2025
Mayport Navy League March Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

March 3- 110th Anniversary of Navy Reserve

March 5- Golf Tournament mtg at noon Bogeys POC John Strohofer

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

March 6-MNL BOD mtg at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm

March 10 - Military Mondays - Dinner to Go, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 1200 Mayport Road, 3 - 5:30 pm

March 13 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Road 10am-noon

March 17- St. Patrick's Day

March 27 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-Noon

8th Annual Mike McGrath Golf Classic

Join us for a day of golf and camaraderie at the 8th Annual Mike McGrath Golf Classic!
Monday, May 5, 2025
Windy Harbor Golf Course, NS Mayport
Tee Time: 9:00 AM Shotgun Start
Enjoy a fantastic day on the greens, followed by awards, raffles, and great company.
Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just out for fun, this event promises an unforgettable experience!
Registration & Sponsorship Opportunities Available...contact John Strohofer
We look forward to seeing you there!

Naval Station Mayport commands' **Sailor of the Year**

Naval Station Mayport recently honored its outstanding sailors at a Sailor of the Year luncheon on February 18th at 11:30 with the largest Mayport Naval Station command participation since COVID. The Mayport Navy League assists the Naval Station Mayport leadership in hosting this event. The Navy League has sponsor support from First Command, Hover Girls, Navy Federal Credit Union, USAA, and Navy Wives Club of America #201.
The Sailor of the Year (SOY) Award is a prestigious U.S. Navy program that recognizes outstanding enlisted sailors who demonstrate exceptional leadership, performance, and dedication to service. The SOY was established in 1972 by Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Elmo Zumwalt. Initially, it honored Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. Since then, the award and recognition has expanded to include various command levels. Selection for the Command Sailor of the Year is based on the input from the Sailor of the Quarter nominations. Winners at different levels (e.g., shore, sea, reserve) compete for the Sailor of the Year title, then winners from various categories compete for the overall U.S. Navy Sailor of the Year title.
The categories for the Sailor of the Year are Sea Sailor, Shore Sailor, and Reserve Sailor. The award includes public recognition and a ceremony with senior Navy leadership, potential career advancement opportunities, and mentoring roles.
This program continues to highlight the Navy's commitment to excellence, leadership, and professional development.

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

On February 22nd, Mayport Division Sea Cadets conducted their annual unit inspection. The inspector, LT. Schindele, was highly impressed with the Mayport Division even stating that we were one of the best inspections conducted.

This inspection cycle, we fundraised over $700, went on 3 out of area drills (NAS Pensacola, SUBBASE Kings Bay, and the submarine museum), dedicated over 30 hours of drill to community service, and had a 89% training participation which was one of the highest in the region.

The Mayport Division added 5 new league cadets, and 3 new Sea Cadets to the roster during this inspection.

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO

On Monday, February 10th, the Mayport Navy League sponsored its 2nd Military Mondays – Dinners to Go program from 3-4:30pm at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Mayport Road.

Jersey Mikes supported it by providing boxed fresh meat dinners to include sub sandwiches, chips, cookies and bottled water. 185 boxes were distributed to Active-Duty members and their families. In a first-come-first serve manner, all the meals were provided in less than 2 hours. The VyStar Foundation provided the grants funds for our program and its Military Representative participated and supported our program by helping distribute food and meeting the MNL and MOAA volunteers.

The weather was perfect, the signage looked terrific, and the volunteers distribute boxed dinners. It was a GREAT NAVY DAY!

Special thanks to our volunteers: Tim Jenkins (MMDTG committee member), Pat Kluever (MMDTG committee member, Barbara Ives (MMDTG committee member), Brian Kennedy, George Huchting, Mike and Renee Curreri, John and Pat Strohofer, Bob Whitkop, Lee Wahler, Peggy Warner, Dix Garner, Chet Davis, Pam Hamilton, Nancy Russell, Cindy Tomlin, and Tom Atkins.

USS St. Louis returns home after 8-month deployment

The Littoral Combat Ship USS St. Louis (LCS 19) returned to Mayport on February 24th, after an eight-month deployment. The ship operated primarily in the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean, collaborating with Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 50 Detachment 4 and U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachments (LEDET) 105 and 407.

During the deployment, the USS St. Louis played a significant role in drug interdiction efforts, preventing $111 million worth of narcotics from entering the United States. Additionally, the crew supported 'Joint Task Force Southern Guard' at Guantanamo Bay, assisting in setting up facilities as part of a mission to accommodate migrants.

The return of the USS St. Louis was marked by heartfelt reunions between sailors and their families, underscoring the personal sacrifices made during extended deployments. MNL supported the USS St. Louis return with welcoming MNL members and American Flags.

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

MORE PHOTOS FROM JAN 10TH HSM-40 TOUR

PHOTOS BY LEE WAHLER

bikerstuffus

Mayport Navy League Golf Tournament Sponsor Opportunities

NAVY LEAGUE MAYPORT COUNCIL 8TH ANNUAL
MIKE MCGRATH MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC:

Individual and Business Sponsorship Options

Diamond Sponsor - $2,500
- Golf for Four
- Signage on course (3 Signs/1 Flag)
- Program recognition
- Logo on MNL Web Site

Gold Sponsor - $1,500
- Golf for two
- Signage on course (2 signs/1 Flag)
- Program recognition

Silver Sponsor - $1000
- Golf for two
- Signage on course(1 Sign)
- Program recognition

Lunch Sponsor - $2,000 – (1 Available)
- Golf for 2 Golfers
- Signage on Course/ 1 Green Flag
- Program recognition

Breakfast Sponsor - $1,000 (1 Available)
- Golf for 2 Golfers
- Signage on Course / 1 Green Flag
- Program recognition

Green Sponsor - $300 (14 Available)
- Signage on Course (1 Sign)
- 1 Logo Hole Flag

Benefactor (donation of any amount)
- Recognition in Program

Auction / Door Prizes / 50-/50
Mulligans - $10/ea or 3 for $20
Sponsor Hole Flags are up to 3 Colors

Putting Green Sponsor - $250
Driving Range Sponsor - $250
- Signage at putting green / driving range
- Program recognition

Tee/Hole Sponsor - $200 (Signage on course)

Longest Drive Sponsor - $200 (2 Available)
- Signage/ Program Recognition

Closest to Pin Sponsor - $200
- Signage /Program Recognition

Hole in One Sponsor (Car)

Prizes:
- First and Second place Foursome
- Lowest score All Female Foursome (if not above)
- Lowest Score All Active Duty E- 6 and Below Foursome (Must have at least 2 foursomes playing)
- Men's Longest Drive Hole # 12
- Ladies Longest Drive Hole # 4
- Closest to the Pin - #5, #7, #14, #17
- Dealership Hole-in-One- #17 – Free Vehicle on Display (Details apply)

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
05 May 2025

GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM

- ☐ Single Golfer - $125
- ☐ E6 and below Golfer - $65 (Active Duty)
- ☐ Diamond Sponsor - $2,500
- ☐ Gold Sponsor - $1,500
- ☐ Silver Sponsor - $1000
- ☐ Breakfast Sponsor - $1000
- ☐ Lunch Sponsor - $2,000
- ☐ Closest to the Pin Sponsor -$200
- ☐ Putting Green Sponsor - $250
- ☐ Hole Flag Sponsor
- ☐ Driving Range Sponsor - $250
- ☐ Hole Sponsor - $200
- ☐ Longest Drive Sponsor - $200
- ☐ Benefactors welcome to donate at any dollar amount

Payment Information:
We agree to purchase as indicated above for the MNL Annual Golf Classic

- ☐ Check included, payable to MNL (preferred)
- ☐ Please send invoice
- ☐ MNL Square website (below)

https://navy-league-mayport-council.square.site

Name of Company/Individual (Last, First) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

For Base Access I Have a DoD ID _____ Current MWR Card _____

If NEITHER, please provide below info to be added to the Security List:

Last Four of SSN* _____

Date of Birth* _____

*Required for Base Access Please return form or register by 15 Apr 2025

Mail to Payments to: Mayport Navy League c/o
John Strohofer, 464 Blagdon Ct., Jacksonville, FL 32225

Questions? Contact
B. Kennedy at 904-718-2835 / bk11@comcast.net
J. Strohofer at 478-361-0269 / jstrohofer@gmail.com

USS Thomas Hudner independently deploys to support Southern Command

On February 20th, the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG-116) based at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., is heading to 4th FLeet as an independent deployer set to take on a wide range of missions.

"Thomas Hudner will deploy to the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility (USSOUTHCOM AOR) to support bilateral and multinational maritime operations with partners in the region and conduct Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) port visits," reads the Navy release announcing the deployment.

During President Donald Trump's first term, the Navy surged warships with embarked Coast Guard law enforcement detachments to assist with the U.S.'s effort to seize illicent drugs. At the time, it was the highest number of warships in U.S. Southern Command in five years. Under Trump's second term, the Coast Guard has increased its migrant interdiction mission.

USNI link provided by MNL BOD member Lee Wahler

"Operation Southern Spear: Latest Development in Operationalizing Robotic and Autonomous Systems" –4th Fleet

Article by Chuck Hill on January 31, 2025

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet is advancing the Navy's Hybrid Fleet Campaign through Operation Southern Spear, which will started in late January 2025 in U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility (USSOUTHCOM AOR) and at U.S. 4th Fleet Headquarters at Naval Station Mayport.

"Southern Spear will operationalize a heterogeneous mix of Robotic and Autonomous Systems (RAS) to support the detection and monitoring of illicit trafficking while learning lessons for other theaters," said Cmdr. Foster Edwards, 4th Fleet's Hybrid Fleet Director. "Southern Spear will continue our (4th Fleet's) move away from short-duration experimentation into long-duration operations that will help develop critical techniques and procedures in integrating RAS into the maritime environment."

Welcome Military Working Dogs Goro & Dixie

The newest members of the Naval Station Mayport family are two military working dogs, Goro and Dixie!

Goro is ready to unleash his strength and skills, and Dixie can't wait to dive into action! Together, they're more than just adorable faces; they are here to assist us in protecting our installation and ensuring the safety of all.

Let's welcome Goro and Dixie with open arms and show them how proud we are to have them on our team! Here's to new beginnings and a strong commitment to keeping Mayport safe!

Written by MC1(NAC/AW) Brandon J. Vinson