



Photo by Matt Hildreth

## NNS Christens *Montana*

In its first ceremony celebrating the U.S. Navy's newest *Virginia*-class submarine in front of a virtual audience, Newport News Shipbuilding christened *Montana* (SSN 794) Saturday, Sept. 12.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on the size of public gatherings, the christening ceremony was hosted virtually at the Modular Outfitting Facility (MOF).

"Yes, we are disappointed we couldn't host the normal pomp and circumstance today, and that our shipbuilders and their families couldn't be here in person to witness history. But as shipbuilders, we know the show must go on," said NNS President **Jennifer Boykin**. "Our work doesn't stop for a pandemic, just as the Navy's mission never ends. It is our honor, our duty and our calling to keep the wheels of shipbuilding turning, and in doing so, bring *Montana* one step closer to her ultimate mission of defending the United States of America."

Boykin also applauded the work and craftsmanship of more than 10,000 shipbuilders from NNS and its partner, General Dynamics Electric Boat, who continue to assemble *Montana*. She also acknowledged the support of the supplier base – more than 5,000 companies in all 50 states – that provided parts and materials critical to *Montana*'s construction.

Ship's Sponsor Sally Jewell, a former Secretary of the Interior, smashed a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow to mark the christening of the submarine that honors the state of Montana.

"I am grateful to the shipbuilders and dedicated Navy officers and crew for building and readying *Montana* for service to our nation and the world," Jewell said. "It is a privilege to bless and christen this incredible submarine, and to join the current and future submariners as their shipmates for life."

X31 Electrician **Conner Grieff** sang the national anthem at the ceremony and **Jason Sutton**, director of Manufacturing and a Montana native, delivered the invocation. The virtual event included pre-taped segments where maid of honor Mariah Gladstone, of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana, recited a Native American blessing and members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, of Flathead Indian Reservation, performed a traditional Native American honor song. Congressional representatives from Virginia and Montana also offered pre-recorded remarks celebrating the ship's milestone.

Navy officials participating in the event included Vice Adm. Richard Snyder, the Navy's inspector general; Acting Undersecretary of the Navy Gregory Slavonic; and Capt. Michael Delaney, *Montana*'s commanding officer.

Construction of *Montana* began in 2015. The submarine is about 85% complete and is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in late 2021.

Watch a highlights video on MyNNS. The full ceremony is available for replay at [MontanaChristening.com](http://MontanaChristening.com).



Shipbuilders recently completed the final magazine door for USS *Gerald R. Ford*'s advanced weapons elevators. U.S. Navy photo

## Marking a Milestone on USS *Gerald R. Ford*

Labor Day marked a significant milestone for the shipbuilders working on the advanced weapons elevators (AWEs) on USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78).

The Newport News Shipbuilding construction, engineering and project teams completed the final magazine door while at sea. The completion of *Ford*'s 70th electrically actuated door, combined with 17 ballistic hatches, signals the conclusion of heavy industrial work.

Remaining AWE work on CVN 78 includes ramp and platform grooming, integration of software and testing. NNS has certified

and turned over six of the 11 elevators to ship's force and is on track to complete the remaining five by April 30, 2021.

"I am particularly proud of the teamwork demonstrated by the entire NNS team that has managed production off-site at Naval Station Norfolk and at sea during ship training exercises," said **Stewart Brenegar**, CVN 78 Advanced Weapons Elevators director.

Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers Rear Adm. James Downey plans to fly to the ship to thank shipbuilders for their efforts.

## Shipbuilders to the Rescue

Two injured ospreys are undergoing rehabilitation after shipbuilders recently found the birds near the waterfront and called the Environmental Health and Safety team.

Shipbuilders reported one osprey struggling to fly at the bottom of Dry Dock 4. **Dawn Morris** (O27), who coordinates animal management at Newport News Shipbuilding and **Michael MacKellar**, a foreman who was on a safety rotation, responded. "We captured the bird. It was thin and unable to fly; although, still well enough to put up a fight with a sharp beak and long talons," Morris said. "He was taken to a veterinarian and later transferred to a wildlife rehabilitator."

Shipbuilders found the other osprey floundering in the water between piers 5 and 6. Morris said **Glenn Bonney** (X36) rushed a boat and took her and MacKellar to the bird. "Although maneuvering around Pier 5 was challenging, Mike skillfully scooped up the osprey in a net and rescued it," Morris said.

She added that the osprey was a young female that had probably left her nest before she could fly well. "When she fell in the river, she became saturated and couldn't get enough lift to get herself out," Morris said. "She will need to be on antibiotics for a few days because she had water in her lungs."

MacKellar said in his more than 10 years working at NNS, he never thought he would rescue ospreys. "It was just an amazing opportunity to help Dawn rescue the two ospreys," he said. "It just so happened during my safety rotation that I had the chance not once, but

## Relay For Life Event is This Weekend

Newport News Shipbuilding is partnering with BayPort Credit Union for a Relay For Life drive-thru luminaria event from 7:30 until 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The event will take place at BayPort Credit Union, located at One Bayport Way in Newport News. Luminarias will be lit at 7:30 p.m. and will burn during the event to serve as a reminder of the purpose of Relay For Life.

Shipbuilders can support Relay For Life by purchasing luminaria bags to honor cancer survivors, those who lost their lives to the disease, and caregivers. NNS Relay For Life T-shirts also are on sale. Luminarias can be purchased for \$10 each or three for \$25. T-shirts can be purchased for \$10.

To order luminarias or T-shirts, contact **Amy Prillaman** (O93) at 688-4453 or via email or **Jenn Cherry** (O22) at 688-2742 or via email by Sept. 18.

Shipbuilders also can make donations at [www.RelayForLife.org/NNS](http://www.RelayForLife.org/NNS).



One of the two ospreys recently found in distress at NNS and rescued by shipbuilders.

twice. It was also really great seeing people in different areas of the shipyard working together as quickly as possible to help rescue the birds."



## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 until Oct. 15, take time to not only recognize the great achievements and innovations of Hispanic Americans 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. The Hispanic Outreach & Leadership Alliance (HOLA) has canceled Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff events planned for Sept. 15.

However, the following virtual events are planned:

**Hispanic Americans Lecture Series  
Hispanic Heritage Month Edition:**  
“Hispanics: Be Proud of Your Past and Embrace the Future”  
Sept. 25  
Noon until 1 p.m. via WebEx  
(Meeting ID: 999 225 972)

**Main event:** Panel discussion with local Spanish/bilingual educators  
Oct. 15  
4:30 until 6 p.m. via Zoom.  
(Meeting ID: 850 2893 9745)

For information regarding Hispanic Heritage Month events or general questions about HOLA, contact **Manny Colon** (X44) or **Stephen Cordero** (E83).



Pictured from left are Stanley Pearson Jr. and Xavier Beale.

## Shipbuilder Steering the Way

X31 Foreman **Stanley Pearson Jr.** was recently honored with a Level One On-the-Spot Ethics Award for taking quick action to save a fellow shipbuilder.

Pearson was in a trailer when an X43 makeup foreman began choking on food. Pearson reacted immediately and performed the Heimlich maneuver, likely saving the other employee’s life.

**Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, recently met with Pearson to present the award and thank him for his actions.

## This Week’s COVID-19 Q&A

**Since the NNS COVID-19 Testing Center is closed on weekends, is it safe to assume that I won’t receive my test results until Monday even if my 24-48 hours falls on a Saturday or Sunday?**

No. While NNS does not conduct testing on weekends, we do receive results from the lab seven days a week. If your test results are received over the weekend, you will be notified as soon as possible so that you can report to work if the test is negative, or continue to quarantine if the test results are positive.

**Can employees with children at home due to virtual school programs work a different shift now that school has started?**

Shipbuilders can request a shift change. Hourly employees should go through their supervisor or Labor Relations. Requests will be granted based on production needs, skills and abilities, and seniority. The options are moving to second shift, starting at 4:30 p.m. or third shift beginning at 10 p.m. Salaried employees can request a change by submitting a Flexible Schedule Request to their immediate supervisor and are encouraged to discuss their situation.

**What is the testing protocol for leased employees?**

Leased employees identified by an NNS contact tracing investigation are referred to the company testing site at the Old Apprentice School gym (Bldg. 601), adjacent to the school’s football field. A leased employee experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or who has been exposed in the community, should immediately contact their employer for further instructions.

### Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 at NNS

Cases reported Sept. 8-13: **19**

Total cases at NNS: **695**

Total number of NNS employees medically cleared to return to work: **490**

See case details at [nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411](https://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411).

# DATEBOOK

## SEPTEMBER 15

The L.E.A.R.N. Program and the African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) will host an after-work presentation with **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. via WebEx. 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** (E47) at 534-0332, or email LEARN@hii-nns.com. No charge is provided.

## SEPTEMBER 16

Take a look into your retirement plan to determine if you are saving enough for the future. Attend the Retirement Reading Part 2 webinar from SmartPath at noon. Register at [www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes](http://www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes).

## SEPTEMBER 18

Learn how to stay social and connected with friends and family during COVID-19. Attend a HERO webinar at 11:30 a.m. Visit [www.hiibenefits.com](http://www.hiibenefits.com) for details and to register.

## SEPTEMBER 24

Shipbuilders looking for a way to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills can join the online “Spear and Gear” Toastmasters Club meeting via Zoom from 5 until 6 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 22 to receive further meeting details. Contact **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Michael Miller** (E37) at [spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com](mailto:spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com) from a personal email address.

## SEPTEMBER 30

The annual employee engagement survey begins Sept. 30. Shipbuilders will have until Oct. 14 to complete the survey. MyIDs, which can be found on Outlook and on paystubs, must be used to complete the survey. Look for more details about the survey in the coming weeks.

## OCTOBER 8

Shipbuilders looking for a way to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills can join the online “Spear and Gear” Toastmasters Club meeting via Zoom from 5 until 6 p.m. RSVP by Oct. 6 to receive further meeting details. Contact **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Michael Miller** (E37) at [spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com](mailto:spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com) from a personal email address.

# We Are One Team

Shipbuilders have a unique opportunity to contribute to something much greater than their individual jobs. The Navy ships built at Newport News Shipbuilding help defend America’s freedom, and it takes every shipbuilder in the yard to accomplish this critical task.

“We will not succeed unless we all show up on time, physically and mentally ready to go to work,” said **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, reiterating a message shared in last week’s Crew Talks across the waterfront.

“Newport News Shipbuilding is a team. When we succeed, we succeed as one. We all understand the need for urgency in support of our Navy, and we can’t do what we do best without the support of each other.”

While NNS leadership recognize the challenges faced by shipbuilders as a result of today’s COVID-19 world, inability to meet schedule commitments can cause the Navy to lose confidence in NNS, affecting future work.

To reinforce shipbuilders’ critical role, a series of posters and other visual reminders are being posted across the shipyard.

Communication is key, Beale said. “We are working to be as flexible as possible during this challenging time, but we need to know when and why our teammates are going to be out so we can plan accordingly. With all of our shipbuilders working together, I’m confident we will come out of this pandemic stronger. It’s the support our Navy needs, and it’s the commitment our country deserves.”

## MONTANA (SSN 794) CHRISTENING POSTERS

Posters commemorating the Sept. 12 christening of Virginia-class submarine *Montana* (SSN 794) will be available next week in the lobby of Bldg. 520.

## PARKING NOTICE

Parking spaces in the lot at 42nd Street and Washington Avenue that are blocked with blue stanchions – Nos. 16 through 34 – are restricted. Vehicles parked in these spaces without prior approval from NNS Security are subject to towing. To reserve a parking space for a guest visiting Newport News Shipbuilding, contact Lt. **Earl McNair** (O15) via email.

As a reminder, NNS parking spaces remain open for use, except spaces noted above and those reserved for expecting mothers, handicap spaces, government spaces, and spaces assigned to the HII Family Health Center and privately owned lots. This also includes parking spaces reserved 24/7. Vehicles parked illegally are subject to towing at the owner’s expense.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Engineering Technician 3	2424	E85	Newport News
Engineering Technician 3	3033	E25	Newport News
Entry-level Blaster	1630	X33	Newport News
Experienced Insulator	1631	X33	Newport News
iDS IT Software Engineer 3	2439	T53	Newport News
iDS IT Systems Engineer 2	2400	T53	Newport News
Integrated Master Scheduler 3	2428	X44	Newport News
Land Based Test Facility Electrical Technician 4	2901	E44	Newport News
NDT Test Examiner 2	2711	E37	Newport News
Production Planning & Scheduler 3	2723	X44	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use MyHR or the “Current HII Employees Job Search” button at [www.buildyourcareer.com](http://www.buildyourcareer.com) to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit [www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend](http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.

## NNS SAFETY REPORT

Compared to figures from August 2019

Year-to-Date Injuries  
**781 (down 7%)**

Year-to-Date Injuries with Days  
Away, Restricted or Transferred  
**584 (up 1%)**

Safety Improvements  
**1,405 (11% below goal)**