

BRYAN MOORE, MANAGER, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

THE ENTERPRISE LIVES ON. I'M BRYAN MOORE AND THIS IS FOCUS NNS. WE'RE HERE AT THE VIRGINIA AIR AND SPACE CENTER IN HAMPTON WHERE THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING DOCUMENTARY, "BUILDING INTEGRITY, BUILDING FORD" PREMIERED IN NOVEMBER AS PART OF U.S. NATIONAL NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIER MONTH. WE'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE FILM. PLUS, THE USS ENTERPRISE LIVES ON AS STEEL FROM CVN 65 IS PREPARED TO BE PART OF THE NEXT ENTERPRISE (CVN 80). AND 2017 COMES TO A CLOSE. WE ASKED SHIPBUILDERS TO CHOOSE THE TOP STORIES OF THE YEAR. THE RESULTS ARE COMING UP. BUT, FIRST ON DECK, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY TOLD YOU - STEEL FROM CVN 65, THE FIRST NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIER EVER BUILT WILL SOON BE PART OF THE NEXT ENTERPRISE (CVN 80). THE NEXT STEP OF THAT PROCESS IS UNDERWAY. AND AARON PRITCHETT WITH OUR COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION JOINS US NOW WITH MORE ON THE STORY.

AARON PRITCHETT, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

LIKE EVERY GOOD BOOK, YOU HOPE YOU NEVER GET TO THE END. BUT FOR THE LEGENDARY ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) THE STORY CONTINUES. AS THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR THE "BIG E" REVEALS THAT THE FIRST NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER BUILT AT NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING IS OFFICIALLY ON TO ITS NEXT JOURNEY: TO GIVE NEW LIFE AND A RENEWED SPIRIT TO THE NEWEST ENTERPRISE (CVN 80).

CECIL FREEMAN, SHIPFITTER

IT'S A BIG DEAL. YOU KIND OF TAKE IT TO HEART. IT'S HISTORY, BASICALLY, ADD A LITTLE HISTORY TO A NEW HISTORY.

TOMMY CONNER, SHIPFITTER SPECIALIST

JUST TO FINISH IT UP LIKE THIS IS REALLY A BIG DEAL TO ME.

AARON PRITCHETT

IN JULY 2016, SHIPBUILDERS WERE HARD AT WORK IN DRY DOCK 11, THE VERY SAME DRY DOCK THAT ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE, DEFUELING HER AND PREPARING HER FOR DECOMMISSIONING. BUT RIGHT NEXT TO THIS ONCE MIGHTY SHIP, A VERY SMALL, BUT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PROCESS WAS TAKING PLACE AND ONE THAT WOULD PRESERVE THE PAST AND HELP BRING NEW LIFE FOR THE FUTURE.

SARAH GENTRY, GENERAL FOREMAN

CONSIDERING THE FLIGHT DECK EXTENSION ITSELF WOULDN'T ALLOW THE SHIP TO FIT INTO DRY DOCK 11 DUE TO THE CRANE ENVELOPE IT WAS A SIMPLE DECISION TO BE ABLE TO UTILIZE THAT PIECE OF MATERIAL FOR THE NEXT CVN 80. CAREFUL CALCULATIONS WERE MADE TO DETERMINE THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF MATERIAL THAT WOULD BE NEEDED FOR MELTDOWN AND OF THOSE CALCULATIONS IT WAS UP TO US TO BE ABLE TO CUT IT ACCURATELY, MAKE SURE WE REMOVE THE RIGHT PIECES AND MAKE SURE THAT WE PALLETIZE IT IN A FASHION THAT WOULD BE EASILY ABLE TO STORE AND RETRIEVE.

AARON PRITCHETT

FOR JUST OVER A YEAR, THE NUMEROUS PALETES OF STEEL CUT FROM THE "BIG E" HAVE BEEN STORED AWAY SAFELY AND SECURELY IN OUR NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING WAREHOUSE. AND IN NOVEMBER, THE TIME CAME TO SHIP OUT. SO THE HEAVY LIFTING BEGAN.

THADDEUS LANE JR., MATERIAL HANDLING SUPERVISOR

AND SO THIS MORNING WE'RE ACTUALLY REMOVING THE MATERIAL FROM OUR WAREHOUSE AND PUTTING IT ON TRUCKS TO BE SHIPPED OUT TO PENNSYLVANIA WHERE THE FOUNDRY THERE WILL MELT IT DOWN AND BE READY TO INSTALL ON OUR NEW CARRIER. VERY IMPORTANT, WE FEEL VERY HONORED TO BE PART OF THIS PROCESS, MY TEAM AND MYSELF. WE TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE IN TO MAKING SURE THAT WHEN THIS DAY CAME WE WOULD HAVE THE MATERIAL READY AND AVAILABLE FOR SHIP OUT. JUST KNOWING THAT THIS MATERIAL WAS ON THE ORIGINAL CARRIER MEANS A LOT. IT'S PROTECTED OUR COUNTRY FOR MANY YEARS. AND, NOW, TO KNOW THAT PART OF THAT HISTORY IS GOING TO BE ADDED ON TO A NEW CARRIER AND JUST TO BE PART OF THAT PROCESS IS AN AWESOME FEELING.

AARON PRITCHETT

WE'LL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE JOURNEY AS THE PAST BECOMES PART OF THE PRESENT AND SOON TO BE FUTURE OF THE NEW ENTERPRISE (CVN 80). FOR FOCUS NNS, I'M AARON PRITCHETT. BACK TO YOU BRYAN.

BRYAN MOORE

ALRIGHT, AARON, THANKS SO MUCH FOR THAT AND WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON THE PROGRESS.

NOW, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OTHER NEWS FROM AROUND THE YARD. LOS ANGELES-CLASS SUBMARINE USS HELENA (SSN 725) IS AT NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING FOR WORK KNOWN AS A DRYDOCKING SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY OR DSRA. THE SUBMARINE ARRIVED IN OCTOBER FOR THE UPGRADES AND REPAIRS. WORK IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY AND THE TEAM EXPECTS TO COMPLETE THE DSRA IN A FIVE AND A HALF MONTH TIMEFRAME. THE HELENA WAS BUILT BY ELECTRIC BOAT AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1987.

DOZENS OF SHIPBUILDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ATTENDED THE INTEGRATED DIGITAL SHIPBUILDING OPEN HOUSE IN NOVEMBER. SHIPBUILDERS SET UP DISPLAYS SHOWCASING NEW TECHNOLOGY AND HOW IT WILL BE USED ON THE JOB. ATTENDEES LEARNED EVERYTHING FROM AUGMENTED REALITY TO DIGITAL WORK INSTRUCTIONS, LASER SCANNING AND ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING. THE OPEN HOUSE DRIVES HOME THE SHIPYARD'S FOCUS OF "INVEST AND IMPROVEMENT OF PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITIES."

SPEAKING OF PEOPLE IN TECHNOLOGY, SHIPBUILDERS ARE TESTING DRONE TECHNOLOGY TO BRING INSIDE THE GATES FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME. FACILITIES IS PRACTICING FLIGHTS AT THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD. THE GOAL IS TO USE CAMERAS ATTACHED TO THE DRONES FOR A NUMBER OF INSPECTION JOBS, WHICH CAN BE MORE EFFICIENT AND A LOT SAFER. THE PLAN IS TO FIRST TEST DRONE TECHNOLOGY IN THE NORTH YARD AT THE JMAF. REMEMBER: ALL NNS DRONE PURCHASES MUST GO THROUGH PLANT ENGINEERING AND SECURITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE REQUIRED FOR FLYING ON SHIPYARD PROPERTY AND FAA REGULATIONS.

THE VIRGINIA AIR AND SPACE CENTER IS A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF MILITARY AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. SO WHAT BETTER PLACE TO DEBUT THE PREMIERE OF THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING DOCUMENTARY, "BUILDING INTEGRITY, BUILDING FORD"? THE NEARLY HOUR-LONG RETROSPECTIVE TAKES US BACK TO 1996 WHEN CVN 78 WAS JUST A CONCEPT AND DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME. A SPECIAL ONE-TIME SHOWING WAS HELD TO CULMINATE NATIONAL U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIER MONTH, WHICH IS RECOGNIZED EVERY NOVEMBER. ANOTHER SHOWING WAS HELD AT THE HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES HEADQUARTERS. DON'T WORRY - IF YOU MISSED THESE SHOWINGS THE DOCUMENTARY IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING WEBSITE, ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND ON COX CABLE CHANNEL 1886. SHIPBUILDERS CAN ALSO CHECK OUT A DVD COPY FOR FREE BY CONTACTING THE O29 COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION.

AND SPEAKING OF MOVIES, 1977 WAS THE YEAR STAR WARS CAME TO THEATRES. AND IT WAS THE YEAR 359 SHIPBUILDERS BEGAN THEIR CAREERS AT NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING. THEY WERE HONORED ON DECEMBER 6TH AS PART OF THE MASTER SHIPBUILDERS CEREMONY. LENA WALLACE WITH OUR COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION HAS THE STORY.

LENA WALLACE, COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

IT'S A HIGH HONOR AT NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING: EARNING THE TITLE OF "MASTER SHIPBUILDER."

PAMELA PERRY, CLEANER/PUMPER

IT'S A GREAT FEELING, AFTER 40 YEARS, IT'S JUST A GREAT FEELING. IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING IN LIFE.

DAVID PETERMAN, DESIGNER

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE FIVE YEARS OR TEN YEARS AND THEN I WAS GOING TO GO, BUT THEN I JUST KEPT ON GOING AND GOING AND GOING.

LARRY VASS, SHIPFITTER

IT'S A NICE RESPONSIBILITY, YOU KNOW, RESPONSIBILITY TO BUILD SHIPS FOR THE NAVY AND YOU'RE BUILDING THEIR HOME, ACTUALLY. AND YOU WANT TO DO IT RIGHT BECAUSE YOU WANT THEM TO BE SAFE BECAUSE THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY. SO, IT GIVES YOU A SENSE OF PRIDE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

LENA WALLACE

THE HONOR GOES TO SHIPBUILDERS WITH 40 OR MORE CONTINUOUS YEARS OF SERVICE.

JENNIFER BOYKIN, PRESIDENT, NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING

WHAT IS SO TRULY REMARKABLE TO ME IS THAT EVEN AFTER 40 OR 50 OR 61 YEARS, MANY OF YOU CONTINUE TO FEEL THE CALL TO CONTINUE WORKING. THAT IS DEDICATION LIKE NO OTHER.

LENA WALLACE

THIS YEAR 359 NEW MASTER SHIPBUILDERS JOINED THE RANKS.

JENNIFER BOYKIN

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ALL OF THE MASTER SHIPBUILDERS HERE TONIGHT TO PLEASE STAND FOR A VERY WELL-DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

LENA WALLACE

IT'S A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION AND FUN, CELEBRATING FOUR DECADES OF HARD WORK. FOR NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING, I'M LENA WALLACE.

BRYAN MOORE

ALRIGHT, THANKS SO MUCH LENA, AND THE CEREMONY INCLUDED A VIDEO LOOKING BACK AT 1977. IT FEATURES SOME OF THE 359 SHIPBUILDERS WHO WERE HONORED. AND INCLUDES SOME OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING BACK IN 1977 LIKE THE MOVIE STAR WARS. YOU CAN SEE THE VIDEO FOR YOURSELF ON THE NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING WEBSITE, ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND ON COX CABLE CHANNEL 1886.

WELL, ANOTHER YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE AND TO SAY 2017 WAS A BUSY YEAR MIGHT BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. WE POLLED SHIPBUILDERS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY THINK WAS THE BIGGEST STORY OF 2017 AND HERE ARE THE RESULTS FROM NUMBER 10 RIGHT ON UP TO THE BIGGEST STORY OF THE YEAR.

SHIPBUILDERS

NUMBER 10!

JUSTIN NOVAK, SUPERVISOR, METROLOGY

THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING NOW IN TEN YEARS WE'RE GOING TO LOOK BACK AND SAY, "HOW DID WE EVER BUILD SHIPS WITHOUT THAT?"

SHIPBUILDERS

NUMBER 9!

ANITA SMALLWOOD, MASTER SHIPBUILDER

I FEEL HONORED, I'M JUST GRATEFUL - THE SHIPYARD HAS BEEN A BLESSING TO ME AND MY FAMILY AND, YOU KNOW, I'M JUST HONORED TO BE HERE.

SHIPBUILDERS

NUMBER 8!

MATT MULHERIN, 19TH PRESIDENT OF NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING

THIS HAS BEEN AN AMAZING PLACE. IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT YOU HAVE MADE A DECISION TO LEAVE ALL YOUR BEST FRIENDS AT WORK. I'M DONE!

SHIPBUILDERS

NUMBER 7!

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS AND *ENTERPRISE* (CVN 80) SHIP'S SPONSORS KATIE LEDECKY AND SIMONE BILES

ALRIGHT, EVERYONE COUNT DOWN WITH US, "3, 2, 1! CUT THAT STEEL!"

SHIPBUILDERS

NUMBER 6!

SUSAN FORD BALES, SHIP'S SPONSOR, USS *GERALD R. FORD* (CVN 78)

OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE UNITED STATES GERALD R. FORD: MAN OUR SHIP AND BRING HER TO LIFE!

SHIPBUILDERS

5!

JONATHAN PITTS, HEALTH AND SAFETY ANALYST

WE ENGAGE THE EMPLOYEES, WE LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS, WE GET DOWN ON THE DECK PLATE, WE GO IN TO THE SHOPS. MANAGEMENT HAS TO TAKE A PROACTIVE STANCE, LISTEN TO THEM, AND HELP GIVE THEM THE RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SHIPBUILDER

4!

JEROME THOMAS, SUPERINTENDENT

17 OF MY 30 YEARS I'VE WORKED ON THIS SHIP AND SO IT'S KIND OF HARD TO SAY GOODBYE.

JENNIFER GUTHINGER, CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

IT'S PART OF HISTORY, IT'S PART OF BEING AN AMERICAN, IT'S PART OF BEING PART OF THE WORLD.

SHIPBUILDER

3!

FAMATTA COLE, TEST ELECTRICIAN SPECIALIST

THE FACT THAT WE EVEN HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO WORK ON THREE SHIPS OF THIS SIZE AT THE SAME TIME IS AMAZING.

SHIPBUILDER

2!

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HELPED BUILD IT. THIS IS AMERICAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AT ITS BIGGEST, AT ITS BEST, AT ITS FINEST.

SHIPBUILDER

1!

JENNIFER BOYKIN

I'M EXTREMELY HONORED AND HUMBLERED TO SERVE AS THE 20TH PRESIDENT OF NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING AND AS THE FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD THIS POSITION.

RENEE JONES, TOOL CLERK

IT'S JUST GOOD BECAUSE I THINK THAT SHE'S LOOKING OUT FOR OUR BEST INTERESTS. AND SHE ENCOURAGES US, YOU KNOW? BECAUSE SHE'S COME SO FAR AND SHE'S ACCOMPLISHED A LOT.

BRYAN MOORE

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, A BIG YEAR IN 2017 AND EVEN MORE TO COME FOR 2018.

WELL, THAT'S GOING TO DO IT FOR THIS EDITION OF FOCUS NNS, FROM THE VIRGINIA AIR AND SPACE CENTER IN HAMPTON. AND DON'T FORGET THE VIRGINIA AIR AND SPACE CENTER IS OFFERING DISCOUNTS TO NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING EMPLOYEES NOW THROUGH EARLY 2018. ALL THE DETAILS ARE ON THE VIRGINIA AIR AND SPACE CENTER WEBSITE, ON THE NNS TO GO APP AND IN THE NOVEMBER 13TH EDITION OF CURRENTS.

AND WE'LL BE BACK IN 2018 WITH MORE FOCUS NNS. BEFORE WE LEAVE YOU HERE'S A THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE FOCUS NNS POSSIBLE. THANKS SO MUCH FOR WATCHING. I'M BRYAN MOORE.