2025 Mayport Navy League June Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

June 5- MNL BOD Meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 6:30pm

June 6 - D-Day Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)

June 5 - 7 - Navy League Annual Convention at Jacksonville in the Hyatt Hotel on the River, registration in required.

June 7 - NOUS & MNL Annual Dinner in Commemoration of D-Day and the Battle of Midway Cypress Village Retirement 4600 Middleton Park Circle East, 5:30pm cocktails and dinner at 6:15pm

June 12 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 2-4pm

June 14 - Flag Day

June 22 - Father's Day

The **2025 Navy League National Convention, scheduled for June 5–7 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.

Formal Swearing In / Oath of Office administered by VADM Boyle USN

Jacksonville University ROTC Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony

On Saturday, May 3rd, the Jacksonville University (JU) Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) hosted their graduation and commissioning ceremony.

The ceremony began at 2pm in the college green area with the Commanding Officer Captain Matthew R. Case's opening remarks, followed by the guest speaker VADM Michael Boyle USN, a JU NROTC graduate and Director of the Navy Staff within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. VADM Boyle administered the Oath of Office and Swearing-in portions of the ceremony. Captain Bob Whitkop, Mayport Navy League President and JU Alumni, presented the commissioning Mameluke Marine Corps sword to 2nd Lieutenant Miranda Strang. The ceremony concluded at 3:30pm to allow newly commissioned Ensigns and 2nd Marines time to celebrate and spend with family and friends.

More photos on page 3

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Mayport Sea Cadets EOY Awards

On May 17th pier side to the USS Orleck, the Mayport Sea Cadets had their last drill for the 2024-2025 school year. The drill concluded with a celebratory program which included a Graduation and Discharge for Sea Cadet PO1 Davis and PO2 Smith as graduating high school seniors, a Farewell to Cadet Borja who is moving from the area, and a Sendoff to Sea Cadet Commanding Officer PO2 Patrick Henderson who is being transferred to San Diego, California.

Many End-of-Year and Last Drill awards and certificates were presented as the Sea Cadet families and friends watched closely with pride. The Mayport Navy League Past President, Brian Kennedy and the Mayport Sea Cadet Liaison, Navy League Board Member Jim Young assisted in presenting the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Cadet Hefner and PO1 Davis, in addition to a Scholarship presentation for PO1 Davis.

Many thanks and Fair Winds and Following Seas to PO2 Henderson for a Job Well Done. Congratulations and Best wishes to all the awardees and a HUGE BZ to all the Mayport Sea Cadets. MNL is proud of you!

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO

On May 19th, the Mayport Navy League (MNL) hosted its 5th Military Monday Dinners to Go (MMDTG) from 3-5pm at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. It was a steamer with temperatures in the 90's, but the temps did not damper the enthusiasm of the volunteer MOAA and MNL team. Everyone was ready to support the cause to Feed our Military and their Families.

To continue the MMDTG program, the Historic Mayport Chapter (HMC) of MOAA was awarded a $5000 grant from the MOAA Foundation for the 2025/2026 MMDTG food program. Mayport Navy League and MOAA HMC will coordinate continued support for this program. The MMDTG committee team was fortunate to have Nicole Cavallaro, the Chick-Fil-A Marketing Executive on Atlantic & Hodges and Kernan roads, to provide the Chick-Fil-A meals at short notice. The meal included the Chick-Fil-A chicken sandwich, cookie, and water.

With the upcoming hot summer months, June through August, MNL will postpone MMDTG until September. The concerns were keeping the food fresh, getting the volunteer support, getting the military family turnout with schools out, command transfers, and vacations. The next MMDTG is scheduled for September 9th.

A Special Thanks to the Volunteers: Tom Atkins, Chet Davis, Mike Marchetti, Nancy Russell, Carol Smith, Cindy Tomlin, Margaret Kennedy, Brian Kennedy, George Huchting, Bob Whitkop.
MMDTG Committee: Tim Jenkins, Pat Kluever & Barbara Ives
Photos by George Huchting and Pat Kluever

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

City of Jacksonville Memorial Day Ceremony

The City of Jacksonville hosted the 2025 Memorial Day Remembrance on Monday, May 26th at the Memorial Wall in downtown Jacksonville between the Jaguars Everbank Field and the Jumbo Shrimp Ball Park.

It was a perfect morning for the ceremony that began with the Parading of the Colors and our National Anthem, and then ended with the traditional rifle salute and the playing of Taps. The Director, City of Jacksonville, Military Affairs and Veterans Department Harrison Conyors oversaw the program agenda.

During the ceremony, the Mayport Navy League presented the Navy wreath for the Navy and the Florida First Coast Commandery of the Naval Order presented the Coast Guard wreath for the Coast Guard.

View of the ceremony area and wall

Gold Star Mother with her son on her left and her daughter (with her little stuffed animal) on her right walking up for the presentation of the Gold Star Family Wreath.

Right - Merchant Mariner Commander Charlie Sellers

Left - Captain Bob Buehn - Commander, Florida First Coast Commandery of the Naval Order of the US

Center - Captain Bob Whitkop - President, Mayport Navy League Council

Navy wreath

Marine Corps Wreath

Coast Guard Wreath

Merchant Marine Wreath

Photos and story by George Huchting

Jacksonville University ROTC Graduation and Commissioning Ceremony

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2nd Lt Strang's family puts on her 2nd LT gold bars and her officers hat

2nd LT Strang recceives her "First Salute" from a retired Army relative and provides them with the traditional "Silver Dollar!"

2nd LT Strang is presented her Marine Corps officer's sword by Mayport Navy League Council President, Captain (ret) Bob Whitkop, USN

Story and Photos by George Huchting

Navy League National Convention in Jacksonville June 5 - 7