2024
Mayport Navy League December Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

December 5 - MNL BOD mtg at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctg 6:30pm

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day Naval Order United States (NOUS) Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner. Cypress Village Conference center 6pm

December 12 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-Noon

December 19 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 2pm - 4pm

December 21 - 1st Day of Winter

December 25 - Christmas

December 31 - Official End of WWII 1946

January 1 2025 - Happy New Year

Food Farmacy

November 14th

If interested in volunteering, contact Pat Kluever

Welcome to Mayport USS Basilone

On 8 July, Bath Iron Works, ME, delivered the 74th ship of the DDG-51 class which was commissioned USS Basilone (DDG 122) in New York on November 9th and will be homeported in Mayport, Florida.

Basilone is the second ship to be named for USMC Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone of the 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Gunnery Sergeant Basilone was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action" against the Japanese on Guadalcanal.

Our Mayport Navy League welcomed USS Basilone to her Mayport homeport on Sunday, 24 November by handing out hundreds of American flags to the family and friends who greeted her arrival.

Stated at commissioning, "It is evident from the passion, dedication to service, and commitment to excellence shown by the DDG 122 crew that John Basilone won't fade for generations to come."

It was a great Navy and Mayport Navy League day!"

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

CALLING ALL MNL MEMBERS WITH CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING TO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT SEA CADET RECRUITING

BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 10-17 THAT HAVE A SENSE OF ADVENTURE!

THE U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS HAS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

YOU'RE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME! THE SEA CADET CORPS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, LEARN NEW SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE ONCE IN A LIFETIME THRILLS.

FROM LEARNING ROUTINE MANEUVERS TO TAKING TOURS ON ACTUAL NAVAL SHIPS, OUR SATURDAY DRILLS HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! SO, IF YOU'RE TIRED OF THE ORDINARY, AVERAGE SATURDAY, COME AND JOIN OUR TEAM!

OUR DRILLS ARE HELD AT C-12 HANGER, ACROSS FROM MC DONALDS ON MAYPORT NAVAL STATION FL, ON TWO SATURDAYS OF EACH MONTH FROM 8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM.

MNL Dinner & Speaking Engagement

On Thursday, November 7th, MNL hosted its first in many months, a dinner and speaking engagement.

The evening began with cocktails and conversation at 6pm with dinner in the Seaglass dining area at 7pm. The dinner was delicious, thanks to Ocean Breeze Conference Center staff, with choices of prime rib, pork, or pasta. The keynote speaker was Rear Admiral John Hewitt; Bob Whitkop introduced the admiral on time at 7:45.

The admiral spoke about his new position as the SE Regional Commander and its challenges, as well as, the Chief of Naval Operations' goals. Admiral Hewitt is a mustang that worked his way through the enlisted ranks to become a Naval Flight Officer (NFO). He spoke about his fascinating Naval career and his excitement to work for the largest regional area in the Navy.

The event was concluded by 8:45pm and many MNL members remained a bit later for continued conversation and thanks to RADM Hewitt.

Navy News: Navy to operate Arleigh Burke class beyond 35 year service life

Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro announced on 31 October that the Navy plans to keep some of the early Arleigh Burke class destroyers from DDG-51 - 71 in service beyond their 35 year expected service life.

These ships were given a thorough evaluation and 12 of this group were selected to be modernized with funds in the 2026 budget and remain in service until 2035. The DDG-51 class guided missile destroyers are the ships that have been performing so well in the recent actions in the Red Sea and other middle east areas of operations. This decision support by Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Lis Franchette's plan is to increase the lethality of our fleet while building new destroyers.

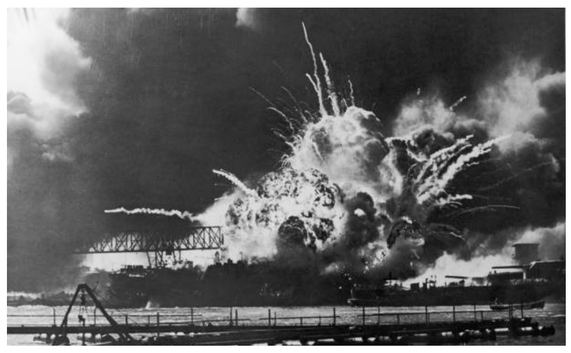
Naval Station Holiday Tree Lighting & Market this year!!

What: Tree Lighting, Performances from the Navy Band Southeast and Youth Activities Center, Santa + Coca Cola caravan, Faux Snowball fight pits, Hot Cocoa & Cookie Station and a Holiday market featuring various vendors (great for Christmas gifts)!

When: Dec 5 / 6PM-8PM
Where: Building 1 parking lot
Cost: FREE

We hope to see you there!!

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



Pearl Harbor Remembrance

World War II came to the United States of America on Sunday morning, 7 December 1941, with a massive surprise attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy. "Like a thunderclap from a clear sky," Japanese carrier attack planes (in both torpedo and high-level bombing roles) and bombers, supported by fighters, numbering 353 aircraft from six aircraft carriers, attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in two waves, as well as nearby naval and military airfields and bases. The enemy sank five battleships and damaged three; and sank a gunnery training ship and three destroyers, damaged a heavy cruiser, three light cruisers, two destroyers, two seaplane tenders, two repair ships and a destroyer tender. Navy, Army, and Marine Corps facilities suffered varying degrees of damage, while 188 Navy, Marine Corps, and U.S. Army Air Force planes were destroyed. Casualties amounted to: killed or missing: Navy, 2,008; Marine Corps, 109; Army, 218; civilian, 68; and wounded: Navy, 710; Marine Corps, 69; Army, 364; civilian, 35. Japanese losses amounted to fewer than 100 men and 29 planes.

Sailors, Marines, and Soldiers fought back with extraordinary courage, often at the sacrifice of their own lives. Those without weapons to fight took great risk to save wounded comrades and to save their ships. Pilots took off to engage Japanese aircraft despite the overwhelming odds. Countless acts of valor went unrecorded, as many witnesses died in the attack. Fifteen U.S. Navy personnel were awarded the Medal of Honor — ranging from seaman to rear admiral — for acts of courage above and beyond the call of duty, ten of them posthumously.

Among the Sailors recognized with our nation's highest award for valor were Chief Water Tender Peter Tomich onboard the ex-battleship Utah, who sacrificed his life to prevent the boilers from exploding, enabling boiler room crews to escape before the ship capsized. Another was Chief Boatswain Edwin J. Hill, who cast off the lines as the battleship Nevada got underway, swam through the burning oil to get back on board his ship, where he was killed by Japanese strafing after being credited with saving the lives of many junior Sailors. Ensign Francis Flaherty and Seaman First Class J. Richard Ward, onboard the battleship Oklahoma, sacrificed their lives to enable turret crews to escape before the ship capsized. Onboard the battleship California, Chief Radioman Thomas J. Reeves, Machinist's Mate First Class Robert R. Scott and Ensign Herbert C. Jones stayed at their posts at the cost of their lives to keep power and ammunition flowing to the antiaircraft guns as long as possible. Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd and Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh onboard the battleship Arizona, and Captain Mervyn S. Bennion onboard the battleship West Virginia directed the defense of their ships under heavy fire, until the ships were sunk and they were killed.

Japanese forces were astonished at the quick reaction and intensity of U.S. antiaircraft fire. That more Japanese aircraft were not shot down had nothing to do with the skill, training, or bravery of our Sailors and other servicemembers. Rather, U.S. antiaircraft weapons were inadequate in number and capability, for not only had the Japanese achieved tactical surprise, they achieved technological surprise with aircraft and weapons far better than anticipated — a lesson in the danger of underestimating the enemy that resonates to this day.

While damage to the U.S. Pacific Fleet's battleline proved extensive, it was not complete. The attack failed to damage any American aircraft carriers, which had been providentially absent from the harbor. Our aircraft carriers, along with supporting cruisers and destroyers and fleet oilers, proved crucial in the coming months. The Japanese focus on ships and planes spared our fuel tank farms, naval yard repair facilities, and the submarine base, all of which proved vital for the tactical operations that originated at Pearl Harbor in the ensuing months and played a key role in the Allied victory. American technological skill raised and repaired all but three of the ships sunk or damaged at Pearl Harbor. Most importantly, the shock and anger that Americans felt in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor united the nation and was translated into a collective commitment to victory in World War II.

Pearl Harbor must always be remembered

USS Indianapolis LCS-17 returned on November 25

USS Nantucket LCS- 27 returned on November 26

A PREVIEW of MNL's new program:
Military Mondays – Dinner-to-Go beginning in 2025

When the Mayport USO closed, the No-Dough dinners ceased. The 2024 Vystar Grant fund award to MNL provided the opportunity to restructure the program and continue the goal of food for active-duty service members and their families. **The new program is called "Military Monday – Dinner to Go."**

The kick-off will be Monday, January 13 from 3pm- 5:30pm. Those participating will be asked to remain in their car and follow the signage near St. John's the Baptist Church then wait in line for directions. The prepared food will be distributed in the church parking lot and placed in the car. The participants will then drive home with dinner for his/her family.

Volunteer support will be needed. More information and details to come in the January Newsletter.

Mayport Navy League Membership offers many opportunities to contribute, participate, and have fun! Encourage friends & family to join us. Read below for our dynamic programming!

Navy League Mayport Council

Navy League Activities

Social Events
- Gatherings at local restaurants
- Social Join-ups for Cocktail Hour
- Sailor of the Quarter Luncheons
- Sailor of the Year Luncheons
- Single Sailor Events

Sea Cadet Activities
- Funding for Activities
- Liaison support as required
- Scholarships and Awards

Ship Support
- Welcome Home Flags
- Ship Commissioning Support
- Personnel Recognition

General Support Events
- Hear from Local Political Leaders
- Food Farmacy staffing and Gift Certificates
- Give-n-Go Dinners
- Support On-Base Activities
- CBP Annual Luncheon (ICW Propellor Club)
- Scholarships and Awards Programs for schools

Fund Raising Activities
- **Annual Golf Tournament**
  - At Windy Harbor (when possible)
  - Support from our Partners and sponsors
  - Many Active Duty Slots
  - Prizes and Door prizes
- **Raffles**
- **Donations**
  - **Partner:**
    - Logo and name on all materials
    - Complementary Tickets to events
  - **Sponsor:**
    - Logo/name on events materials
    - Perks of the event
  - **Benefactor** (donation of any amount/in-kind)
    - Recognition on MNL Web Site

Oct 2024 SOQ Awardees

About Navy League of the United States

Our Mission

Enhance the morale of sea service personnel and their families through national and council level programs.

Be a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress of importance to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity.

Support youth through programs, that expose young people to the values of our sea services.

Join us in Celebrating Our Maritime Services

NavyLeague Membership Form

❑ One-Year - Electronic - $25 ❑ One Year Regular - $55
Digital Seapower Mag Only

❑ 2 Year Regular - $100 ❑ 3 Year Regula - $130
❑ 4 Year Regular - $180 ❑ 5 Year Regular -$225

Life Membership

❑ Current Age 55 & Under - $1000 ❑ Current Age 56-75 - $750
❑ Current Age 76 & Older - $500

Navy League Membership includes:
- Subscription to *Seapower* magazine
- Opportunities to support those currently serving
- Invitations to local events and ship commissionings
- Ability to join national committees to make policy changes and impact legislation
- Exclusive member-only discounts with more than 20 companies
- Relevant and timely news and information

Payment Information:

Individual Membership - Navy League of the United States

Or goto:
www.navyleague.org/becom-a-member/individual-membership

Name of Navy League POC

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Phone_____

Email_____

Contact us at: Navy League Mayport Council
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Or email at: mayportnlus@outlook.org