2026
Mayport Navy League May Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

May 1 - May Day

May 2 - Sea Cadet visit to 125th Fighter Wing

May 2 - Jacksonville University NROTC Commissioning ceremony at 1pm on the Swisher Science Green at JU

May 8 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 11 - MMDTG at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church parking lot 3-5pm

May 14 - MNL BOD meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm. All Mayport Navy Leaguers invited!

May 14 - Food Farmacy at Fleet Reserve Assoc at 390 Mayport Road 10am-noon

May 15 - USS Stark FFG-31 Memorial Service on Naval Station Mayport 10 am on-base at Mayport Grove Park

May 16 - Armed Forces Day

May 22 - Maritime Day

May 25 - Memorial Day Observance 9am Beaches Veterans Memorial Park at 1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Beach at American Legion Post 316

May 30 - Married to the Military event at Ocean Breeze Conference Room at 9am

Sailor of the Quarter - Second Quarter

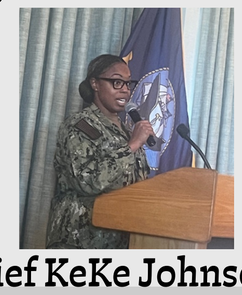
On Tuesday, April 28th, MNL and its supporting sponsors hosted the Naval Station Mayport 2nd Quarter Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ) Award Program at the Ocean Breeze Conference Center on Tuesday, October 28th. Command Master Chief Strickland was unable to be the Master of Ceremonies, so Command Master Chief Tom Perkins (LSCRON 2 CMC) assumed the duty. The program opened with a welcome, then followed by the meal blessing, and then lunch.

After the meal, Captain Trumbull spoke about the history of the Sailor of the Year program, and then introduced the keynote speaker, Command Master Chief KeKe Johnson. CMDCM Johnson talked about the importance of the SOQ program and leadership development.

There were 44 awardees that received a certificate and command leadership photo. The line of sponsors congratulated the awardees. The program concluded with a group photo.

In February, the Navy Station Mayport Commands recognized their Sailors of the Year. The Naval Station Mayport Sailor of the Year awardee is AC1 Frank Ayala, and recently he won the prestigious Southeast Region Sailor of the Year. AC1 Ayala is currently in Washington DC representing the Southeast Region at the CNIC Level. At this level, if selected, he will be immediately promoted to Chief Petty Officer!

Good Luck AC1 Ayala!

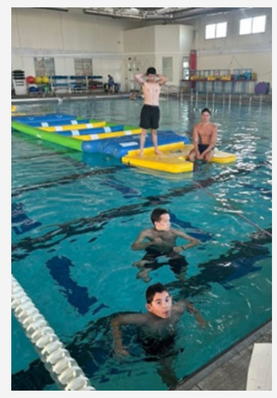


Keynote speaker
Command Master Chief KeKe Johnson

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Sea Cadets April Drill



On April 11th, the Mayport Sea Cadets began their day at the Base Fitness Center & Pool for annual swim qualifications. Cadets also had an opportunity to try jumping from the high dive platform and tackling the obstacle course. The group then moved to the base fire station for a tour that included a hands-on demonstration of firefighting equipment and being hoisted in the bucket for a spectacular aerial view of the base. After chow, the cadets finished the day at the unit house where the Chief and Petty Officers gave the cadets an overview of Honor Guard training.

The Mayport Sea Cadets will be visiting the USS Orleck, and 125th Fighter Wing National Guard base during the month of May. Thank you for all your support of our program!

Story and Photos from Ron Harnek

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO(MMDTG)

and FOOD FARMACY (FF)

Farewell Erin... thank you!

On April 13th, MNL hosted Military Monday- Dinners to Go. The weather was a perfect spring day for distributing food to our Active-Duty members and their families. Chick-Fil-A provided 250 meals of chicken sandwiches and nuggets, with MNL providing chips and bottled water. All meals were given out in less than 90 minutes. Those leaving with their dinner expressed appreciation and thanks for the food and MNL support.

In the next couple of months, our diaper distribution volunteer Erin Sardiello, an Active-Duty Spouse, will be transferred from the area. All MNL members wish Erin fair winds as she departs to another duty station, and our sincere thanks and appreciation for her help.

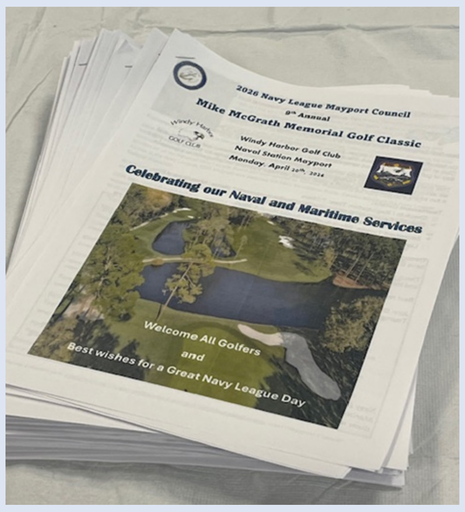
A Testimonial on MNL FF support and care:

At our 8 January 2026 Food Farmacy (FF) event, I was talking to drivers to identify Active-Duty families to honor with a $25 commissary gift card, when an Active-Duty dependent said “I need to tell you a story that will show how much what you do means to Active-Duty families. I found myself the week before Christmas, with my husband being deployed for over two months, sitting at our dining room table with my three kids with no food in the house to make dinner. Then I remembered that you had given me a $25 commissary gift card at the Food Farmacy event the week before. We made a quick run to the commissary, and we all had spaghetti and meatballs for dinner that night because of what you had done for us the week before. What you do really makes a difference, and we are so grateful for your help!"

Story and photos by Pat Kluever

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

Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Classic



1st Place -
Hover Girl Properties

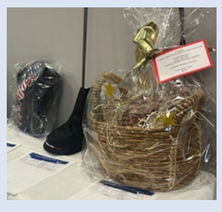
Lowest All-Female Score

Men -
Longest Drive

Silent Auction Items

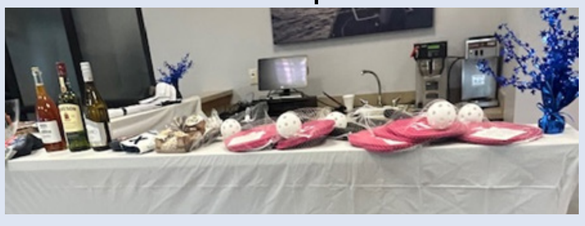
Anheuser-Busch

Lowes



CTronsrue

Raffle items-
T-Mobile, Edwin Watts Golf,
GI Enterprises



The Mayport Navy League Golf Tournament on Monday, April 20th, was a wonderful day of fellowship, patriotism, and community support. The morning began with a proud and memorable presentation by the Marine Corps Color Guard, setting a respectful and patriotic tone for the event. Following the presentation of colors, participants joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance, honoring our nation and the service members and families supported by the Mayport Navy League.

Before heading out to the course, a prayer was offered for good wishes, safe play, and an enjoyable day of golf. The blessing reminded everyone of the purpose behind the tournament: bringing the community together in support of Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, service members, and their families connected to Naval Station Mayport.

At 9:00 a.m., golfers moved into position for the shotgun start, and the tournament officially began. With teams spread across the course, the day quickly filled with friendly competition, laughter, and camaraderie. The event provided not only a fun day of golf, but also an opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the military community, local supporters, sponsors, and volunteers.

Following the tournament, participants gathered for lunch at the Windy Harbor Golf Club Bogeys restaurant, where everyone enjoyed barbecue and delicious side dishes. Mike Curreri served as the master of ceremonies for the post-tournament program, recognizing the generous sponsors whose support helped make the event possible. The afternoon also featured a robust silent auction filled with many donated items, along with an exciting raffle that added to the fun and fellowship of the day.

The Mayport Navy League is grateful to everyone who participated, sponsored, volunteered, and helped make the tournament a success. The day reflected the spirit of service, patriotism, and community partnership that continues to make the Mayport Navy League's mission so meaningful.

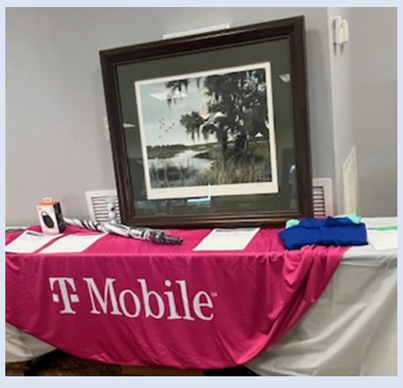
Special thanks to the MNL Golf tournament committee: John Strohefer (co-lead), Brian Kennedy (co-lead), Jim Young, Rick Costner, Bill Towcimak, and Barbara Ives for the time, efforts, and dedication to a successful event. Tournament volunteers were Bob Whitkop (check-in), George Huchting (Sunday set-up), Mark Vandenberg (check-in), Jim Young (hole witness), Bill Towcimak (hole witness), Pat Strohofer (check-in), Teresa Costner (refreshments). The volunteers either spent Sunday helping with the set-up or on the golf course adding the fun of the day.

All-Military
4-some Team
Coast Guard

Most Raffle Winner -
Marine Color Guard

JYoung Creations

Ponte Vedra Shell Co



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