2025

Mayport Navy League September Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

September 1 - Labor Day

September 2 - Rosh Hashanah Observance

September 4 - MNL BOD meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm

September 5 - NAS Mayport Ombudsman Recognition Dinner at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6-7:30pm

September 8 - Military Monday-Dinner to Go program resumes

September 11 - Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

September 12 - Food Farmacy 10am - noon 390 Mayport Rd, Atlantic Bch

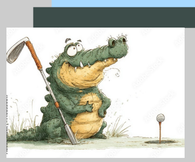
September 14 - Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key in 1817

September 17 - U.S. Constitution Approved in 1787

September 19 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day

October 1 - El Faro Sinking Remembrance

October 2 - MNL BOD Meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm



SAVE THE DATE

MNL 2026 9th Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Tournament on 20 April 2026

Looking for corporate sponsor contacts- see John Strohofer at cjstrohofer@gmail.com

Patriots Day at NS Mayport.. a day of remembrance

Patriot Day is a National Day of Remembrance that commemorates the nearly 3000 victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and United Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. The day also recognizes the courage and sacrifice of the first responders, as well as the resilience of the American people in the face of such a tragedy. Patriot Day is a time for reflection, remembrance, and unity, as the nation comes together to remember those who were lost and to honor those who continue to serve and protect.

Captain Michael Trumbull, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Mayport, and Commander Tellis Fears, Executive Officer will honor the 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Naval Station Mayport on Sep. 11, 2025, at 8 am. The ceremony will take place in front of Bldg 1 flagpole with firetrucks, base police, Chiefs and Chief Selects in formation. Attendees are asked to arrive around 0730 where the ceremony will officially kick off just before morning colors. Local TV stations will attend and will be shown later in the day. Best parking is either in our Bldg 1 parking lot or directly across the street in Navy Federal Credit Union/Post Office lot.

It will be a time to honor the victims, support those who continue to suffer from the effects of the attacks and reaffirm the values of resilience and unity that define the nation.

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Sea Cadets Fall Kick-Off Drill

The Naval Station Mayport Sea Cadets kicked off their Fall drill season on August 23rd.

The day started with morning colors around the newly installed flagpole at the unit's house on the base. The Unit welcomed back 13 cadets returning from last year, and 4 recruits attended the drill as a “try it” day to learn more about the Sea Cadet program. We also used the day as an open house recruiting event to encourage new cadets and families to join the program and five interested families attended drill.

The morning was packed with information for parents and Chief Petty Officer Harnek and Midshipman Ingle led the Cadets in drill exercises and PT. The morning also included an information session about the Naval Orders annual essay contest, presented to the cadets by Dr. Murphy and Captain Froehlich. A BBQ lunch followed, and after some additional drill exercise in the afternoon, and PT, the day concluded by retiring the colors and a formal dismissal. For the most part, the weather cooperated, and everyone had a great first day back.

The next drill is 6 SEPT, and leadership has a full drill schedule planned throughout December.

Submitted by Mayport Sea Cadet Commanding Officer Captain Ron Harnek

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO

“Military Mondays – Dinner to Go” is Back! After a 3-month respite, the program resumes on September 8th from 3-5pm at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Mayport Road. The program break was due to a concern for keeping the food fresh in the summer afternoon heat, volunteer healthiness working in the heat, and military families taking summer vacations with schools closed. Hence, the temperatures are manageable, schools are open, and it’s September, so we are BACK!

The Military Mondays- Dinner to Go is a Mayport Navy League food program designed to support our military and their families before the 15th of the month pay day when funds are low. This program is community supported to boost morale by distributing healthy food to support our Active Duty and their families assigned to Naval Station Mayport. Monthly, Service members and their families with ID cards can join a car line to pick-up prepared dinners. In the spring, Jersey Mikes made the meals and now Chick-Fil-A is providing the meals through the support of a MOAA Grant.

If interested in participating in this special program, email Tim Jenkins at radmjenkins@yahoo.com.

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

250th Navy Birthday Ball Celebration

The Navy 250th Birthday Ball commemorates a legacy of service, sacrifice, & unwavering commitment to the defense of our nation. This year's celebration marks a historic milestone for the Navy, being an anchor of strength & a beacon of excellence. As we reflect on the Navy's storied past and promising future, we come together as service members, veterans, families and all communities bonded by pride and purpose.

Your Mayport Navy Council is a strong supporter of the 250th Birthday Ball celebration to be held in the ceremonial Hanger at NAS Jacksonville on 11 October at the Ceremonial Hanger 117 from 6-10pm. This is an adults only formal event.
To ensure that our junior personnel and their significant others can attend, we are requesting that you consider being a donor. The amount is up to you, but the gesture will be used to buy or defray costs of these junior personnel to attend the 250th Navy Birthday Ball. Below are the donation link and QR Code which you can use to donate.
Tickets for this special event will go on sale soon. Your support and/or contribution is very much appreciated!!!!!

Formal Ball
6pm Cocktail Hour
7pm Ceremony & program starts
Dinner, Dancing, Drinks & Military appreciation
10pm Final Dance

JU NROTC News

The Jacksonville University NROTC unit began its fall semester with 2 fundraisers. If interested in participating, contact information is provided on the flyers.

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

Important message from Sea Cadet Headquarters:

Sea Cadets Day of Giving

For 63 years one thing has remained constant: The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been transforming lives, giving young people opportunities to build confidence and succeed. Our hands-on program exposes middle and high school aged cadets to training programs filled with unique, life-changing moments. Sea Cadets inspire many to serve our country and become productive citizens.

To offer our high-quality program to as many young people as possible requires money to keep costs low for our families. As a non-profit, we rely on support from people like you.
While we got some funding from the Navy, because of the continuing resolution in congress, we did not receive $4.3 million of authorized funds this year. That loss represents represents a significant portion of our budget, so to continue to grow, improve, and provide the best possible Sea Cadet experience we rely on your support.

When I visit cadets around the country, I'm thrilled to see young people from all walks of life working together as part of a team. Kids minus cell phones is truly an opportunity to build real life skills and confidence.

Our volunteers are saints who do the hard work to deliver transforming experiences. They volunteer because they've seen first-hand how Sea Cadets can turn a shy child into a confident young adult.

September 10, 2025, is the 63rd anniversary of our founding, and to celebrate we're having a Day of Giving. We hope you'll recognize the value of Sea Cadets and give.

Very respectfully,
Andy

Andrew Lennon
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (ret)
Executive Director

If we reach 200 donors through September 10, we will unlock a $25,000 gift from our Board of Directors plus $25,000 from our very generous Chair Emeritus, Dr. Lynn Atkinson.

Link for donations: https://www.seacadets.org/day-of-giving-2025/?blm_aid=356839011

Donate By Mail, checks mailed to: U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps
2300 Wilson Blvd Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22201

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Items our Mayport Sea Cadets Need-

If you are downsizing or cleaning out your garage, the Sea Cadets could use these items. All donations are appreciated and MNL can provide no-cash donation forms.

1) Outdoor Screened-in Porch Furniture- such as table & chairs and furniture covers to protect from the weather/dirt
2) Large Stainless Steel Gas Outdoor Grill: stainless steel to avoid rust with 4 or more burners for large groups or 2 or 3 family-sized 3 or 4 burner grills
3) Hair clippers……2-3 pairs
4) Floor lamps
5) Ceiling fans
6) Clean electric stove in good working condition

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