

# CURRENTS

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Carlos Camarena, center, hands out American flags to shipbuilders outside the 46th Street gate. Photo by Ashley Cowan

## NNS Honors Veterans

Newport News Shipbuilding's Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) recognized the service of the thousands of military veterans who are now NNS shipbuilders with a series of events last week, leading up to Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

"I think it's important to recognize the service and sacrifice of my fellow veterans and show them that we appreciate what they have done to secure our freedom," said VERG Chair **Adam Krininger** (X84), a U.S. Navy veteran.

The week's activities included breakfast, lunch and dinner services to recognize veterans working all three shifts. "We had good turnout at all of our events from both veterans and other shipbuilders. It has been great to see the amount of support we have in the shipyard," Krininger said.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran **Clarence "Skip" Perry** (X71) participated in the American flag-raising ceremony last Wednesday. "I spent 22 years defending the flag, and it means a lot to me to see it go up every day," he said. "It's important to celebrate veterans. I lost a lot of friends throughout my time in the military, so it's good to not only honor the veterans but also those who gave all in defense of this great country."

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## Shipbuilders Complete Kennedy Foam Pour in Record Time



It took shipbuilders less than one month to complete the recent foam pour on *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79). The project involved filling voids in the lower levels of the carrier with expanding foam that serves a number of purposes, including buoyancy.

The CVN 79 foam pour, which took 25 days, cut by more than half the time it took shipbuilders to complete the same project on *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) in 2012. The work was completed below budget and with no injuries.

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## NNS Awarded Contract Modification for *Columbia*

Newport News Shipbuilding has been awarded a \$197 million modification to a previously awarded contract from General Dynamics Electric Boat to provide long-lead-time material and advance construction activities for the first *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine.

The advance procurement funds will be used to purchase major components and commodity material and to begin advance construction on *Columbia* (SSBN 826). NNS is a major subcontractor for the construction of the new class of ballistic-missile submarines, which are being designed to replace the *Ohio*-class submarines.

"This contract modification is critical in engaging the submarine industrial base as we continue our efforts to support starting full construction in fiscal year 2021," said **Jason Ward**, vice president of *Columbia*-Class Submarine Construction.

Construction of the 12-submarine *Columbia* class is expected to begin in fiscal year 2021 with the first delivery to the Navy in 2028.



Shipbuilders Complete Dry Dock Gate Repair

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Leaders Discuss Workforce Demand

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NNS Spear & Gear Pre-Black Friday Pop-Up

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## NNS Honors Veterans

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Navy veteran **Carlos Camarena (X36)** stood outside the 46th Street gate Thursday morning handing out American flags to shipbuilders as they entered and exited the gates. “It’s important to recognize the service of veterans, and even those who are still active duty,” Camarena said, as he handed a flag to a Navy sailor who was headed into the gate.

Another Navy veteran – **Aylin Robertson**, director of Production Control – spoke during the lunch for veterans on Friday. “If you remember anything I tell you today, I hope it’s that you are valued,” she told fellow veterans. “Your work ethic, likely

born from your military experience – if not prior to it – and your understanding of what it’s like to be on the other side, set you apart from the rest.”

VERG also celebrated the Marine Corps’ 243rd birthday with a cake and a brief ceremony Wednesday. “I’m glad they do something like this. It shows that we are appreciated for what we’ve done for the country and what we continue to do,” said Marine Corps veteran **Alexis Wormley (X42)**, who attended the celebration.

Watch a video celebrating NNS’ veterans on MyNNS.



U.S. Marine Corps veteran **John Kelly** cuts a cake recognizing his branch’s 243rd birthday. Photo by **Ashley Cowan**



## Native American Heritage Month: Bill Hunter

*Newport News Shipbuilding is recognizing Native American Heritage Month in November. 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.*

**Bill Hunter (X47)** was taking classes at Thomas Nelson Community College in 2013 and needed an elective. When he settled on a world religion class, he didn’t know it would help open his eyes to Native American cultures that exist in his backyard.

“One of the projects was to visit a local

religious sect,” Hunter said. The list of suggestions included common religions around the world, including Hinduism and Buddhism, but Hunter was drawn to Native American religion. That led him to attend a powwow hosted by the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia.

“It was an eye-opening experience,” said Hunter, who has worked at Newport News Shipbuilding for 25 years. At the powwow, members of the tribe donned traditional regalia and shared their culture with Hunter and his family in a number of ways, including food, crafts, dance and music. The powwow also included a solemn religious ceremony.

Hunter, a U.S. Army veteran who works as

an electrical planner for *John F. Kennedy (CVN 79)* and *Enterprise (CVN 80)*, was also pleased to see a special celebration for veterans at the powwow. His research for the project also included a visit to the Nottoway Tribe’s museum and an interview with a Portsmouth judge who is a member of the tribe. The work paid off in a number of ways.

“It was a tough class, but I got an A on that project,” Hunter said. “If I hadn’t taken that class, I would not have even known about the powwow, and I was so glad to be a part of it. It was important for me because I realized my perceptions had been based on hearsay and what I saw in the media. It really showed me how little we know about each other’s cultures and traditions.”

While Hunter’s experience was focused on one tribe, he knows there are countless others with their own distinct cultures across the United States.

“Native Americans helped build and shape this country,” he said. “Their contributions are vital to our way of life, especially in terms of farming, cooking and building. I think we would be better off as a whole if we spent more time trying to understand and learn more about each other.”

View Hunter’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](http://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/id-campaign-2018).

## Shipbuilders Complete Kennedy Foam Pour in Record Time

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“We had a concerted effort upfront with planning, engineering and training that we never had on previous ships. That set a good foundation,” said X33 Lead General Foreman **Jim Coppa**. “One of the coolest things about this job was that 60 percent of the craftsmen and craftswomen who worked on it had never done it before. And three of the four foremen who worked the job have less than one year of experience as supervisors.”

Shipbuilders worked 12-hour shifts seven days per week wearing impermeable non-breathing coveralls in summer-like heat to complete the project. **Lamonte Spruill** (X33) had never worked a foam pour before. “I heard it was rough and that it was a two- or three-month job, but it wasn’t bad,” he said. “It was hot, though.”

The 52 craftsmen and craftswomen who performed the foam pour finished the project in record time even though the threat of Hurricane Florence forced work to stop for several days. “Right in the middle of it, we had to stop work, secure the equipment and perform our hurricane preps. When the hurricane threat went away, we were up and running in two hours,” Coppa said.

In addition to training and a highly engaged group of craftsmen and craftswomen, Coppa and the four foremen who lead the project – **Josh Hall**, **Tobias Raynor**, **Justin Helbig** and **Steven McDonald** – said shipbuilders in other departments who helped transport material and equipment were instrumental in making the foam pour a success.



Shipbuilders underwent extensive training during the summer to prepare for the foam pour project.

**Ronda Rakes** (X51) helped manage the project, which can be difficult to plan for since it happens so infrequently. “I helped capture the documentation and knowledge so we would be in an even better position for *Enterprise* (CVN 80),” she said.

Despite their record-breaking performance, Coppa and his team are confident they can do even better on the next pour. “This sets us up for success with knowledgeable employees for CVN 80,” Coppa said.



Shipbuilders working on USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) were recognized for modeling engagement and leadership. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

Shipbuilders recognized include: **Michael Bailey** (X11), **Earl “Spuddy” Cobbs** (X11), **Bryant Rousell** (X11), **Reggie Reid** (X11), **Lee Jordan** (X18), **Brion Gardner** (X18), **Robert Hoover** (X18), **Timothy Jacobs** (X18), **Rodonta Murphy** (X31), **Scott Ridolfi** (X31), **John Neal** (X31), **Kevin Smith** (X32), **Edward Haskins** (X32), **Jamal Thompson** (X32), **Ronald Davis** (X33), **Ryan Ransom** (X33), **Talib Cobbs** (X36), **Dwight Richardson** (X42), **Robert Mills** (X42), **Raymond Ricks** (X42), **Patricia Ferebee** (X42) and **Maurice Askew** (X43).

**Thomasina Wright**, trade director for the In-Service Aircraft Carrier Program; **Todd West**, CVN 73 Program trade director; and **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, all congratulated the honorees.

“Your level of support and commitment to engaging our workforce surpasses my expectations. This team is building a legacy of engaged shipbuilders, and I am proud to be a part of it. Continue leading the way,” Wright said.

“The leadership and engagement displayed was awe-inspiring and infectious,” Beale said.

The CVN 73 WLET plans to continue to recognize shipbuilders who model leadership to help strengthen NNS' workforce.

## CVN 73 WLET Recognizes Engaged Shipbuilders

USS *George Washington*'s (CVN 73) Waterfront Leadership Engagement Team (WLET) recently held a luncheon to recognize a group of shipbuilders for modeling engagement and leadership on the deckplate during the third quarter of 2018. The WLET presented each shipbuilder with a certificate, coin and hard hat sticker.

## Shipbuilders Complete Dry Dock Gate Repair

When shipbuilders recently noticed damage to the timber seal on Dry Dock 12's gate, they jumped into action to ensure the urgent repairs were made. The damage was caused by marine borers, small aquatic animals that worm their way through wood.

**Alberto Ramos** (O41) pulled together a team comprised of Planning, Operations and suppliers to make the repairs. He also worked with the dockmaster and the program offices to use Newport News Shipbuilding's Floating Dry Dock as a repair site. Ramos praised the team that worked on the project.

"The Dry Dock 12 caisson gate is a critical

asset that needs to be ready to be used at a moment's notice, and we executed the project with that concept in mind," he said.

Before work could begin, NNS procured unique live oak timbers from the company's lumber supplier – Chesapeake Wood Products – which delivered the wood to the Floating Dry Dock. Atlantic Constructors then replaced the damaged timber.

The newly repaired gate was moved back into place in October. "It's not easy to coordinate a quick drydocking repair requiring unique material, but the NNS Waterfront Projects team has the ability to



Alberto Ramos stands in front of the Dry Dock 12 gate on the Floating Dry Dock. Photo by Matt Hildreth

make it happen," said Senior Dockmaster **John Anderson**.



Portsmouth Mayor John Rowe addresses representatives from shipyards across Hampton Roads. Photo by Matt Hildreth

## Shipyards Discuss Workforce Demand

Representatives from shipyards across Hampton Roads met Nov. 6 at the America Builds and Repairs Great Ships "launch" conference in Portsmouth.

They discussed possible solutions to regional economic development challenges. At the forefront was determining a way to meet the increased demand for ship construction, repair and modernization as the Navy's fleet grows. There are 280 ships today, and that number is expected to grow to 326 ships by 2023 and later to 355 ships.

Vice Admiral David Architzel serves as chairman of the Norfolk Military Economic Development Advisory Council. He said the Navy requires a healthy industrial base. "The region depends on shipbuilding," he said. "To get to a 355-ship Navy, it's going to take building new ships and modernizing the ships we have."

The goal of shipyard leaders coming together is to develop strategic plans to attract, recruit, hire and train the next generation of skilled employees, such as welders, fitters, pipefitters and electricians. "One issue regarding the industry is that it has this stigma of being a low wage industry – data shows that's not true," said Larry Filer, associate vice president for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development at Old Dominion University. "The business community needs to understand that not all work related to shipyards is tied to government contracts. This industry is here to stay, but 30 years from now we might not do things the way we currently do."

To learn more, contact **Keisha Pexton** (O61) at 688-6212.

## SEEKns Participates in Science Festival

SEEKns volunteers from Newport News Shipbuilding's Kesselring Site volunteered at the MiSci Science Festival in Schenectady, New York, in October. The science festival was a community-based celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).

**Emily Frantz** (E91), **Nathan Mellies** (E91) and **Taylor Chamberlain** (E91) lead an activity on sinking ships. The future engineers built boats of aluminum foil to investigate how their size and shape affects

how much weight they can carry and how this relates to the density of water. After construction, they tested the boat in fresh and salt water to see how salt effects the buoyancy of an object in water.

"It was a fun day showing the community the type of work NNS does," Frantz said. "The event was for families, so it was rewarding to see not just the kids but their parents getting excited about the science behind shipbuilding."



Nathan Mellies, Emily Frantz and Taylor Chamberlain volunteer at the MiSci Science Festival in Schenectady, New York.

## AROUND THE YARD

### Free E-ZPass Transponders Available

Elizabeth River Tunnels (ERT) is giving free \$35 preloaded E-ZPass transponders to NNS employees who do not currently have E-ZPasses. Each month, 200 employees from across the shipyard will be selected to receive E-ZPass transponders. Visit [hii.checkboxonline.com/EZ-Pass.aspx](http://hii.checkboxonline.com/EZ-Pass.aspx) by Nov. 21 to sign up.

See a list of frequently asked questions on MyNNS. For E-ZPass information, visit [www.ezpassva.com/StaticPages/FAQ.aspx](http://www.ezpassva.com/StaticPages/FAQ.aspx). Note: The walk-in E-ZPass giveaway previously scheduled for Nov. 15 has been canceled.

### Register for Holiday Fitness Challenge

Shipbuilders are encouraged to sign up for the “Maintain Don’t Gain” holiday wellness challenge by Sunday, Nov. 18. The challenge, organized by BeWell for Life, will help shipbuilders maintain their weight during the holidays by providing healthy recipes, physical activity tips and more. Participants can also meet with a wellness coordinator for face-to-face support.

All participants who complete the challenge will be eligible to win a FitBit Charge. Log into [myquadmedical.com/hii](http://myquadmedical.com/hii) and click the Wellness Online link or call 327-4200 for details and to register.

### Did You Know?: Consistency in Allocating Costs

Charging similar costs as indirect on one contract but direct on another contract is a Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) noncompliance.

A CAS noncompliance could result in downward contract price adjustments, cash withholds and other detrimental financial impacts to the company. For this reason, it is important to be consistent in charging labor and material costs.

Government Finance Relations (O74) can provide assistance in determining the correct way to charge.

### Notice: Security Clearance Background Investigation Backlog

The Department of Defense (DOD) is currently experiencing a significant backlog of security clearance background investigations.

To help reduce the backlog, DOD investigators are reaching out directly to Newport News Shipbuilding employees and attempting to conduct personal interviews over the telephone. However, NNS has not agreed to telephone interviews. Over the phone, shipbuilders can validate their employment at NNS, provide the 4101 Washington Ave., Newport News, VA 23607 street address as their current work location and confirm they still need a security clearance. DOD officials should contact Security and Emergency Management to schedule personal interviews with shipbuilders.

Additionally, Perspecta, an approved field contractor for the National Background Investigations Bureau, is currently sending emails to NNS security clearance applicants to confirm employment and work location. This information can be provided; however, all personal interviews are to be scheduled through Security and Emergency Management.

For additional information, contact **Glenda Greene** (O15) at 688-2801 or Access Center Manager **Daryl Hagwood** at 688-2464.

### Enrollment Open for Engineering Systems and Industrial Engineering Certification Program

Enrollment is open for the Engineering Systems and Industrial Engineering Certification Program, developed jointly between Newport News Shipbuilding and Old Dominion University (ODU).

The program emphasizes effective application of training to the practical problems routinely faced by shipbuilders. Shipbuilders are invited to attend an information session from 4:15 until 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 13 in the first floor conference room in The Apprentice School.

For more information, see the Nov. 5 edition of *Currents* or contact **Rob Gies** (E02) at 688-6446 or via email.

### Celebrate Newport News Day

The company's Pride in What We Do team encourages shipbuilders to unite by wearing white shirts and participating in group photos for Newport News Day during lunch on first and second shifts on Friday, Nov. 16. Raffles will be held for several prizes.

Employees are asked to gather between the Modular Outfitting Facility (MOF) and the Supplemental Modular Outfitting Facility (SMOF) during first shift and at the Steel Production Facility (SPF) during second shift. Newport News Day occurs on the third Friday of every



Shipbuilders gathered at the CVN Carrier Café to celebrate Newport News Day in October.

month at different locations across the shipyard. For questions, contact **Adam Krininger** (X84) at 380-4286.

## DATEBOOK

### NOVEMBER 13

Attend an after-work Leadercast featuring a video with Dr. Henry Cloud followed by a discussion from 3:45 until 4:30 p.m. in Bldg. 1865-1 (Conference Room). 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 employees' own time. For more information, contact **Sunny Harvat** (O25) at 380-4879.

### NOVEMBER 13

Are you wondering where you are going to be in the next five years? If so, attend an event hosted by the Generational Integration Focus Team (GIFT) employee resource group from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. **Bill Ermatinger**, Huntington Ingalls Industries executive vice president and chief human resources officer, will share workplace success strategies that anyone can use. This event is open to all Newport News Shipbuilding employees. For more information, contact **Evelyn Gregory** (O18) at 688-6899.

### NOVEMBER 14

Attend a Leadercast Coaching Moment featuring "Fearless Leadership," a video with Carey Lorenz, from 4 until 5 p.m. in the PCU Facility. The video lasts less than 30 minutes and will be followed by a group discussion. Lorenz was one of the first women to be assigned to fly the F-14 Tomcat as a fighter pilot. Her military career set the foundation for becoming a leadership expert and professional speaker. No charge will be provided. Attendance must be on employees' own time. For more information, contact **Sunny Harvat** (O25) at 380-4879.

### NOVEMBER 15

The "Great American Smokeout" is your day to quit using tobacco. Take advantage of no-cost wellness coaching at the HII Family Health Center by calling 327-4200 or visiting [myquadmedical.com/hii](http://myquadmedical.com/hii). Shipbuilders can seek no-cost counseling from Employee Assistance Program professionals by calling 1-855-400-9185. Teladoc provides 24/7 over-the-phone support for a one-time \$10 fee. Call 1-800-TELADOC or visit [teladoc.com/hii](http://teladoc.com/hii) to get started.

### NOVEMBER 15

See what Saint Leo University has to offer from 3 until 6 p.m. in The Apprentice School lobby. Participants can review degree programs, the admission process, registration, advising and student success resources. For more information, contact **Charlene Galvez** at (757) 771-3346 or [charlene.galvez@saintleo.edu](mailto:charlene.galvez@saintleo.edu).

### NOVEMBER 15

The L.E.A.R.N. Program will host an after-work presentation with Newport News Shipbuilding President **Jennifer Boykin** from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Boykin will discuss the NNSFORWARD Strategy. The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign up on the L.E.A.R.N. website. For questions, contact **Tanika Vasquez** (E08) at 688-7916, **Helen Dennie** (O28) at 380-4831 or email [LEARN@hii-nns.com](mailto:LEARN@hii-nns.com).

### NOVEMBER 16

Attend a "Bring Your Own Lunch and Learn" Leadercast Coaching Moment featuring a video with Andy Stanley (Leading Yourself First) from noon until 12:45 p.m. in Bldg. 903-1 (Conference Room 129A). Stanley is a successful author of "Next Generation Leader," "Communicating for a Change" and many more. No charge will be provided. Attendance must be on employees' own time. For more information, contact **Sunny Harvat** (O25) at 380-4879.

### DECEMBER 3

Newport News Shipbuilding's annual holiday food drive kicks off Dec. 3 and runs through Dec. 14. Shipbuilders are encouraged to donate nonperishable goods to support families that depend on the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. Look for more information in upcoming editions of *Currents*.

### DECEMBER 5

Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) members and Newport News Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) employees are teaming up for the annual Secret Santa project to provide local children toys, books and clothes. CASA employees work with abused and neglected children who are under the court's supervision throughout the year. Employees interested in sponsoring a child's wish list and/or stocking should contact **Krysti Filer** (O12) at 380-4687. Gift drop off and a group photo will take place at 4:15 p.m. in the Bldg. 86 lobby.

### DECEMBER 5

Some loan offers seem too good to be true. Are you signing up for a bad deal? Attend the "Financial Predators" SmartPath class to learn how to spot risky loans. Classes are offered from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Email [BeWell@hii-co.com](mailto: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.

### HOLA SEEKS LEADERS

The Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Alliance (HOLA) employee resource group (ERG) is looking for employees interested in joining its 2019 executive board and board of directors. All employees are eligible to participate in this leadership development opportunity. Nominations will be accepted Nov. 12-30. For more information, contact **Marisol Liceaga** (E83) at 688-2285 or email [hola@hii-nns.com](mailto:hola@hii-nns.com).

### SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit [www.buildyourcareer.com](http://www.buildyourcareer.com) to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Experienced Blaster	26320BR	X33	Newport News
Experienced Insulator	26968BR	X33	Newport News
Experienced Marine Painter	26121BR	X33	Newport News
Designer 1	21086BR	TBD	Newport News
Test Inspection Supervisor 1	26183BR	O38	Newport News
Senior Microsoft Exchange Analyst 3	20379BR	T54	Newport News

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](http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.



### NNS Spear & Gear Hosting Pre-Black Friday Pop-Up

NNS Spear & Gear, Newport News Shipbuilding's online company store, is hosting its next pop-up from 6:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, beside Bldg. 4911, near Dry Dock 11.

Don't miss the chance to score big savings on a wide variety of company-logged apparel, products and merchandise. The pop-up will only accept credit cards as a form of payment. As a reminder, the online store, [www.nnsSpearAndGear.com](http://www.nnsSpearAndGear.com), is open 24/7 with free shipping every day.

Note: NNS Spear & Gear is not affiliated with The Company Store located at the Apprentice School.