# 2024
# Mayport Navy League October Newsletter

President – Bob Whitkop (904) 900-8934 http://www.mayportnlus.org

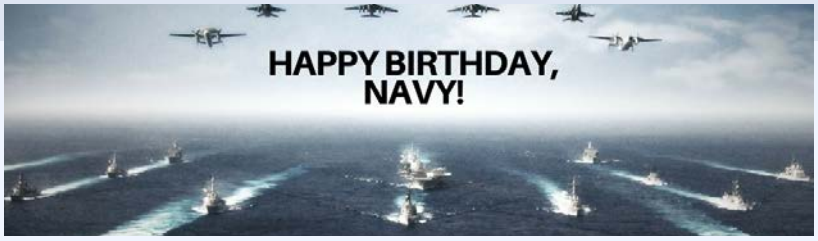
## Calendar of Events

**October 1 -** El Faro sinking
**October 3 -** MNL BOD meeting, Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm
**October 9** - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-noon
**October 13** - U.S. Navy Birthday
**October 15** - NAS Jacksonville Commissioning 1940
**October 19 & 20** - NAS Jax Blue Angels Air Show. RSVP on NAS Jax Airshow website for Chalet tickets
**October 25** - Halloween Party Social
**October 24** - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 2-4pm
**October 29** - 4th Qtr SOQ Luncheon, Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 11:30am Cost: $15.00 RSVP to Pat Kluever

*"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace." -*
Theodore Roosevelt

*"I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'"*
- John F. Kennedy

## 248 years Strong!




October 13 marks the birthday of the U.S. Navy, which traces its roots back to the early days of the American Revolution. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a naval force, hoping that a small fleet of privateers could attack British commerce and offset British sea power.

The early Continental navy was designed to work with privateers to wage tactical raids against the transports that supplied British forces in North America. To accomplish this mission the Continental Congress purchased, converted, and constructed a fleet of small ships -- frigates, brigs, sloops, and schooners. These navy ships sailed independently or in pairs, hunting British commerce ships and transports.

Two years after the end of the war, the money-poor Congress sold off the last ship of the Continental navy, the frigate Alliance. But with the expansion of trade and shipping in the 1790s, the possibility of attacks of European powers and pirates increased, and in March 1794 Congress responded by calling for the construction of a half-dozen frigates, The United States Navy was here to stay.

**The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support**

# The Pinning ceremony, a long-standing Navy tradition

Mayport Sea Cadet Lucas Harnek was pinned Chief Petty Officer (CPO) on September 21st at the Navy Station (NS) Mayport CPO Mess in a ceremony moderated by Sea Cadet Commanding Officer Patrick Henderson and witnessed by his fellow Sea Cadets and its leadership, Navy Station Mayport CPOs, and Harnek's parents.  Brian Kennedy, past Mayport Navy League President, represented the Navy League.
CPO Harnek represents the best of the best of Sea Cadet leadership and the future of our US Navy. **Our future is in good hands!**

# NAS Jax Commissioning Recognition

**Naval Air Station Jacksonville** occupies more than 3,800 acres along the west bank of the St. Johns River. NAS Jacksonville is host to more than 100 tenant commands and activities and is the operational and training headquarters for the P-8 Poseidon, the U.S. Navy's multi-mission maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft conducting long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) and the SH-60 Seahawk, a multi-mission anti-submarine helicopter.

On October 15, 1940, Naval Air Station Jacksonville was officially commissioned, and became the first part of the Jacksonville Navy complex that would also include NAS Cecil Field and Naval Station Mayport.  The NAS Jacksonville base has three runways over 6,000 feet long and active seaplane ramps.

During the late 1940s the jet age dawned and the Navy's first jet carrier air groups and squadrons came to Jacksonville. By April 1949, Jacksonville was the East Coast's plane capital with more aircraft stationed here than at any other base from Nova Scotia to the Caribbean - 60 percent of the fleet air striking force in the Atlantic area from pole to pole.
NAS Jacksonville was also celebrated as Home to the famous Blue Angels.

In the 1950s, NAS Jax entered the space age and its technologies as the first to spot and track the nose cone from the first Jupiter rocket and a year later the base squadron, VP-18, tracked the world's first astronauts, space monkeys Alpha and Baker.  Later in the decade, NAS Jacksonville  was introduced its first P-3 Orion, a plane that would become the workhorse of VP community for many years.

For NAS Jacksonville, Commander, Sea Control Wing Atlantic and the first of the VS squadrons arrived in the 90's which encompassed 48 aircraft and approximately 1,800 personnel.  During this period, NAS Cecil Field was closed and the squadrons relocated to include the Sea Control Wing and their compliment of S-3 Viking squadrons.

In February 1999, Commander, Naval Base Jacksonville changed its name to Commander, Navy Region Southeast, as part the Navy's regionalization program, assuming responsibility for the eight southeastern states and the Caribbean.

Through the years with funding reductions, reorganizations, and base closure and realignment actions, NAS Jacksonville was able to grow, increasing the number of commands, activities and personnel who worked on the base. The stability and continued growth of NAS Jacksonville highlights its importance to the Navy and our local community in its 84 years of "Service to the Fleet!" support.

**Are you interested in becoming a MNL Board Member? If so, contact Bob Whitkop for more information.**