2025 Mayport Navy League May Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

May 1- MNL BOD Meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 6:30pm

May 3 - JU NROTC Commissioning Ceremony on JU campus 2pm; NS Mayport Married for the Military at Beacon on NS Mayport from noon-2pm

May 5 - Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Classic at Windy Harbor Golf Club on NS Mayport 8am

May 8 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 2-4pm

May 11 - Mother's Day

May 17 - Mayport Sea Cadet Change of Command on USS Orleck at 4pm with reception

May 19 - Military Mondays - Dinner to Go, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 1200 Mayport Road, 3 - 5:30 pm

May 22 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-noon

May 26 - Memorial Day; Wreath presentation at Wall of Honor

Terry Parker NJROTC Awards

The Terry Parker High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Performance and Leadership Award Ceremony took place on April 10, 2025 at 6pm, celebrating the achievements of cadets in leadership, academics, community service, and overall excellence. The ceremony was divided into two parts: first, recognition of outstanding NJROTC cadets by various civic organizations, followed by acknowledgment of cadets for their achievements within the NJROTC unit and its activities. The Mayport Navy League presented the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal and a $500 scholarship to Cadet Ensign Win Htoo, highlighting the ceremony's emphasis on leadership and academic excellence.

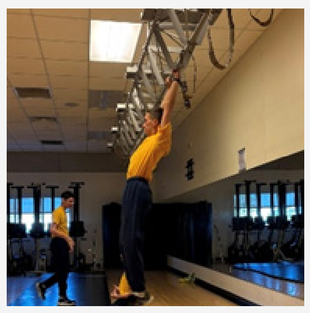
The Terry Parker NJROTC program is known for its commitment to developing cadets through various teams and competitions, including Drill, Color Guard, Brain Brawl, Orienteering, Air Rifle, Drone, and Athletics. The annual award ceremony serves as a culmination of these efforts, recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of its cadets.

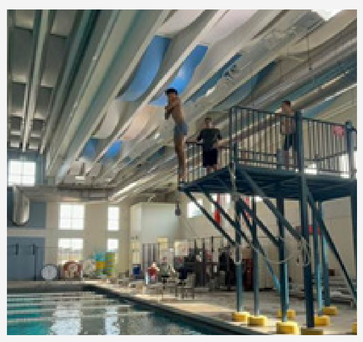
The Commanding Officer of the NJROTC is Commander Mike Lee, a retired Navy pilot with 22 years of Naval service, and the Terry Parker H.S. Senior Naval Science Instructor. The Senior Enlisted Advisor is retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major Wayne Gallman.

Shown in photo:
George Huchting
Cadet Ensign Win Htoo,
Barbara Ives
Photos by: George Huchting

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

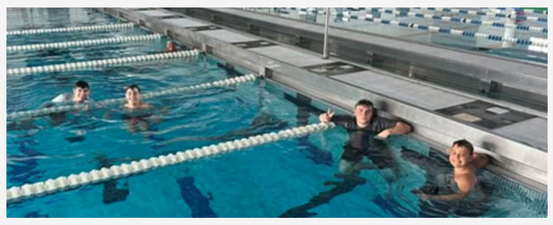




Mayport Sea Cadets Annual PRT

On April 26th, the Mayport Sea Cadets participated in their annual Physical Readiness Test (PRT) which measures the basic physical fitness of the cadets and involves cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and muscular endurance.

The Sea Cadet PRT included: push-ups, pull-ups or timed bar hang, 1.5-mile run or swim, and water survival tasks.



MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO

The Mayport Navy League's "Military Mondays – Dinners To Go" (MMDTG) program is a community-driven initiative designed to support Active-Duty military families stationed at Naval Station Mayport. Launched in early 2025 with a generous grant from VyStar Credit Union, the program provides boxed sandwich dinners from Jersey Mike's before the 15th of the month payday. These meals are available for drive-by pickup at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, conveniently located near the base.

This initiative aims to alleviate food insecurity among service members and their families, especially since the closure of the USO Mayport Center in 2023. By offering convenient, ready-to-go meals, the program ensures that military families have access to nutritious food without added stress.

Since January, MMDTG has averaged 190 meals per event in a 2-hour period. Over 800 meals, including the night shift gate/security Jersey Mike sandwiches, have been provided in support of our military.

As of 1 May, the VyStar Foundation funds are expended, and MNL has been proactive in applying for grant funding to sustain the popular program. Pat Kluever, the MOAA Regional Director and MNL Navy Representative Board Director, submitted a MOAA grant for $5000 which was approved in mid-AprIL. The MMDTG MNL committee is currently researching other prepared food considerations to support the program but also remain within the grant budget to sustain a monthly food schedule.

Special thanks to Dave Masters, the Jersey Mikes Northeast Region Representative, for his dedicated support of the MMDTG program and his many extra hours of participating in food distribution. Last month, the VyStar Foundation Writer and Content Editor representative, Kayla Roberts attended the food distribution and interviewed participants for a VyStar website article on MNL and its food programs.

The next MMDTG is planned for 19 May from 3-5:30pm. For more information about the MMDTG program or to learn how to get involved, contact Tim Jenkins at radmjenkins@yahoo.com.

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

Navy League National Convention in Jacksonville

The **2025 Navy League National Convention, scheduled for June 4–7 in Jacksonville, Florida is at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront** located at 225 East Coastline Drive.

The convention aims to strengthen the Navy League's mission of supporting U.S. Sea Services through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

The convention's agenda reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing current challenges and future opportunities within the maritime domain.

Convention Agenda Highlights:

- **Council Leadership Roundtable:** Discussions on best practices, strategic planning, and enhancing council operations.
- **Youth Program Workshops**: Sessions focusing on the development and expansion of programs like the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and STEM initiatives.
- **Maritime Policy and Legislative Affairs:** Updates on the Navy League's legislative priorities and advocacy strategies.
- **Operational Readiness and Modernization Panels**: Insights into current challenges and future opportunities within the maritime domain.
- **Networking Events**: Opportunities to connect with fellow members, including welcome receptions and luncheons.

For more information and to register, visit the Navy League's official website at https://www.navyleague.org/meetings-and-events/national-convention/

Dear Golf Enthusiasts, Colleagues, MNL Membership, and Friends.
We need your support and help 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, and your volunteership would be very valued and appreciated.

If interested, 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)