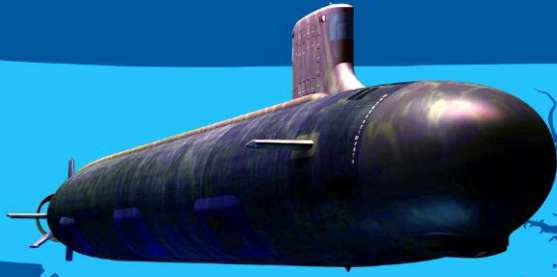




KEEL LAYING AND AUTHENTICATION CEREMONY
OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA

SSN 777



SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2004

NORTHROP GRUMMAN NEWPORT NEWS

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

Parade of the Colors

Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Ceremonial Guard

National Anthem

U.S. Atlantic Fleet Band

Senior Chief Sydney Mander, Conductor

Invocation

Mr. Charles W. Overton

Crane Operator, Northrop Grumman Newport News

Associate Minister, Freeway Tabernacle of Prayer

Welcome and Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Mr. Thomas C. Schievelbein

Corporate Vice President, Northrop Grumman Corporation

President, Northrop Grumman Newport News

Remarks

The Honorable Robert C. Scott

United States Representative, Third Congressional District, Virginia

Mr. John Casey

Vice President, General Dynamics Corporation

President, Electric Boat

Admiral Frank L. (Skip) Bowman, USN

Director, Naval Reactors

The Honorable Hansford T. Johnson

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment

Principal Address

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole

United States Senator, North Carolina

Introduction of the Authenticator

Mr. Thomas C. Schievelbein

Keel Authentication

Mrs. Linda Anne Rich Bowman

Sponsor and Keel Authenticator

Mr. Stanley Britt

Welder, Northrop Grumman Newport News

Closing Remarks

Mr. Thomas C. Schievelbein



Welcome to the Keel Laying and Authentication Ceremony for the nuclear-powered *Virginia*-class submarine *North Carolina* (SSN 777). Northrop Grumman Newport News has had a long relationship with North Carolina and we're most pleased to be building this ship named after our sister state. Many of our talented shipbuilders hail from North Carolina and more than a thousand travel each day across the Virginia line to help build the most technologically advanced ships for the world's greatest Navy.

Today's ceremony is the first milestone for the submarine *North Carolina* and we are pleased to have the ship's sponsor, Mrs. Linda Bowman, perform the keel authentication honors. Mrs. Bowman is very familiar with submarines and the submarine community and the officers and crew of *North Carolina* are fortunate to be getting such a dedicated and enthusiastic sponsor.

We are building *North Carolina* with our teaming partner to the north, General Dynamics Electric Boat. The partnership is a solid one. We're learning from each other and have developed a healthy respect for one another and what we each contribute as we focus on building these ships in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. It's been a great adventure and today marks yet another chapter.

Enjoy the ceremony!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Schievelbein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Schievelbein
President
Northrop Grumman Newport News



It takes millions of man-hours and about seven years to build a *Virginia*-class submarine such as *North Carolina* (SSN 777). Shipbuilders are working toward a 2006 christening and 2007 delivery for *North Carolina* — the fourth *Virginia*-class submarine under an innovative teaming agreement between Northrop Grumman Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat. *North Carolina* is the second *Virginia*-class submarine Newport News will deliver under that agreement. This page provides a glimpse of some of the talented Newport News employees who are building the most modern and sophisticated attack submarines in the world.



Welder Stephen R. Hardee, a native of Lenoir, N.C., is working on the shaft tunnel.



Pipefitter Wade L. Cress Jr., who was born in Concord, N.C., tightens hanger bolts.



Insulator Cassidy E. Bishop, originally from Washington, N.C., applies insulation in the sonar sphere.



Insulator William N. Hines, a native of Edenton, N.C., applies glue to a foundation before attaching insulation in the sonar sphere.



Welder David G. Darnell is a native of Lumberton, N.C. He is attaching a heater bar to the hull of *North Carolina* to prepare to weld hull units.



Shipfitter Ray L. Ivey, who was born in Halifax County, N.C., tightens nuts on brackets inside the sonar sphere.

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER



Elizabeth Dole has had a remarkable public service career, serving five United States Presidents and winning 54 percent of the vote in November 2002 to serve the people of North Carolina in the United States Senate. She serves on the Senate's Armed Services, Agriculture, Banking and Aging Committees.

A native of Salisbury, North Carolina, Dole graduated with distinction from Duke University in 1958 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She earned a degree from Harvard Law School in 1965 and also holds a master's degree in education and government from Harvard.

From 1969 to 1973, Dole served as Deputy Assistant to President Nixon for Consumer Affairs. Her resume includes six years (1973-1979) as a member of the Federal Trade Commission and two years (1981-1983) as Assistant to President Reagan for Public Liaison.

In February 1983, Dole joined President Reagan's Cabinet as Secretary of Transportation — the first woman to hold that position. As the Transportation Secretary, she was the first woman to serve as the departmental head of a branch of the military, the U.S. Coast Guard.

Dole was sworn in by President Bush as the nation's 20th Secretary of Labor in January 1989. She worked to increase safety and health in the workplace and advocated upgrading the skills of the American work force.

Dole left President Bush's Cabinet in 1991 to become only the second woman since founder Clara Barton to serve as President of the American Red Cross, an organization larger than many of the Fortune 500.

In January 1999, Elizabeth Dole concluded her service at the Red Cross and sought the Republican presidential nomination. She became the first viable woman candidate from a major political party.

Elizabeth Dole's awards are numerous, ranging from honors for civic service and leadership in government to accolades for her charitable commitments and dedication to issues surrounding women in the workplace. She has received honorary doctorate degrees from more than 40 colleges and universities and has been named consistently by the Gallup Poll as one of the world's top ten most admired women every year since 1996.

SHIP'S SPONSOR AND AUTHENTICATOR



Linda Anne Rich Bowman is the wife of Adm. Frank L. "Skip" Bowman, who serves as the U.S. Navy's Naval Reactors director.

Mrs. Bowman grew up in Chattanooga, Tenn., and graduated from the University of Tennessee Medical School, School of Dentistry, as a registered dental hygienist in 1966. Following graduation, Mrs. Bowman began her 38-year career as a mother, dental hygienist and Navy wife.

She has taken her professional career to the military twice through service at the Bainbridge Naval Station Dental Clinic in Maryland and at the Quantico Marine Base Dental Clinic in Virginia.

She has been active in church, neighborhood, and Navy organizations. In particular, she has helped Navy families through her support and volunteer work for Navy Wives' Clubs charity events, the Submarine Dolphin Scholarship Fund, Navy and Marine Corps Relief, and many wardroom and crew wives' clubs. When her husband commanded *USS City of Corpus Christi* and *USS Holland*, Mrs. Bowman served as mentor, counselor, and big sister as she headed the wardroom wives' clubs and participated in local and forcewide activities.

Mrs. Bowman is also the ship's sponsor of the *USS Tornado*.

She met her husband while in junior high school, and they now have two grown children and three grandchildren. Their son, Greg, is a submarine-qualified Navy lieutenant commander in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and is married to Kerry, who is a public school teacher, and they have two sons. The Bowman's daughter, Christy, is a licensed nurse-practitioner and is married to Matthew, who is a Navy lieutenant commander neurosurgeon serving at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, and they have one son.

** Linda Bowman is wearing a yellow ribbon today in honor of the men and women who are supporting our country through their service in the Armed Forces of the United States.*

ABOUT VIRGINIA-CLASS SUBMARINES

Under an innovative teaming agreement, Northrop Grumman Newport News is working with General Dynamics Electric Boat to build *Virginia*-class submarines. Electric Boat is responsible for the engine and control rooms while Newport News constructs the stern, bow, torpedo room, sail, and habitability and machinery spaces. Each company does work on the reactor plant as well as final assembly, testing, outfitting and delivery. The 377-foot *Virginia*-class submarines use advanced technologies to increase firepower, maneuverability and stealth. They include advanced electronic sensors to collect critical intelligence and support a spectrum of special warfare requirements, such as search and rescue and reconnaissance. Capable of submerged speeds of more than 25 knots, *Virginia*-class submarines can stay submerged for up to three months at a time. This class of ships is expected to reach 30 submarines and will ensure continued U.S. undersea warfare superiority.

Virginia

SSN 774

Texas

SSN 775



Hawaii

SSN 776

North Carolina

SSN 777

NORTHROP GRUMMAN NEWPORT NEWS

Northrop Grumman Newport News is one of seven sectors of Northrop Grumman Corporation, headquartered in Los Angeles and the third largest defense company in the United States.

The Newport News sector, based in Newport News, Va., is one of only two companies capable of designing and building nuclear-powered submarines. It is also the nation's sole designer, builder and refueler of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. In addition, Northrop Grumman Newport News provides after-market services for a wide array of naval and commercial vessels.

The Newport News sector stretches along more than two miles of waterfront. Talented shipbuilders work in numerous buildings to design, build and maintain the most sophisticated ships in the U.S. Navy's fleet. Among the shipyard's buildings is the 10-story, 130,000-square-foot Modular Outfitting Facility, or MOF, where thousands of employees come together to construct *Virginia*-class submarines.

With nearly 19,000 people, Northrop Grumman Newport News is the largest industrial employer in Virginia.

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