



# Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316

1127 Atlantic Boulevard, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2516 Offices/Club (904) 249-0202 /Fax (904) 249-2058

E-Mail is alpost316@bellsouth.net Web site: alpost316fl.org CHARTERED AUGUST 1974





#### HOME POST OF FLORIDA'S FIRST AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER 2009-2010 - CLARENCE E. HILL

May 2025 VOL. 38 NO. 05 CIR:217sm746em17pu

Legion meeting, second Monday of the month at 7 pm.
Auxiliary meeting, second Monday of the month at 8 pm.
Post Hours: 8:30am - midnight Mon –Thurs; 8:30am - 2am Fri - Sat; 1pm - midnight Sun

## 

### .Commander's Corner

Hope everyone had a great April and are looking forward to May. As a reminder, Post 316 is hosting this year's Memorial Day program on the 25th of May starting at 0900 at the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park right next door to the Post.

The Post will be holding our election of officers for 2025-2026 on Saturday the 17th of May from 0900-2000 in the hall. Come on out and cast your votes for next year's officers.

We changed the General Assembly meeting to 7:00 PM in the hopes that we would get more members to attend, but it doesn't seemed to have made a difference in attendance. I do not think it is fair that the same 7 or 8 people make the decisions and vote on things that pertain to the Post. So if you can attend the meetings, I would gladly welcome you and your inputs.

Jim Bright 904-776-9004

# Executive Committee and General Assembly Approved \$12,450 to replace smoke eaters

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

New: Patrick Deeghan, Ricky Poole, Carmen & Robert Warner, Benjamin Weber

Transfers: Jeanine Avant, Steven McAninch

**Taps:** William Bull

#### **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 8/25 Penny Swiebel 5/26 Ben & Shirleen Wait 8/25 Eddie George 1/31

### 2025 Membership Renewal

If you pay dues online, you will be charged our official dues rate of \$45. You can only get our senior dues rate of \$37 by using the renewal notice and mailing your \$37/\$40 to the Post. If you pay 3-years online, you will be charged 3 X \$45 = \$135. You can only get the discount rates of \$105 for 60 and older/\$115 for 59 and younger by paying at the Post. Two things are important when you pay online: make sure you are paying for 2025 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 member-ship 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. Please remember that you cannot pay your dues to the Post by credit card as we cannot process them. Use the ATM next to the East side exit.

#### **50th Anniversary Coins**

Coins can be purchased for \$10 each. See Clarence or Liz to purchase your 50th anniversary coins.

### **Social Media Notice**

The following notice was posted on the bulletin board, will be incorporated into the Post Regulations and is effective immediately. It reads: At a regular meeting of the General Assembly on Monday, October 14, 2024, the membership ruled that any negativity toward

The American Legion Post 316, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 316, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 316, Riders Chapter 316, their officers or their members on Facebook or any other social media platform would lead to consideration of disciplinary action by the House Committee. It was also noted that used in a positive way, Facebook and other social media platforms can be tools to promote news, functions and activities going on at our Post. We want to build on a reputation of a Post that supports the Legion Family and a safe haven for our members as well as to promote new members that may want to join our Family Organization. Any concerns should be dealt with at your respective meetings.

#### **Post 316 Election**

Nominations for the 2025-2026 Legion year began at the March meeting and will be taken again at the May meeting. Nominated thus far were: Commander—Jim Bright; 1st Vice—Clarence Hill; 3rd Vice—Tom Stephens; 4th Vice—Jerry Lee; Finance Officer—Randy Casey; Chaplain—Pete Waite; Exec Committee—Steve Bartelt, Bill Knipper. You must be present to accept the nomination or have submitted a letter of acceptance to the Commander. All positions remain open for nominations. The election will be held Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Please consider attending the meeting and running for an office. The Post hasn't had a full slate of officers for a couple of years now.

#### **5th District Meeting**

The next 5th District Meeting will be the Constitutional Conference on Sunday, May 4th at 8:30 AM at Jacksonville Post 137. A Memorial Service will be held at 8:30. District Officers for 2025-2026 and delegates to the National Convention will be elected.

#### **Fallen Heroes Monument**

The Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, Inc., is raising money to install a Fallen Heroes Monument in the Park next door. The names of all residents of Atlantic/Neptune/Jacksonville Beaches who gave their all during every war will have their names etched on the monument. Total cost is more than \$45,500, and a reinforced concrete base to hold it will be about \$10,000. Atlantic Beach has contributed \$25,000 and Neptune Beach and Jacksonville Beach have contributed \$5,000 each. Money raised is just over \$50,000. We have reached our goal for the monument and Atlantic Beach has ordered it. We are still working on the concrete base funding so donations can be made to Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, Inc., with Fallen Heroes Monument in the memo line and submitted to Post 316.

POST 316 IS A FREE WiFi HOTSPOT.

Post Off	<u>icers</u>
Commander	Jim Bright
1st Vice Commander	Clarence Hill
2nd Vice Commander	VACANT
3rd Vice Commander	Tom Stephens
4th Vice Commander	VACANT
Finance Officer	Randy Casey
Adjutant	Greg White
Chaplain	Pete Wait
Service Officer	VACANT
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Historian	VACANT
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Tinsley

House Committee

SAL Officers Commander David Keasler Adjutant Clarence Hill 1st Vice Tom Mari, Jr. 2nd Vice **VACANT** Finance Officer Clarence Hill Chaplain Lester Verrette Historian Brian Knauss Sergeant-at-Arms Aaron Klaser. Executive Board Joe Bruce, Steve Bartelt Bill Knipper VACANT

VACANT

Legion Riders

Director: Denise Strickland

1st Vice President VACANT 2nd Vice President **VACANT** Secretary Denise Strickland Treasurer Cathy White Chaplain Annie Anderson Historian Brenda Sahioun Sergeant-at-Arms Kathy Deem Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Linda LaForm Membership Nicole Thigpen Auxiliary Executive Committee Diane Conrad, TracyLynn Jenkins VACANT, VACANT Club Manager Liz Hill

Auxiliary Officers

Liz Hill

## Legion First Vice Vibes

Chairman: Bill Knipper

Please pay your 2025 dues as we are at 94% and need 48 members for 100%. The renewal notice you receive has areas on the back to provide info on email address, phone number, date of birth, etc. <u>Please Note:</u> 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.

**2025** Dues are \$45 for 59 and younger, \$37 for 60 and older (year-round). Our 3-year renewals are \$115 for 59 and younger and \$105 for 60 and older. If you pay online to national, you will be charged \$45-national only recognizes our official dues. If you pay 3-years online, you will be charged \$135. You can only get discounted rates by paying \$40/\$37 or \$115/\$105 the Post 3-year rates to the Post.

#### Clarence Hill

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

Thank you if you volunteered in April or donated to our functions. May dinners are on Friday the 2nd and 16th we will serve steak or salmon. May 17th is Armed Forces Day.

Membership is at 96%-we need 18 renewals or new members to reach 100%. If you have a granddaughter you can sign her up for \$5 if they are 17 or younger. Please help us reach our 100% goal.

We will hold our election at the meeting on Monday the 12th. Nominated thus far: President-open; 1st Vice-Brenda Sahioun; 2nd Vice-Open; Treasurer-Cathy White; Secretary-Denise Strickland; Chaplain-Annie Anderson; Historian-Diane Conrad; Sgt-at-Arms-Lea Carlisle; Asst Sgt-at-Arms-Kathy Deem; Executive Committee-Bonnie Buchmeir. As you can see we have open positions. We will have nominations and then the election. If you are interested or have any questions, please call me. We need your support.

If you would like to serve a dinner or just volunteer, we need you. We are participating with Post 129, VFW and Fleet Reserve with a corn-hole tournament on Saturday mornings. It rotates location. We also have bingo on Monday at 6:30 and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 PM. Come on out and join us. Next meeting is on Monday the 12th at 8PM. Hope to see you there. Happy MOTHER'S DAY.

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 6 PM-players needed

Wednesday-Ladies Night-7 PM-\$.50 off drinks

Wednesday-Pass the Trash 7:30 PM-volunteers/players needed

Thursday-Bingo 2-4 PM-volunteers needed

Friday-Steak Bingo at 6:30 PM by the 40 & 8

Friday entertainment: 2nd/3rd—Mitch; 9th—Double Shot; 16th—Doug; 23rd—Back Alley; 30th—Doug.

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 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 food. With receipts, up to \$50 can be reimbursed.

If you know of any family needing help with food, please let Liz know. Thank you for all your support.

Lost & Found. If you are missing any item, like jackets, cell phones, car keys, etc., please see Liz.

President

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 needs volunteers on Friday nights for the drawing to be held at 8:00 PM. You must be present, be a 2024/25 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 and get the program back on track. 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 back in action on Wednesdays at 7 PM. Thank you Patti Harrison. 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 shirts on Sunday and get the special.

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 whether we sell them or not 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. Guests eligible to be members may only be signed in 4 times a month.

**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 drinks are finished. The Post has 72 hours to pay out on the machines and the bartenders cannot pay tickets of \$599 or more, or prior day tickets. You are limited to redeeming \$1,000 a day. If the bartender runs out of money, you will 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.

### **Legion Riders** 🛊 Spring into the Season – Let's Ride! 🏚 Spring is in full bloom, and so is our excitement for hitting the open road on two wheels. As birds sing and flowers blossom, we're reminded of the freedom, adventure, and camaraderie that come with every ride. Let's make the most of this beautiful season-Welcome Aboard! Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest member: Carl Wilhite! We're thrilled to have you as part of the family. Annual Oyster Roast - A Huge Success! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our Annual Oyster Roast a memorable event! From the ladies holding it down inside to the gents working the grills outside, your efforts made it all possible. Special shoutout to our friends from District 1 who came out to join us—your presence was the cherry on top! **Upcoming Event: 12th Annual Boots on the Ground Poker Run** Mark your calendars! Saturday, May 10th **P** Flamingo Lake ② Registration begins at 8:00 AM KSU at 11:00 AM Let's roll deep to support our heroes. This is an incredible way to honor those who've served our country—don't miss it! A Happy Mother's Day! Behind every great person is a remarkable mother. Wishing all the amazing moms in our community a beautiful Mother's Day filled with love, laughter, and appreciation. You US Memorial Day Flag Line - Honor & Remembrance Join us as we pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Monday, May 26th **Beaches Veterans Memorial Park** ① Please arrive on or before 8:30 AM Let's stand proud and united in remembrance. Ride Safe, Ride Smart As the weather warms up, more bikes are hitting the road. Let's lead by example, wear your helmets, obey traffic laws, and ride defensively. Your safety is everything. **III** Next Meeting Reminder Saturday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM Let's keep the momentum going—see you there! 🧱 Looking Ahead: Department Convention 888 Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Make plans now to attend this exciting event! **m** Stay in the Know Want to stay updated on district happenings? Check out the calendar: District Calendar Florida American Legion Website

Until next time...

Ride safe, ride proud, and ride together.

With respect and gratitude!

#### **Denise Strickland**

2nd Vice Reverbs

#### VACANT

#### Chaplain's Corner

I sought the LORD and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4.

#### Pete Wait

House Committee Service Officer

# VACANT

Bill Knipper

#### **History Tidbit**

#### 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.

### NEW VA Character of Discharge Regulation

The VA is implementing a new regulation pertaining to character of discharge determinations that will allow more former service members to qualify for VA

# Sons of The American Legion

Congratulations, the Squadron is at 100%. Thank you to all wo participated and it is not too late to renew your membership. If you do not have a 2025, you cannot be signed in, be served or be in the Post. SAL members may now renew online through MyLegion.org. Thank you to the April 11th steak team. Our steak night is the 9th this month. Volunteer help is welcomed and appreciated.

Dues are \$15 for 20-years and younger and dual members, \$20 for 21 and older. We offer 3-years at \$40 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings are the FIRST TUESDAY of the month, so our May meeting is the 6th at 6 PM. Election is at the May meeting. Nominated in March/April were: Commander-Open; 1st Vice-Open; 2nd Vice-Glen LaForm, Finance Officer-Clarence Hill, Historian-Tom Horn, Sgt-at-Arms-Denny Luke. Nominations for all offices will be taken at the May with the election after nominations in May. A Commander is required or the Squadron will lose its charter and have to disband. Please consider volunteering for an office.

## David Keasler

benefits regardless of discharge type. Generally, a former service member must have a discharge under honorable conditions. Though VA cannot change the status of a DOD military discharge, it will review less than honorable discharges for benefits eligibility. VA encourages former service members to whom it previously issued a negative character of discharge determination to reapply under the new regulations using a VA Form 21-0995 (https://www.va.gov/findforms/?q=VA+21-0995), Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim. Contact an accredited service representative for more information.

#### PACT Act

The bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our

Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act was signed into law 8/10/22 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 diagno-

to their service-related exposure to open-air burn pits. In the past, the VA stuck to strict scientific evidence before granting presumptive sta-

tus 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 who support the post and to place special emphasis on "Be the One."

# **New American Legion App**

The American Legion has launched a new mobile membership app—Legion+ which can be downloaded through Apple iTunes and the Google Play. store. Legion+ provides a direct route for members to access their digital membership card, manage membership information, recruit new members, help a suicidal veteran and get the latest news on legion.org. The new app includes these channels: Home and News: A list of the latest American Legion news head-lines; **Recruit**: A QR code appears that takes potential members to legion.org/join; Be the One: Features the ability to call the 988 Veteran's Crisis Line, follow QPR (question, persuade, refer) suicidal training and listen to Be the One podcast episodes. Other key features include: A digital membership card (top left corner icon) with current status and number of consecutive years; Membership Account (top right corner icon) with membership card, personal contact information, branch of service, service era, post and depart-ment contact information and more. More features will be added in the future such as the ability to send Post notifications to members, approve new members, and access Buddy Check rosters, Post Data Reports and Consolidated Post Reports.



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















# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
RUM		Lunch is served 11:00—1:00 Mon—Fri		1 Burgers Bingo 2:00—4:00	2 Ham or Turkey Wrap Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	3 ALR Mtg 0900
4 VODKA 5th District Const Conf Post 137 0830	5 Cinco de Mayo Traditional Lunch Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	6 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6 PM SAL Mtg 6 PM	7 Fish Tacos Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	8 Baked Ziti Bingo 2:00—4:00	9 Military Spouse Appreciation Day Nacho Supreme SAL Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	10
11 Mother's Day GIN	12 Shephard's Pie Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM Legion Mtg 7PM Aux Mtg 8 PM	13 Lasagna Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6 PM	14 Chicken Bake Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day Pepper Steak Bingo 2:00—4:00	16 Bean Soup Ham or Egg Salad Sandwich Aux Steaks 5—8 Steak Bingo 6:30	17 Armed Forces Day SUBVETS 1100
18 BOURBON	19 Meatloaf Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	20 Chicken Marsala Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6 PM	21 Crispy Beef Tacos Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	22 Spaghetti w/ Meat or Clam Sauce Bingo 2:00—4:00	23 National Poppy Day Soup & Sandwich Legion Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30	24
25 <b>SCOTCH</b>	26 Memorial Day NO LUNCH Bingo 6:30—8:30 Riders Food Men's Night 7PM	27 Philly Cheesesteak Bingo 2:00—4:00 TAP TV Trivia 6 PM	28 Pork Asian Noodles Ladies Night 7PM Pass the Trash 7:30	29 Smothered Pork Chop Bingo 2:00—4:00	30 Clam Chowder Egg or Tuna Salad Sandwich Riders Steaks 5-8 Steak Bingo 6:30	31