

Jennifer Boykin's Remarks
Aircraft Carrier Industrial Base Coalition 2019 Supplier Days
March 27, 2019

Thank you, Rick [Giannini], and good evening everyone!

This is one of those events I look forward to every year, because it's a reminder of how large, and how amazing, our shipbuilding team truly is.

It's nice to see so many familiar faces, and I thank you all for coming.

Each year, we come together in our nation's capital to remind our lawmakers of the collective force behind our Navy's fleet centerpiece – the aircraft carrier.

We ask you to share with them the work you do – to put a face and location with your company, and to educate them on why it's important they support our programs.

Those details are critical, but I would also ask you to think more broadly about how you contribute each day to something greater than yourself – and to something even greater than building aircraft carriers.

I have recently finished a biography about George Washington, and he once said the following of the people who won our freedom.

"Every post is honorable in which a man can serve his country."

I would only add to that, a man or a woman.

And no matter what your post – or what materials and equipment you supply...

To simply say that you build aircraft carriers falls woefully short of how you serve the United States of America.

As you all know, since we last met, Newport News Shipbuilding was awarded the two-ship carrier contract for CVN 80 and 81.

Our pursuit of this historic award was only as successful as your performance.

When we succeed, we succeed as one.

Our teams share a singular passion and purpose.

We all understand the need for urgency in support of our Navy.

And we can't do what we do without the strengths of each other's teams.

So when your congressmen and women ask you what your company does, I'm challenging you to think bigger.

You are our nation's nuclear shipbuilding industrial base.

You build diplomacy...

You build democracy...

And you build freedom!

Your work represents the very best of American manufacturing, innovation, pride and quality.

And while we will face challenges – because believe me, we will - we cannot let them distract or deter us from our mission.

Shipbuilding is not easy work. But that's okay, because hard is what we do.

Our military – and our country – are counting on us to get the job done – and get it done right.

The world needs the leadership in this room.

The world needs us to grow our nation's next generation of shipbuilders.

And the world needs Newport News Shipbuilding and every one of our supplier businesses to maintain U.S. dominance of the seas.

On behalf of the more than 24,000 shipbuilders of Newport News Shipbuilding...

Thank you for your leadership, your partnership and for your honorable service to our country.

Thank you.