

## Photo Release--Huntington Ingalls Industries Authenticates Keel of Virginia-Class Attack Submarine New Jersey (SSN 796)

**Mar 25, 2019** Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) Virginia-class Submarines

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., March 25, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Huntington Ingalls Industries' (NYSE: HII) Newport News Shipbuilding division hosted a keel authentication ceremony today for the *Virginia*-class attack submarine *New Jersey* (SSN 796).

"We enjoy participating in the Navy's many traditions," said Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding. "They offer us an opportunity to pause and reflect on our daily work and remind the talented shipbuilders and the crew of the important role we all play in something much greater than ourselves—our nation's defense.

"This tradition also begins a journey and lifelong partnership between the sponsor and the ship," Boykin added. "It is said that a sponsor's spirit becomes part of the ship."

Susan DiMarco, a retired dentist, community volunteer and wife of former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, is the ship's sponsor. She chalked her initials onto a metal plate. Shipbuilder Jess Batruk, who is originally from New Jersey, then traced the initials with a welding torch, signifying the keel of SSN 796 as being "truly and fairly laid." The metal plate will remain affixed to the ship throughout its life.

"I am extremely proud to sponsor the submarine *New Jersey*, named for my home state," DiMarco said. "My family prides itself on service to our great country, and I am pleased to contribute in this way."

Jeh Johnson and the couple's son, Jeh Johnson Jr., who serves in the U.S. Coast Guard, attended the ceremony. Other guests included Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., Rep. Donald Norcross, D-N.J., and the sub's commanding officer, Cmdr. Joseph Spinks.



*Jess Batruk, a Newport News Shipbuilding welder originally from New Jersey, displays the welded initials of Susan DiMarco, the sponsor of submarine New Jersey (SSN 796). Also pictured (left to right) are Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding; DiMarco; and Cmdr. Joseph Spinks, the submarine's commanding officer. Photo by Ashley Cowan/HII*

*New Jersey* is the 23rd *Virginia*-class fast attack submarine. Construction began in March 2016 and is about 42 percent complete. The boat is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2021.

## **About Huntington Ingalls Industries**

Huntington Ingalls Industries is America's largest military shipbuilding company and a provider of professional services to partners in government and industry. For more than a century, HII's Newport News and Ingalls shipbuilding divisions in Virginia and Mississippi have built more ships in more ship classes than any other U.S. naval shipbuilder. HII's Technical Solutions division provides a wide range of professional services through its Fleet Support, Mission Driven Innovative Solutions, Nuclear & Environmental, and Oil & Gas groups. Headquartered in Newport News, Virginia, HII employs more than 40,000 people operating both domestically and internationally. For more information, visit:

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