

9th Edition

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

# THE STRENGTH BEHIND THE FLEET



**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR  
ASSOCIATION**



**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR  
FOUNDATION**

**VSRA • VSRF**



# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

The challenges of 2020 followed us all into 2021: the battle against COVID, untangling a flurry of government mandates, recruiting and retaining a skilled labor force, getting ships out of our yards on time and on budget, are just a few among the many of them. Through the strength, example, and leadership of the members of the Virginia Ship Repair Association, our industry continued to work together to meet these challenges. You turned a year of enormous uncertainty into a period of great success. As the Chair of this organization, I am continually amazed by the selflessness of the VSRA Membership in coming together for the good of the industry, region, and nation. Though none of us know what 2022 has in store, we can be confident that the strength and support of you, our VSRA Membership, will remain constant. For all you do in service to our Association, industry, and national security, our Board of Directors remains in awe and eternally appreciative.



**Tom Epley,**  
**Chairman, Virginia Ship Repair Association**

It is truly an honor to be involved with the Virginia Ship Repair Foundation and the incredibly motivated group of industry experts that comprise the Board of Directors. They selflessly volunteer their time and talents to advance awareness of opportunities in ship repair. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the VSRA Membership for your continued encouragement and support through a second challenging year. However, despite the struggles associated with navigating a “new normal,” you have rallied around the Foundation’s programs and initiatives. The annual VSRF Golf Tournament, for example, shattered previous records by selling out in 24 minutes and raising more funds than ever before. Those funds will be put to good use as we look forward to 2022 and the exciting opportunities to continue engaging with students, educators, community leaders, and the public to discuss the importance and impact of the ship repair industry. We thank you for your vital contributions to this and other Foundation successes!



**Robbie Walker,**  
**Chairman, Virginia Ship Repair Foundation**

I may say it all the time, but as I enter my 10th year as President of YOUR Virginia Ship Repair Association, I am truly continually awestruck by just how lucky I am. Upon retiring from the Navy after 30 years in the uniform, I thought I would never again work with a group of men and women so unselfishly dedicated to serving our nation and preserving our freedom. Boy was I wrong!!! This industry’s passion, patriotism, and productivity never cease to amaze me. I’m wholeheartedly appreciative of each and every one of you. Whatever 2022 brings, I look forward to taking on those challenges alongside each of you. To the VSRA Board of Directors, Foundation Board of Directors, VSRA Staff, and every single one of our member companies and their employees, I shout from the mountaintops: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



**Bill Crow,**  
**President, Virginia Ship Repair Association**



## Honoring the 2021 Senior and Junior Tradesperson of the Year Awardees

After a virtual event in 2020, we were excited to present the 15th annual Tradesperson of the Year Awards in person at the November VSRA Membership Luncheon. Each year, these awards recognize the outstanding work of the men and women of ship repair. All of the 15 Junior and 12 Senior award nominees were worthy of recognition and demonstrated the very best of the best our industry has to offer. A panel of industry-experts anonymously judged the submissions and selected **Kyle Bridge** of Epsilon Systems Solutions as the Junior Award runner-up and **Tony Gibson** of HII Fleet Support Group as the Senior Award runner-up. The 2021 Junior Tradesperson of the Year awardee is **Corine Gilroy** of Fairlead Boatworks and the 2021 Senior Tradesperson of the Year is **Steven Hambrick** of Epsilon Systems Solutions. Congratulations to these phenomenal ship repairers and to all of the hard-working, talented nominees!

## Navy / Industry Partnership Strengthens through Cooperative VSRA Working Group

Continuing the good work of 2020, the VSRA-led Navy / Industry Working Groups that tackled such issues as revision of NAVSEA Standard Items and controversial contracting requirements, participated in a series of meetings to investigate ways to reduce Change Cycle Time. With a spirit of determination and great cooperation, the group of industry and Navy subject matter experts gathered together to discuss meaningful ways to reduce Change Cycle Time and improve on time delivery of Navy vessels undergoing maintenance. Although the hard work continues, the group has outlined action items and a focused way ahead to streamline the CFR and RCC processes and positively impact Change Cycle Time. Our whole-hearted appreciation goes out to all who have volunteered their time on this important national security issue!



# BY THE NUMBERS

## VSRF

**\$162,750**

**Raised for  
Workforce Programs**

**26,949**

**Students Trained**  
(In Classroom & Online)

**118,598**

**Testimonial  
Video Views**

## VSRA

**318**

**Member Companies**

**2,028**

**Committee Meeting  
Attendees**  
(Virtual & In-Person)

**22,424**

**Visits to the VRSA  
Job Board**

## Highlights of the Year

- Received relevant General Membership Meeting updates from Navy, Congressional, and State leadership
- Held the 1st Annual VSRA Evening Member Social at the Virginia Zoo
- Successfully held 15th annual middle school LEGO Competition as a virtual event
- Signed 5-year renewal of the OSHA-VSRA Partnership, the only remaining maritime partnership in the country
- Initiated and published a comprehensive Wage & Benefit survey of the region's ship repair industry
- Produced new testimonial videos to highlight the hardworking men and women of ship repair
- Hosted the return of the nationally renowned annual Safety & Health Seminar for its 25th year
- Sold out available foursomes for the Golf Tournament in a record-shattering 24 minutes