we have openings for 2nd Vice and on the Executive Committee. If you are interested, please call me or come to the meeting at 8Pm on the 11th.

We seek ideas for fundraising. If you have an idea, please give me a call. We could also use more volunteers. **We are collecting food donations for our Veterans for the holidays.** If you can donate, please drop them off at the Post. We supported 4 families with food baskets for Thanksgiving and can do more with your help and donations. **The Toys for Tots bin will be picked up on the 11th,** so please bring a toy in by then and get a free bingo card. We supported Wreaths Across America and continue to collect books, magazines and toiletries for our Veterans. **Have a Merry Christmas. Happy New Year!!**

For God and Country.

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

The **kitchen and storage room are off-limits and closed when meals are not being served.** **No one is authorized** to go in the kitchen or storage room and help themselves to anything after meal hours or to use any of the equipment. Once again, thanks to all our volunteers. **We need help repairing bar stools if anyone can volunteer.** Thank you to our bingo callers, card sellers, winner checking. There is a sign-up list for Sunday football game food. With receipts, up to \$50 can be reimbursed.

Trivia is in full swing on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM-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.

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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 NFL logo shirts on NFL 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

WOW! Hard to believe how quickly this year has gone by! I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends or volunteering! I know I ate way too much, and now time for all those New Year's resolutions (wink-wink)! With that being said, I want to challenge everyone to bring forward an idea for fund-raising to our next meeting. Nothing is too small or too big so put on your thinking caps and get creative.

All membership cards expire 12/31-make sure you renew.

Don't forget the district meeting is on December 10 at 12:30 pm at Post 129. Legionnaires and Auxiliary to follow. Everyone is welcome to attend!

December 16 is the escort for Wreaths Across America. Staging will be at AMC parking lot 96012 Lofton Square, Yulee. Mandatory safety is at 7:45 am with KSU at 8:15 am. I hope everyone will come out and help lay a wreath—I know I will be there!.

Our annual Christmas Party is also December 16 at 6 pm in the back hall at the Post. Check your email for the sign-up sheet to bring something to share! We will also be doing our gift exchange! Don't forget our next meeting is **Saturday, December 2 at 9 am**. Come on out fill the meeting hall and win the jackpot of the 50/50! Don't forget the New Year's Eve party—sign up with Liz! However you celebrate, whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa I hope you and yours have the best holiday ever! Stay safe and keep the rubber on the road! Looking forward to a fresh start with 2024 God knows we need it!

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.

Jim Bright

Service Officer

VACANT

History Tidbit

Shane Adcox

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.](#)

Legitimate Charity Donations

When donating money, keep a few things in mind:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited contacting
- Use the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search tool to verify tax deductible
- Research the charity to be sure it is real and always get a receipt
- Legitimate charities do not ask for gift cards, cash or wire transfers
- Scammers can change caller ID to appear to be from legitimate charity
- Beware of vague or sentimental claims on how the money will be used

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account

This is a new benefit for military families that will start on Jan. 1. However, you must enroll during the federal benefits open season (which ends Dec. 11) in order to enroll in the program. Details are available at the Post.

Sons of The American Legion

Please renew now as your card expires 12/31. **SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org.** Thank you to the November 10th steak team. **Our steak night is the 8th 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 2nd at 1030. This is your SAL, so please attend the meeting. **Squadron Office open is Historian.** 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 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."

WW II Veterans VA Eligibility

WW II Veterans are reminded they are **eligible for no-cost inpatient and outpatient health care.** This expansion occurred through American Legion sponsored legislation the Maxwell Cleland and Robert Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022 (Cleland-Dole Act) which was signed into law in December 2022. WW II Vets who served between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible regardless of their length of service or financial status. These Vets will not have to pay copays, enrollment fees or monthly premiums. WW II Vets are encouraged to enroll in the VA. Veterans who enroll may keep their private providers, Medicare and most other insurance to meet their health care needs. Veterans who were not approved for VA health care in the past due to income limits should apply again as income levels no longer apply due to this law.



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



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WINE		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri			1 Civil Air Patrol B-Day Nachos Supreme Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Madman Mike Karaoke	2 Riders Mtg 0900 SAL Mtg 1030
3 BEER	4 Liver or Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	5 Eggplant Parmesan Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	6 Chicken Soup Chicken Salad Croissant Ladies' Night 7PM	7 Pearl Harbor Day Hanukkah Begins Smothered Pork Chop Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7	8 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	9 Navy-Army game 3:00 PM
10 Hanukkah Begins RUM 5th District 2 PM Jax Bch Post 129 @ Browns 1:00PM	11 Hamburger Steak Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Mtg Night 8 PM	12 Chicken Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	13 Nat'l Guard B-Day Shepherd's Pie Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	14 Mexican Beef Tips Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	15 Hanukkah Ends Potato Soup and Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30 Doug Bracey Karaoke	16 SUBVETS 1100 Wreaths Across America Doug Bracey Karaoke
17 VODKA Ravens 8:20 PM	18 Baked Ham Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	19 Not so Spicy Shrimp Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	20 Space Force B-Day Baked Chicken Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	21 Winter Begins Cheese Enchilada Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	22 Italian Hoagie Legion Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30	23
24 Christmas Eve GIN @ Buccaneers 4:05 PM	25 Christmas Post Closed	26 Kwanzaa Begins NO LUNCH Bingo 2:00—4:00 Trivia 7 PM	27 Ham or Turkey Wraps Ladies' Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7 PM	28 Crispy Beef Tacos Bingo 2:00—4:00 Luck of Draw Darts 7 SAL Pizza Night	29 Bean Soup Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Riders Steaks Steak Bingo 6:30 Double Shot	30 Double Shot
31 New Year's Eve BOURBON Panthers 1:00 PM Double Shot						