



Photo by Ashley Cowan

## Foundry Completes First *Columbia*-Class Pour

Newport News Shipbuilding's Foundry poured four copper nickel castings May 28 to mark the shop's start of advance construction for the *Columbia* Class Submarine Program. The castings were for the main ballast tank.

*Columbia* Program Superintendent **Bucky Smith** said behind-the-scenes collaboration among key individuals from the Component Fabrication and Assembly Division, Planning, and the Design Build Team made the milestone possible. "The team accomplished technical assessments and evaluations of products in order to identify and eliminate barriers and road blocks associated with new work flow processes and a drawingless environment," he said.

Foundry representative **Brian Eller** said he has been around for the start-up of other ship classes such as *Seawolf*, *Virginia*, *San Antonio*, *Zumwalt*, *Gerald R. Ford* and *Legend*. "It is so very important to have a successful start-up on any new ship class because the castings produced by the Foundry supply many downstream construction operations," he said.

Patternmaker **Christian Burton**, a recent Apprentice School graduate, was excited when he was assigned the responsibility to make the first *Columbia*-class pattern. Prior to making this pattern, Burton had primarily inspected and refurbished patterns built for other ship classes by previous patternmakers. "Once a pattern is built, it can be reused by the Foundry each time a new casting is needed, which limits the opportunities to build new patterns," he said. "It is so cool that the pattern I made will be used for many years to come."

CONTINUED ON PG 2

## Prepare Now for Hurricane Season

June 1 marked the beginning of the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30.

In the event inclement weather threatens the region, shipbuilders should call the Newport News Shipbuilding Employee Information Phone Line at 1-877-871-2058 or check the NNS to Go app for information regarding the status of shipyard operations.

In addition to the phone line, employees are reminded of other NNS communication channels, including company email, social media (HII Facebook and Twitter pages and NNS President Jennifer Boykin's Facebook page), NNS websites and Send Word Now.

For information about how to prepare for storms and to review evacuation routes in Virginia, visit [www.KnowYourZoneVA.org](http://www.KnowYourZoneVA.org).





In-Service Aircraft Carrier Program engagement champions sold lunches to raise money for Relay For Life. Photo by Ashley Cowan

## ISCVN Engagement Champions Raise More Than \$8,500 for Relay For Life



The Operations Division engagement champions in the In-Service Aircraft Carrier Program established an ambitious goal to raise \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life event at Tabb High School in May. Through a series of lunchtime cookout fundraisers, the team blew past its goal and raised more than \$8,500.

"Aside from building great ships that protect our nation's freedom, we also have opportunities to make a difference in our community. Cancer has touched all of us in some way, so the ISCVN family always helps the fight. When we rally together, this team can

accomplish anything," said **Mike Mathews**, X43 lead general foreman and ISCVN engagement champion lead.

**Danyelle LeBoeuf-Curry** (K45) and X31 Foreman **Matthew Weaver**, who served as co-leads for the ISCVN Relay For Life team, both were happy to see so many shipbuilders support the cookouts and efforts to fight cancer.

"It's really personal for me," said Weaver, as he grilled hamburgers and hot dogs during the fundraiser. He said he supports Relay For Life every year because of his family members and friends who have battled cancer. "It's a good cause. If we can help fund some cures, that's awesome," he said.

LeBoeuf-Curry has only been at Newport News Shipbuilding for about a year. For her, Relay For Life was an opportunity to get involved with the company while also giving back and supporting an important cause. "It really hits close to home," she said. Like Weaver, LeBoeuf-Curry also has family members and friends who have been impacted by cancer.

"It could be any of us," she said. "It could be me, and I would want somebody else to do what they could to help out as well."

Overall, Newport News Shipbuilding raised nearly \$40,000 for Relay For Life this year.

## Foundry Completes First *Columbia*-Class Pour

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The Pattern Shop is developing four additional patterns for the Foundry to use in the molding and casting process in 2019. The Foundry is scheduled to pour 15 castings in 2019, with demand increasing in 2020.

Molder **Mark Bixby**, who served 23 years in the Navy, was excited to be involved in manufacturing of the first *Columbia*-class casting. "We take the same care during molding operations whether it is the

first or last casting to be made for any program," he said.

Other team members involved in the pouring and crane operations were **Marc Morotini**, **Keith Revelle**, **Earnest Coltrain**, **Trey Dugger** and **Daniel Cantu** – who also is a Navy veteran.

Watch a highlights video of the pour on MyNNS.

## Enable Our Workforce Expo is June 18



Newport News Shipbuilding's engagement and inclusion and diversity champions are partnering to host an Enable the Workforce Expo on Tuesday, June 18.

There will be three sessions – from 6 to 8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. – in Bldg. 4931. No charge will be provided. The expo will include a variety of exhibitors on topics specifically designed for shipbuilders. Door prizes, free food from Aramark

and more will be offered. The expo is open to all shipbuilders. Registration for volunteers and attendees is recommended via the Quality of Life – Engagement website on MyNNS. Look for more information in upcoming editions of *Currents*.

Another expo will be held in the fall. Contact **Danyelle Saunders** (K49) at 688-7762 or via email for questions or to volunteer.



William "Bill" C. Bullock's work has taken center stage at every christening at Newport News Shipbuilding since the late 1970s. Photo by Matt Hildreth

## Shipbuilder Who Makes Christening Bottle Holders Prepares for Retirement

William "Bill" C. Bullock (X32) has played an instrumental – albeit behind the scenes – role in every ship christening at Newport News Shipbuilding since the late 1970s. He builds metal holders for the champagne bottles that Ship's Sponsors smash on the bow of a new submarine or aircraft carrier during christening ceremonies.

"A lot of people think it's just a bottle, but it's a bottle inside of a holder with strips to keep the glass fragments from flying," Bullock said. "It keeps people from getting cut."

At NNS since 1973, Bullock began making the bottle holders – using a spinning lathe – in 1978. Soon, he was developing ways to improve the process.

"I came up with my own way of putting it together and putting different shines on it," Bullock said. "It worked out, and I haven't had one to fail so far."

Bullock isn't sure exactly how many bottle holders he's made during the past four decades.

This summer, Bullock is trading his hard hat, safety glasses and steel-toe shoes for retirement. However, his work will still be used for the next several christenings at NNS – including the ceremony for *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) this fall – because he usually makes six bottle holders at a time.

M32 General Foreman **Tim House** said Bullock also played a huge role in manufacturing the nose cone of the propeller at the entrance to The Mariners' Museum and Park. "Bill's attention to detail, his ability to think out of the box, his can-do attitude and his personality, in general, make him irreplaceable," House said. "He will be truly missed."

Bullock's advice to younger shipbuilders is simple: Think about the sailors whose lives will depend on the quality of the ships built at NNS. "Do your work the best you can and try to improve on the jobs you're working on," he said. "Everything you do is important and will help keep sailors from being injured out there."

## Virginia Arts Festival Volunteer Opportunities

Newport News Shipbuilding is a sponsor of the Virginia Arts Festival. Volunteers are needed for the festival's Williamsburg Live event featuring Norah Jones on Friday, June 21, and Emmylou Harris on Saturday, June 22, on the lawn of The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg.

Volunteers will receive a T-shirt to wear during their shift, free parking, water and a letter of appreciation. Since most volunteer positions are in the park, volunteers can enjoy the music while working and breaks are provided to enjoy the sights and sounds. To volunteer, contact Sandy Miller at [smiller@vafest.org](mailto:smiller@vafest.org).



## WellNNS Goes Green for Mental Health Awareness Month



May was Mental Health Awareness Month. Newport News Shipbuilding's WellNNS employee resource group invited shipbuilders to wear green May 24 to bring attention to mental health. Shipbuilders met at *Dorothy* and The Apprentice School football field for group pictures.





Shipbuilders in Structural Fabrication and Assembly continue to participate in Kaizen events to reduce construction duration for Virginia-class submarine modules. Photo by Matt Hildreth

Lean principles. The team then applies the training to optimize construction processes and develop action plans.

Shipbuilders in the Steel Production Facility (SPF) reduced the construction duration for the Auxiliary Machinery Room (AMR) module by 39%. “The one aspect from the Kaizen event that surprised me was the excitement from multiple foremen to not just perform the outcome of the Kaizen plan but to outperform the projection,” said SPF Superintendent **Corey Beddingfield** (X10).

When Kaizen is applied through a consistent and sustained program of successful Kaizen events, it coaches shipbuilders to think differently about their work and processes. After the Kaizen event, **Mike Howard** (X11) said he expects “more organization, more support on issues and better communication between the trades and between shifts.”

Industrial Engineering is responsible for post-Kaizen project management. The department maintains the action plans and reconvenes with the Kaizen teams regularly to review performance, document lessons learned and collect new ideas.

## SFA Continues Kaizen Events

As part of Newport News Shipbuilding’s NNSFORWARD Strategy, Structural Fabrication and Assembly (SFA) and Industrial Engineering are conducting Kaizen events, which are rapid, team-based activities to achieve focused continuous improvement.

A series of Kaizen events are being held to help SFA shipbuilders apply Lean principles and reduce the construction duration for the different Virginia-class submarine modules they build. Kaizen team members closest to the work are selected and provided training in



## Watch Focus NNS

The latest edition of Focus NNS explores the sights and sounds of NNS Family Day, including a trip onboard *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

The episode also takes viewers to a ceremony celebrating the beginning of advance construction for the next generation of ballistic submarines and a unique signing day ceremony for future shipbuilders.

## New U.S. Flag Rises in Time for Flag Day

Several shipbuilders – including **Wayne Trevathan** (O63), **Daryl Cyrus** (X10), **Mike Hailey** (O63) and **Matthew Bass** (O15) – recently took action to replace an American flag that was showing signs of wear and tear at Outfitting Berth No. 1.

“It’s just a matter of respect. It means a lot to everybody,” said Trevathan, whose son serves in the Army.

Cyrus, a Navy veteran, and Hailey and Bass – who both served in the Marines – agreed. “When you’re coming out of Carrollton and you hit the James River Bridge, that flag is the first thing you see,” Bass said. “It’s a pretty sight.”

The nation celebrates Flag Day on Friday, June 14. The holiday commemorates the adoption of the American flag on June 14, 1777.



Wayne Trevathan (O63), Daryl Cyrus (X10), Mike Hailey (O63) and Matthew Bass (O15) stand in front of a new American flag at Outfitting Berth No. 1. Photo by Matt Hildreth

## AROUND THE YARD

### WiSE Woman Award Recipients Recognized

Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) recently presented “WiSE Woman” awards to the following employees during the second quarter of 2019:

- **Pat Clifford** (O38) was recognized for employee engagement in April.
- **Roslyn Long** (E32) was recognized for employee engagement in May.
- **Linda McMillian** (O22) was recognized for commendable and sustained performance in June.

WiSE presents this award each month and award winners’ names are published in *Currents* on a quarterly basis. For more information about the program, visit the WiSE Woman website on MyNNS or contact **Janice Boone** (E16). To submit a nomination, complete the WiSE Woman nomination form.



### First Class Moves Forward in ODU Certificate Program



The first class of shipbuilders pursuing the engineering systems and industrial engineering certificate recently completed the first of six required modules.

A joint effort between Newport News Shipbuilding and Old Dominion University’s Department of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering, the certificate program was developed as a professional development and training curriculum directly supporting NNS operations.

The program’s six modules include cost engineering, systems assessment and quality, decision making and analysis, project design and evaluation, engineering complex systems and advanced manufacturing.

Qualified NNS employees who successfully complete this training are eligible for tuition reimbursement. In addition, ODU offers class credits for completion of this certificate program for NNS employees pursuing graduate degrees in systems engineering and engineering management. For more information about the program, contact **Rob Gies** (E02) at 688-6446 or **Eric Wishon** (O19) at 688-6961.



Pictured from left are **John Kraft** (X44), **Willie Sears** (X73), **Terry Gray** (X42), Toastmasters Dignitary Area 45 Director **Nadrian Whytus**, **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Sheila Carter** (X72).

### Shipbuilder Wins Second Place at Speech Contest

**Terry Gray** (X42), a member of the Spear and Gear Toastmasters at Newport News Shipbuilding won second place at the District 66 Toastmasters International Speech Contest in Virginia Beach in May.

Gray’s speech focused on the “Safety Man Movement” and communicated the importance of helping friends, neighbors and family stay safe at home and at work. The District 66 speech contest includes five of the best speakers from more than 1,400 public speaking members of Toastmasters clubs spread across central and eastern Virginia. The contestants begin at the club level, with the winners competing through the area, division and district levels.

Shipbuilders are invited to attend future Spear and Gear Toastmasters club meetings. The club meets from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at The Apprentice School (Room 247). For more information, visit the Spear and Gear Toastmasters website on MyNNS or contact **Jason Paquette** (E83) at 534-2770.

### Executive Assistant Mentoring Opportunities at NNS



Administrative salaried individual contributors at Newport News Shipbuilding have an opportunity to be mentored by an executive assistant for six months.

The mentorship provides opportunities to learn about an executive assistant’s background and experiences, and to learn and grow personally and professionally. Mentees can use the wisdom and advice of their mentors to develop career plans to potentially become executive assistants during their NNS career.

If interested, visit the Mentoring Program website on MyNNS. On the mentoring application, list “executive assistant” in the area provided for mentor recommendations. As capacity allows, mentees will be matched to an executive assistant for six-month mentoring partnerships that include one-hour meetings each month.



## DATEBOOK

### JUNE 11

Virginia will hold primary elections on Tuesday, June 11. Over 70% of Virginians will have the opportunity to vote in some primary. These races will be for seats in the General Assembly and some local offices. Shipbuilders are encouraged to participate. To see if a primary is being held where you live, visit the Virginia Public Access Project at [www.vpap.org/local-politics/elections](http://www.vpap.org/local-politics/elections).

### JUNE 13

**Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, is hosting town hall meetings in The Dive (Bldg. 4633) for shipbuilders on all three shifts to discuss parking and transportation, health benefits and improving communication between generations. The third-shift town hall is from 7:15 until 7:45 a.m. The first-shift town hall is from noon until 12:30 p.m. The second-shift town hall is from 8 until 8:30 p.m. No charge will be provided. For more information, contact **Cindy Mann** (O61) at 688-7563.

### JUNE 13

The "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club will host a meeting from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. in Room 247 of The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919). 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.

### JUNE 14

The Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) is hosting a celebration for the U.S. Army's birthday at Applebee's (Bldg. 227) from noon until 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact **Adam Kringer** (PEER M40) at 380-4286.

### NNS RIDESHARE RESOURCES

Newport News Shipbuilding employees who are interested in joining an existing rideshare to and from work or forming a new group should visit the Parking and Transportation website on MyNNS.

## NNS SAFETY REPORT

Compared to figures from May 2018

Year-to-Date Injuries  
**463 (up 28%)**

Year-to-Date Injuries with Days  
Away, Restricted or Transferred  
**321 (up 33%)**

Safety Improvements  
**613 (4% below goal)**

### JUNE 14

The F. Farrell Sanders 14th Annual Apprentice Athletic Club Builder Backer Golf Classic will tee off at 1 p.m. at Ford's Colony Country Club. This is the biggest fundraiser for the sports teams at The Apprentice School. To play, or to sponsor the event, contact **Kim Gibson** (N211) at 688-3167 or via email. The cost is \$80 per player with dinner, raffle prizes, silent auction and more.

### JUNE 15

The Hampton Roads chapter of the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) Golf Tournament will be held at 7:30 a.m. at Sleepy Hole Golf Course. This is a four-person Captain's Choice tournament. The cost is \$65 per person (\$260 per team). Price includes green fees, cart, unlimited range balls, post tournament awards and dinner. For more information contact **J.J. Bosco** (E37) at 688-2458 or 871-9837.

### JUNE 18

Newport News Shipbuilding's engagement and inclusion and diversity champions are partnering to host an Enable the Workforce Expo in Bldg. 4931. There will be three sessions – 6 until 8 a.m., 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 6 until 8 p.m. The expo is open to all employees and will include a variety of exhibitors on topics specifically designed for shipbuilders, door prizes and free food. Register on the Quality of Life - Engagement website on MyNNS. No charge will be provided and PPE is required. For more information, contact **Danyelle Saunders** (K49) at 688-7762.

### JUNE 20

The L.E.A.R.N. Program will host an after-work presentation with **Brian Fields**, vice president of Business Transformation, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign up on the L.E.A.R.N. website on MyNNS. 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).

### JUNE 22

June is LGBT Pride Month. Join the Shipbuilders Together Realizing Inclusion, Diversity and Equality (STRIDE) employee resource group at Town Point Park in Norfolk to celebrate Hampton Roads PrideFest from noon until 8 p.m. Visit the NNS tent to grab some swag and learn more about STRIDE. NNS is a presenting sponsor for the event.

### JUNE 27

The "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club will host a meeting from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. in Room 247 of The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919). 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.

### JULY 1-2

SHIPs Network is looking for a new SHIPs board member to lead its new hire team. SHIPs is hosting interviews for the position from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. July 1 and from 4 until 5 p.m. July 2 in Bldg. 903-7 (Breakout Room). If interested, contact **Lewis Fisher** (X46) via email or at 688-4761 or **Eric Olsen** (X22) via email or at 688-1868 for more information. Being an active employee resource group board member could help employees expand their shipbuilding network and offer opportunities for professional and personal growth.

### JULY 2

The African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) is hosting its second quarter meet and greet event from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. **Latitia McCane**, director of education at The Apprentice School, will be the guest speaker.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Quality Analyst 3	27988BR	O06	Newport News
Process Improvement Analyst	29576BR	O39	Newport News
Sr. Compensation Analyst 3	29158BR	O23	Newport News
iDS Business Integration, Engineer Systems 1	28196BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Information Governance Lead Engineer 3	28183BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Information Governance Professional Engineer 2	28186BR	X57	Newport News
Engineer 3	28846BR	E19	Newport News
Engineer Electrical 3	28396BR	E19	Newport News
Engineer Electrical 3	29216BR	E74	Newport News
Lean Sensei – Engineer Industrial 5	28498BR	X51	Newport News
Nuclear Procedure Writer Engineer 2	24607BR	E84	Newport News
Senior Level Metallurgist	28595BR	A572	Newport News
Manager Production Planning and Scheduler 2	30474BR	X44	Newport News
Facility Security Officer (KSO)	28590BR	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Foreman – Teamster Supervisor (KSO)	27659BR	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](http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.

# SMALLTALK

about big ideas

## Change for Better

**By Jennifer Boykin**  
President, Newport News Shipbuilding

The United States Navy is counting on us.

It's a fact I was reminded of last week while standing with Navy leadership on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. We were gathered for the island landing celebration, and, Rear Admiral Roy Kelley, commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic, said something that made me stop and think about how tremendous our responsibility truly is.

He said, "We need our carriers. We need them because no other weapons system in existence or on the drawing board today can deploy and redeploy with the responsiveness, multidimensional might and the inherent battle space awareness of a full-size, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with its embarked air wing. Crisis after crisis, president after president, they've asked, 'Where are my carriers?'"

Whether engaged in a humanitarian effort or protecting our borders, our Navy cannot perform its mission without the aircraft carriers and submarines we build at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Our nation faces great challenges, and it is on all of us to ensure our Navy is equipped with an operational fleet. Our country is in a race with our peer competitors and we play a vital role in ensuring that America maintains the lead. We are no longer in a position to be comfortable with the status quo. As shipbuilders, we must continually seek opportunities for improvement.

Our nation needs us.

So, how can we build ships faster and more economically without compromising capability, safety and our company values?

It's a question we ask ourselves every single day.

*John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79), the aircraft carrier on which I stood with Rear Adm. Kelley and other Navy leaders last week, is a great example. The carrier new construction team is working in every possible way to optimize lessons learned from the building of *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) to construct the second ship of the class. As of two weeks ago, the ship was about three months ahead of schedule using 18 percent less man hours to get the job done.

CVN 79's improvements are significant, but improvements don't have to be the size of an aircraft carrier to make a big difference.

Just ask the Structural Fabrication and Assembly and Industrial Engineering teams. The shipbuilders, who represent all levels of the company and multiple departments, are seeking ways to reduce construction time on *Virginia*-class submarine modules so that they can do their vital part. They are using the Kaizen approach, a Lean philosophy focused on continuously improving processes by identifying and eliminating waste.

Kaizen, a Japanese word that means "change for better," is about bringing together a diverse group of people, giving them a problem and getting out of their way. It's about turning up the volume on our shipbuilders' voices and removing their frustrations.

This approach is also leading to positive results. In the Ring Module Shop, the teams have come up with a solution to reduce a 10-month build cycle on a submarine module to less than eight months. Another Kaizen meeting resulted in identifying 33 non-value-added welding steps that were reduced to two.

Regardless of the approach we take to improvement, the learning that is taking place along the way is making us smarter, better shipbuilders.

And that's exactly what our Navy—and our country—deserves. I challenge each of you to continue asking questions—to constantly challenge the status quo. Because if we give it everything we've got, we will succeed in helping our company not only lead the race, but "change for better."

