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.”

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 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

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-aviation 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.

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

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
VALENTINE’S DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

With Valentine’s Day this weekend, why not take a weekend break — out of the city and to the coast — and visit some local wineries?

There are many wineries on the Virginia coast, which center around the beaches, award-winning vineyards and restaurants. Some of the wineries are located within short drive of each other or offer shuttle services.

Here are some of the wineries to visit:

• Lucas Vineyard
• Solaris Cellars
• Luna Vineyards
• Maryland Winery

For more information and more wineries to visit, check out the Virginia Beach area wineries website, which offers a selection of the vineyards and a list of their services and events.

ARRIVAL AT THE YARD

The roofs are on! The last roof was placed on the southernmost building on the north side of the United States Navy’s newest aircraft carrier, USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79), indicating the ship is approaching completion.

GREAT DAYS AHEAD

The new ship is scheduled to be commissioned in September 2021. When completed, the 1064-foot ship will be the Navy’s second Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier.

The ship is named in honor of the 35th president of the United States. For more information, visit navy.mil, the official web site of the United States Navy.
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
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 Craftsmen 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) 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 or contact Julie Murphy at (757) 952-0466 or jmurphy@marinersmuseum.org.

FEBRUARY 5
Learn how to manage and prevent back pain through the Health and Wellness center, this free program addresses risk factors, pain management and more. Sessions start Wednesday, Feb. 5. Sign up at www.myquadmedical.com/hii.

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. 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.

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 Danyelle Saunders (K49) at 688-7762 or via email.