

The Apprentice School Class of 2008 Graduation Ceremony Video Transcript

Feb. 21, 2009

[Music: Folk music from baccalaureate service.]

[Music: York River Concert Band playing "Pomp and Circumstance."]

Danny Hunley, vice president, Operations and Trades: "Thousands of America's finest young men and women rely on the work that we do to bring them home. In the end, it's the work that you do, the work that I do, and the work that we all do each and every day that gives our proud nation the tools that it needs to advance and protect the cause of freedom on the high seas."

Matt Mulherin, sector vice president and general manager, Newport News: "Although your apprenticeship officially ends today, your craftsmanship and the lessons you've learned during this experience will live on for many years in the great products you've built. Your fingerprints are on these ships, many already in service, with many others soon to follow. Thank you for all you've done and will continue to do for our company, our community and our country."

Shipbuilding President **Mike Petters**: "You may have noticed that many of the apprentice graduates I mentioned are already in positions of leadership – some in their craft, some as instructors. I can assure the graduates that at one time or another, you will be asked to lead. It may be a project. It may be a team. It may be a division. It could even be the company – just ask former president and apprentice graduate Pat Phillips. The possibilities are endless. And your potential is without limits."

Homer L. Ferguson Award winner **Eric Christopher Kilner**: "Only by building on our foundation of the past can we complete the construction of our future. For the last 123 years, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding has built the finest ships to sail on the high seas. For 90 of those 123 years, The Apprentice School has steadfastly done its part in developing some of the shipyard's finest leaders."

Dr. **Bob Leber**, director, Education and Workforce Development: "I said it was my privilege to head up The Apprentice School. Now you know why!"