2025

Mayport Navy League August Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

August 4 - U.S. Coast Guard was Established in 1790

August 7 - No MNL BOD meeting; Purple Heart Medal established by George Washington in 1782

August 14 - Japan Surrendered Ending WWII in 1945; 10am - noon Food Farmacy 390 Mayport Rd, Atlantic Bch

August 26 - Women's Equality Day

The Welcome Home

Wayne Dietel is listening to the Navy Band while handing out flags to family and friends.

Photos provided by George Huchting

The USS The Sullivans return Home

The Arleigh Burke–class destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) returned to its homeport at Naval Station Mayport, Jacksonville, Florida, on July 13, 2025, following an eight month deployment in the Mediterranean and Red Sea supporting Naval Forces combat operations.

Highlights of the deployment include over 60,000 nautical miles, with 18 port visits in collaboration with NATO and regional partners.
The operational tempo was high with a full-spectrum of missions across U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas, including missile launches and supporting freedom-of-navigation patrols. Over 300 sailors, many on their first deployment, faced extended time at sea and operational pressures. The Commanding Officer is quoted saying, “We experienced it together... and we all came home together.”

Our Mayport Navy League supporters provided literally hundreds of US flags to an impressively large crowd of families and friends on the pier to Welcome Home their crew, to include a family member of the Sullivans brothers- Kelly Sullivan, who flew from Iowa for this great moment!

The Mayport Navy Leaguers the supported this special occasion were the lead- Ryan Tillotson, Brian Kennedy, Andy and Mary Ellen Granuzzo, Wayne Dietel and George Huchting.

“This support of families and friends welcoming their ship and crew home NEVER GETS OLD!” Brian Kennedy, MNL Past President.

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

Naval Station Mayport Change of Command

Naval Station Mayport held its official Change of Command ceremony on July 10, 2025, at 10am in the Base Fitness Center.

Captain Brian A. Bender, the out-going Base Commander, who led Mayport for three years and oversaw almost 190,000 mishap-free flight and docking operations, support for over 2,300 vessels (U.S. and allied), and the Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence.

Captain Michael P. Trumbull assumed command. He brings extensive operational experience as an enlisted as a Gunner's Mate and later a commissioned Naval Flight Officer. He has held positions in P 3C/P 8A patrol squadrons, USS John Hancock, USS Ronald Reagan, VP One, staff at U.S. 7th Fleet and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Mayport is a key strategic hub: home to the Fourth Fleet/US Naval Forces Southern Command headquarters and Commander Naval Surface Group Southeast. Naval Station Mayport, part of Navy Region Southeast under Commander Naval Installations Command, is the third-largest fleet concentration area in the continental U.S., with facilities supporting up to 34 ships and an 8,000 ft runway for DoD aircraft. A smooth leadership transition ensures continued support for fleet operations, emergency response, and regional readiness.

Photos provided by Pat Kluever

MNL Social at Mavi

On Thursday, MNL hosted a Social at Mavi for our membership at 5:30pm. There was a nice gathering with a new member in attendance. After a cocktail hour, the speaker was introduced. Fred Burley discussed many subjects involving Veteran Benefits with a focus on medical and death benefit concerns. Fred provided helpful information and addressed all questions. Then, dinner was served.

Photos provided by Bob Whitkop

Commander (ret) Fred Burley USN, Deputy Director of the Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department.

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