

# CURRENTS

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A weekly publication of Newport News Shipbuilding



Tugboats move *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) from Dock Dry 12 to Pier 3, where the ship is undergoing final completion and outfitting. Photo by Matt Hildreth

## Launching *Kennedy*

Newport News Shipbuilding launched *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) into the James River for the first time in December.

With the aid of six tugboats, *Kennedy* was guided down the river about a mile from Dry Dock 12 to Pier 3. There, the ship is undergoing additional outfitting and beginning its testing program three months ahead of its original schedule.

“This move is significant in that it represents a shift in focus from erecting the ship in dock to final completion and outfitting at the pier,” said **Mike Butler**, program director for *Kennedy*. “It is also a testament to the amazing teamwork I see every day between Newport News Shipbuilding and the Navy as we work together to build *Kennedy* with valuable first-of-class lessons from the *Ford*.”

During this phase of construction, which is expected to take about two and a half years, habitability spaces, such as berthing and mess areas, will be completed, and distributive, mechanical and combat systems, such as catapults and radar arrays, will be tested.

*Kennedy* is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2022. Watch a video of CVN 79’s launching on MyNNS.

## NNS Awarded Submarine Planning Yard Contract

Newport News Shipbuilding was recently awarded a planning yard design services contract with a potential total value of \$454 million for nuclear-powered submarines.

The contract will provide planning, engineering and design,

## VCS Welders Earn Perfect Score

For the second time in *Virginia* Class Submarine Program history, welders recently earned a perfect score on circumferential seam, or c-seam, initial inspections. C-seams join the two sections of the pressure hull, which upholds the submarine’s structural integrity while bearing external water pressure.

Inspection results showed no defected c-seam welds on *Montana*’s (SSN 794) pressure hull. The success saves Newport News Shipbuilding a significant amount in weld repair and re-inspection costs. The team credits its achievement to hard work and pride.

“We worked with more than 1,200 pounds of metal,” said **Octavian Davis** (X18). “For all the welds to be defect-free, it’s...

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## Boykin Welcomes Back Shipbuilders

Newport News Shipbuilding President

**Jennifer Boykin** released a special welcome back video message for shipbuilders on Jan. 6.



“As we kick off 2020, we must continue our focus on safe, ethical and strong performance in support of the Navy,” she said.

Watch the video on MyNNS, the NNS to Go app or on the Huntington Ingalls or Jennifer Boykin Facebook pages.



and logistics and modernization support for new, operational, conversion and decommissioning submarines. The contract includes options over a five-year period through 2024, and is initially funded at \$5.3 million.

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Inspection results showed no defected c-seam welds on *Montana's* (SSN 794) pressure hull. It was a significant achievement for the team of welders that completed the work. Photo by Lena Wallace

## VCS Welders Earn Perfect Score

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...an amazing accomplishment. All it takes is the slightest movement for a weld to not meet expectations.”

The only other *Virginia*-class submarine to receive a perfect c-seam score during first time inspections is *USS California* (SSN 781), built about 10 years ago.

“I remember welding *USS California*,” said **Stanley Britt** (X18). “The difference between then and now is experience. Back then everyone had the same experience level. Now, it’s great to see both the older and younger generations of shipbuilders work to procedures and put hard work into the job. This inspection accomplishment is only a stepping stone to what’s to come. I have confidence in my teammates.”

Davis said he and his teammates learn from one another and pay close attention to details while on the job. “Working on these submarines gives me a sense of pride,” he said. “No one else does what we do here at NNS. We are the best shipbuilders in the world.”

## Watch Focus NNS

The latest edition of Focus NNS features a behind-the-scenes look at planning for the *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) christening and a countdown of the top five moments at Newport News Shipbuilding in 2019.

## On-the-Spot Ethics Awards Announced

The following shipbuilders were recently honored with On-the-Spot Ethics Awards: **Leland M. Waltrip** (E16), **Daniel G. Chance** (E16), **Jared M. Andrews** (E16), **Robert G. Martin** (T55), **Bryan J. Randall** (X73), **Brandon E. Piggott** (X31), **William C. Lesueur** (X31), **Kenneth H. Stroud** (X31), **John W. Patterson III** (X31), **Armond M. Bradley** (X31), **Sean D. Bryant** (X31), **Alexander Z. Bradstreet** (X31), **Melynda L. Roberts** (O51), **Brenda L. Speller** (X33), **Wayne R. Laustsen** (E82), **Amber D. Robinson** (E81), **Thomas R. Hayes Jr.** (X42), **Victor W. Pettaway Jr.** (X73) and **Laura C. Chapman** (O51). To nominate a fellow employee, submit form C-941 to the Ethics Office, Dept. O18.

## NNS Awarded Submarine Planning Yard Contract

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“We have a proven history of executing Navy ship design, shipbuilding and maintenance work, and we continue to grow, develop and train the workforce necessary to support the increasing pace and volume of our work with the U.S. Navy,” said **Charles Southall**, vice president of Engineering and Design. “With this contract, we look to continuing our partnership with the Navy to modernize and maintain the nation’s fleet of high-quality, mission-capable submarines.”

NNS is one of two U.S. shipyards capable of designing and building nuclear-powered submarines, and is the design agent and hull planning yard for the *Los Angeles*-class and *Seawolf*-class attack submarines. The company also provides technical services and mobile submarine modernization and repair services at naval shipyards, fleet homeports and around the world.

## NNS Accepting Applications for Craftsman Internship Program

Newport News Shipbuilding is accepting applications for 2020 summer internship opportunities for college students enrolled in an associate degree or similar program related to shipbuilding. Programs include automotive, building construction, collision repair/refinishing, electronics/electrical technology, heavy equipment, HVAC, industrial technology, machining technology, manufacturing technology and welding technology.

To qualify, students must be at least 18 years old, U.S. citizens, have a 3.0 cumulative GPA, have completed one year of their associate program and be available to work on either first or second shift for a minimum of 10 weeks this summer. For more information, search the “Students & New Graduates” portal of the Huntington Ingalls Industries Careers website ([buildyourcareer.com](http://buildyourcareer.com)) for job requisition No. 33710BR. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31.



The McCallum family with **Damon Saetre** as he speaks during the dedication ceremony. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

volunteers have constructed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg since 2002.

**Damon Saetre**, vice president of Integrated Planning and Production Control, presented the house keys and a plaque to McCallum. Her home is the 200th built by Habitat for Humanity and its partners.

“There is a sense of purpose and accomplishment that comes from building things with your hands – whether it’s a ship or a house,” Saetre said. “The tools and materials may be a little different, but the builders’ dedication and pride is the same. At the shipyard, we believe that our work allows us to be part of something greater than ourselves. The same is true of this project. These homes make our community stronger, they provide safety and stability for our neighbors, and they provide hope for a better future. We could not be any happier to be part of making this house the McCallum family home.”

Watch a highlights video of the dedication ceremony on MyNNS.

## NNS Dedicates Habitat for Humanity Home

Newport News Shipbuilding joined community representatives and elected officials on Dec. 17 to dedicate the newest Habitat for Humanity home.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony welcomed Crystal McCallum and her three children to their new home on Madison Avenue in Southeast Newport News. It is the 17th house NNS

## Logistics Safety Task Team Celebrates 2019 Successes

The Logistics Safety Task Team, made up of 40 shipbuilders from O53 and O54 representing all shifts, recently celebrated a banner year.

“We’re just a very engaged team,” said **Rodney Thornton Jr.** (O53), who serves on the Logistics Safety Task Team. “It takes everybody working together to look out for each other and try to be better every year.” Reported injuries in O53 and O54 decreased 25% from 2018 to 2019, marking the best safety year on record for Logistics.

Thornton and fellow Safety Task Team member **Stephanie Hargrave** (O53) credited the positive results to a number of factors, including the 69 safety improvements implemented during the year and open communication between management and employees.



Logistics Safety Task Team members recently celebrated positive safety trends they observed in 2019. Photo by **Nicholas Langhorne**

The Logistics Safety Task Team includes five sub-teams – communications, ergonomics, forklift training, inspections and job safety analyses. Each team plays an important role, and 2019 included significant ergonomic improvements and a dramatic drop in forklift accidents – there were only eight compared to 20 in 2018, a 60% decrease.

While the Safety Task Team is proud of its accomplishments in 2019, members are studying past safety trends to see what issues still need to be addressed. “We’re going to go over all of our safety data for 2019, and we’re preparing for 2020,” Hargrave said. “We’re always looking to do better and improve in every category.”

## AROUND THE YARD



Pictured from left are **Lloyd Outten**, **James Carter** and **Mark Madler** with additive manufactured valves.

### NNS Continues to Explore Additive Manufacturing

Newport News Shipbuilding continues to explore new frontiers in the field of additive manufacturing in support of the U.S. Navy.

In early October, two stainless steel drain strainer orifice valves, created through additive manufacturing, were successfully installed onboard a moored training ship. This was a milestone since they were installed in a high-energy propulsion plant steam system. The installation represents the second time additive manufacturing applications have been used on Navy assets; NNS installed a similar additive

manufactured valve in a *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier earlier last year.

This successful integration of new technology was the result of a multi-year collaboration between NNS' Standard Navy Valve Yard (SNVY) (E83) and the Naval Nuclear Laboratories in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, and Schenectady, New York. One goal was to print valves from different manufacturers and install them side by side to evaluate consistency between manufacturers, a critical step as procedures and standards are developed for this new technology

**James Carter** (E83) led the SNVY effort, with support from NNS designers and engineers. "Initially, my team developed and provided the electronic model of the drain strainer orifice, which allowed Naval Nuclear Laboratories to print several valve bodies and caps in their metal additive manufacturing facility, as well as contract with an industry partner to print several more for comparison," he said. "After they were printed, SNVY coordinated procurement of standard parts and assembling them with the printed parts into completed drain strainer orifices."

SNVY then executed an engineered test program that verified the valves could meet similar design requirements as a valve manufactured from a forging. Naval Nuclear Laboratories conducted material testing and was able to leverage previous data provided by NNS.

Due to a late change in the ship's maintenance schedule, SNVY and Naval Nuclear Laboratories accelerated efforts to obtain Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) approval for drain strainer orifice installation in time to support the availability. The valves will remain on the training ship until it is retired. Afterward, SNVY and Naval Nuclear Laboratories will evaluate the long-term operational impact on the drain strainer orifice valves and share the results with the additive manufacturing community and the Navy.



Pictured from left are **Mark Vancuyck**, **Michael Gray** and **Noah Satchell**.

### Shipbuilders Compete in Chili Cook-off

The Steel Fabrication Shop held its second annual Chili Cook-off in December. The engagement activity brings shipbuilders together to unwind, fellowship, have fun and show off their cooking skills. The chilies were tasted by judges from outside of the shop. **Michael Gray** (X15) won first place. **Noah Satchell** (X15) and **Mark Vancuyck** (O43) won second and third place, respectively. The winners each received a certificate and a 7-Eleven gift card.



### NAVSEA Honors Shipbuilder

**Chris Arnold** (E37) was honored by Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) on Dec. 10 during the *Columbia* Construction Readiness Review for his work with non-destructive testing on torpedo tubes. He is pictured in the center with Capt. Jonathan Rucker, left, and **Jason Ward**, vice president of *Columbia*-Class Submarine Construction.

**On our last day of work before shutdown,** I received an email about X11 Foreman and Master Shipbuilder Phillip Wilson, who was retiring after more than 42 years of service. On his last day of work, he pulled out a piece of paper – his voice and hands trembling with emotion – and read his thoughts on retirement to his team. They were moved by his words and asked if they could share them, to which he agreed.

As I read his heartfelt expression of what it has meant to him to be a shipbuilder, I could think of no better way to begin 2020 than by sharing Phillip's message with you.

*My Thoughts on Retirement by Phillip J. Wilson*

*My dream of a free nation led me to this career. I only asked for a way to contribute to our protection. I asked for wisdom, knowledge and understanding to do so. In this career we have a commitment toward our company and country for the safety of each and every one of us, internal and external – meaning our family in the yard, our family outside of the yard, and our employees and citizens of this nation. We have a commitment to quality to build good ships and protect us all. This in turn gives us the quality of being free as a nation, which is the cost of our commitment.*

*Let's each and every one of us look to the flag on our ships and get the reward that we built this product of protection for all. Our badge that we wear is a symbol of our honor to do so.*

As we prepare for the year ahead, please remember Phillip's words and wear the badge of shipbuilding with honor and pride in all that we do.

Happy New Year!



Jennifer Boykin  
President, Newport News Shipbuilding



# DATEBOOK

## JANUARY 10

Weight Watchers is coming to NNS in 2020. Participants can lose weight and build healthy habits with programs that fit their lives. Attend a kickoff at 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 903 (Conference Room 614 A/B). If interested, email [HIIWellness@quadmedical.com](mailto:HIIWellness@quadmedical.com) to confirm a spot. The program is 26 weeks long and available at a special reduced rate of \$217.80 per person.

## JANUARY 14

New Year's resolutions focus on areas we want to improve, including our finances. Learn how to make the most of your money in 2020 through SmartPath's Financial Resolutions class at noon in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and at 4:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Visit [nns.huntingtoningalls.com/smartpath-registration](http://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/smartpath-registration) to register. Can't make the in-person class? A live webinar will be available on Jan. 16. Visit [www.hiibenefits.com](http://www.hiibenefits.com) to register for the webinar.

## JANUARY 19

Jan. 19 is the deadline for individuals or teams to sign up for the six-week Weigh To Go Weight Loss Challenge. Participants will receive emails and encouragement along the way. The team with the highest percentage weight loss will receive \$50 Visa gift cards for each member. Any individual losing over 1% will be entered into a drawing for a smart watch. This challenge is open to all HII employees and spouses. To register, log into MyChart at [myquadmedical.com/hii](http://myquadmedical.com/hii) then hover over the Resources tab and click Wellness Online.

## FEBRUARY 8

Attend a lecture and book signing with William Fox, author of *The Apprentice School: Celebrating a Legacy*, from 2:30 until 3 p.m. at The Mariners' Museum and Park. The event is included with \$1 museum admission and free to Mariners' Museum members. For more information, visit [marinersmuseum.org/lectures](http://marinersmuseum.org/lectures) or contact Julie Murphy at (757) 952-0466 or [jmurphy@marinersmuseum.org](mailto:jmurphy@marinersmuseum.org).

## 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.

## FEBRUARY 23

The Peninsula Engineers Council (PEC) will host the annual Peninsula Engineer of the Year Banquet at the Hampton Roads Convention Center from 2 until 8 p.m. Join fellow engineers and friends at a dinner, during National Engineer's Week, to honor this year's recipient. Tickets will be available through your engineering society or [www.va-pec.org](http://www.va-pec.org). The Peninsula Engineers Council (PEC) is an inter-society council comprised of representatives from 18 engineering organizations.



Pictured from left are **Shavonne Watson (X33)**, **As-Saboor Hasan (X33)**, **Taelor Janney (O43)**, **Ryker Bierhuizen (M53)**, **Samuel Shoun (X32)**, **Turner Paxton (X36)**, **Jessica Lawson (X18)** and **Precious Brown (X32)**. Not pictured are **Ian Carrillo (X15)**, **Deborah Pittman (O22/X33)** and **Kelli Gilliam (O22/X18)**.

## Apprentice School Student Association Gives Back

The Apprentice School Student Association (ASSA) volunteered with the Newport News Department of Human Services Holiday Assistance Program to help families in need for the holidays. ASSA volunteers purchased gift cards for food to feed families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Students also purchased gifts to fulfill Christmas gift wish lists for children in foster care and senior citizens.

## Shipbuilders Support Salvation Army Angel Tree Program

Shipbuilders in the Reactor Store Room donated approximately \$1,300 in gifts during the holidays for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, including bikes, clothing and toys. Shipbuilders who donated included **Rick Schenk**, **William Naramore**, **Christopher Jones**, **Quantella Littlejohn**, **Kortney Bell**, **Jessica Krzeski**, **Brandon Seminario**, **Bryan Randall**, **Tasha Howard**, **Demetria Futrell**, **Kenneth O'Leary**, **Linda Foster**, **Kendreyatta Benjamin**, **Edgar Mercadal**, **Gary Meents**, **Maggie Barnes**, **Michelle Watson**, **Jamon Diggs**, **Blake Wilson**, **Robert Branch** and **Victor Pettaway Jr.**, **Edward Mason**, **Scott Ambrose** and **Tamara Grantham-Drumgoole**.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Coatings Inspection Supervisor	33793BR	X67	Newport News
Craftsman Internship	33710BR	TBD	Newport News
Designer 4	33824BR	E70	Newport News
Engineer Facilities 3	33966BR	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Project Management Analyst 3	33490BR	O64	Newport News
Quality Analyst 3	33906BR	K93	Newport News
SAP PS/PP PEO Solution Architect	31560BR	T55	Newport News
Software Engineer 4	31848BR	X51	Newport News
Sr. Compensation Analyst 4	32719BR	O23	Newport News
Structural Inspection Supervisor	33789BR	X67	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.