

CVN 79 CEREMONIAL FIRST CUT OF STEEL – February 25, 2011

Matt Mulherin, VP & General Manager

Today we begin a new chapter in our history in aircraft carrier construction. We are pleased that the Ford Class program continues to move forward as we celebrate today with the steel cutting for the second ship of the class CVN 79.

Honorable Rep Bobby Scott, US House of Representatives, Third Congressional District, Virginia

The real work of actually building the ship rest on the shoulders of some of the finest shipbuilders in our nation. The ability of these shipbuilders to build and maintain these vessels is critical to safety of our troops and the defense of our nation. And this workforce many of whom are 4th and 5th generation shipbuilders has always answered the call to build America's ships. And if history is any guide these shipbuilders will again deliver the best built aircraft carrier in the world on time and on budget.

Honorable Rob Wittman, US House of Representatives, First Congressional District, Virginia

Those men and women that serve can't do their duty without the great ships you all put underneath them and the great quality of work that goes on here. As I said we're all blessed by that complexity of work that comes together to creates the greatest Navy in this world.

Honorable Scott Rigell, US House of Representatives, Second Congressional District, Virginia

So today we celebrate and mark the beginning of yet another great ship. Our nation, our country can be assured that the tradition of building the finest ships in the world continues right here in Newport News. From this piece of metal that we're going to cut here shortly will come a strong war ship. One that will be ready to stand watch in defense of freedom around the world.

Rear Adm. Micahel McMahon US Navy, Program executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers

In closing it's an honor to be here today as Program Executive Officer for aircraft Carriers and witness along with our distinguished Congressional leadership the start of construction for 79. CVN 79 will have a name soon and she will have a crew soon, she will be a great ship also. Today her heritage and future area upheld by you and the shipbuilders. Thank you and may God bless the shipbuilders safely in the construction of this ship. May God bless our nation.