Review of the NAVSEA Standard Items began in 2017 as Navy and Industry worked together to lessen the regulatory burden and increase efficiency. In 2018 those efforts continued. The Navy-Industry partnership collaborated to reduce the number of checkpoints in the NSIs. Through the initial review process and the checkpoint reduction initiative, the number of checkpoints in the Standard Items was reduced by 36.9%. This reduction will eliminate no-value-added requirements, assisting Industry in its efforts to provide lowest cost and fastest schedule to our Navy customer.

**VSRA ASSISTS NAVY WITH 37% REDUCTION IN CHECKPOINTS**

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**FOUNDATION INITIATIVES BOLSTER SHIP REPAIR WORKFORCE**

The Virginia Ship Repair Foundation had a banner year in 2018 promoting careers and recruiting the next generation of Ship Repairers. The highly-successful Pre-Hire Program was re-branded as Marine Trade Training (MTT) Level I. 809 students completed MTT courses in 2018, with a 93% rate of hire. Additionally, 4 of the 6 MTT courses were recognized as credentialed certification courses by the Commonwealth of Virginia and Virginia Community Colleges. Earning recognition as a credentialing body allows VSRA to offer these courses at lower cost to our Members, providing even better value for this entry-level training program.

**RECORD-SMASHING YEAR AT VSRA SAFETY & HEALTH SEMINAR**

Over the past several years, VSRA has seen steady growth in its annual Safety & Health Seminar. In 2018, the 23rd iteration of this seminar saw even greater expansion, as the event grew into a highly-successful expo format. 36 sponsors set up vendor tables in the arena of the Ted Constant Convocation Center, and the event’s 300 attendees visited those vendors throughout the day as they learned best-practices for enhancing safety and health in the Ship Repair industry. Please join us in thanking the incredible Safety & Health Seminar planning team and all of the volunteers, sponsors, and attendees who made this event a tremendous success.

**TRADESPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

In a first for the heralded Tradesperson of the Year Awards, the Foundation was proud to honor winners and runners-up in both categories for 2018: Senior Tradesperson Edgardo Bagtas of General Dynamics – NASSCO Norfolk (pictured above, left), Junior Tradesperson Antonio Spivey of BAE Systems (pictured above, right), Senior Runner-Up Jamie Pierce of HII Technical Solutions, and Junior Runner-Up Candace Winslow of General Dynamics – NASSCO Norfolk.
From the Leadership

DAVE THOMAS, VSRA BOARD CHAIR
For all of us in the ship repair industry in Hampton Roads, there was one clear word to sum up 2018 – BUSY! The waterfront was humming with activity we hadn’t seen in the drought years of ’16 and ’17, and our Navy partners called upon us to step up and meet the increased maintenance need. We did so with vigor. Perhaps the better word to sum up the year is bounty. As an Association, we met that bounty with equally energetic enthusiasm – working with the Navy to streamline efficiency by reviewing NAVSEA Standard Items, reducing checkpoints, and improving subcontractor audit processes. I’m incredibly proud to serve as the Chairman of this Association, and to work with our Membership to ensure Virginia is always known as the world’s premier port for ship repair. Thank you for all of your support, dedication, and hard work. I look forward to 2019 and continuing our shared success.

DAWN ANGRISANI, VSRF BOARD CHAIR
On behalf of the Virginia Ship Repair Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to thank the VSRA Membership for the incredible support shown to workforce development and training initiatives in our industry over this past year. 2018 was a year of great success, highlighted by a record number of students entering our industry via the entry-level Marine Trade Training Program, which earned recognition as a credentialed course by the State of Virginia. In 2019, the Foundation is dedicated to continuing these efforts, ensuring the ship repair industry continues to retain a world-class, talented, diverse, highly-skilled workforce. Thank you for your continued support, and for the opportunity to continue our successes in the new year.

BILL CROW, VSRA PRESIDENT
You, the VSRA Membership, never cease to amaze me. Along with all of the sailors I served with during my 30-year Navy career, you are the most dedicated, selfless, hardworking group of individuals I have ever had the honor of working with. 2018 saw a steep ramp-up in work; a bumper crop after a few years of drought. The challenges our Industry faced over the past year were unlike any we have seen in recent memory. You met these challenges head-on, and in the process, you showed the world that Hampton Roads is the absolute leader in ship repair. We ended 2018 with a record number of Member companies: 285. This Membership increase did not happen because of me or the VSRA Staff – it happened because your dedication and efficiency was so evident in 2018 that more and more companies were attracted to this Association. I am proud to serve as your VSRA President, and I hope that you are very proud of all that you have done and continue to do. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and this industry, and for the continued success I know we will see together in 2019. You truly are the strength behind the fleet.

2018 WINS
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR BANNER YEAR

- Developed SOP for breathable air during blasting, enhancing safety
- Increased Federal awareness of the ship repair industry led to passage of Defense Appropriations Bill
- Awarded $65,000 OSHA Harwood Grant to develop electrical hazard awareness training
- Reached more than 12,000 students at career day events across the area
- Increased students trained via online courses by more than 30% over previous year