2025
Mayport Navy League April Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

April 1- Golf Tournament mtg at 3pm at ReVe Brewing POC John Strohofer

April 3- MNL BOD Meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 6:30pm

April 10 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Road 10am-noon

April 10-Terry Parker High School JRNOTC Awards Ceremony and Presentation at 6:00pm

April 14 - Military Mondays - Dinner to Go, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 1200 Mayport Road, 3 - 5:30 pm

April 17 - JU NROTC Commissioning Ceremony for Honors Graduate at 2pm on campus

April 24 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-Noon

April 29- SOQ 1/2 Luncheon at 11:30am Ocean Breeeze Conference Ctr

MNL Golf Classic

Mark your calendar for May 5th at 8am for the 8th Annual Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Classic. The cost per golfer is $125 and a foursome is $500. Bring your friends for fun golf, awesome camaraderie, great food, and nice prizes. Contact John Strohofer or Brian Kennedy for more information.

USS Minneapolis Saint-Paul Maiden Voyage

On March 26th the littoral combat ship USS MINNEAPOLIS SAINT-PAUL (LCS 21), along with the "Valkyries" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 50 Detachment 3 and embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment, departed from Naval Station Mayport March 26, to begin her maiden deployment to support U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations.

USS Minneapolis Saint-Paul's primary mission will be to support counter-illicit drug trafficking in the Caribbean. Minneapolis-Saint Paul operations will involve practical exercises and exchanges with partner nations, supporting U.S. 4th Fleet interoperability, and reinforcing the U.S. position as the regional partner of choice.

Among the key accomplishments, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul certified in Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations, enabling the ship to conduct Maritime Interdiction Operations and support for the embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment. This capability is vital for countering illicit drug trafficking and ensuring the safety of international waters. In addition, the ship embarked its aviation detachment, which includes the MH-60 R helicopter. This addition significantly enhances the ship's ability to conduct reconnaissance, track contacts of interest, and engage in maritime interdiction operations. The MH-60 R will serve as the ship's eyes in the sky, providing real-time intelligence and provide capabilities to effectively conduct our mission.

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Sea Cadets tour USS Florida

On March 8th, the Mayport Sea Cadets travelled to Kings Bay Submarine base to learn about its subsurface community. Once on base, the Sea Cadets had to leave their cellphones in the vehicles due to Classified Areas restrictions.

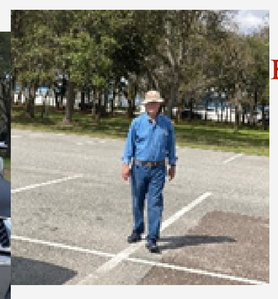
FT2 Patrick Henderson, the Sea Cadet Commanding Officer, lead the tour of the Trident Training Facility on the base. Too, the cadets had the opportunity to meet a submarine crew and learn about their perspective of daily life on an Ohio Class Submarine. Additionally, the Sea Cadets toured and participated in various simulation trainers and were also given the special opportunity of "driving" the boat!

Later in the day, the Sea Cadets were divided into two smaller groups and invited onboard submarine, the USS Florida SSGN 728 "Shooters of the Red Sea". There, the cadets were able to see, touch, and learn what it's like to live and work on a submarine. The USS Florida is one of two submarines that launched tomahawk strikes in the interest of national defense last year into Yemen.

While onboard the USS Florida, the Sea Cadets had the extra special opportunity to fully experience a meal in the illustrious "Pirates Cove Galley".

The Sea Cadets returned to Mayport with great memories and experiences to share with their parents, shipmates, and friends. It was a great Navy Day!

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO



On Monday, March 10th, the Mayport Navy League sponsored its 3rd 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. 194 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. Our Jersey Mikes Northeast Region Representative Dave Masters participated and supported this highly important program by arranging for food transportation to the church, providing tables and then helping distribute the food box dinners. Volunteers from both MNL and MOAA helped direct the car line and give but the food boxes. It was very windy, which made it a no tent day; however, the mostly cloudy skies helped keep the heat out and the boxed food cool.
It was a GREAT Navy League DAY!

Director, Public Safety and Security
Jacksonville Port Authority

Propeller Club of Jacksonville and Mayport Navy League Dinner

On Thursday March 20th, the MNL in partnership with the Port of Jacksonville Propeller Club honored the Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year and Customs and Border Protection Officer of the Year at the Queens Harbour Yacht and Country Club at 5pm.

The evening began with cocktails at 5pm, then dinner and program to include an award presentation. The event was well attended with many MNL members. The keynote speaker was a former MNL BOD member and active member Captain (retired) Stephen Burdian USCG who spoke on the Coast Guard and its Mission. Followed by an award presentation ceremony for the 2024 Customs and Border Protection Officers and Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year.

The Sector Jacksonville Enlisted Person of the Year program recognizes exceptional men and women from Sector Jacksonville and its subunits. Considered the "best and brightest" from the field, these individuals are selected by a panel of senior enlisted members who evaluate each nominee against a set of established criteria that includes performance, work ethics, military bearing, standards of conduct and strong community service commitment.

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

Navy League Mayport Council hosts the 8th Annual Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Classic

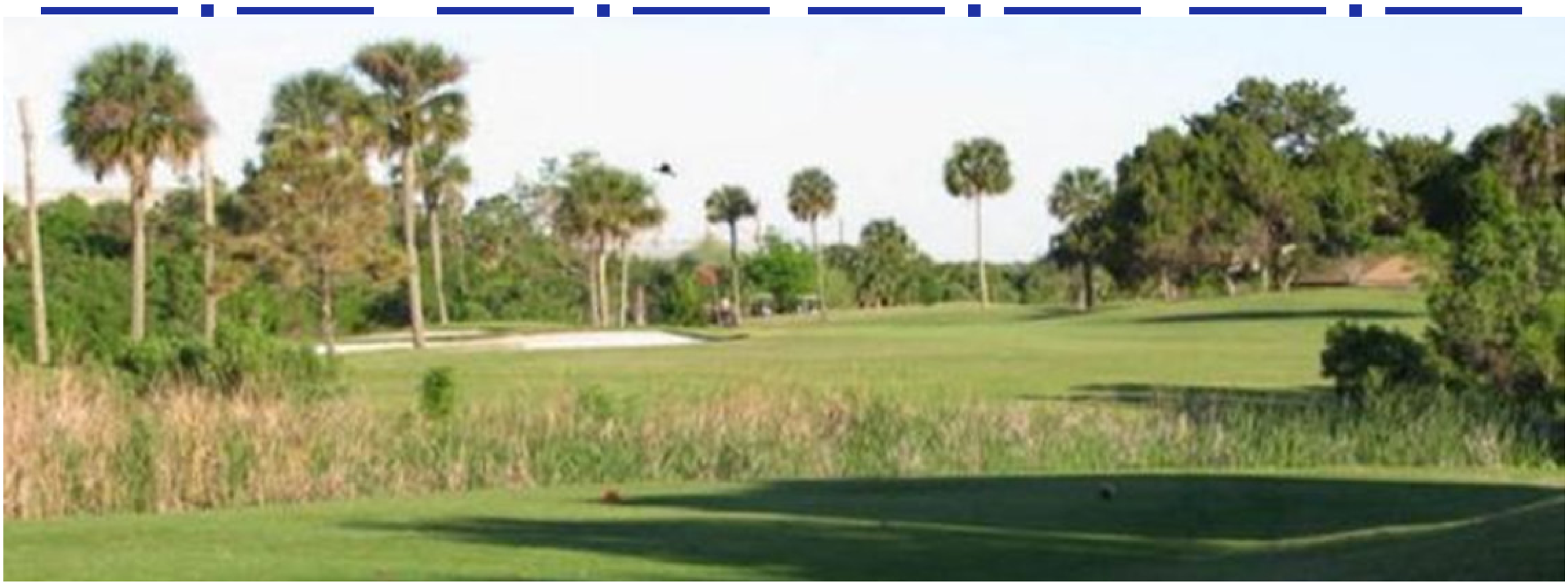
Dear Golf Enthusiasts, Military Supporters, Veterans, Colleagues, and Friends,
On behalf of Mayport Navy League, it is our great pleasure to invite you to join us for a terrific day at the Windy Harbor Golf Club at Naval Station Mayport on Monday, May 5th. The day promises to be a fantastic day of golf, camaraderie, and FUN!

We hope you will consider attending this special event to support Mayport Navy League and our participating Active Duty members. Additionally, we encourage sponsorship and golfer registration. Reach out to your colleagues, friends, shipmates, and family to come and play on the beautiful Windy Harbor Golf Course. We NEED golfers and volunteers to help support the classic. If you can't play, or volunteer, please consider sponsoring a sailor to play.

Tournament Details:
Check-in / Registration Time: 8:00am
Opening Ceremony: 9:00am Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, Admin/Rules of Play
Shotgun Start / Tee Times: 9:30am
Scorecard Turn-in: 1:30pm
Golf Awards/ Lunch 2pm

Come join us for a fantastic day…all you need to do is register. See the registration form shown below.

If you have questions, please contact our tournament leads, John Strohofer and Brian Kennedy. (email: cjstrohofer@gmail.com & 478-361-0269) and (email: bk11@comcast.net & 904-718-2835)



Mayport Navy League Golf Classic Registration Information

Name of Company/ Individual: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

For Base Access: I have a DoD ID – YES / NO or Current MWR Card - YES / NO

If neither, please provide the following info to be added to the Base Gate Security list:

***Last 4 of SSN: _____ *Date of Birth: _____ both are required for base access**

Return the form or register by 15 April. Mail payments to: Mayport Navy League c/o John Strohofer, 464 Blagdon Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32225