



Photo by Ashley Cowan

## Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy



Newport News Shipbuilding's Inclusion and Diversity Council hosted events to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during all three shifts on Friday, Jan. 17. The theme for the fourth annual celebration – “What are you doing for others?” – referenced a quote from one of King's speeches.

Ray Bagley, who retired as vice president of Trades in 2018, was the keynote speaker. He encouraged shipbuilders to follow King's example and always help others – in their families, communities and at work.

“When you give your life to service, it does something on the inside. There's something that keeps you going when your body wants to quit,” Bagley said. “I'm challenging you today. Whatever that is for you, I want you to awaken it today. Shake yourself. Wake yourself. If you're doing something, that's good. I need you to do more. If you haven't started doing anything, then today is a mighty good time to start.”

Bagley also referenced the demographic shift currently underway at NNS – with Baby Boomers retiring in large numbers and being replaced with younger shipbuilders. “If there is a time to help others, that time is now,” he said.

His words resonated with shipbuilders like **Samuel Nichols** (X42). “We all need to look at ourselves and show respect to one another each and every day in all that we do, no matter what generation we come from,” Nichols said.

**Destiny Ellis** (X33) said Bagley's words were inspirational. “We should put others first,” she said. “On the job, I am going to look out for others more so everyone is safe.”



Ship's Cook 3rd Class Doris Miller earned a Navy Cross for his actions during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. U.S. Navy photo

## CVN 81 Will Be Named for World War II Hero Doris Miller

The fourth *Ford*-class aircraft carrier – CVN 81 – will be named in honor of Ship's Cook 3rd Class Doris Miller. Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly made the announcement during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day ceremony Jan. 20 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



## Tradewinds Café Opens in South Yard



Shipbuilders cut the ribbon at the Tradewinds Café in Bldg. 64 during second-shift lunch on Tuesday, Jan. 14. The café is the latest space to be reclaimed at Newport News Shipbuilding as part of an ongoing initiative to improve the quality of life for employees.

“Our shipbuilders’ jobs are hard enough. They need a place to get out of the weather and recharge. They deserve it,” said *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) Topside Construction Director **Dave White**.

In addition to providing indoor space for South Yard shipbuilders to enjoy breaks and meals, the café will also allow teams to have meetings and collaborate. “It’ll be a gathering place that will hopefully strengthen our shipbuilders’ sense of community,” White said.

**Josh Selby** (X32), who helped cut the



**Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, talks to shipbuilders during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Tradewinds Café. Photo by **Ashley Cowan**

ribbon, said spaces like the Tradewinds Café show shipbuilders that their hard work is appreciated. “I think it’s great to have somewhere clean to go and eat,” he said.

Watch a highlights video of the ribbon-cutting ceremony on MyNNS.

## CVN 81 Will Be Named for World War II Hero Doris Miller

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CVN 81 will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American. This will also be the first aircraft carrier to be named in honor of a sailor for actions while serving in the enlisted ranks.

“Doris Miller stood for everything that is good about our nation, and his story deserves to be remembered and repeated wherever our people continue the watch today,” Modly said. “In selecting this name, we honor the contributions of all our enlisted ranks, past and present, men and women, of every race, religion and background.”

Miller was collecting laundry on *West Virginia* (BB 48), when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began on Dec. 7, 1941. When the alarm for general quarters sounded, he headed for his battle station, an anti-aircraft battery magazine, only to discover that torpedo damage had wrecked it. Miller was ordered to the ship’s bridge to aid the mortally wounded commanding officer, and subsequently manned a .50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun until he ran out of ammunition. Miller then helped move many other injured

sailors as the ship was ordered abandoned due to her own fires and flaming oil floating down from the destroyed *Arizona* (BB 33). *West Virginia* lost 150 of its 1,500-person crew.

Miller’s actions earned him a commendation from then Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, and the Navy Cross, which was presented to him personally by Adm. Chester Nimitz, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at the time. Miller died aboard *Liscome Bay* (CVE 56) in 1943 when the ship was hit by a torpedo and sank off Butaritari Atoll in the Gilbert Islands.

The Navy awarded Newport News Shipbuilding a contract to build *Enterprise* (CVN 80) and CVN 81 early last year.

“As shipbuilders, we have the distinct honor of being part of many historic firsts, and we are especially proud to build the first U.S. Navy aircraft carrier named in honor of an African American and enlisted sailor,” said NNS President **Jennifer Boykin**.

## Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.’s Legacy

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A choir of shipbuilders from the African American Shipbuilders Association also performed during the ceremony. **John Witherspoon II** (O53); **Chris Miner**, vice president of In-Service Aircraft Carrier Programs; and **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, also delivered remarks.

Watch a highlights video of the ceremony on MyNNS.

## Employee Referrals Help NNS Hire for Hard-to-Fill Positions

Newport News Shipbuilding employees submitted more than 1,200 employee referrals in 2019. Shipbuilders received a total of more than \$20,000 in cash bonus awards for referring candidates who were hired to select hard-to-fill jobs.

Several employees were also rewarded with \$25 in NNS company store merchandise for submitting referrals, including **Shonda Sturdivant** (X47), **Bridget Connelly** (E86), **Sam Sofferin** (E74), **Mone Bethea** (K45), **Angie Kelly** (X76), **Nathan Cuffee** (X31), **John Cummings** (E81), **Johnnie Brooks** (E25), **Cole DeBenedittis** (E84), **Angela Osborne** (O59), **Greg Williams** (E25) and **Debbra Jones** (X33).

“I think the referral program is an excellent way to introduce potential new team members to the Newport News Shipbuilding family,” said **Gerry Greb** (E47), who was hired last year after being referred. “I know that oftentimes being connected and networked to a current employee is just the right help for allowing potential new employees to join the team. I’m personally very grateful that NNS has this program in place.”

Greb was referred by **Lawrence Yavoski** (E47). “The program helps accelerate the hiring process by matching up a known good potential candidate to a new opportunity,” Yavoski said.

To submit a referral, view a complete list of cash bonus-eligible positions and review the REFER program guidelines, visit [www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend](http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend).

Successful referrals must meet the basic qualifications for the job. For questions, contact **Shauntel Foster Bridges** (K21) at 688-0224.



Shipbuilders use a pattern from CVN 65 to create a mold for CVN 80. Photo by Matt Hildreth

## Foundry Makes *Enterprise* Connection

*Enterprise* (CVN 80) not only shares its name with CVN 65 but also some of the original casting patterns. Shipbuilders in the Foundry are using CVN 65’s intermediate strut pattern to create a mold for CVN 80.

“We take pride in our constant focus on quality,” said **Kevin Forrest**, a general foreman in the Foundry and Pattern Shop. “As a result of superior craftsmanship, we can use a pattern that was built in the 1950s

for the last *Enterprise* to make the mold for the first large casting of the new *Enterprise*. Every day I see this continued commitment to quality as our team builds new patterns that will be used for decades.”

In the coming weeks, shipbuilders in the Foundry will turn these molds into castings by completing the first large pour for the CVN 80 program.



## EMALS and AAG Testing on USS *Gerald R. Ford*

Last weekend, USS *Gerald R. Ford*’s (CVN 78) crew continued the at-sea testing of the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) with multiple aircraft types. U.S. Navy photo



## AROUND THE YARD



**Newport News Shipbuilding Gives**

### United Way Campaign to Kick Off in February



Newport News Shipbuilding's 2020 United Way campaign will run from Feb. 3-21. The Newport News Shipbuilding Gives platform will be available to sign-up, edit and redirect donations.

Email [unitedway@hii-nns.com](mailto:unitedway@hii-nns.com) to schedule a United Way or other nonprofit organization representative to speak to departments or organizations. One hundred percent of contributions go directly to local communities.

INTRODUCING Percipio

### Skillsoft Moving to a New Learning Platform in March

Skillsoft is moving to a new learning platform called Percipio on March 2. Shipbuilders should complete any training that is currently in progress by Feb. 21. Percipio is a state-of-the-art immersive learning platform with engaging content, curated into 450 channels.

Benefits of the new platform include:

- Ease of use – A modern, simple, intuitive design.
- Curated learning paths to provide guidance.
- Watch-Read-Listen – Multimodal options to take learning where and when you need it.

For questions, contact Skillsoft administrators **Lynne Walker** (O34) or **Rose Brodie** (O34) via email.

### VCS Program Recognizes Shipbuilders



For the past 10 years, the Virginia Class Submarine (VCS) Program has recognized one shipbuilder each week in October as the "Quality Craftsman of the Week."

From the pool of weekly award winners, one craftsman is selected to receive the "Quality Craftsman of the Month Award." The 2019 award was presented to **Kermit Tiggie** (X11).

"This recognition program allows the VCS Program to showcase the craftsmen who exemplify first-time quality every day. Over the last 10 years, we have been able to recognize these individuals for their contributions to the program. I consider it an honor to be part of this recognition program," said VCS Construction Director **David Brinkley III**.

In addition to Tiggie, other shipbuilders



**Kermit Tiggie**, center, was honored as the VCS Program's Quality Craftsman of the Month.

recognized during the month included **Ceferino Bersonda** (X42), **George Blizzard** (X33), **Codey Long** (X18) and **Jeremy Poole** (X32).

"I am proud to be able to recognize the individuals who not only demonstrate first-time quality day in and day out, but share their first-time quality skills with others," said VCS X11 Lead General Foreman **Eddie Pritchett**.



### John F. Kennedy Christening Posters Available

Posters commemorating the Dec. 7, 2019, *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) christening are now available in the Bldg. 520 lobby.

### ISCVN Program Gives Back With Winter Drive

The In-Service Aircraft Carrier (ISCVN) team collected socks and gloves during its "ISCVN has your hands and feet COVERED" winter drive. Shipbuilders graciously filled collection boxes that were placed throughout the ISCVN community.

All contributions were donated to Link of Hampton Roads/Port to help those in need. The division would like to thank everyone who donated and



**Chris Miner**, vice president of In-Service Aircraft Carrier Programs, and **Tiffany Johnson** (X70), ISCVN engagement champion lead, stand with some of the donated items.

remind them to look out for other upcoming events to support the community.



## Newport News Shipbuilding

January 14, 2020

Dear Shipbuilders,

Much like 2019, the year ahead promises to be filled with steady and challenging work as we execute on our programs to build and maintain our nation's aircraft carriers and submarines and to deliver them into the Navy's fleet. One of our shipbuilders so critical to leading these efforts is **Ken Mahler**, vice president of Navy Programs. Ken has shared with me his intention to retire on April 1 after more than 35 years of distinguished service.

Ken began his NNS career as a co-op student in 1985 and has served in a variety of positions ranging from engineer and engineering supervisor to construction superintendent, program manager and program director. In 2005, he was promoted to vice president of aircraft carrier Refueling and Complex Overhaul, and in 2008 he was named vice president of Navy Programs where he led all Navy programs, to include aircraft carrier construction, aircraft carrier refueling and overhaul programs, aircraft carrier inactivation programs, submarine construction, and fleet support operations. Our business has grown under Ken's leadership, and we have made strong progress on returning to a 12-ship aircraft carrier fleet and building the 355-ship Navy our nation needs. His impact touches every product line we build and maintain, and his legacy of "Always Good Ships" will endure for generations to come.

Ken and I are working together on a smooth transition to ensure strong performance on our historic backlog. My decision to bring **Rick Spaulding** back to lead our Execution Operating System last fall was a first step. Today, I am announcing the second. **Matt Needy**, current vice president of Operations, **will serve as vice president of Navy Programs to succeed Ken**. Matt brings more than 28 years of shipbuilding experience to this position, including engineering, systems engineering, manufacturing, process improvement and strategy expertise, as well as Navy Programs leadership. Before his most recent position, he led our *Virginia*-class submarine construction program and submarine fleet maintenance activities in Newport News and worldwide. To enable a smooth transition, **all Navy Programs vice presidents will report to Matt beginning on March 1**.

With Matt's move, we will take the next two months to determine the optimal organizational structure for the Operations division to ensure a rigorous operational focus with continued strong leadership. Until then, the following leadership assignments are effective immediately:

- Program trade directors (**Larry Baranowski, Joe Dvorak, Willie Hayes, Chandra McCulley-Hooker and Thomasina Wright**) **will report to Xavier Beale, vice president of Trades**. Xavier will retain responsibility for trades directors and The Apprentice School, and he will report to me.
- All Manufacturing division heads for CFA, SFA and HII-Mechanical (**Bob Schatzel, Jason Sutton and Scott Jones** (acting)), Facilities (**Jim O'Brien**) and existing operations integration departments **will report to Julia Jones, director of Operations Integration**. Julia will report to me.

Please join me in supporting all of these leaders in their roles, and please join me in congratulating Ken on his upcoming retirement.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Boykin  
President  
Newport News Shipbuilding

A DIVISION OF HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES

## DATEBOOK

### JANUARY 23

Shipbuilders looking for a way to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills can attend the "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club meeting from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. in Room 247 at The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919). For more information, contact **Jay Romulo** (O31) at 380-3768 or **Jamar Skyles** (X44) at 534-3826.

### JANUARY 31

Jan. 31 is the deadline to apply for the 2020 Craftsman Summer Internship. The program is for college students enrolled in an associate degree or similar program related to shipbuilding. 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.

### 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 5

Learn how to manage and prevent back pain through the HII Family Health Center's We've Got Your Back program. Led by physical therapists and wellness staff at the health center, this free program addresses risk factors, pain management and more. Sessions start Wednesday, Feb. 5. Sign up at [www.myquadmedical.com/hii](http://www.myquadmedical.com/hii). Employees who attend all three sessions will receive a voucher for a free physical therapy appointment.

### FEBRUARY 13

Shipbuilders looking for a way to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills can attend the "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club meeting from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. in Room 247 at The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919). For more information, contact **Jay Romulo** (O31) at 380-3768 or **Jamar Skyles** (X44) at 534-3826.

### FEBRUARY 20

The African American Shipbuilders Association will host its annual Black History Month program from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6. The guest speaker is Janice Underwood, Virginia's director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

### 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. Tickets are not 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 PEC is an inter-society council comprised of representatives from 18 engineering organizations.

### FEBRUARY 27

Shipbuilders looking for a way to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills can attend the "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club meeting from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. in Room 247 at The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919). For more information, contact **Jay Romulo** (O31) at 380-3768 or **Jamar Skyles** (X44) at 534-3826.

### MARCH 3

L.E.A.R.N. is hosting an after-work presentation with **Susan Jacobs**, vice president of Human Resources and Administration, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASIC auditorium. 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, **Chris Porro** (E70) at 534-0332, or email [LEARN@hii-nns.com](mailto:LEARN@hii-nns.com).

### MARCH 19

The Virginia Ship Repair Foundation is looking for technical advisers to assist local middle schools during its 14th annual LEGO Competition. Volunteers will help students design, build and present their shipbuilding innovations in LEGO CAD at the competition, held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. March 19 at Nauticus. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sallena Nikitas at (757) 233-7034 or at [SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org](mailto:SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org).

## February Blood Drives

Newport News Shipbuilding is hosting the following blood drives in support of the American Red Cross. A time charge will be provided for employees who donate.

### Feb. 6

Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room)  
7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.  
Contact **Judy Fundak** (K18) at 380-3011 or via email to schedule an appointment.

### Feb. 11

Bldg. 903-2 (Conference Rooms A and B)  
8 a.m. until 1 p.m.  
Contact **Christina Charnock** (E70) at 380-2863 or via email to schedule an appointment.

### Feb. 12

Bldg. 600-1 (Conference Rooms B and C)  
7 a.m. until noon  
Contact **Natasha Eck** (E83) at 688-7196 or via email to schedule an appointment.

### Feb. 21

Bldg. 909-2 (Second Floor Dining Area)  
7:30 until 11:30 a.m.  
Contact **Judy Fundak** (K18) at 380-3011 or via email to schedule an appointment.

## AASA Looking for Dancers

The African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) is issuing a call for volunteers who would like to dance during the employee resource group's annual Black History Month celebration on Feb. 20.

AASA is looking for volunteers who enjoy all types of dance to explore the various genres that express African American dance culture.

Rehearsals will be held from 4 until 5 p.m. on Feb. 3, 6, 13 and 17 in Bldg. 520-6. Rehearsals on Feb. 3, 6 and 17 will be held in the James River Room. The Feb. 13 rehearsal will be in the Huntington Room. For more information, contact contact **Danyelle Saunders** (K49) at 688-7762 or via email.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Craftsman Summer Internship Designer 2	33710BR	TBD	Newport News
Engineering Planning Analyst 3	33600BR	E24	Newport News
iDS Computational Business Analytics Engineer 3	33553BR	E27	Newport News
iDS IT Software Engineer 3 – Siemens TeamCenter NX	32750BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Operations Research Engineer 3	25373BR	T53	Newport News
IT Vendor Management Analyst 2	32747BR	X57	Newport News
Manager Engineering 2	30929BR	T56	Newport News
Manager Test Engineering 2	34141BR	E82	Newport News
Production Planning and Scheduler 1	34143BR	E82	Newport News
	34103BR	X47	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.