2026
Mayport Navy League January Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

January 1 - Happy New Year

January 7 - MNL BOD meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm

January 8- Food Farmacy at Fleet Reserve Assoc at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-noon

January 10 - Mayport Sea Cadet Open House 9am-3pm at 707 Everglades Court N, NS Mayport

January 12 - MMDTG at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 3-5pm

January 19 - Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday

January 22 - Food Farmacy at Fleet Reserve Assoc at 390 Mayport Rd 1 - 3 pm

January 27 - Holocaust Remembrance Day

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

JACKSONVILLE & JAGUARS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE 2025 CELEBRATION OF VALOR EVENTS & COMMUNITY GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The City of Jacksonville kicked off it's annual "Celebration of Valor," which honors veterans through a series of events, ceremonies, and community activities in late October.

The celebration culminated on December 13 with Wreaths Across America, a solemn and meaningful tribute to those who served, and the Army Navy Watch Party.

"Here in Jacksonville, our commitment to our veterans and military families goes far beyond Veterans Day," said Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan. "That's why we're so proud of our Celebration of Valor series, which reflects our deep respect and appreciation our community holds for the men and women who wear the uniform, and for their families who stand beside them."

Leaders from the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation also joined city leaders to announce this year's recipients of the 2025 Jaguars Community Grants for organizations serving active-duty military and veterans.

This year's awardees are:

- Five STAR Veterans Center
- Operation New Uniform
- Guitars for Vets
- Womens Veterans Ignited
- Florida National Guard Foundation
- Hope4Veterans
- Friends of Jacksonville Veterans Treatment Court
- Navy League of the US Mayport Council
- Jacksonville Humane Society
- Operation Barnabas (in Clay County)
- Cohen Military Veterans Clinic, Centerstone
- Feeding Northeast Florida

Mayport Navy League Vice President, Barbara Ives in the photo.

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Sea Cadets December Drill

On December 13th, the Mayport Navy Sea Cadets supported the National Wreaths Across America Day program to recognize and honor our fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their graves. On this day at the Jacksonville National Cemetery over 23,000 fallen veterans were honored.

Throughout the world, over 4900 locations participated in this special ceremony, to Remember and Honor our fallen veterans by laying Veterans' wreaths on the graves of our country's heroes.

If interested in supporting the National Wreaths Across America, contact the Mayport Sea Cadets who annually participate in the ceremony.

SEA CADETS

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO(MMDTG) and FOOD FARMACY (FF)

On Monday, December 6th Mayport Navy League hosted the MMDTG. To support this special Christmas holiday event, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church members distributed donated toys to military families in the carline, and MOAA and Fleet Landing volunteers, the Mayport Navy League food program committee team, and special guest volunteers from First Command pitched in to help distribute Chick-Fil-A food. It was truly a community effort.

Over 400 hot meals were distributed to active-duty military families, as well as diapers and baby wipes. Additionally, Chick Fil-A had added about 40 extra meals, at no cost to the MNL, which were delivered to the Mayport Naval Station security force at the main gate. The military security gate watch team were appreciative and grateful for their generosity.

Special thanks to the volunteers that without their support, this program could not be done. Volunteers from Fleet Landing were: Chet Davis, Ann Bell, Bruce Osborne, Carol Smith, and Cindy Tomlin; from Naval Station Mayport Tee Trumbull, Erin Sardiello, Shanna Strickland; from First Command Brooke Lazarrinni, and MNL members Pat Kluever, George Huchting, Brian Kennedy.

The next MMDTG is 12 January 2026. If interested in volunteering time to this special food program, please contact Tim Jenkins at radmjenkins@yahoo.com.

Story and photos by Pat Kluever

MNL Food Farmacy Food Program

The Food Farmacy is held at the Fleet Reserve Bldg at 390 Mayport Road the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

Mayport Navy League supports this special food program managed by the Jacksonville Military and Veterans Affairs Department by handing out commissary $25 gift cards which supplements the food needs not distributed by the carline.

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

SEA CADETS

CHOOSE ADVENTURE

Official Youth Program of the U.S. Navy & Coast Guard

For Grades 5-12, Ages 10-18

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

START YOUR JOURNEY

Learn to Lead • Experience Hands-On Training

Explore Careers • Get Physically Fit • & More

Mayport Division Open House

Saturday, January 10, 2026

0900 - 1500

707 Everglades Court N, Unit A

Email: ro.062may@seacadets.org

www.seacadets.org