

NNS Christens *John F. Kennedy*

In a ceremony celebrating shipbuilders, the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the American hero for whom the ship is named, Newport News Shipbuilding christened *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) Saturday, Dec. 7.

"Since the first cut of steel nine years ago, thousands of shipbuilders have brought incredible integrity, skill and innovation to bear, working around the clock in pouring rain, unrelenting humidity and bitter cold – like today – to create this magnificent marvel beside us," said NNS President **Jennifer Boykin**. "They continue to overcome physical and technological challenges that we refer to as 'the romance of shipbuilding,' and they rise to every challenge. Yet when you ask them to describe what they do, you will find that they are a humble group."

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Thousands attended the *John F. Kennedy* christening ceremony on Dec. 7. Photo by Ben Scott

Shipbuilder Pride on Display at Christening

For the thousands of Newport News Shipbuilding employees involved in the construction of *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79), Saturday's christening ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate and share their work with family and friends.

"It's a good thing. A lot of people put in a lot of hard work. Today, you can bring your family to enjoy and see what you do," said **Olando Robinson** (X91).

Keshayla Johnson (X18), **Mariah Stubbs** (X18) and **Felicia Newsome** (X18) were happy to attend the ceremony. The trio of welders all started at NNS about three years ago, working exclusively on CVN 79. "Knowing that we built something that will help the

United States is a great feeling. All of my family came out – cousins, mom, dad, kids – I'm very excited," Newsome said.

Stubbs, a second-generation shipbuilder whose father and brother also work on *Kennedy*, had attended christening ceremonies in the past, but never for a ship she helped construct. It's a responsibility she takes seriously.

"It's pretty cool to actually have a hand in it because I have friends in the Navy, and one day some of them might actually serve on *Kennedy*," Stubbs said.

Johnson said seeing the ship nearly complete made all the hard work worth it. "It's a great feeling to see your project come from the bottom all the way up," she said. "The process has been stressful, but seeing it now – and knowing we put down nothing but good-quality welds – I think we did a good job."

Drew Coates (X42), who said he has worked on *Kennedy* "since the beginning," also attended the ceremony with his family. "It's pretty cool because they don't really understand what we do here, so being able to bring them in kind of gives them a glimpse of it at least," he said.

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Former U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, the Ship's Sponsor and daughter of President Kennedy, smashed a bottle of American sparkling wine across the bow to christen the ship. During her remarks, she reflected on christening the first aircraft carrier named in her father's honor.

"This ship will represent the ideals he lived by – courage, sacrifice and belief in freedom – and it will help make real his vision of a more just America and a more peaceful world," Kennedy said. "I'm so proud to be sponsor of this ship and to join with all of you to bring her to life. I look forward to being part of her odyssey and of her extended family. Most of all, I hope she will carry my father's spirit with her as she sails, his leadership in wartime, his courage in crisis and his commitment to the hard and steady work of building peace."

Thousands of guests attended the ceremony, including some former sailors who served on the first USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67), which was built and christened at NNS in 1967.

Since the first cut of steel in February 2011, shipbuilders have worked to construct *Kennedy*, and suppliers from 46 states across the country have contributed specialized parts, skilled services and support to aircraft carrier production. In the weeks following the christening, the carrier will be launched into the James River and moved to a pier where outfitting and testing of the ship's systems will continue until the ship is delivered to the U.S. Navy in 2022.



Guests read the *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) christening program. Photo by Matt Hildreth

Watch the opening video from the ceremony, which includes the bottle break, and a highlights video on MyNNS. Photos from the event will be posted on KennedyChristening.com this week. Ceremony programs will be available in the lobby of Bldg. 520 beginning Monday, Dec. 16.

NNS Awarded Contract for Construction of *Virginia*-Class Submarines



Newport News Shipbuilding and teaming partner General Dynamics Electric Boat were awarded a \$22 billion contract to build nine *Virginia*-class submarines.

The Block V contract allows NNS and Electric Boat to continue the modernization of the fleet of nuclear-powered

fast-attack submarines over a five-year period, with construction starting in 2019 and deliveries scheduled from 2025 through 2029. NNS will serve as the delivery yard for five of the planned submarines.

Under the contract, eight of the nine boats will be built with the Virginia Payload Module (VPM), an 84-foot section that provides more than three times the missile strike capacity of the current *Virginia*-class submarines. The contract also includes an option for a 10th boat with VPM.

“Today’s contract maintains the *Virginia*-class build rate that

provides continued stability to our workforce and to the 5,000 suppliers that will support submarines for the next decade,” said **Dave Bolcar**, vice president of *Virginia*-Class Submarine Construction. “This contract also continues the two per year construction cadence essential to sustaining production efficiencies, while ensuring our national security and the Navy’s continued undersea superiority.”

NNS and Electric Boat have built and delivered 18 *Virginia*-class submarines; 10 Block IV boats are currently under construction.

Virginia-class submarines, which are being built to replace the *Los Angeles*-class submarines as they are retired, incorporate dozens of new technologies and innovations that increase firepower, maneuverability and stealth, and significantly enhance their warfighting capabilities.

VPM will provide the Navy with undersea strike capability that currently resides with *Ohio*-class guided-missile submarines, and the flexibility to host a variety of payloads.

Read a letter from NNS President **Jennifer Boykin** regarding the contract award on MyNNS.

Active RFID Helping Track Preventive Maintenance Material



The Preventive Maintenance Team (O52) uses active Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID) technology to accurately track material requiring preventive maintenance throughout the shipyard.

Reusable battery-powered RFID tags are being attached to material that requires preventive maintenance. “Zonal fixed readers” have been installed at strategic locations throughout the shipyard. The readers receive signals from the tags, allowing shipbuilders to see the material movements from one zone to another.

Using live data, shipbuilders can run reports that show where material was last identified before anyone is sent out to perform the required maintenance. This prevents teams from being dispatched to a location to find that the material requiring maintenance has been moved.

“If items are not where we’re telling the maintenance teams to go, we’re wasting their time,” said **Dan Isaacson** (O52), who works on the Preventive Maintenance Team.

Tags must stay attached until the tagged material is installed on the ship/unit. Tags are removed by the craftsmen and craftswomen installing the material. If an RFID tag must be removed from material for some reason before it is installed, the tag must be reattached to the same material. If a shipbuilder finds an RFID tag that is not attached, they should call the Preventive Maintenance Team at 688-8109.

In addition to the tags that are attached directly to material, there are



Reusable battery-powered RFID tags are being used to track material that requires preventive maintenance at NNS. Photo by **Nicholas Langhorne**

also gray tags that are zip-tied to objects like telephone poles, sign posts, drains and railings throughout the waterfront. These tags are used for systems calibration and should not be removed.

Watch a video on MyNNS to learn more about the active RFID technology being used to track material at NNS.

It's OK to Ask for Help

“We never know which Kevin we’re going to get.”

This is the common phrase in the Blatnik family, and it’s about **Kevin Blatnik** (O93), a project manager who has worked at Newport News Shipbuilding for more than 15 years.

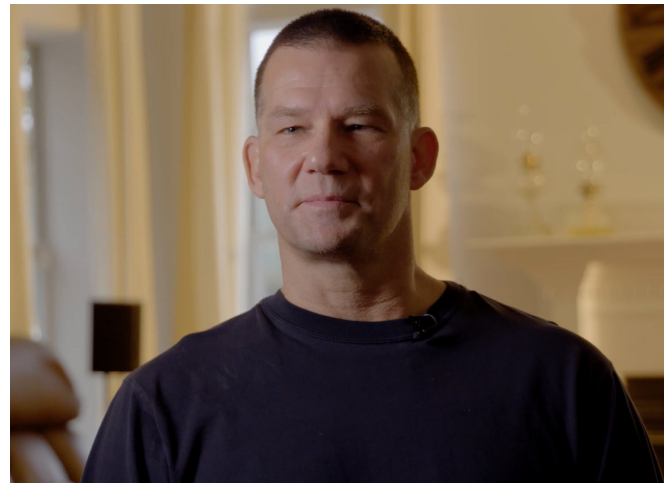
It’s not that there are two Kevins, at least not physically. Blatnik has bipolar disorder, a brain disorder that can cause extreme shifts in mood and energy.

“Neurochemically I am different,” Blatnik explained. “I can feel depressed for months at a time and then have manic moments where I feel creative, although the manic periods are less pronounced.”

Only an estimated 2.8% of the U.S. adult population suffers from bipolar disorder, which can cause periods of unusually intense emotions. With watchful care, though, the disorder can be treated.

“I track my moods and identify my triggers in a very similar manner in which I manage my responsibilities at the shipyard,” Blatnik said. “Because I am open and share my challenges with my best friends at work, they know my situation and are willing and able to help me.”

While bipolar disorder may be rare, more than 50% of Americans will be diagnosed with a mental disorder or illness in their lifetime, and one in five will experience a mental illness in a given year. “It’s OK to ask for help,” Blatnik said.



Kevin Blatnik receives treatment for his bipolar disorder and encourages fellow shipbuilders to take advantage of resources offered through HERO.

Employees and their household family members have free access to help for life’s challenges through HERO: HII Employees Reach Out. HERO offers confidential, no-cost counseling and referrals. Call 1-855-400-9185 or visit www.hiihero.com and use code “Huntington Ingalls” to reach out.

Visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/employees/hii-hero-program to watch a video about Blatnik’s experience.



Pictured from left are Ken Mahler, Jennifer Boykin, Paula Moran of the USO, Bruce Roberts and Chris Miner. Photo by Matt Hildreth

ISCVN Program Golf Tournament Supports USO

Newport News Shipbuilding’s In-Service Aircraft Carrier Program hosted its 16th annual Aircraft Carrier Invitational golf tournament on Oct. 4 at Ford’s Colony Country Club with 220 participants.

Proceeds from the event benefit the USO of Hampton Roads and Central Virginia, which supports members of the armed forces and their families. A USO representative recently visited NNS for a check presentation.

Register for Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration by Dec. 20

Newport News Shipbuilding’s Inclusion and Diversity Council will host the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on all shifts on Jan. 17, 2020.

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 on MyNNS by Friday, Dec. 20. Supervisors must register employees without computer access. For more information, contact **Margaret Williams** (O18) at 688-6931.

AROUND THE YARD

Indirect Cost Charging Changes Take Effect

Employees should now use “W” job orders to charge to indirect processes and/or department overhead charges, with some exceptions. Shipbuilders should contact their division’s business management analyst for specific questions about this change. A list of all division analysts is available on the Business Management (O97) website. For more information, see the Distribution A memo regarding the change.

Direct Deposit Changes No Longer Available in MyHR

Due to a software change, employee direct deposit election is no longer available through MyHR. Shipbuilders should fill out Form NN 3722 and return it to Payroll for all direct deposit additions, changes and updates. The MyHR team plans to make online direct deposit election available again in the future. For frequently asked questions regarding direct deposit, visit the Payroll website on MyNNS.

WiSE Woman Award Recipients Recognized

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

- **Connie Boothe** (E37) was recognized for commendable and sustained performance in November.
- **Liz Chandler** (O25) was recognized for outstanding leadership in December.

WiSE presents this award each month and award winners are published in *Currents* on a quarterly basis. If you have questions regarding the program, visit the WiSE Woman website on MyNNS or contact **Janice Boone** (E92) to submit a nomination by completing the WiSE Woman Nomination Form.



Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) members with Huntington Ingalls Industries President and CEO **Mike Petters** at the Achievable Dream Tennis Ball.

WiSE Members Volunteer at Achievable Dream Tennis Ball

Members of Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) represented Newport News Shipbuilding as silent auctioneers at the 27th annual Achievable Dream Tennis Ball on Nov. 16.

The event helps raise funds for academic programs at An Achievable Dream Academy and An Achievable Dream Middle/High School. An Achievable Dream is a nationally recognized K-12 program dedicated to the belief that all children can learn and succeed regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Brooks Crossing to Host Holiday Event Dec. 13

Shipbuilders and their families are invited to attend ARTech Lights from 3:30 until 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at Brooks Crossing. Attendees can see a double helix art installation that will shine nightly through December.

The event will also include hands-on “Techtivities” from Newport News Shipbuilding and Jefferson Lab, food and beverage vendors, a fire pit, a silent disco, fire performers, a DJ and a skating rink. ARTech Lights is part of the BayPort Credit Union NlightN Holiday Event Series.



Discounted Busch Gardens Christmas Town Tickets Available

Bayport Credit Union is offering Newport News Shipbuilding employees discounted Busch Gardens Christmas Town tickets good for any one day throughout the Christmas Town season, which ends Jan. 5.

Shipbuilders can purchase tickets for \$43 by showing their NNS badge. Tickets are only available for purchase at the 37th Street location, and if using a card, it will be a cash advance.

Do You Know NNS' Time Charging Policy?

Time charging requirements are outlined in policy SSO NO. 10-403 (Time Collection and Attendance Reporting). This 15-page policy is located on MyNNS. Employees who are unable to access MyNNS can ask a foreman/supervisor to print a copy.

For time charging-related questions, employees should contact their foreman/supervisor or Labor Compliance (O73) at 534-4147.

DATEBOOK

DECEMBER 9

Xavier Beale, vice president of Trades, is hosting town hall meetings from noon until 12:30 p.m. and from 8 until 8:30 p.m. at Applebee's (Bldg. 227). Topics will include productivity guidelines, transportation updates and health and wellness. No time charge will be provided. For more information, contact **Cindy Mann** (O61) at 688-7563.

DECEMBER 12 AND 17

The Chesapeake Regional Medical Center Mobile Mammography Unit will be onsite at the HII Family Health Center from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Dec. 12 and 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Dec. 17. The mobile unit offers comfortable and discreet appointments for state-of-the-art 2D and 3D mammograms for women age 40 and over. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (757) 312-6400 or visit www.ChesapeakeMammo.com.

DECEMBER 12

Shipbuilders are invited to Spear and Gear Toastmasters end-of-the-year celebration for a fun-filled evening of games and prizes from 4:45 until 6 p.m. in Room 247 of The Apprentice School (Bldg.1919). For more information, contact **Sheila Carter** (X72) at 534-0207 or **Jamar Skyles** (X44) at 534-3826.

DECEMBER 12

The Access Center (Bldg. 625) will close for quarterly maintenance from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. During this time, replacement and visitor badges will not be issued. Plan accordingly for visitors who are scheduled to come onsite. For questions, contact **Daryl Hagwood** (O15) at 688-2464

DECEMBER 14

Shipbuilders, family and friends are invited to volunteer at a longleaf pine tree planting event to benefit the Nature Conservancy from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Piney Grove Preserve in Waverly. For more information and to sign up, contact **Sarah Lambert** (O27) via email.

FEBRUARY 22

The graduation ceremony for The Apprentice School's Class of 2019 will be held at 11 a.m. at Liberty Baptist Church, located at 1021 Big Bethel Road in Hampton. No tickets are required to attend the ceremony.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Engineer Electrical 2	33107BR	K93	Newport News
Engineer Mechanical 3	32956BR	E83	Newport News
General Foreman – K46/X32	33668BR	K46	Newport News
iDS Business Process Engineer 3	32742BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Computational Business Analytics Engineer 3	32750BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Operations Research Engineer 1	32937BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Operations Research Engineer 2	32749BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Operations Research Engineer 3	32747BR	X57	Newport News
Manager Engineering 2	33584BR	E83	Newport News
Manager Engineering 2 (Propulsion Plant Electrical)	33445BR	E11	Newport News
Manager Production Planning and Scheduling 2	33622BR	X76	Newport News
Manager Supply Chain Procurement 2	32266BR	O51	Newport News
Manager Test Engineering 2 – CVN AWE/SE Test Group	33590BR	E25	Newport News
Quality Analyst 2	33175BR	M10	Newport News
SAP PS/PP PEO Solution Architect	31560BR	T55	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 for more information.

NNS SAFETY REPORT

Compared to figures from November 2018

