

# CURRENTS

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Photo by Matt Needy

## Builders Win National Championship

With a decisive 56-14 victory over Oakland University, The Apprentice School football team secured the National Club Football Association (NCFA) national championship Saturday, Dec. 1.

The Builders were led by quarterback **Terrence Sudberry** (X43), who was named game MVP. Visit [GoBuilders.com](http://GoBuilders.com) for a game recap and to read more about the team's historic season.

Before the Builders left on Thursday for Wheeling, West Virginia – where the championship game was held – Apprentice School supporters held a rally to see the team off. “I hope that you guys are galvanized to continue to support us after this moment. When we come back and open the season next year, I hope all of you continue to pour into us,” head coach **John Davis** (O22) said to fans. “These guys do a heck of job representing you.”



## Honoring Master Shipbuilders

Newport News Shipbuilding recognizes employees with 40 or more years of continuous service with the prestigious title of Master Shipbuilder. To honor these employees, NNS holds an annual recognition event. This year's event will be held on Dec. 6 and will honor 1,034 Master Shipbuilders, including the 144 shipbuilders who reached the milestone this year.

In this special edition of *Currents*, you will hear from a few of the women and men who have spent decades helping to produce the world's greatest ships. With a combined 44,562 years of service, all of our Master Shipbuilders have built a proud legacy that continues to grow and shape the shipyard as we know it today.

Washington Avenue bustles with shipbuilders near the 37th Street gate at the end of a shift in January 1978. NNS Photo Archive





Shirley Langston (X74) celebrated her 60th anniversary as a shipbuilder in August. Photo by John Whalen

## Six Decades and Counting

One could say that shipbuilding is in **Shirley Langston's** (X74) blood.

The 60-year shipyard veteran is the longest-serving female in all of Huntington Ingalls

## Master Shipbuilder Grateful for Opportunities at NNS

Thinking back on his 40-year career at Newport News Shipbuilding, **James "Rock" Wilson** (X18) is filled with gratitude.

"What I take from being a Master Shipbuilder is the people I've met on this journey. I've worked for and with a lot of good people who instilled in me accountability, responsibly and integrity," he said.

A second-generation shipbuilder, Wilson followed in the footsteps of his father, Royal D. Wilson Sr., and several of his brothers. "I'm from a family of 13 children – nine brothers and four sisters. All nine of us brothers have worked here at some point," Wilson said.

A couple of his brothers are still shipbuilders. And now Wilson's son and a nephew are continuing the family legacy at NNS. When he came to the shipyard in 1978, Wilson said he didn't think too much about how long he would stay with the company.

"In the beginning, I had to learn some things about what's really important. It wasn't all peaches and cream," he said. "But longevity has its perks. If you stick somewhere long enough, you can make something of it. My father gave me that, and I was glad to give it to my son."

Wilson has seen significant change during his time at NNS – from quality of life improvements like the introduction of break areas, microwaves and vending machines to the proliferation of machine welding versus stick welding.

As an experienced shipbuilder, Wilson tries to mentor the younger shipbuilders – many with less than one year of experience – who make up the majority in many of the crews in which he works. "I want them to be successful so I give them all that I have, just like it was given to me. I try my best to instill in them a positive work ethic," he said. "I have patience because I have a son who is their age."

Wilson is appreciative for the way NNS has enabled him to provide for his family during

Industries. She's the only female NNS shipbuilder ever to serve as a Ship's Sponsor, and Langston has frequented the shipyard for as long as she can remember.

And before you ask, she doesn't have any plans to leave anytime soon. "I've always had a boat in my life," she said, "and I can't imagine life without one."

Langston comes from a family of shipbuilders. Her father, Josey "Smitty" Smith, worked as an electrician in the Foundry for 35 years. Her mother, Martha Smith, worked in purchasing. When Langston started as an office clerk in the tool room in August 1958, the family of three were all on the shipyard rolls.

But her shipyard experience began well before her employment. Langston remembers visiting the Foundry nightly to drop off her Dad's dinner. The family lived on 44th Street so it was a quick and easy stroll, and Langston marveled at ships like the USS *United States* being built on the other side of the fence.

Langston is reminded of her father every day when she hears the bells and whistles that warn shipbuilders of crane movement. Her Dad came up with the idea and helped install the safety warnings after a Foundry coworker was pushed into a vat of hot metal by a moving crane.

Improved safety measures are among many changes Langston has experienced over the years. She remembers when there was no "personnel department" and...

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Master Shipbuilder James Wilson, left, talks with Donald Crenshaw. Photo by Nicholas Langhorne

the past four decades. "The Lord has given me the opportunity to work 40 years in this place, and overall it's been good. My wife and I have sent a daughter to law school, have a son in here, have a home and we live well," he said.

He only wishes that his late father could have seen him reach the Master Shipbuilder milestone. "He wasn't very vocal with us, but the way he lived his life set an example," Wilson said of his father. "I know he's there in spirit. He really made a way for me to be where I am today, and I am thankful."

## A Passion for Helping People

Sgt. **James Allen** (O15) believes in setting goals.

But one goal he never set for himself was a 49-year career in Newport News Shipbuilding Security, much less earning the title of longest-serving security officer on the force.

When he joined the shipyard in 1969, Allen simply had a family and needed a job. His first job in the shipyard was as a quality inspector, but when Allen set out to accomplish his goal of earning a college degree, he applied for a security position. The hours worked well with his school schedule, and the job allowed him to pursue his passion for helping people.

Allen said his passion has only grown over the years. During his nearly five decades on the force, Allen has experienced two labor strikes, multiple special events and VIP visits and other opportunities to serve and protect in a number of ways—many of which he keeps under wraps.

He also has developed a passion for training. With an instructor certification from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services under his belt, Allen has achieved his ultimate goal—to start his own business.

When he's not working to protect the shipyard, Allen serves as a master instructor for Tactika Training, a security business that he owns and operates on 79th Street in Newport News. Tactika offers firearms and executive protection training, as well as martial arts techniques and self-defense. Allen has trained individuals and members of police departments and churches—and he plans to expand his business to working with schools.



With 49 years of service, Sgt. **James Allen** is the longest-serving officer on NNS' security force. Photo by **John Whalen**

His retirement plans are something else he keeps under wraps, but his goal is to focus more time on his business.

“You have to set goals and do what you love,” he said. “I enjoy the people and the culture here, and I have a skill set I can provide for protection that makes me feel like I can make a difference—no matter where I am.”

## Bldg. 600 Turns 50

It has been 50 years since more than 1,500 Newport News Shipbuilding designers, engineers and other personnel moved into Bldg. 600.

The building, built on a 22.5-acre site on Marshall Avenue, centralized many of NNS' engineering and design activities that previously had been based in separate locations around the shipyard. But another reason for Bldg. 600's off-site location may sound familiar to today's shipbuilders.

“We are using this particular site to help alleviate the traffic and parking problem in the immediate vicinity of the shipyard,” said former NNS President Donald A. Holden in the August 1967 *Shipyard Bulletin* article announcing the building's construction.

Configuration Data Management Controller **Val Phillips** (O14) was among the first group of shipbuilders to move into Bldg. 600 five decades ago. The son of an NNS rigger, Phillips had started his career at NNS days after graduating from high school in 1966. “I think people were happy we were



Bldg. 600 is shown shortly after it opened in 1968. NNS Photo Archive

moving away,” he said. “Parking was an issue even then.”

Phillips, who is two years away from Master Shipbuilder status due to a break in service in the late 1970s, said the move to the “state-of-the-art” building was “an interesting time.”

“Employees' personal reactions seem to be that they are pleased with their new environment of ample parking, improved lighting, additional space, two canteens and easier accessibility to coworkers of other departments working on mutual projects,” according to a November 1978 *Shipyard Bulletin* article announcing the completion of the move into Bldg. 600.

This fall, shipbuilders celebrated the 50th anniversary milestone and honored Phillips along with **Henry Deese** (E68) and **Sallie Banks**. Banks – who recently retired – and Deese, like Phillips, were among the first group of shipbuilders to move into the building in 1968.





Rick Chisholm, left, and Ron Chisholm both began their careers at NNS in 1971. Photo by Ashley Cowan

## Twins Celebrate 47 Years at NNS

Twin brothers and Master Shipbuilders **Ron Chisholm** (T56) and **Rick Chisholm** (O53) may have started their careers at Newport News Shipbuilding nearly five decades ago, but their excitement for the work they do has only grown.

“We’re old timers who are 47 years in, but we’re still here for one main reason: We’re excited about the digital transformation,” Ron said. “We enjoy seeing the changes that are taking place and helping get things established for the younger generation.” The Chisholms followed in their father’s footsteps when they came to work at NNS in 1971. Ron came in as an apprentice and Rick followed a few months later to work in a warehouse. And younger sister

**Darlene Chisholm** (N210) – who is still a few years away from Master Shipbuilder status – also eventually followed her brothers to NNS. Ron and Rick have witnessed a lot of changes at the shipyard – from increased safety awareness to the emphasis on inclusion and diversity.

Both brothers said the most dramatic changes have come about through the introduction of new technology, which has made work at the shipyard much more efficient. “The other day, I went in the Mobile Experience (MX) trailer, and saw **Josh Buchanan’s** (K49) presentation for O53. I was just floored at all the stuff they’re doing now with the Integrated Digital Shipbuilding (iDS) initiative like using augmented reality and giving tablets to mechanics on the waterfront,” Rick said. He also said his director, **Terry Voltz**, and his general foreman, **Bob Pye**, have encouraged him to develop innovative ideas, including one that could cut his department’s paper use in half.

Ron, who spent 27 years working on the waterfront before moving to IT, said he’s able to follow the digital transformation from two perspectives. “It’s nice to see from the IT perspective how things work and also to see how it impacts the people on the waterfront, especially since I came from that area and know how things were done when we had paper work packages. Now, you see digital tablets.”

The past 47 years at NNS have provided an abundance of experiences, like when Ron worked indirectly with his father. “I was an electrician but ended up in piping. My father was in the pipe department – he installed the pipe we were designing. If he ever ran into a problem, he’d pick up the phone and call me. Those are the stories you remember,” he said.

Rick said it’s important that longtime shipbuilders work to build relationships with younger shipbuilders to help pass on knowledge. “Sometimes it’s hard to get the new generation to open up and talk to older people, but they do once they trust you. You build that trusting relationship, and once you do that they’re not afraid to come to you. There’s no such thing as a stupid question,” he said.

Neither brother has any immediate plans to leave NNS. “It’s an exciting time to be here. If it wasn’t, I’d be putting in my retirement papers,” Rick said. “I feel I’ve still got a lot to give, and they’re letting me. Once I feel like I’m not being useful, then I’ll retire.”

## A Listening Ear

Retired X10 Foreman **Cynthia Royal Moore** started her career at Newport News Shipbuilding as a welder in 1974. She was 18, fresh out of high school and had no plans to spend more than 40 years at the shipyard.

“Somebody told me ‘Don’t drink the water,’ but I guess I must’ve gotten thirsty and drank it because I’m still here 44 years later,” she said with a laugh just days before retiring from NNS in September. “I came along when the shipyard was mostly male oriented, but there was an influx of women hired in the 70s.”

By 1977, Moore had been promoted to foreman. At the time, there were barely a handful of female foremen at NNS. As a leader, Moore said she did her best to learn from others and stressed quality, responsibility and fairness. “In my world, inclusion and diversity have always been important,” she said. “As a supervisor, you’ve got to have a listening ear because you don’t know everything.”

Thinking back over her career at NNS, Moore gives credit to fellow shipbuilders. “I’ve had some good crews. I haven’t done this by myself.



Cynthia Royal Moore talks with James Drury III, second from left, Nicholas Baez and David Carter on her last day at NNS. Photo by Nicholas Langhorne

I’ve relied on a lot of people who did not disappoint me,” she said. “I’m just glad for the ride. I give God the glory. If it wasn’t for him, I would not have been here this long.”

## AROUND THE YARD

### Six Decades and Counting

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...waterfront supervisors handled all of the human resources work. Langston helped to set up the first personnel department and kept track of four divisions' employees by hand—whether it was taking their sick calls or recording their vacation time.

But it wasn't her cup of tea, she said. "I wanted to be closer to the ships."

So she made a deal with her supervisor. If Langston agreed to go to blueprint school, she could change jobs. She enjoyed the learning experience so much that she completed advanced blueprint school, too, before taking a job as a planner in Production Control.

Langston's accomplishments during her 60-year stint don't end there. She lists serving as sponsor of *Captain Ambrose*, NNS' tugboat, riding across the James River on the "Big E" during the retired aircraft carrier's final voyage, and earning the title of Master Shipbuilder among her greatest achievements.

"I love ships and I love the water," she said. "How can you go wrong?"

### Critical Need as NNS' Holiday Food Drive Gets Underway

Newport News Shipbuilding's "ONE CAN Make a Difference" campaign is collecting non-perishable food items through Dec. 14 for families in need across the region in support of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

The foodbank's inventory is currently at a historic low heading into the holiday season – down 18 percent from the same time last year. The closure of local Farm Fresh supermarkets – which had provided more than 800,000 meals per year – is a major component of the inventory decline.

Most-needed items include oatmeal; canned vegetables, fruit, meat and soup; peanut butter; pasta meals and sauces; boxed rice; and 100 percent fruit juices. Collection boxes have been placed throughout NNS. Shipbuilders can also make monetary donations to the food drive by visiting [holiday-season.everydayhero.com/us/newport-news-shipbuilding-one-can-make-a-difference](http://holiday-season.everydayhero.com/us/newport-news-shipbuilding-one-can-make-a-difference).

For every dollar donated, the foodbank can provide four meals.

### Registration Open for NNS' Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Newport News Shipbuilding's Inclusion & Diversity Council will host the third annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration during all three shifts on Jan. 18, 2019.

The events are open to all employees by reservation only. All three sessions will be held in Bldg. 4930 to accommodate first, second and third shifts. The third shift session will be held from 6 until 6:30 a.m. with refreshments included. The first and second shift sessions will be from noon until 12:30 p.m. and from 8 until 8:30 p.m., respectively. Lunch will be provided for both sessions.

Employees must register online using a company computer by Dec. 12. An immediate supervisor must register employees without computer access. For additional questions, contact **Margaret Williams** (O18) at 688-6931.

### New Traffic Pattern on Shipyard Drive

Last weekend, crews reconfigured the traffic pattern along Shipyard Drive to support the relocation of parking spaces in the area of the Joint Manufacturing and Assembly Facility (JMAF).

Parking spaces were relocated to the area that had served as the

truck staging area. As a result, the truck staging area was relocated to the right southbound lane of Shipyard Drive, north of the JMAF.

Refer to the map below for the new traffic flow along this stretch. Signs are posted alerting drivers of the new traffic pattern.





# DATEBOOK

## 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.

## DECEMBER 5

Apprentices and graduates are invited to attend the Female Apprentice Builder (FAB) Talk from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. at The Apprentice School. The FAB Talk will provide an atmosphere for women to openly discuss issues and concerns in the shipyard and how to increase representation in management development programs in the company. A panel of female Apprentice School graduates will share experiences, provide guidance and answer questions. Visit [aschoolfabtalk.eventbrite.com](http://aschoolfabtalk.eventbrite.com) to RSVP. For more information, contact **Latasha Jarrett** (O22) at 380-2005.

## DECEMBER 7

All shipbuilders are invited to the African American Shipbuilders Association's Fourth Quarter Social Event from 4 until 7 p.m. at The Apprentice School Athletic Facility, located at 3901 Marshall Ave. AASA will celebrate its 2018 accomplishments, discuss 2019 goals and thank members and supporters. Attendees are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to the NNS Holiday Toys for Tots drive.

## DECEMBER 7

Shipbuilders are invited to attend SHIPs Network's Shutdown Social from 4:45 until 8 p.m. at Peninsula Movie Bistro, 4401 West Claiborne Square, Hampton. Light hors d'oeuvres will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Beverages and theater tickets will also be available for purchase. Free admission includes private use of the bowling center, lanes and billiards area, including bowling shoes (socks must be worn) and billiards equipment. Visit [hii.checkboxonline.com/ShutdownSocial2018.aspx](http://hii.checkboxonline.com/ShutdownSocial2018.aspx) to RSVP. Attendees must RSVP. For more information, contact **Sharesse Davis** (E19) at 534-2378.

## DECEMBER 8

Join the Apprentice School Student Association for breakfast, crafts and pictures with Santa from 10 a.m. until noon at Crowne Plaza Hampton. A single ticket is \$3 and a pair is \$4. Children 12 and under are free. For tickets, visit [assasanta.eventbrite.com](http://assasanta.eventbrite.com). For more information, contact **Jordan Lacy** (E06/E22) at 688-6130.

## DECEMBER 8

Join the Apprentice School Student Association to celebrate the holidays with dinner, dancing and door prizes from 6 until 11 p.m. at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. Current apprentices can purchase two tickets for \$30. Apprentice alumni can purchase two tickets for \$40. Visit [assahdd18.eventbrite.com](http://assahdd18.eventbrite.com) to purchase tickets. For more information, contact **Marvin Barnes** (E06/E22) at 688-6267.

## DECEMBER 10

The L.E.A.R.N. Program will host an after-work presentation with **Mike Petters**, CEO and president of HII, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign-up on the L.E.A.R.N. SharePoint site. For questions, contact **Tanika Vasquez** (E08) at 688-7916 or **Helen Dennie** (O28) at 380-4831 or email [LEARN@hii-nns.com](mailto:LEARN@hii-nns.com).



Bayport Credit Union is offering Newport News Shipbuilding employees discounted Busch Gardens Christmas Town tickets good for any day throughout the Christmas Town season. Shipbuilders can purchase tickets for \$38.08 by showing their NNS badge at any Bayport branch.

All pop-ups will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 11** ..... The Main North Yard Gate

**Thursday, December 13** ..... Between the MOF and SMOF

**Monday, December 17** ..... Pier 3

**Wednesday, December 19** ..... Outside of Building 520

Only credit cards will be accepted as a method of payment. No cash.

## Virginia Musical Theatre Tickets Available

Newport News Shipbuilding is sponsoring the Virginia Musical Theatre's 2018-2019 season. As part of the sponsorship, tickets to see "Seussical" are available for Dec. 7, 8 p.m.; Dec. 8 matinee, 2 p.m.; Dec. 8, 8 p.m.; and Dec. 9 matinee, 2:30 p.m. Employees interested in tickets should complete the ticket request form on the NNS to Go app. Two tickets will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. NNS to Go is available for free download in the Google Play and Apple app stores. Employees selected to receive tickets will be notified by the Communications Division via email.

In addition, NNS employees can receive \$20 off of the regular ticket price. Call (757) 340-5446 for tickets and more information.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Entry-Level Structural Welder	26842BR	X18	Newport News
Experienced Structural Welder	27147BR	X18	Newport News
Experienced Blaster	26320BR	X33	Newport News
Designer 1	21086BR	TBD	Newport News
Designer 3	26342BR	E71	Newport News
Designer 3	23910BR	E71	Newport News
Electrical Engineer 3	26696BR	E19	Newport News
IT Software Engineer 2	26392BR	T55	Newport News
IT Software Engineer 3	25373BR	T55	Newport News
IT Software Engineer 4	25376BR	T55	Newport News
IT Software Engineer 5	25377BR	T55	Newport News
IT Systems Engineer 2	25595BR	T55	Newport News
IT Systems Engineer 4	26287BR	T55	Newport News
Construction Supervisor 2	27256BR	X09	Ballston Spa, NY
Environmental Engineering Manager 3	27473BR	O27	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.