



Photo by Ashley Cowan

NNS Christens *Delaware* (SSN 791)

Newport News Shipbuilding christened the *Virginia*-class submarine *Delaware* (SSN 791) Saturday, Oct. 20. The day was historic for the VCS program as NNS' partner – General Dynamics Electric Boat – christened another *Virginia*-class submarine, *Vermont* (SSN 792). It marked the first time two VCS boats have been christened on the same day.

Dr. Jill Biden, the former Second Lady of the United States and the ship's sponsor, smashed a bottle of sparkling wine against *Delaware*'s hull, celebrating the submarine's latest milestone prior to its launch.

"I know it is a tremendous privilege to be selected as a pre-commission crew member, and the sailors standing with us today are the very best the Navy has to offer," Biden said. "I am grateful to become part of the USS *Delaware* family and to be their shipmate for life."

The ceremony took place in the Modular Outfitting Facility (MOF) and was attended by more than 1,500 guests, including Delaware Gov. John Carney; Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del.; Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va.; James Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research,

acquisition and development; Rear Adm. John Tammen, director of the undersea warfare division at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Vice Adm. Richard P. Snyder, the Navy's inspector general; and Kurt Hesch, chief operating officer of Electric Boat. Shipbuilder **Breanna Futrell** (O53) performed the national anthem.

Attending her first christening ceremony, **Amber Martin-Godwin** (X43) was among the guests who packed the MOF. She spent more than a decade working on submarine overhauls at Norfolk Naval Shipyard before coming to NNS and working on *Delaware*. "I have so much pride knowing that something I had a part in building is going to defend our country and keep our sailors safe," Martin-Godwin said.

In her remarks, NNS President **Jennifer Boykin** recognized the work and craftsmanship of more than 10,000 shipbuilders from NNS and Electric Boat. She also acknowledged the support of the supplier base — more than 5,000 companies in 48 states — that provided parts and materials critical to *Delaware*'s successful construction.



Shipbuilders participate in a session focused on diversity and inclusion and engagement.

NNS Leaders Share Insights



Employees from across Newport News Shipbuilding came together for an after-work event on Sept. 24 to hear company leaders share how diversity, inclusion, and engagement relate to their daily work lives.

The event, hosted by Engineering and Design Inclusion and Diversity Champions and Change Agents, was titled "The Power of Your Voice: Investing in Our Differences."

Speakers included **Chavis Harris**, director of Ethics, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity, and **Renaë Myles**, chief of staff and business manager to the vice president of Engineering and Design, who spoke on the importance of being yourself. **Charles Southall**, vice president of Engineering and Design, and **Margaret Williams**, manager of EEO and Diversity, discussed sharing your value.

Jim O'Brien, director of Facilities, and **Jenifer Solomon**, director of Aircraft Carrier Engineering, talked about taking advantage of opportunities to develop. **Chandra McCulley-Hooker**, trade director for the Submarine Program, and **Tim Taylor**, director of Test Engineering, discussed the benefits of inclusive conversations.

Walking away, several attendees shared how the forum impacted them personally and created development plans for personal and professional growth. One attendee said, "It was an excellent opportunity to hear from a great variety of leadership."

"It was interesting to hear discussions about diversity, identity and inclusion," said another attendee.

Disability Awareness Month: Aaron Landry

Newport News Shipbuilding is recognizing Disability Awareness Month in October. As part of NNS' company-wide Inclusion and Diversity campaign, four employees are featured on posters recognizing the month. Articles about these shipbuilders will be published in Currents, the NNS to Go app, MyNNS and on social media each week.

Aaron Landry (X43) is used to stares when he is out in public with his 10-year-old son, Vincent.

Vincent was born with achondroplasia, a genetic mutation affecting the bones that causes dwarfism. "People like my son are just like you and me. They can be engineers, doctors, lawyers, parents or whatever they want," Landry said. "That's why this is so important to me. I realize with my son that there's nothing different at all. He's just not tall."

A nuclear refueler who has worked at Newport News Shipbuilding for seven years, Landry hopes people will take the time to learn more about dwarfism to combat the stares and offensive comments his family and many others like them experience.

"People need to know that the word 'midget' is offensive," he said. Acceptable terms include dwarf or little person. Although television shows have appeared in recent years featuring little people, Landry said many of them are more exploitative than educational.



Vincent, a fifth grader, is an active Boy Scout and doesn't pay much attention to stares or comments, according to Landry. "God gave him such a good personality. He handles everything like it's nothing," he said.

Landry is encouraged about his son's future by the fact that he has seen several little people working at NNS. "That tells me that when he needs a job, he can come to the shipyard," he said. "The company supports all kinds of people."

For now, Landry and his wife are focused on helping Vincent realize his dreams. "Don't ever limit them," Landry said.

View Landry's poster on MyNNS or the NNS to Go app. Shipbuilders interested in sharing their story as part of NNS' Inclusion and Diversity campaign, should visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/id-campaign-2018.



More than 1,500 people attended the *Delaware* christening ceremony. Photo by Matt Hildreth

NNS Christens *Delaware* (SSN 791)

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“Like the *Virginia*-class submarines that precede her, *Delaware* embodies American ingenuity and innovation at its finest, thanks to the outstanding skill and craftsmanship of an incredible team,” Boykin said.

The submarine is named for the country’s first state, following the dreadnought battleship USS *Delaware* (BB 28) that was delivered by NNS in 1910.

“She is named for the second-smallest state in the country, but her purpose is monumental,” Boykin said. “She will serve as an underwater home to her crew of about 135 sailors for

months at a time, while also serving on the front lines of our nation’s defense. Her strength and her stealth give our country powerful advantage over our adversaries.”

Delaware is the 18th *Virginia*-class submarine and the ninth to be delivered by NNS. Construction began in September 2013 and is 93 percent complete.

“My crew and I are honored to represent the state of Delaware and the U.S. Navy in this historic event,” said Cmdr. Brian P. Hogan, commanding officer of the pre-commissioning unit. “Together with the team at Newport News Shipbuilding, we are one significant step closer to commissioning this fine warship, joining the fleet and defending our nation.”

Delaware is scheduled to be delivered to the U.S. Navy next year.

Steve Moton (X36) helped transport some of *Delaware*’s components as a forklift driver. He praised the work of fellow shipbuilders. “It’s a sense of accomplishment when you see something that you had a part in working on come close to completion,” he said.

Watch a highlights video and view a photo slideshow on MyNNS or on the NNS to Go app.

Cover photo: Ship’s Sponsor Dr. Jill Biden performs the traditional honor of breaking a bottle of American sparkling wine across *Delaware*’s hull. Also pictured, from left, are Cmdr. Brian Hogan, the submarine’s commanding officer; Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Del.; and NNS President **Jennifer Boykin**.

Vermont (SSN 792) Christened at Electric Boat

Vermont (SSN 792), the 19th *Virginia*-class submarine, was christened at General Dynamics Electric Boat’s headquarters in Groton, Connecticut, on Saturday, Oct. 20. During the ceremony, Ship’s Sponsor Gloria Valdez, former deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (ships), performed the traditional bottle break on the submarine’s hull.

Dave Bolcar, vice president of *Virginia*-Class Submarine Construction, represented the thousands of NNS shipbuilders who worked on *Vermont* at the ceremony.

“I’m confident that I can speak on behalf of the entire shipbuilding team when I say

that we are proud of the role we play in building *Virginia*-class submarines,” he said. “While we lend our expertise and our talent to building *Vermont*, our pride is the driving force behind our commitment to building these magnificent boats. We know that *Vermont* will sail the seas to protect the “Freedom and Unity” that inspires its namesake state and defines our country.”

Vermont is the first of 10 *Virginia*-class Block IV submarines. Construction began in May 2014, and delivery to the Navy is expected next year.

Registration Open for Winter 2019 Night School

All classes are scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 7 and end the week of March 9. The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 9. For further information and to view a list of classes and registration information, visit the Night School website, the programs tab on The Apprentice School website or the NNS to Go app.

For questions, contact **Shirley Smith-King** (O22) at 688-8608.

Shipbuilders Support VCU Hackathon



Newport News Shipbuilding employees representing IT, Engineering and Human Resources recently attended Virginia Commonwealth University's fifth annual RamHacks hackathon, a 24-hour programming marathon for innovative student developers to design and implement a software or hardware solution based on challenges provided by the corporate event sponsors.

NNS was a sponsor for the event, which had approximately 320 participants – a 40 percent increase from last year.

Deborah Morewitz (T50), director of the IT Solutions Development group, and **Jenifer Solomon** (E01), director of Aircraft Carrier Engineering, delivered the keynote address. They spoke about the important work performed at NNS and the company's Integrated Digital Shipbuilding (iDS) efforts. With the introduction of digital tools, however, NNS must also overcome user experience challenges, holding paramount worker safety and information security.

Steve Schultz (T55) donned full personal protective equipment and challenged the hackers to come up with a way for craftsmen and craftswomen to better interact with visual work instructions on laptops and tablets while wearing safety gear, specifically work gloves.

Most of the entries for the NNS challenge centered on mouse and screen movements through input devices. Several teams used Xbox and Super Nintendo controllers. Others focused on hands-free options, some using Fitbits, electronic sensing arm bands or augmented reality glasses. One team envisioned sensors placed in steel-toe boots, allowing craftsmen and craftswomen to perform commands based on foot gestures. NNS' winning team, the "Handy Helpers," created a working prototype of the leap motion controller, allowing screen



NNS was a sponsor of Virginia Commonwealth University's fifth annual RamHacks hackathon.

manipulation through hand gestures. This same team took third place overall.

"Many diverse and inventive ideas came from this event," Morewitz said. "HR, Engineering and IT worked together and built camaraderie across divisions in support of our common mission to attract and enable a digital workforce. I'd like to thank all of the shipbuilders who participated in the RamHacks event."

CFA Barbecue Promotes Safety and Engagement



Component Fabrication and Assembly (CFA) shipbuilders and their families gathered outside Newport News Shipbuilding Saturday, Oct. 6, for a barbecue.

The event, held at Nike Park in Carrollton and sponsored by the CFA Engagement Champions and Safety Task Team, was meant to help promote safety, strengthen engagement and foster relationships inside and outside of work.

"When you meet people's families and see them outside of the shipyard, it's easier to talk to them and work together. It also makes it easier to speak up if you see them doing something unsafe," said Engagement Champion **Russell Ivory III** (X42). "That type of environment and culture shows in the quality of our work."

Attendees – some of whom were retirees – enjoyed food, music, raffles, activities like cornhole, and a bounce house for children. **Grace Harrison** (X42) said the event was especially helpful for newer



CFA shipbuilders and their families gathered at Nike Park earlier this month. Photo by **Nicholas Langhorne**

employees. "You're meeting people on a personal level, and it's helping to connect the shop," she said.

Dan Page (X18) said he was grateful for an opportunity to see shipyard friends on a social basis. "It was great to see people with their families," he said.

Shipbuilders plan to make the barbecue an annual event and thanked **Danyelle Saunders**, the Operations Division Quality of Life Engagement lead; Pipe Shop Superintendent **Rob Lane**; and general foremen **Kenny Quinn**, **Robert Teel** and **Frank Wanderer** for their support.

AROUND THE YARD

Multi-Factor Authentication

To remain in compliance with Department of Defense regulations, Newport News Shipbuilding has rolled out a new multi-factor authentication (MFA) process for computer users to log into their devices. Users have been issued dime-sized USB tokens called YubiKeys for access. Shipbuilders must register and begin using YubiKeys by Nov. 1. For more information, visit the MFA website.



VERG members served cake to shipbuilders in recognition of the Navy's birthday. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

VERG Hosts Navy Birthday Celebration

Newport News Shipbuilding's Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) hosted a lunchtime celebration Oct. 12 in honor of the U.S. Navy's 243rd birthday, which was Saturday, Oct. 13.

Lisa Loewus (O79), a Navy veteran who served on active duty for six years and as a reservist for two years, was among the shipbuilders at the celebration. "I think it helps encourage veterans to be proud of their service and what they have contributed. It also inspires pride in those who are currently serving," she said.

The celebration provided an opportunity for all shipbuilders to recognize NNS' customer – the Navy – with a birthday cake. For more information about VERG, contact **Adam Krininger (X84)** at 380-4286 or visit the VERG website on MyNNS.



Shipbuilders participate in the Peninsula Heart Walk at Peninsula Town Center in Hampton on Oct. 20. Photo by **Amy McDonald**

Shipbuilders Participate in Peninsula Heart Walk

Newport News Shipbuilding employees, families and friends participated in the Hampton Roads Heart Walk's Peninsula walk Saturday, Oct. 20.

An event sponsor, NNS has registered more than 3,200 people and raised more than \$55,000 for the American Heart Association.

The Southside walk is Nov. 3 at Mount Trashmore in Virginia Beach. Visit www.HamptonRoadsHeartWalk.org to register. For more information, contact **Amy McDonald (X71)** at 688-6489.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Experienced Blaster	26320BR	X33	Newport News
General Foreman	26317BR	K48	Newport News
Software Engineer 3	24782BR	E44	Newport News
Shock Engineer 3	22257BR	E46	Newport News
Product Training Manager 1	26706BR	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Contract Administration Manager 3	26759BR	O19	Newport News
Engineering Manager 2	26276BR	E81	Newport News
Engineering Manager 2	26496BR	E46	Newport News
Engineering Manager 3	26550BR	E84	Newport News
Senior Propulsion & Electronic Systems Manager 3	24624BR	E83	Newport News
Construction Supervisor 2 – VCS	23834BR	X83	Groton, CT
RCT Instructor – KSO	26705BR	O96	Ballston Spa, NY

Employees are encouraged to use the "Current HII Employees" portal to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend for more information.

WELDING DEPARTMENT SEEKING APPLICANTS

The Welding Department (X18) is seeking internal candidates with welding experience to meet project demands. Shipbuilders who are interested should visit buildyourcareer.wufoo.com/forms/welder-recruitment. Shipbuilders who know experienced welders seeking employment at Newport News Shipbuilding can refer them to apply to requisition No. 25438BR in the "Trades/Crafts" portal at buildyourcareer.com. A \$500 cash bonus award is available for referring experienced welders who are hired and begin work at NNS. Visit huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend for details about the employee referral program. For more information, contact **Craig Hooten (X18)** at 380-7454.

DATEBOOK

OCTOBER

Chesapeake Regional Healthcare's mobile mammography unit will be onsite every Monday in October at the Hill Family Health Center to offer free annual screening mammograms for Newport News Shipbuilding employees. Screenings are offered to women age 40 and older. The unit will be available from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Oct. 22. It will be available from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Oct. 29. To schedule a mammogram, call 312-6400 or visit www.chesapeakemammo.com.

OCTOBER 22

Attend a Leadercast Lunch and Learn featuring a video with Dr. Henry Cloud from noon until 1 p.m. in Bldg. 500 (Gary Lewis Conference Room). The video will be followed by a discussion. Cloud is a global leadership expert and best-selling author. He draws on his experience in business, leadership consulting, and his practice as a clinical psychologist, to impart practical, candid and effective advice for improving leadership skills, organizational culture and workplace performance. No charge will be provided. Attendance must be on employee's own time. For more information, contact **Sunny Harvat** (O25) at 380-4879.

OCTOBER 23

What's better for your wallet, renting or buying? Find out at a SmartPath class on renting versus homeownership. Classes are offered from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Email BeWell@hii-co.com to register for your preferred class time or ask your foreman to register you. Management-approved PTO/flex is required during scheduled work hours.

OCTOBER 24

Attend a Leadercast Lunch and Learn featuring a video with Dr. Henry Cloud from noon until 12:45 p.m. in Bldg. 903-1 (Conference Room 129A). The video will be followed by a discussion. No charge will be provided. Attendance must be on employee's own time. For more information, contact **Sunny Harvat** (O25) at 380-4879.

OCTOBER 25

The "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club will host a meeting from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. at The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919, Room 247). The event is open to all Newport News Shipbuilding employees and no RSVP is required. The event will provide a forum for employees to learn how to become more effective communicators and leaders. For more information, contact **Jason Paquette** (E83) at 534-2770.

OCTOBER 26

Attend a Leadercast Lunch and Learn featuring a video with Dr. Henry Cloud from noon until 12:45 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (Huntington Room). The video will be followed by a discussion. No charge will be provided. Attendance must be on employee's own time. For more information, contact **Sunny Harvat** (O25) at 380-4879.

OCTOBER 27

Join fellow shipbuilders at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light The Night Walk from 5 until 9 p.m. at the MacArthur Center Green in Norfolk. The walk supports blood cancer treatment research that saves lives. To donate, visit pages.lightthenight.org/va/hroads18/huntingtoningallsindustries. For more information, contact **Eric Olsen** (X22) at 688-1868.

NOVEMBER 6

Learn about tuition-free assistance scholarships for bachelor's degrees in business administration, public safety, human resource management and paralegal studies through Hampton University - University College from 4:15 until 5:30 p.m. at The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919, Room 303). Note: Parking is available in the West Avenue Garage on the fourth deck, the ramp leading to the fifth deck and on the fifth deck. To RSVP, contact **Latasha Jarrett** (O22) via email or at 380-2005.

NOVEMBER 8

Are you prepared to get through the holidays debt-free? Attend a SmartPath class to make your holiday budget. Classes are offered from noon until 1 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Email BeWell@hii-co.com to register for your preferred class time or ask your foreman to register you. Management-approved PTO/flex is required during scheduled work hours.

National Quality Month: Root Cause Analysis/Corrective Actions

October is National Quality Month. Quality-focused articles will appear in Currents throughout the month.

Quality Problem Management (QPM) (O06) exists to help Newport News Shipbuilding address problems. QPM is made up of three teams: Corrective Action Requests (CARs), Unplanned Events (UEs) and Material Investigations (MIs).

The UE team investigates quality problems identified internally, while the CAR team focuses on problems identified by the Navy. Both groups perform root cause analysis to identify problem causes, and both work with the problem stakeholders to define and implement corrective and preventative actions. UEs produce a written report and sometimes a formal outbrief, while the CAR team submits a written response to the customer for approval. The MI team handles material problems for any material at NNS (NNS or vendor made). The team assists in identifying and tracking discrepant materials and leads material investigation team efforts for Quality.

For more information, visit the QPM SharePoint site.

Supply Chain Procurement Establishes Engagement Team



Supply Chain Procurement (O51) recently established an engagement team to foster a positive, engaging environment, while having fun and building professional relationships. The engagement team's first event was an ice cream social during the department's all hands meeting in August. To help promote the ice cream social, the engagement team held a poster contest and awarded prizes to the contest winners.

The event provided an opportunity for

employees to interact socially, while also receiving a briefing from **Bryan Caccavale**, vice president of Strategic Sourcing. Each of the department's buying offices displayed project boards to help attendees put faces with names and learn the commodities each office purchases and the suppliers with whom they work.

"Our first event was a success, and many employees provided positive feedback," said engagement team member **Mike Miltner**



(O51). "Our department is continuing to focus on its people and our important work to achieve positive outcomes. The engagement team is doing its part by cultivating ideas."