

# CURRENTS

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Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

## CVN 73 Shines Again

Newport News Shipbuilding and the crew of USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) relighted the ship's island lights during a brief ceremony Feb. 26.

With the flip of a switch, 244 lightbulbs on the port and starboard sides of the aircraft carrier's island house sprang to life, illuminating the distinctive number "73." It was the first time the numbers had been turned on since *George Washington's* refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH) began in 2017.

"We're proud of the progress being made on *George Washington*," said **Todd West**, CVN 73 program director. "This is a significant milestone in the ship's overhaul that brings us closer to delivering

the ship to the fleet, where the hull lights will be one of the most recognizable and enduring symbols of our freedom for the next 25 years."

Currently undergoing final outfitting and testing, the overhaul is more than 70% complete.

*George Washington* is the sixth *Nimitz*-class carrier to undergo its RCOH – the mid-life refueling overhaul and maintenance availability that produces a recapitalized carrier capable of supporting current and future warfare doctrine for the next 25 years. Watch a highlights video of the relighting ceremony on MyNNS.



*John F. Kennedy* program director **Mike Butler** (left) and Capt. Todd Marzano (right), the ship's commanding officer, cut a ribbon inside a classroom on the ship to mark the completion and turnover of the first of 2,700 compartments to the ship's crew. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

## Navy Crew Begins Training in Completed Spaces on *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79)

Newport News Shipbuilding has reached an important milestone in the construction of *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) as the first of 2,700 compartments were turned over to the ship's crew. The completed spaces allow sailors to begin training on the ship while final outfitting and testing progresses at NNS.

## Kaizen Identifies Opportunities for Improvement



A recent Kaizen event to review planning processes for work assigned to HII Mechanical had a goal of streamlining decision-making, improving schedule performance, and increasing efficiency to allow on-time delivery to the U.S. Navy.

Kaizen events are rapid, team-based activities to achieve focused continuous improvement. HII Mechanical recently transitioned from Huntington Ingalls Industries' Technical Solutions division to Newport News Shipbuilding.

**Brian Welch**, program director of Production, Planning and Scheduling, sponsored the event, which was facilitated by **Glynnis Gwaltney** (X51). Using lean enterprise facilitation tools and methodologies, the team documented five processes, identified gaps, validated related processes and identified over 25 action items to support those goals.

Inspection report (IR) protocol was a priority for the team, which agreed that increased communication regarding IR relationships and schedules is required. The team is implementing actions to address IR quality revision deficiencies, IR tracking and numbering, IR revision control procedures, and clarity of

In February, sailors assigned to CVN 79 began coming onboard the ship and working in some of the compartments, which include a training facility, offices and habitability spaces.

Turning over crew training areas earlier in *Kennedy's* construction was a key lesson learned from the construction of USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). As a result, *Kennedy's* construction team was able to complete and turn over 63 compartments to the ship's crew over four months earlier than on *Ford*.

"The first sailors coming onboard is a significant step in the life of the ship," said **Mike Butler**, program director for *Kennedy*. "Our completing and turning over these spaces to the crew will allow them to start on-hands, shipboard training, and learn the systems and components they will operate when the ship joins the fleet."

Christened and launched in December 2019, *Kennedy* continues to come to life. Over the next two and a half years, other 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.



A recent Kaizen event identified more than 25 action items to increase efficiency.

SUBSAFE requirements.

"The planning teams from X47 and HII Mechanical are dedicated to improving the efficiency of our processes. We had to pull the value stream together so we could communicate face-to-face and find common ground," said **Rob Uzzle** (X47). "It was good to hash out issues. I am positive our relationships are stronger and we have a good plan to move forward."

## NNS Hosts Engineering Hiring Event

Newport News Shipbuilding hosted an engineering hiring event in Newport News Feb. 20-21.

Despite the snowy weather, more than 80 candidates participated in the two-day event that included a networking dinner, interviews with hiring managers from both the Engineering and Design and Nuclear Propulsion divisions and shipyard bus tours. Candidates from more than 50 universities from across the country, both entry-level and experienced, were invited to attend.

“This is our second year of what I hope becomes an annual event,” said **Jessiah Hegeman**, manager of University Relations and Recruiting, Talent Acquisition. “By hosting this event in February and being able to bring candidates onsite to meet with hiring managers and peers and see the shipyard in person, we’re able to hire a significant number of May graduates to meet the entry-level engineering hiring needs for the company.”

## REMINDER: Know Your Numbers Deadline is March 31

Employees eligible for the Know Your Numbers program who missed the Sept. 30, 2019 deadline have one month left to complete the program and secure the \$600 medical premium discount.

Salaried employees enrolled in an HII Anthem medical plan must complete a health screening and wellness profile to save \$600 on their medical insurance. Employees who missed the fall deadline have until March 31 to complete the program and earn the discount starting July 1.

Visit [www.hiibenefits.com](http://www.hiibenefits.com) for a schedule of onsite health screenings. The Know Your Numbers program is operated by QuadMed’s BeWell for Life team and all information is confidential.



## Celebrating Women’s History Month

As we celebrate Women’s History Month in March, take time to not only recognize the great achievements and innovations of women throughout our nation’s history, but also their significant impact on the success of Newport News Shipbuilding.

Look for posters across NNS during the month. Additional coverage is available in the Inclusion and Diversity section of the NNS to Go app.

See the Datebook for details about Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise’s Women’s History Month roundtable, which is planned for March 19.



Sailors assigned to *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) receive training on the aircraft carrier’s systems.

## CVN 79 Reactor Department Trains on Systems

As *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) construction continues, the crew is hard at work learning and qualifying on the systems so they are able to take ownership as parts of the ship are turned over to the Navy.

In early November, Newport News Shipbuilding’s Propulsion Plant Planning Yard (E70) teamed up with Huntington Ingalls Industries’ Technical Solutions division and Naval Nuclear Laboratories engineers to provide three weeks of system design training for the officers and enlisted leadership of CVN 79’s Reactor Department. That training continued in February at VASCIC as the latest members to join the department received training in preparation for qualification on the propulsion plant systems.

**Marc Leonetti**, who managed the training for E70, understands the importance of the instruction the sailors are getting. “Having a high level of knowledge is extremely important to the crew as they prepare for a rigorous safeguards examination before taking the ship to sea,” he said.

## “Baby Nomura” Adds Efficiency to the Detail Pipe Shop



Teamwork has led to significant improvements in Newport News Shipbuilding’s Detail Pipe Shop. The shop’s latest improvement, a horizontal boring mill, will increase efficiency as the shop preps pipe for future ships.

The mill is nicknamed “Baby Nomura” because it is a smaller version of a Nomura machine that was placed in a different shop.

“This boring mill will do many different types of machining. Its main purpose for us will be to make preps for the piping butt joints for *Enterprise* (CVN 80),” said Pipe Shops Superintendent **Rob Lane**.

CVN 80 features design improvements for piping systems that made the new machine necessary. Shipbuilders gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February to welcome the new machine to the shop. Retiree Marvin Lowrie, who worked in the Pipe Shop for decades, returned after 11 years to cut the ribbon. “I felt honored to come back to the shipyard and be a part of this great event,” he said.

Machinist **Dan Stevanoff** (X42) operated the machine as it performed its first production job following the ribbon cutting. “I’ve operated both manual mills and



Retiree Marvin Lowrie (center) cuts a ribbon on the “Baby Nomura” horizontal boring mill in the Detail Pipe Shop. Photo by Ashley Cowan

computer numerical control (CNC) machines. To operate a machine like this is really cool,” he said.

In his department, shipbuilders are able to see a pipe job from start to finish. “We will watch the simulation but to see it actually cut with metal shavings going everywhere is very cool. There is a sense of pride after a job is done and is done correctly and efficiently,” Stevanoff said.

To the shop’s leadership team, teamwork and the opinions of craftsmen and craftswomen were important. “They came to us as craftsmen asking what we needed. As a machinist, I appreciated my input being considered during the purchase of this machine,” Stevanoff said.

Facilities Project Engineer **Curtis Armstrong** (O41), who worked to help bring the “Baby Nomura” to NNS, said he was “proud and fortunate” to celebrate another successful project in the Pipe Shop. “We could not have done these transformative projects without the great teamwork, synergy and partnership between the Pipe Shop, Facilities and Manufacturing,” he said.



**Matthew Peters** performs welding operations on the hull of *Virginia*-class submarine *Montana* (SSN 794). Photo by Matt Hildreth

## Check Out Hot Shots

Hot Shots is a collection of photos taken around Newport News Shipbuilding by staff photographers. View the latest edition on MyNNS or on the NNS to Go app.

## Enrollment Open for Engineering Systems and Industrial Engineering Certification Program

Enrollment is open for the Engineering Systems and Industrial Engineering Certification Program, developed jointly between Newport News Shipbuilding and Old Dominion University (ODU). The program’s next cohort will begin in September.

The program emphasizes effective application of training to the practical problems routinely faced by shipbuilders. Shipbuilders are invited to attend an informational session from 4:15 until 5:15 p.m., Monday, March 9 in the Alumni Room on the first floor in The Apprentice School. During this session, an ODU representative will also discuss opportunities associated with earning a master’s degree.

For more information, see the Feb. 10 edition of *Currents* or contact **Rob Gies** (E02) at 688-6446 or via email.

## AROUND THE YARD

### Food Truck Roundup is March 4

Newport News Shipbuilding Food Services and Aramark are hosting the first Food Truck Roundup of the year at noon, Wednesday, March 4, at the Modular Outfitting Facility (MOF) and Supplemental Modular Outfitting Facility (SMOF).

### Parking Lot Painting Planned this Weekend

Weather permitting, Newport News Shipbuilding Facilities employees will paint in the parking lot east of the Welding School in the North Yard Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8. Employees working during the weekend should pay attention to signage prohibiting parking in the area. Additional painting is planned for North Yard parking lots during future weekends.

### Cold and Flu Season Tips

This year's flu season has caused an estimated 41 million flu cases so far and even more seasonal colds and viruses. Follow the tips below to help protect yourself and others from the flu, colds and viruses:

- Get a flu vaccine. A flu shot is the best way to avoid catching the flu and spreading it to others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Wash them for 20 seconds and help young children do the same. Viruses that cause colds can live on your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs can enter your body this way and make you sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces. Pay close attention to doorknobs, phones, keyboards and toys.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve will help stop the spread of germs.

If you begin to experience flu, cold or virus-like symptoms, seek medical care and rest. Visit [www.hiibenefits.com](http://www.hiibenefits.com) for information regarding care options based on your medical plan.

### Changes Coming to Hidens Parking Lot

The city of Newport News will install traffic signals and associated crosswalks along Warwick Boulevard at 67th, 69th and 71st streets later this year. This project is in partnership with Newport News Shipbuilding to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow in the vicinity of the North Yard.

In preparation for this project and to accommodate a walking path from Hidens to the city's new crosswalk at 67th Street, NNS is making the following adjustments at Hidens:

- Angled parking spaces along the west side of the Hidens roadway will be removed and replaced with parallel parking spaces.
- Parking blocks along the east side of the Hidens roadway will be moved approximately four feet to the west.
- A walking path will be painted between the parking blocks and the raised slab area that will connect each shuttle conex box to the parking areas.

Work began last weekend and will continue for the next several weekends. Check the NNS Parking & Transportation website ([nns.huntingtoningalls.com/parking-transportation](http://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/parking-transportation)) for updates regarding this project. Send questions to [ParkingSolutions@hii-nns.com](mailto:ParkingSolutions@hii-nns.com).



### March 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.

#### March 3

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.

#### March 4

Bldg. 1744 (Bloodmobile)  
11 a.m. until 5 p.m.  
Email the Blood Drive Donation Form to [corporatcitizenship@hii-nns.com](mailto:corporatcitizenship@hii-nns.com) or fax it to 688-7060.

#### March 10

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.

#### March 11

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.

#### March 12

Bldg. 4931 (PCU Assembly Room)  
7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.  
Email the Blood Drive Donation Form to [corporatcitizenship@hii-nns.com](mailto:corporatcitizenship@hii-nns.com) or fax it to 688-7060.

### Shipbuilders Attend VERG Meeting

The Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) held a board meeting and general membership social Feb. 19 at The Vanguard Brewpub and Distillery. About 30 military veteran shipbuilders attended the event. Attendees had an opportunity to socialize and share ideas about how to better support veterans at NNS and impact the community.

### NEW TOOL LIVE

A new tool that allows shipbuilders to view Gallup survey data electronically is now live. The "Power BI" tool is accessible via the Engagement Office's website on MyNNS.

# DATEBOOK

## 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 VASCIC 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 4

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in VASCIC-3 West. The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com) with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

## MARCH 11

Registration for the spring 2020 Night School session is open through March 11. Classes begin March 30 and run through June 1. A CPR/first aid class that will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Bldg. 79 was inadvertently left off the published calendar. Visit the Night School Program website to learn more, see a course listing and print an application. Completed applications should be returned to the Night School office, faxed to 688-8640 or emailed to **Sherry Morgan** (O22).

## MARCH 12 AND 17

Make smart savings decisions now to help you in retirement. SmartPath is offering special two-part retirement readiness seminars in March and April. Part 1 is available via webinar at NNS at noon on March 12 and at 4:30 p.m. on March 17. To register for the webinar and onsite seminars, visit [www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes](http://www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes). Look for Retirement Readiness: Part 2 in April.

## MARCH 17

Newport News Shipbuilding is a presenting sponsor for the Newport News-York-Poquoson Relay For Life. The NNS team will host a campaign kickoff event from 4:15 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (Executive Dining Room). Shipbuilders are invited to attend to join and support the team's mission. Employees can also register online at [www.RelayforLife.org/NNS](http://www.RelayforLife.org/NNS). NNS' Relay For Life campaign runs through May 15. For more information, contact **Adam Kringer** (PEER X57) at 380-4286.

## MARCH 18

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 160-2 (Engineering Ops Conference Room). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com) with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

## MARCH 18

The Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) will honor shipbuilders who served during the Vietnam War during its general membership meeting from 4 until 5 p.m. at The Apprentice School (Alumni Room). If you served in Vietnam and would like to be recognized, contact **Harold "Buddy" Hutchison** (X76) at 688-3030 or via email before March 11. All shipbuilders are welcome to help VERG recognize these veterans.

## 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. To volunteer, visit the Newport News Shipbuilding Gives website. For more information, contact **Sallena Nikitas** at (757) 233-7034 or at [SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org](mailto:SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org).

## MARCH 19

Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) is hosting a Women's History Month roundtable from 4 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). Female leaders from Newport News Shipbuilding will lead discussions. Attendees will participate in intimate, up close and personal conversations. This event is open to all NNS shipbuilders. Seating is limited. RSVP on MyNNS or contact **Kathy Hansen** (E35) at 534-3893.

## MARCH 26

The African American Shipbuilders Association's annual black history celebration will be held at 4:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). **Janice Underwood**, director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the commonwealth of Virginia, will speak at the event. All shipbuilders are welcome to attend.

## APRIL 3

The annual Apprentice Alumni Banquet honoring the Class of 1970 will be held from 5:30 until 9 p.m. at the Newport News Marriott at City Center. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased through delegates, officers and Teagle Insurance. You do not have to be an Apprentice School graduate to attend. **Christie Thomas**, vice president of Contracts and Pricing, is the guest speaker. For more information, contact **Sarah Gentry** (K45) at 534-2286.

## APRIL 8

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-4 (O19 Large Conference Room). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. Email [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com) with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date to sign up.

## APRIL 14

Join the Apprentice Alumni Association at War Memorial Stadium at 4 p.m. for a baseball social. Help cheer on the Builders as they take on Paul D. Camp Community College at 5 p.m. This event is free to all dues-paying alumni.

## APRIL 15

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 600-1 (Conference Room A). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com) with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

## APRIL 16

The HII Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year until 4 p.m. on April 16. Children of all HII employees are eligible to apply, with the exception of children of senior executives and those employees who have been with the company for less than two years. Visit [www.scholarsapply.org/hii-readiness](http://www.scholarsapply.org/hii-readiness) for the school readiness scholarship. For the post-secondary school scholarship, visit [www.scholarsapply.org/hii-scholarship](http://www.scholarsapply.org/hii-scholarship).

## APRIL 17

The Apprentice Alumni Association will host the annual Apprentice Alumni Fall Golf Tournament at Sleepy Hole Golf Course at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$80 per golfer and the price includes: green fee, 18-hole cart fee, tournament prizes, food – chicken, barbecue, etc. – and unlimited range balls (one hour prior to start). To sign up or for more information, contact **Fred Peedle** (E51) at 688-6682.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Business Analyst 4	34759BR	X44	Newport News
Construction Supervisor 1 (New Construction Pipeline)	34665BR	X01	Newport News
Construction Supervisor 2 (New Construction Pipeline)	34664BR	X01	Newport News
Experienced Marine Painter	33998BR	X33	Newport News
Industrial Hygienist 4	33695BR	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Manager Engineering 2	34762BR	E86	Newport News
PLM Systems Analyst (SIEMENS Team Center & NX)	33754BR	T53	Newport News
SAP PS/PP PEO Solution Architect	31560BR	T55	Newport News
Site Reliability Engineer (SRE) (SIEMENS PLM Solutions)	33749BR	T53	Newport News
Supervisor Test Inspection 1	34737BR	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.