

See page three for additional christening coverage.

Currents

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August 2 – August 6, 2004

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REMINDER:
The 800 emergency information phone line is available for employees to call to hear a recorded message that warns of impending weather or other emergencies that may affect work at the shipyard. Call 1-800-995-4318.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10
St. Leo University will visit the shipyard from 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in building 500/2 (Training Conference Room) to register students and provide information.

September 19
Family Fun Day at Paramount's Kings Dominion. Tickets are available at NNS Employees' Credit Union locations. The cost is \$18.50 and includes free parking, exclusive use of the water park from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a Nickelodeon Celebration with some favorite Nickelodeon characters. Special group hotel rates are available at Kings Quarters Best Western. Call 1-800-625-4647 for rates and reservations.

Currents is a weekly publication for employees of
NORTHROP GRUMMAN
Newport News
Please send information for Currents to Jennifer Dellapenta (0-3558) at Jennifer.Dellapenta@ngc.com

✿ Shipyard celebrates Texas christening

The shipyard celebrated the christening of the submarine *Texas* (SSN 775) July 31 when a crowd of about 5,000 witnessed First Lady and Ship's Sponsor Laura Bush break a bottle of sparkling wine – with one swift swing – across the hull of the *Virginia*-class submarine. "I christen thee United States Ship *Texas*. May God bless all who sail on her," she said. Principal Speaker Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and Northrop Grumman Newport News President **Tom Schivelbein** (pictured right) looked on as she christened the second *Virginia*-class submarine. Invited employees and their families, sailors and their families, and distinguished guests attended the event, which took place outside the Module Outfitting Facility by the floating dry dock. "Today, we celebrate the devoted service of the men and women of the United States Navy and the skill of America's shipbuilders," Bush said. "*Texas* has been transformed from sheets of metal to a stealth fighter. She is built by the finest craftsmen and engineers in the world." Bush added that Americans appreciate those who build the ships that help make the military mighty. "Along with our troops, you play a key role in the defense of freedom," she said.

Photos by Chris Oxley



See page three for more coverage.

✿ Virginia successfully completes sea trials

Virginia (SSN 774), first in its class, successfully completed its first voyage to sea, returning to General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., July 30 from its "alpha sea trials." As part of trials, *Virginia* submerged for the first time and completed high-speed runs on the surface and under water. In addition, trials included a range of submarine and propulsion plant operations. These accomplishments demonstrated the ship's propulsion plant is mission capable. *Virginia* is the Navy's only major fleet-ready combatant ship designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind. It embodies war-fighting and operational capabilities required to dominate the littorals while maintaining undersea dominance in the open ocean. Electric Boat and Newport News are under contract to build the first 10 submarines of a planned 30-ship *Virginia* class under a construction teaming agreement.



Currents continued

Shipyard celebrates Texas Christening

A Texas-sized sense of patriotism ran high with all in attendance at the christening ceremony for the second *Virginia*-class submarine, from distinguished guests on the platform to employees and families in the audience. “This is a great day for the forces of good in this world. This ship is another exhibit in our strong national resolve to win the war on terror...The *USS Texas* will play its part,” said Principal Speaker Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Joining her and Laura Bush on the platform were shipyard President **Tom Schievelbein**; Secretary of the Navy Gordon England; Director of Naval Reactors Adm. Frank “Skip” Bowman; Commander of Naval Submarine Forces Vice Adm. Kirk Donald; General Dynamics Electric Boat President John Casey; Force Chaplain Capt. Stephen Gragg; Prospective Commanding Officer for Texas Cmdr. John Litherland; and Virginia’s U.S. Reps. Jo Ann Davis, Ed Schrock, Randy Forbes and Bobby Scott. “As shipbuilders, you are not only building a submarine, you are making a significant contribution to our nation’s defense,” Davis said. “What you do is absolutely vital to our nation’s safety and security. Today is really a celebration for you, and to honor you.” The christening ceremony included a presentation by two children of shipyard employees (*pictured right*). They showed Bush two of the nearly 200 books that the shipyard donated to all 28 Newport News public elementary schools to commemorate the ceremony and Laura Bush’s role as sponsor. Pictured with Bush are second-grader Allysea Rivera, daughter of X18 Welder **Heather Wright**, and first-grader Jeremiah Brown, son of X36 Rigger **Priest Brown**. Also pictured are Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (*center*) and U.S. Rep. Jo Ann



Photo by Chris Oxley



Photo by Chris Oxley

Davis (*right*). Another ceremony highlight was when the Texas A&M University’s Fightin’ Texas Aggie Wranglers dance team (*pictured left*) wowed the audience, which erupted in huge cheers when the dance team performed acrobatic flips and spins. Employees said they enjoyed such highlights. Read more below about what employees said.

Employee photos by John Whalen



Engineer **Edna Morris** of Facilities said: “It’s nice to see the end product and how our efforts played into the submarine. It’s beautiful.”



Lisa Sych of X87 Submarine Planning and her stepdaughter Emmy are pictured being entertained by a clown before the ceremony. “It’s very exciting and wonderful to see the boat come together,” Sych says. Emmy said, “I’m looking forward to seeing Mrs. Bush because she’s the first lady.”



Wanda and **Abby Abercrombie** said this is the first time they’ve been to such an event since the shipyard held one for the *Los Angeles* submarine. Abercrombie of Test Engineering was a submariner then. “It’s a great thing for the company,” Abercrombie said about the *Texas* christening. His wife said, “I think it’s awesome because I’m a proud submariner’s wife.”