

SALUTE



PSNS & IMF

NAVY DIVERS MAKE A SPLASH

An elite Navy dive team performs
a salvage operation along Pier Delta

• PAGES 6-7



COMMANDER'S CORNER | From the desk of Capt. JD Crinklaw



In this issue:



Former welder honored for her work during WW II



Navy divers complete recent salvage operation



PSNS & IMF veterans reflect on military service

On the cover:

Navy diver Carter Nabors, Code 760, Regional Dive Division, enters the water as part of a salvage operation to remove an underwater mooring hazard near Pier Delta, Oct. 21.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

Team PSNS & IMF,

As we head into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to recognize all that you've endured and accomplished this year — especially in recent weeks. Navigating the uncertainty of a government shutdown is never easy. I know the disruptions were frustrating, and I appreciate the patience, professionalism, and perseverance you showed throughout.

Your resilience is what keeps this shipyard moving, and your commitment does not go unnoticed.

The holiday season is a time to pause. To exhale. To step back from the long hours, the tight schedules, and the high-stakes work we do every day — and simply be present with the people we care about. Whether that's time with your children, visiting extended family, a quiet dinner with a friend, or a moment to yourself, I encourage each of you to find what restores you.

You've earned it.

We talk a lot about mission, readiness, and deadlines — and rightly so. But our people are the foundation of this command. The work we do is important, but it is never more important than the wellbeing of those who do it.

So if you're taking leave this season, I hope you can truly unplug and enjoy it. Let laughter and connection take the lead. And if you're one of the many who will be keeping critical work moving during the holidays, thank you for your service and sacrifice — we are grateful for your dedication.

The new year will bring new challenges, new projects, and new opportunities to grow as a team. But before we turn that page, I hope you take time to rest, reconnect, and reflect.

To every member of this command, and to your families — thank you. Thank you for your work, your grit, and your heart.

Wishing you a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season.

A Ready Team Defines Us. Quality Drives Us. Mission Unites Us.



Captain JD Crinklaw
Commander, PSNS & IMF



ABOVE: Kimmie Bratton, quality assurance technician, Code 135, Non-destructive Testing; Tom Bennett, quality assurance technician, also Code 135; Jesse Graham, test examiner, Code 138, Weld Engineers & Non-destructive Testing; and Travis Hileman, trade superintendent, also Code 138, were all awarded the Bright Ideas innovation award for their work on new software to help test eddy current tubing inspections. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

Command employees earn 'Bright Ideas' innovation awards

By Ben Hutto
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility recognized four command employees for their work implementing new software for inspections Oct. 1, during an award ceremony in the commander's conference room.

Kimmie Bratton, quality assurance technician, Code 135, Non-destructive Testing; Tom Bennett, quality assurance technician, also Code 135; Jesse Graham, test examiner, Code 138, Weld Engineers & Non-destructive Testing; and Travis Hileman, trade superintendent, also Code 138, were all awarded the Bright Ideas innovation award for their work on new software to help test eddy current tubing inspections.

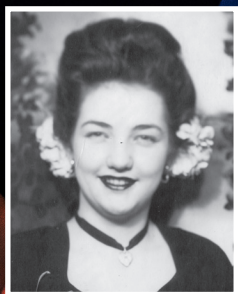
"It is so satisfying to get to recognize all of you here today," Crinklaw said. "What you four accomplished is important. It's a mind shift I'm trying to get the whole shipyard to employ. I'm constantly looking for ways to reduce stress and become more efficient here. What the four of you accomplished is the embodiment of that."

The former way of testing during ET inspections was more time consuming and involved going through lines of data individually to determine problems and effectiveness. The four individuals validated the new software by analyzing more than 200,000 tubes, worked with experts inside and outside the shipyard to refine the process, and took on the intricate task of preparing the technical documentation to secure approval from their higher headquarters.

The four workers' efforts were further validated when the software and process developed by them were used to expedite the availabilities of the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and USS Ronald Regan (CVN 76) earlier this year. The program reduced the manual analysis time by 292 resource-days with fewer inspectors being required to do the work.

"Thank you for your efforts in wading through all the work and finding a better solution," said Crinklaw. "What you did made us more efficient and improved the quality of life here at the shipyard. This is the type of effort we need. I want to ensure people know how important this is. It is this type of effort that makes us better."

JEAN LILLIAN WINTHER • ROSIE THE RIVETER CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT



A century of service

ABOVE: Welders Tricia Lang and Della Uhinck, both Shop 26, Welders, help celebrate Jean Lillian Winther's 100th birthday, Sept. 12, at Golden Grill on the Bay in Port Orchard. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)



ABOVE: Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, and Congresswoman Emily Randall present Jean Lillian Winther with the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Sept. 12, during her 100th birthday celebration in Port Orchard. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

Former shipyard employee recognized for her contributions to the U.S. Navy's Essex-class carrier projects during World War II

By Kanya Praetorius
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Capt. J.D. Crinklaw, commander, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, and Congresswoman Emily Randall presented former longtime shipyard employee Jean Lillian Winther with the "Rosie the Riveter" Congressional Gold Medal Oct. 5, during a ceremony to celebrate her 100th birthday at Golden Grill on the Bay in Port Orchard. Two days later — Oct. 7 — Winther officially marked a century of life filled with resilience, service, and love.

Winther, who accepted the award surrounded by her family and friends, was recognized for her many contributions as one of the first women welders assigned to Essex-class carrier projects during World War II.

"Jean embodies the courage and spirit of an entire

generation," Crinklaw said. "Her work helped shape the Essex-class carriers that protected our nation for decades, and her story will continue to inspire for generations to come."



The Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019 authorized the award of a single gold medal to honor all women who worked and volunteered in support of World War II. The original medal is displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, with replicas presented to surviving Rosies and their families across the nation.

Winther's path to the shipyard began in 1940, when she left Bremerton with just \$5 and a suitcase. She traveled to Long Beach, California, to attend a welding program at what is now Long Beach

See **'WINTHER'** on page 12

AROUND THE YARD

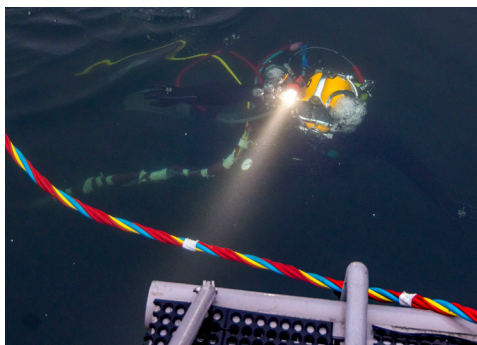
NAVY DIVERS COMPLETE A SALVAGE OPERATION ALONG PIER DELTA AT PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD



ABOVE: Civilian and Navy divers with Code 760, Regional Dive Division, complete a salvage operation Oct. 21 to remove a mooring hazard along Pier Delta.

AT RIGHT: A Navy diver swims along Pier Delta Oct. 21, during a salvage operation.

FAR RIGHT: Code 760, Regional Dive Division, divers perform a salvage operation near Pier Delta.





TOP: Code 760, Regional Dive Division, perform a salvage operation near Pier Delta, Oct. 21.

ABOVE: Navy Diver 2nd Class Rob McClure helps Navy Diver 2nd Class Juan Gonzalez into the water near Pier Delta.

AT LEFT: David Sawyer and Alex Elmore, Code 760, Regional Dive Division, communicate with divers during a salvage operation Oct. 21.

FAR LEFT: Lt. Cmdr. Masis Torosyan assists Matthew Miller, diver supervisor, with surface checks on Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Wagner, command diving officer.



PSNS & IMF veterans look back on their military service

IN HONOR OF ALL WHO SERVED

With a workforce comprised of both current and former members of the U.S. military, the annual Veterans Day observance carries with it significant meaning for many Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility employees. Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, is a celebration of all who served — both living and dead, whether in wartime or peace.

The origins of the holiday can be traced back to the end of World War I, when then-President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation establishing Armistice Day to recognize the peace agreement that ended what was then known as the Great War, and honor the thousands of U.S. veterans who served during the four-year conflict.

In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, the scope of the holiday broadened. At the urging of veteran's service organizations, the U.S. Congress amended the holiday and replaced the word "Armistice" with "Veterans."

In a letter to the administrator of Veterans' Affairs, then-President Dwight Eisenhower wrote, "I have today signed a proclamation calling upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954, as Veterans Day."

Today, approximately 26 percent of the PSNS & IMF workforce are veterans. For some, working at the shipyard is an extension of their service. For others, it's an opportunity to try a new career field, while continuing their service to the nation.



Andrea Abrams, U.S. Army

Apprentice Program Coordinator
Code 900T, Production Training Department

"I am proud to call myself a Combat Veteran. I know that if I hadn't served, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I also wouldn't have the opportunities in life that serving this country has opened for me. I joined because I wanted to challenge myself. The military gave me that opportunity."



Chris Tilley, U.S. Marines Corps

Crane Maintenance Supervisor
Code 700, Lifting and Handling Department

"When I walked into high school on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the first building was already on fire. I knew we were being attacked, and someone was going to have to do something about it. Since I didn't have much in the way of plans for that summer, I went to the Marine Corps recruiter."

Richard Brueder, U.S. Navy

Building 850 Facilities Manager
Code 1102, Administrative Services Office

"Let's just say I was not making the best life choices. I needed a change, wanted to make a difference, and needed to make my family proud of me again. The [chance] to work alongside some of the best people taught or influenced me in a way that developed who I am today."



Jennifer Thomas, U.S. Navy

Respirator Instructor
Code 900T, Production Training Department

"I'm most proud of serving aboard the USS Jason (AR 8) during Desert Storm. Our job was to onboard supplies to ships like the USS Tripoli (LPH-10), a minesweeper that had been damaged by a mine during operations. Everyone who volunteered to serve deserved recognition for putting their life on the line."



Benjamin Davis, U.S. Navy

Navy Diver
Code 760, Bangor Dive Locker

"Serving as an active duty Navy Diver, and now as a civilian diver at PSNS & IMF, I have had the privilege of serving alongside some of the smartest, most motivated and toughest people in this world. I'm proud to be a part of a community that is always pushing themselves to be better."



David Jan, U.S. Air Force

Quality Assurance Department Branch Head
Code 723, Quality Assurance Department

"[I'm most proud of] serving my country for the greater good, and supporting the Constitution of the United States of America, [by] representing the U.S. Air Force and its mission across three military theaters [while following in] my parents' footsteps, who served in the U.S. Army to support our armed forces."

Command celebrates 133 apprentices during annual graduation ceremony

PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Four years of hard work and dedication paid off for 133 skilled workers when they graduated from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility Apprenticeship Program Sept. 26, during a ceremony at the Bremerton High School Performing Arts Center.

This year's graduating class represented 22 different trades. Each graduate earned a certificate as a journey-level mechanic in their respective trade, as well as an associate's degree in technical arts from Olympic College. Family members, friends, instructors, supervisors, apprentice program alumni and local government officials attended the ceremony to celebrate the moment with their graduates.

"You've been forged into knowledgeable professionals—ready to thrive in our shops and on our deckplates," said Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF. "As you prepare to step into your new roles, I encourage you to keep the same passion, hunger, and curiosity you had on day one. Remember how awkward it felt using a tool for the first time. Remember the concepts that once felt overwhelming—concepts that are now second nature to you. Learning always involves struggle, and you overcame it. Reflect on your progress—and now imagine how much more you will grow in the next four years. In ten... Your journey doesn't end here—it launches tonight."

Five graduates received special honors during the ceremony:

- **Corry Campbell**, Welder Apprentice Graduate, Shop 26, Welders, was named the Apprentice of the Year by the program's administration.
- **Gage Tuttle**, marine machinery mechanic, Shop 38, Marine Machinist, served as 2025 Class Speaker.
- **Lisa Soderquist**, Composite Plastic Fabricator Apprentice Graduate, Shop 06, Tooling and Maintenance, received the Scholastic Award from the Federal Manager's Association, and graduated with perfect, 4.0 GPA, the highest grade in his program.
- **Clint Shelton**, Electronic Industrial Control Mechanic Apprentice Graduate Shop 06, Tooling and Maintenance, received the Apprentice Craftsman of the Year Award from the Assistant



ABOVE: *Apprentice of the Year Corry Campbell, Shop 26, Welders, poses with Luke Williams, student programs director, PSNS & IMF Apprenticeship Programs, Sept. 26, during a graduation ceremony at Bremerton High School. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)*

Production Superintendent's Association.

- **Sage Hlebechuk**, Welder Apprentice Graduate, Shop 26, Welders, received the Leadership Award from the National Association of Superintendents.

Kevin Berg, Toolmaker Instructor, Shop 31, Inside Machinists, was awarded the first ever instructor of the year award when he was presented with the 2025 Apprentice Instructor of the Year award.

The PSNS & IMF Apprentice Program was created in 1901, when the Shipyard Labor Board selected six men to train under skilled craftsmen at the facility. The program has grown to become an award-winning advanced training course for members of the shipyard team. Since 1950, PSNS & IMF has partnered with Olympic College for customized, accredited course work in support of the Apprentice Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 1

- **Happy New Year:** The New Year's Day federal holiday is Jan. 1.

Jan. 7

- **Blood Drive:** The monthly Armed Services Blood Drive will take place Jan. 7, in Building 850A, room 160, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Jan. 19

- **MLK Day:** The federal Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday observance is Jan. 19.

Feb. 14



- **Valentine's Day:** The annual Valentine's Day observance is Feb. 14.

Feb. 16

- **Presidents' Day:** The federal Presidents' Day holiday observance is Feb. 16.

Feb. 22-28

- **Engineers Week:** National Engineers Week is Feb. 22-28.

March 3

- **Navy Reserve Birthday:** The Navy Reserve Birthday is March 3.

March 25

- **Medal of Honor Day:** The annual Medal of Honor Day observance is March 25.

SAFETY FIRST, BADGE OUT

On Dec. 11, the command will begin implementing a badge out procedure. Roll-out will be introduced in three phases.



Phase 1 | Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 at 7:20 a.m.
Decatur & Farragut Turnstiles

Phase 2 | Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025 at 7:20 a.m.
Wycoff, Pier B & Lower State Street Turnstiles

Phase 3 | Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025 at 7:20 a.m.
Burwell & Bremerton North/South Turnstiles

Things to Know

- Badging out is for safety and security response. It's how we confirm all personnel are accounted for during an event.
- Badge data is not intended for individual timekeeping.
- Tap or insert CAC or DBIDS card. No PIN required.
- Troubleshooting instructions will be posted at badge readers.

One team. All accounted for.

Rideshare

Pierce Transit Vanpool: Picks up at Parkland Park & Ride at 4:50 a.m. and 6th Avenue Park & Ride at 5:05 a.m. Departs shipyard at 2:45 p.m. Call 253-777-7538.

Pierce Transit Vanpool: Picks up at Tacoma Community College at 6:10 a.m. Departs shipyard (G-Lot) at 4:10 p.m. Call 253-226-5586.

Tacoma Vanpool: Picks up at the Narrows Park & Ride at 5 a.m., dropping off at FISC Building and Vanpool parking. Departs shipyard at 3 p.m. Call 360-627-3560.

Rideshare policy: To post a Rideshare ad, email psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil or come to Building 850, fifth floor, Congressional and Public Affairs Office to fill out an ad form. All information is subject to use in Salute — print and online.

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ASBP
Armed Services Blood Program

**GIVE A GIFT OF LIFE —
DONATE BLOOD**



1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
Jan. 7, 2026

9AM - 3PM, BLDG. 850A, RM 160

For full details, visit [News You Can Use on the PSNS & IMF SharePoint home page.](https://www.usnavy.mil/PSNS-IMF)

VOLUNTARY Leave Transfer PROGRAM



Code 101.21

Karina Morrison
Code 105.3
Tara Wilson
Code 109
Shawn Fellows
Mikayla Taxacher
Code 127.2
Brian Magley
Code 1166
Carie Hagins

Code 2305.24

Jennifer Garrett
Shop 06
Shawn Duffy
Shop 11
Lee Warren
Shop 38
Wilbur Hinman
Sherman Geeslin
Meena Dalsky

Shop 51

Robert Wallace
Daniel Gosney
Shop 56
Dakota McIntosh
Shop 64
Jesse Peirce
Edward Deven
Ryan Wade

This program authorizes federal employees to donate annual leave to other civilian federal employees. If you wish to donate annual leave or have any questions, please contact the Human Resources Office at 360-476-8289/7015, or visit Building 435, 3rd floor, Room 338, or fax your donation form to 360-476-8723.

City College's metal fabrication and welding department.

Upon completing training in both arc and tack welding, Winther earned a position welding ammunition clips for tactical transfer ships at Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

As conflict erupted across the globe, the Navy launched an emergency recruitment drill to fill urgent labor needs. In 1942, Winther moved north to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, where she became one of the welders assigned to Essex-class carrier projects.

She worked on both construction and modernization, including the 1945 upgrades that replaced straight-deck carriers with angled decks capable of supporting jet aircraft — a hugely influential advancement both during World War II and for ensuing decades. These projects also converted the ships into anti-submarine carriers, extending their operational lives and ensuring they remained critical to national defense for decades.

"The ships she helped build and modernize were at the heart of the Navy's strength during the war and long after," Crinklaw said. "Jean's hands-on work shaped history."

Among her most vivid memories is June 6, 1944 — D-Day. Preparing to leave Bremerton for a family emergency in her hometown in Alaska, Winther paused to say goodbye to her shipyard friends. At that moment, a radio broadcast announced the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy. The weight of history and the poignancy of her emotions has stuck with her long after putting down the welding torch.

Life in the yard was demanding and often difficult — not only because of the work, but because Jean was one of only a handful of individuals in her role, working alongside hundreds of teammates. In a field where her presence was a rare exception, she had to constantly prove her skill and toughness. With grit, determination, and humor, Jean showed that anyone, regardless of background, could thrive in the trades and set the stage for those who would follow.

Away from the welding torch, Winther was known for her love of dancing. She volunteered with the United Services Organization — the nation's leading charitable organization in serving active-duty service members and military families — where she boosted troop morale by jitterbugging late into the night and helping serve meals.

At the shipyard, she carried the same spirit. When lunchtime bands played aboard the carriers, she brought her dancing shoes and jitterbugged on the ship elevators, brightening the day for her fellow workers. Her family recalls she became a jitterbug champion, winning competitions. Even while pregnant, she never missed a dance.

Her generosity reached beyond the dance



ABOVE: Jean Lillian Winther, a former welder at PSNS & IMF, celebrates her 100th birthday with family and friends after receiving the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Sept. 12, during a birthday party at Golden Grill on the Bay in Port Orchard. Winther was a welder assigned to the Essex-class carrier projects during World War II. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)



AT LEFT: Jean Lillian Winther, pictured with former husband James Peden, worked at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton as a welder on both the construction and modernization of Essex-class carriers from 1942 through 1954. (Photo courtesy of Jean Lillian Winther)

floor. She was known for opening her home to anyone in need, ensuring there was always room at her dinner table.

From 1941 through 1954, Winther worked at the shipyard, carving her place in the trades through skill, toughness, and perseverance. Her contributions set a standard for those who would follow, paving the way for future generations in the field.

"Jean didn't just weld steel, she welded together opportunities, courage, and hope," Crinklaw said. "Her story reminds us that our shipyard's strength has always been built on the dedication of people like her."

The medal ceremony, held at Winther's

birthday party in Port Orchard, Washington, was both formal and deeply personal.

Family members, friends, Congresswoman Randall, and shipyard teammates gathered not only to honor her wartime service, but also to celebrate her century of life filled with resilience, laughter, and love.

As she accepted the medal, cheers filled the room. For those present, it was a reminder that the story of "Rosie the Riveter" is not just history — it is living history, embodied by women like Winther, who continue to inspire through the lives they've built and the spirit they carry into every challenge.