Digital technology marked the exact location where Newport News Shipbuilding landed the island onto the flight deck of John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) during a May 29 ceremony. The event coincided with the birthday of the ship’s namesake, former President John F. Kennedy.

“Landing the island is a key milestone in preparing the ship for launch in the fall,” said NNS President Jennifer Boykin. “Reaching this milestone on schedule demonstrates the significant lessons learned we are applying to this ship’s construction, as well as the strides we’ve made to use new technologies to gain efficiencies.”

The 588-ton island, which will serve as the command-and-control center for flight deck operations, is one of the last steel structures, known as a superlift, to be placed onto the ship, signifying that Kennedy is one step closer to being launched.

The ship is being built in sections with more outfitted equipment – valves, pipe, electrical panels, mounting studs, lighting, ventilation and other components – than any other aircraft carrier built at NNS. The use of new technologies, including digital work instructions that provide shipbuilders digital 3D data versus traditional paper drawings, has increased efficiency and productivity.

With the island, Kennedy is more than 90% structurally complete. The island stands 72 feet above the flight deck and is 56 feet long and 33 feet wide.

In keeping with Navy tradition, Capt. Todd Marzano, the ship’s prospective commanding officer, placed his aviator wings underneath the island during the ceremony. This custom, known as mast-stepping, recognizes an ancient maritime custom of placing a coin at the base of a mast of a ship under construction to bring good fortune.

CONTINUED ON PG 2
Caroline Kennedy, John F. Kennedy’s daughter, serves as the Ship’s Sponsor. She could not participate in the event but shared a 1964 silver Kennedy half dollar that Marzana placed under the island house.

“The island landing is an important milestone in the life of this ship,” Kennedy wrote in a letter. “I know how proud my father would be of the ship that will bear his name and the patriotism and dedication of all who sail in her.”

Boykin placed an NNS president’s coin, which was designed to recognize dedication, service and leadership – three qualities that the ship and its crew will demonstrate when they set sail in our nation’s defense, she explained.

The other ceremony participants – James Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition; Rear Adm. Roy J. Kelley, commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic; and Rear Adm. Brian Antonio, program executive officer for Aircraft Carriers – also placed coins.

A time capsule containing all of items placed under the island will be welded into the ship at a later time. Kennedy is scheduled to move from the dry dock to an outfitting berth in the fourth quarter of 2019, three months ahead of schedule. The ship’s christening is planned for later this year.

More than 4,500 shipbuilders and 2,000 suppliers from across the country are supporting the construction of Kennedy. Watch a highlights video of the island landing on MyNNS, the NNS to Go app or on company social media channels.

NNS Honored for Partnerships With Newport News Schools

Newport News Shipbuilding was recently named to the 2019 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll for its continued support of Newport News Public Schools.

The school division nominated NNS for the Business Honor Roll because of the company’s longstanding partnerships – including SEEKns programs – that support students in schools across the city. During its May 21 meeting, the Newport News School Board honored NNS and presented the Business Honor Roll plaque to NNS representatives.

“It is a wonderful opportunity to be recognized by the Virginia School Boards Association for the time and dedication Career Pathways/SEEKns has been able to give Newport News Public Schools students,” said Shauntel Bridges (K21). “I’m very grateful for the award and extremely thankful for the over 300 shipbuilders who volunteer their time to make STEAM concepts fun, engaging and relatable through mentoring, tutoring and hands-on application. Our volunteers go above and beyond to ensure the students of Newport News Public Schools are college, career and citizen-ready.”

This year, SEEKns programs have impacted more than 9,000 students in Newport News Public Schools and a total of 13,000 students across the region.
Former Newport News Shipbuilding President Homer Ferguson, who led the shipyard through two world wars and the Great Depression, is remembered as a visionary leader who cared for shipbuilders and set the stage for the company’s continued success.

Homer Ferguson’s Legacy Continues at NNS

Former Newport News Shipbuilding President Homer Ferguson, who led the shipyard through two world wars and the Great Depression, is remembered as a visionary leader who cared for shipbuilders and set the stage for the company’s continued success.

Protect Sensitive Information When Using Mobile Devices

As Newport News Shipbuilding transforms business operations and takes advantage of technology, the company is still required to protect Huntington Ingalls Industries’ proprietary and protected government information. This means shipbuilders must be vigilant and understand where HII proprietary and protected government information is safe.

Text messaging and voicemail are two technology functions that give the appearance of being adequately protected because the features are provided on company-owned devices like Samsung Galaxy smartphones. However, these functions are processed and stored on computers controlled by external telecommunication service providers such as Verizon, and these information systems have not been reviewed and accredited by the government. Since there is inadequate protection for this sensitive information, transmitting HII proprietary or protected government information by text or device voicemail is currently prohibited.

Audix, the NNS voicemail system for landlines, is owned and controlled by NNS and offers adequate protection of HII proprietary or protected government information. HII proprietary and protected government information is never to be transmitted in any way – text, voicemail or email – via a personal device.

As a reminder, protected government information includes, but is not limited to, Unclassified Technical Data (UTD), Unclassified Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information (U-NNPI) and information designated For Official Use Only (FOUO).

If a shipbuilder receives a text message or voicemail on a company-owned mobile device or personal device that contains HII proprietary or protected government information, they should immediately report the event as a security incident to the Security Command Center at 380-4031.

View the NNS Security News Flash for additional details.
**NNS Kicks Off “I Build, We Build” Campaign**

Every morning, Charlie Holloway (X36) takes the 15-minute walk to work from his home on 50th Street for his day-shift job on “Big Blue,” Newport News Shipbuilding’s iconic gantry crane.

“I love my job. The shipyard has been good to me, my family, my kids. It inspires me to get up every day,” said Holloway, who will celebrate his 39th year at NNS this year.

Holloway is one of the first shipbuilders featured as part of NNS’ new “I Build, We Build” campaign, which kicks off today. The campaign showcases shipbuilders’ talents and recognizes their passion and commitment to quality, safety, community and more. It is an opportunity to highlight both groups and individuals beyond their job titles.

Holloway started out rigging in the dry dock when he came to the yard. Eventually, he worked his way up to operating “Big Blue.” He said trust has been a constant at his job from the beginning.

“When we hook to all that weight and pick it up, from top to bottom we have to trust one another. I trust the engineer who said this unit is safe to pick up so no one will get hurt,” he said.

Though Holloway spends most of his time in the overhead crane cab of “Big Blue,” high in the air, he knows he’s not alone. He believes every job performed is part of a bigger picture. “I look down at all the fellow shipbuilders working. It’s amazing how it functions. It’s a big team. I’m nothing without these guys,” he said.

See the ad featuring Holloway below. Watch a video on MyNNS, the NNS to Go app or on company social media channels to learn more about him and how he builds trust at NNS. Have an idea for a future “I Build, We Build” feature? Send an email with details to communications@hii-nns.com.

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**Enable Our Workforce Expo is June 18**

Newport News Shipbuilding's engagement and inclusion and diversity champions are partnering to host an Enable the Workforce Expo on Tuesday, June 18.

There will be three sessions – from 6 to 8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. – in Bldg. 4931. No charge will be provided.

The expo will include a variety of exhibitors on topics specifically designed for shipbuilders. Door prizes, free food from Aramark and more will be offered. The expo is open to all shipbuilders. Registration via the Quality of Life – Engagement website on MyNNS is recommended. Look for more information in upcoming editions of Currents.

“Sometimes you have to see what the company is doing for you from a different angle, and expos offer that opportunity,” said X31 General Foreman Jared Belcher.

Another expo will be held in the fall. Contact Danyelle Saunders (K49) at 688-7762 or via email for questions or to volunteer.
Verify Dependents to Keep Benefits

Newport News Shipbuilding employees who need to verify their dependents to maintain their benefits must submit verification documents by June 17. Employees subject to verification should have received a letter in the mail with details on acceptable documentation and the submission process. Failure to verify dependents by June 17 will result in the cancellation of benefits on July 1. For more information, visit www.hiibenefits.com or call the Huntington Ingalls Benefits Center at 1-877-216-3222.

Second-Shift Food Truck Roundup June 5

Aramark Services and Newport News Shipbuilding Food Services will host a second-shift Food Truck Roundup at 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, in the roadway between the Modular Outfitting Facility (MOF) and the Supplemental Modular Outfitting Facility (SMOF).

Participating food vendors include Chick-fil-A, Bojangles’, Kabobs On The Go, Sweet Frog and Aramark. Shipbuilders are invited to come out and support the vendors and fellowship with fellow employees.

For questions, contact Dwain Jenkins Sr. (K49) via email or at 688-7281 or Mickey Yeamans at 285-0153 or Yeamans-Mickey@aramark.com.

A Message From Mike Petters: Tragedy in Virginia Beach

Dear HII employees:

Our community, our state and, indeed, our nation suffered a terrible tragedy this past Friday afternoon when a Virginia Beach city employee shot and killed 12 people and injured four others, including a police officer who was a first responder, after opening fire in a municipal building in Virginia Beach. We have confirmed and are extremely grateful that none of our Huntington Ingalls Industries employees were injured during this horrific tragedy. HII has more than 1,100 employees who call Virginia Beach home, and our Technical Solutions division is headquartered in this city. It’s almost certain that some of you, no matter where you live in the Hampton Roads community, know someone who has been impacted by this senseless act of violence.

These men and women who died are the victims of violence that is becoming all too common in our country. Each woke up Friday morning to go to their jobs, and each fully expected to return in the evening to their home and loved ones. And they should have been able to if not for this horrific event. As we continue to learn more about this tragedy, please keep the injured individuals, the families and friends of those impacted, as well as the Virginia Beach community, in your thoughts and prayers.

Mike Petters
President and CEO
Huntington Ingalls Industries

Are You Ready for a Time-Charging Audit?

Labor Compliance (O73) conducts thousands of internal floor check audits throughout the year to assess how well Newport News Shipbuilding employees understand the company’s time-charging policies. Furthermore, these floor check audits provide time-charging education to prepare the workforce for potential Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) audits. Shipbuilders should be prepared for a DCAA or Labor Compliance audit on time-charging policies at any time.

For more information about NNS’ time-charging policies or floor check audits, contact Labor Compliance at 534-4147.

STRIDE Hosts Speakers

Shipbuilders Together Realizing Inclusion, Diversity and Equality (STRIDE) recently welcomed guest speakers Vee Lamneck, deputy director of Equality Virginia, and Cole Werkheiser, president of Hampton Roads Pride, for a panel discussion with shipbuilders.

Lamneck and Werkheiser shared some of the most pressing issues impacting the LGBT community and how their organizations advocate. They also answered specific questions posed by shipbuilders.
**JUNE 5**

June 5 is National Running Day, and the WellNNS employee resource group is hosting an event at Matteson Trail in Hampton. Participants will meet at 4:15 p.m. and hit the trail at 4:30 p.m. All shipbuilders and their friends and families are welcome. Participants may run or walk. Water and fruit will be provided. Parking is available at Hampton Youth and Aquatics Center, located at 300 Butler Farm Road. For more information, contact Callee Helmick (E88) at 380-3896.

**JUNE 6**

Join the Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Alliance (HOLA) and the Asian Shipbuilders Including All Nationalities (ASIAN) employee resource groups for a speed mentoring event from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). There will be opportunities to share and receive advice from company leaders. Mentoring sessions will occur in 10-minute intervals with attendees moving from one mentor to another. Sign up on MyNNS. For more information, contact Isaac Wigfall (X51) at 380-4352.

**JUNE 13**

Xavier Beale, vice president of Trades, is hosting town hall meetings in The Dive (Bldg. 4633) for shipbuilders on all three shifts to discuss parking and transportation, health benefits and improving communication between generations. The third-shift town hall is from 7:15 until 7:45 a.m. The first-shift town hall is from noon until 12:30 p.m. The second-shift town hall is from 8 until 8:30 p.m. No charge will be provided. For more information, contact Cindy Mann (O61) at 688-7563.

**JUNE 14**

The F. Farrell Sanders 14th Annual Apprentice Athletic Club Builder Backer Golf Classic will tee off at 1 p.m. at Ford’s Colony Country Club. This is the biggest fundraiser for the sports teams at The Apprentice School. To play, or to sponsor the event, contact Kim Gibson (N211) at 688-3167 or via email. The cost is $80 per player with savings on a wide variety of company-logoed apparel, products and merchandise. Can’t make the pop-up? Shop NNS Spear & Gear, Newport News Shipbuilding’s online company store, will host a pop-up during the Enable Our Shipbuilders Network is looking for a new SHIPs board member to lead its new hire team. SHIPs is hosting interviews for the position from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. July 1 and from 4 until 5 p.m. July 2 in Bldg. 903-7 (Breakout Room). If interested, contact Lewis Fisher (X46) via email at 688-4671 or Eric Olsen (X22) via email at 688-1868 for more information. Being an active employee resource group board member could help employees expand their shipbuilding network and offer opportunities for professional and personal growth.

**JUNE 20**

The L.E.A.R.N. Program will host an after-work presentation with Brian Fields, vice president of Business Transformation, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). 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, Helen Dennie (O28) at 380-4831, or email LEARN@hi-nns.com.

**JUNE 22**

June is LGBT Pride Month. Join the Shipbuilders Together Realizing Inclusion, Diversity and Equality (STRIDE) employee resource group at Town Point Park in Norfolk to celebrate Hampton Roads PrideFest from noon until 8 p.m. Visit the NNS tent to grab some swag and learn more about STRIDE. NNS is a presenting sponsor for the event.

**JULY 1-2**

SHIPs Network is looking for a new SHIPs board member to lead its new hire team. SHIPs is hosting interviews for the position from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. July 1 and from 4 until 5 p.m. July 2 in Bldg. 903-7 (Breakout Room). If interested, contact Lewis Fisher (X46) via email at 688-4671 or Eric Olsen (X22) via email at 688-1868 for more information. Being an active employee resource group board member could help employees expand their shipbuilding network and offer opportunities for professional and personal growth.

**JULY 2**

The African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) is hosting its second quarter meet and greet event from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Latitia McCane, director of education at The Apprentice School, will be the guest speaker.

**SPEAR AND GEAR POP-UP**

NNS Spear & Gear, Newport News Shipbuilding’s online company store, will host a pop-up during the Enable Our Workforce Expo on June 18 in Bldg. 4931. See the Datebook entry for hours. Don’t miss the chance to score big savings on a wide variety of company-logoed apparel, products and merchandise. Can’t make the pop-up? Shop online 24/7 with free shipping every day at www.nnsSpearAndGear.com.

**SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS**

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

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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 for more information.

**Aramark Catering Services**

Going Digital

Catertrax is Aramark’s online source for catering needs at Newport News Shipbuilding. Effective July 1, all catering services will be provided through Catertrax, and Aramark will no longer accept Microsoft Excel spreadsheet orders.

Features provided by Catertrax include:

- 24/7 access to Catertrax via computer, smartphone or tablet
- Automated menu confirmation
- No-hassle customization for special events
- 100% visibility of all orders placed
- Accessible order history, allowing users to repeat favorite orders with a press of a button
- Quick checkout options with convenient features

To place an order using Catertrax, visit aramarkcatering@bldg520.catertrax.com.
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**LONG SERVICE MAY**

**45 YEARS**
- Kerry Evans X33
- Thompson Sweeney X78

**40 YEARS**
- Michael Bryant O38
- Mike Christensen E42
- William Hamilton E35
- Jodie McGowan O48
- Richard Muhich O45
- George Riefler O27

**35 YEARS**
- William Spruill Jr. E81
- James Stevens II E18
- Marvin Blizzard X67
- Billy Byrd E18
- Dennis Dawkins E84
- Andrew Ficklen X44

**30 YEARS**
- Nelson Hale O52
- Thomasina Wright K17

**25 YEARS**
- Roger Lowman X46
- Donald Mitchell X33
- James Salavejus O52
- Nam Vu E82
- Robert Moore B10
- Thomas Cochrane X33

**20 YEARS**
- Gary Crockett O87
- Steven Foretich E86
- Paul Hamor E63
- Riley Little III E56
- Roger Mcswain X42
- Jason Roach A572

**15 YEARS**
- Gary Crockett O87
- Michael Gravitt K46
- Nelson Hale O52
- Thomasina Wright K17

**10 YEARS**
- Marvin Blizzard X67
- William Hamilton E35
- Jodie McGowan O48
- Richard Muhich O45
- George Riefler O27

**5 YEARS**
- Mike Bryant 40 years
- Mike Christensen 40 years
- Jodie McGowan 40 years
- Richard Muhich 40 years
- George Riefler 40 years
- Ed Spruill 40 years

**RETIREMENTS APRIL**

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40 Years Ago

Shipbuilders lift a casting in the Foundry in May 1979. NNS Photo Archive