# 2026
# Mayport Navy League February Newsletter

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

## Calendar of Events

February 2 - Ground Hog Day

February 5 - MNL BOD meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm. All Mayport Navy Leaguers invited!

February 8 - Super Bowl Sunday

February 9 - MMDTG at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church parking lot. 3-5pm

February 12- Food Farmacy at Fleet Reserve Assoc at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-noon

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

February 20 - MNL Social location and time TBD

February 24 - Sailor of the Year at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 11:30am

February 26 - Food Farmacy at Fleet Reserve Assoc at 390 Mayport Rd 1 - 3 pm

**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

## 2026 January Military Affairs Committee (MIC) meeting

The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce hosted the first 2026 Military Affairs Committee (MIC) meeting on January 21st which helps in fostering strong military and civilian relationships.

Base Commanders:

- The Blue Angels in '26 show will include Thunderbirds at NAS Jax.
- The expansion of VA programs at NAS hospital continues with new partnership and funding
- There are concerns at NS Mayport, where the Anchor Academy elementary school located outside the base gate and on-base school children attend, on its possible closing.
- 19th F35 has been delivered to the Air National Guard and flying over the local area.

Recruiters:

- Army reported out with recruiting numbers
- Navy reported with ROTC scholarship information- if interested in the scholarship program call 904-489-4573/904-882-2851

Congressional Offices:

- The service academy nomination process and other programs that received appointments have begun.
- Congressional budget information is expected within the week.

Economic Development:

- Recent developments include restoring shipbuilding in Jax, drone manufacturing, and new business issues on capital to expand businesses

Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department (MAVD):

- There are many Veteran support organizations that are helping Veterans but don't have good contact information. This information could be used to support MAVD activities.
- The Players Championship (TPC) military tickets become available on 4 Feb and there are more tickets this year.
- Military Job Fair at PATRIOT POST 10 March.
- Military Appreciation Day 10 Mar at 1600 with ceremony and concert.

Sheriff Office:

- Accidents are up
- Crime down
- Offering free motorcycle classes contact JAXSheriff.org to sign up

These highly informative military-focused monthly meetings are productive and supportive to all Jacksonville-area military, veterans, and their families.

**The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support**

SEA CADETS CORNER

# Sea Cadets January Drill

On January 10th, the Mayport Sea Cadets hosted their second Open House of the drill season on base at the unit house. We were joined by two new interested families and most of our current cadets along with their parents. CO Ron Harnek held a parent/cadet meeting to share drill plans for the second half of the season as well as goals for the unit. There was a family BBQ, PT and military bearing exercises, awards and promotions, and a short Winter Training Graduation ceremony for those cadets who attended Camp Blanding over winter break (poor weather on January 4th caused the planned Blanding graduation ceremony to be canceled).

On January 24th, our unit visited the HMS40 helicopter training squadron. LT Dominic "Squatch" Garofalo gave an interactive and informative tour of the MH60R, the facilities, and flight line. Cadets were highly engaged and inspired while being permitted to sit in the pilot cockpit and explore the aircraft cabin. The day also included PT, chow, classroom training, military training as well as morning and afternoon colors.

Our next drill is February 7th, where the cadets will be welcomed to the US Marine Corps Reserve Training base for a full day of extreme activities, generously arranged by MNL Past President Brian Kennedy.

SEA CADETS

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

On Monday January 12th, the Mayport Navy League kicked off its new year with the 2026 Military Monday- Dinners to Go program. It was a blustery, raw and cold day with threatening rain; however, the volunteers supporting this valued event were warm at heart and ready to distribute food to our active-duty military members and their families.

On this day, 300 meals were distributed. The meals included Chick-Fil-A sandwiches or chicken nuggets, a bag of chips, and a bottled water. As usual, the 300 meals were gone in less than 2 hours. The funds for this event were provided through a MOAA grant.

Special thanks to our volunteers who braved the weather from Fleet Landing, MOAA, and our own MNL members: Tom Atkins, Gayle Holmes, Ed Fahy, Victoria & Dicki Fahy, Chet Davis, Mike Marchetti, Carol Smith, Reid Crawshaw, George Huchting, Brian Kennedy, Tim Jenkins, Pat Kluever, and Barbara Ives.

Photos from George Huchting

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

# Do You Know About RMD
# and
# How it can HELP the Mayport Navy League?

**Minimum Required Withdrawals (MRWs)—also known as Required Minimum Distributions**—are the amounts the IRS requires individuals to withdraw each year from certain retirement accounts starting at age 73.

For many, MRWs provide a reliable source of retirement income and encourage thoughtful financial and tax planning. But for those who don't need their full withdrawal, MRWs can also create an opportunity to support causes that reflect a lifetime of service.

**Who Must Take an MRW?**

You are required to take MRWs if you have:

- Traditional IRAs
- SEP or SIMPLE IRAs
- 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans (from previous employers)

Roth IRAs are NOT subject to MRWs during the owner's lifetime.

**When Do MRWs Begin?**

- MRWs generally begin at age 73 and the first withdrawal must be taken by April 1 of the year following the year you turn 73
- All future MRWs must be taken by December 31 each year
- If your first MRW is delayed until April 1, you will need to take two withdrawals in the same year, which may increase taxable income

**Why This Matters to Our Mayport Navy League Membership?**

Many Navy League members and supporters are:

- Retired or nearing retirement
- Managing pensions, TSPs, IRAs, or other retirement savings
- Making decisions that affect taxes, charitable giving, and long-term financial security

Understanding MRWs helps families plan, avoid penalties, and make informed financial decisions.

One option is making charitable distributions from their required withdrawal to the Mayport Navy League, where these contributions can help our food program or education programs such as high school JROTC, college ROTC, and Mayport Sea Cadet programs – all with a mission to strengthen our sea services, support military families, and advocate for a strong national defense while also being part of a sound financial plan.

**What Information Is Typically Needed?**

From the individual making the withdrawal:

- Name and contact information
- Retirement account provider information
- Confirmation that the distribution is intended as a charitable gift
- Any donor recognition preferences (e.g., anonymous or acknowledged)

From the Mayport Navy League:

- Legal organization name
- Federal tax identification (EIN)
- Confirmation of nonprofit (501(c)(3)) status
- Mailing address and contact information for acknowledgment

*Members are encouraged to consult a financial or tax professional to determine the options that best fit their personal circumstances. If there are questions, please contact John Vargo, MNL Treasurer, at jvargo@bellsouth.net*

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

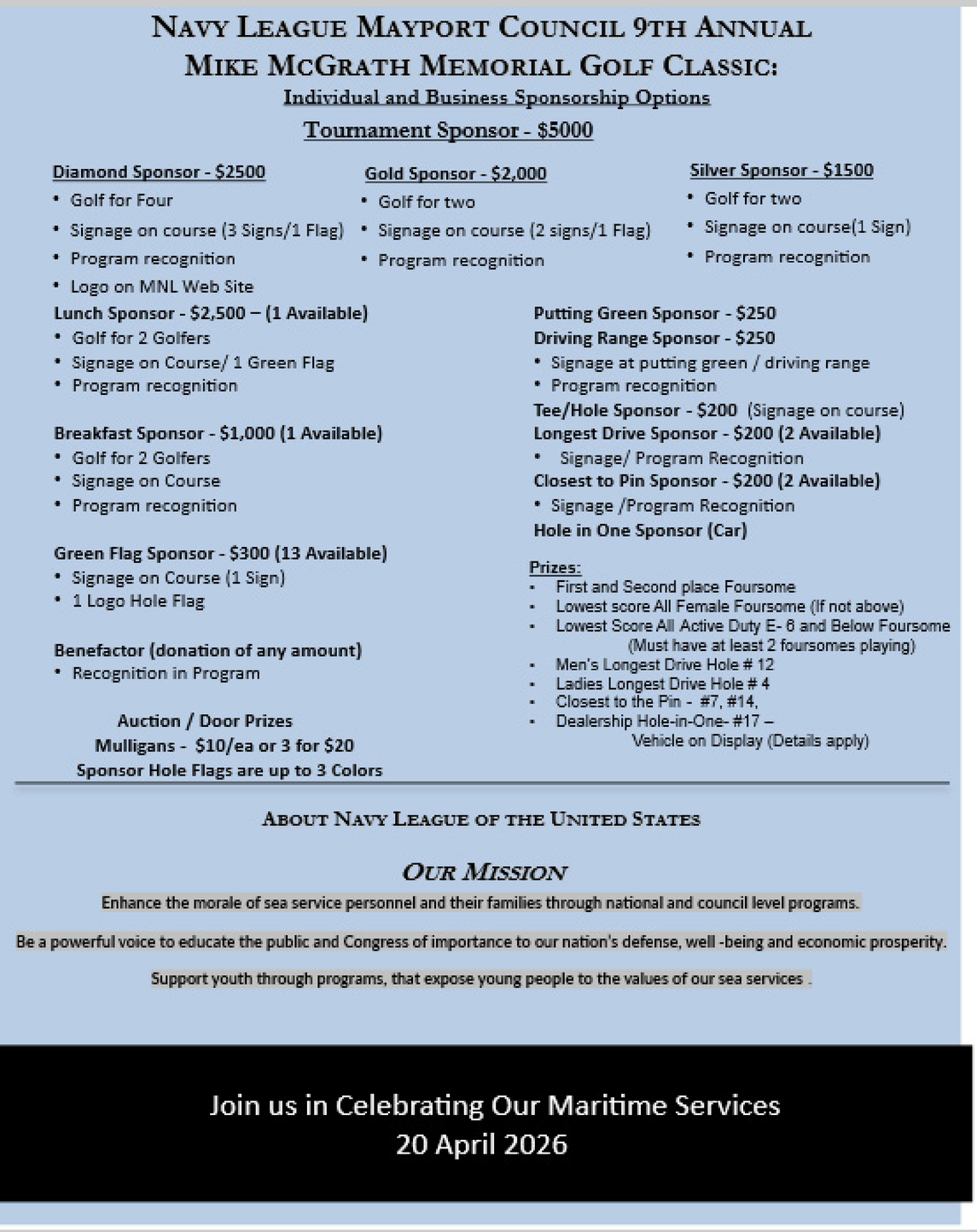
# Mayport Naval Station Thrift Shop

The Mayport Naval Station Thrift Shop is a valued resource for the Mayport community, located at 709-B Everglades Court Housing Area, and open Mondays and Thursdays from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The shop is proudly operated by dedicated volunteers from the **Navy Wives Club of America #201**, whose mission is to support Sailors and their families stationed at Naval Station Mayport.

Proceeds from the thrift shop are reinvested directly into programs and assistance benefiting military families. In addition, NWCA #201 serves as a **primary sponsor of the Mayport Navy League Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year luncheons**, helping recognize excellence, service, and leadership among our Sailors.

The Thrift Shop is dependent on donations. Donations can be dropped off on Mondays or Fridays or in the donation drop box outside the building.  Donations can range from uniforms, all sizes and types of clothing, houseware, and children toys.  All donations are appreciated and valued.

# MNL 9th Annual Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Classic



NAVY LEAGUE MAYPORT COUNCIL 9TH ANNUAL
MIKE MCGRATH MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC:

Individual and Business Sponsorship Options

Tournament Sponsor - $5000

**Diamond Sponsor - $2500**
- Golf for Four
- Signage on course (3 Signs/1 Flag)
- Program recognition
- Logo on MNL Web Site

**Gold Sponsor - $2,000**
- Golf for two
- Signage on course (2 signs/1 Flag)
- Program recognition

**Silver Sponsor - $1500**
- Golf for two
- Signage on course(1 Sign)
- Program recognition

**Lunch Sponsor - $2,500 – (1 Available)**
- Golf for 2 Golfers
- Signage on Course/ 1 Green Flag
- Program recognition

**Breakfast Sponsor - $1,000 (1 Available)**
- Golf for 2 Golfers
- Signage on Course
- Program recognition

**Green Flag Sponsor - $300 (13 Available)**
- Signage on Course (1 Sign)
- 1 Logo Hole Flag

**Benefactor (donation of any amount)**
- Recognition in Program

**Auction / Door Prizes**
**Mulligans - $10/ea or 3 for $20**
**Sponsor Hole Flags are up to 3 Colors**

**Putting Green Sponsor - $250**
**Driving Range Sponsor - $250**
- Signage at putting green / driving range
- Program recognition

**Tee/Hole Sponsor - $200** (Signage on course)
**Longest Drive Sponsor - $200 (2 Available)**
- Signage/ Program Recognition

**Closest to Pin Sponsor - $200 (2 Available)**
- Signage /Program Recognition

**Hole in One Sponsor (Car)**

**Prizes:**
- First and Second place Foursome
- Lowest score All Female Foursome (If not above)
- Lowest Score All Active Duty E- 6 and Below Foursome (Must have at least 2 foursomes playing)
- Men's Longest Drive Hole # 12
- Ladies Longest Drive Hole # 4
- Closest to the Pin - #7, #14,
- Dealership Hole-in-One- #17 – Vehicle on Display (Details apply)

ABOUT NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

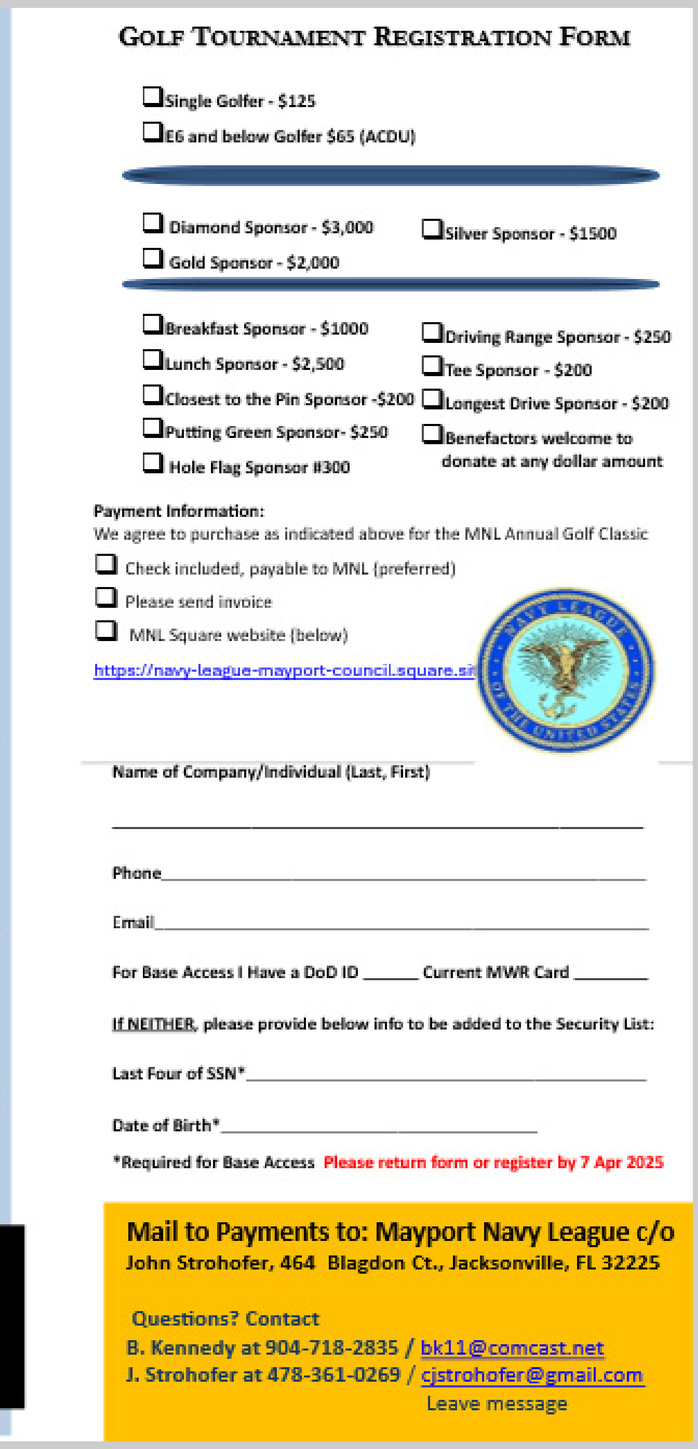
*OUR MISSION*

Enhance the morale of sea service personnel and their families through national and council level programs.

Be a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress of importance to our nation's defense, well -being and economic prosperity.

Support youth through programs, that expose young people to the values of our sea services .

Join us in Celebrating Our Maritime Services
20 April 2026



GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM

- ❑ Single Golfer - $125
- ❑ E6 and below Golfer $65 (ACDU)
- ❑ Diamond Sponsor - $3,000
- ❑ Gold Sponsor - $2,000
- ❑ Silver Sponsor - $1500
- ❑ Breakfast Sponsor - $1000
- ❑ Lunch Sponsor - $2,500
- ❑ Closest to the Pin Sponsor -$200
- ❑ Putting Green Sponsor- $250
- ❑ Hole Flag Sponsor #300
- ❑ Driving Range Sponsor - $250
- ❑ Tee Sponsor - $200
- ❑ Longest Drive Sponsor - $200
- ❑ Benefactors welcome to donate at any dollar amount

**Payment Information:**
We agree to purchase as indicated above for the MNL Annual Golf Classic

- ❑ Check included, payable to MNL (preferred)
- ❑ Please send invoice
- ❑ MNL Square website (below)

https://navy-league-mayport-council.square.si

Name of Company/Individual (Last, First)

_____

Phone_____

Email_____

For Base Access I Have a DoD ID _____ Current MWR Card _____

If NEITHER, please provide below info to be added to the Security List:

Last Four of SSN*_____

Date of Birth*_____

*Required for Base Access Please return form or register by 7 Apr 2025

**Mail to Payments to: Mayport Navy League c/o**
**John Strohofer, 464 Blagdon Ct., Jacksonville, FL 32225**

**Questions? Contact**
**B. Kennedy at 904-718-2835 / bk11@comcast.net**
**J. Strohofer at 478-361-0269 / cjstrohofer@gmail.com**
Leave message

The MNL Golf Classic is at the Windy Harbor Golf Club on Naval Station Mayport on April 20th, 2026.  The golf tournament is the primary Maryport Navy League (MNL) fundraiser and sponsorship is essential.  Last year was good year with sponsorship and donations and responsible for supplementing our food program for Military Monday- Dinner to Go and Farmacy, in addition to, augmenting the increasing costs for educational awards and recognition and our Sea Cadet summer programs.

The golf tournament brochure shows sponsor opportunities and an opportunity for the overall tournament sponsor with special recognitional perks.  If interested in supporting our primary MNL fundraiser, please complete the form, include a check, and mail it to John Strohofer,.

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