



DATE: August 8, 2016

POINT OF CONTACT: Raymond Pefferman, Public Affairs

PHONE: 412-476-7640

EMAIL: nn|publicaffairs@unnpp.gov

SUBJECT: Bettis Laboratory Family Day

Family Day at Naval Nuclear Laboratory

Event gives family members inside look

This summer, the Naval Nuclear Laboratory is celebrating its 70th anniversary by hosting a Family Day Celebration. Across its multiple locations, family members are able to tour the facilities where their loved ones work to get an inside look that most people will never get to experience.

The mission of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program is to provide military effective, safe, and reliable naval nuclear propulsion. Family Day is taking place at several Naval Nuclear Laboratory locations this summer, including Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, New York, and Naval Reactors Facility in Eastern Idaho.

On July 30, 2016, Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in West Mifflin celebrated its workers and their families. Family Day provided a unique opportunity for families to experience the unclassified operations that take place at Bettis. The event gave those that attended a better appreciation and understanding of Naval Nuclear Laboratory technology through many demonstrations, posters and activities.

“My children really wanted to see my desk and my workspace—especially their pictures and artwork on my work area walls,” noted George Brown, a scientist at Bettis. Employees were able to tour areas with their families and view demonstrations.

Activities included children’s games, “how to ship an egg” demonstrations, self-guided lab walkthroughs, and many more engaging displays. The various clubs and organizations that Bettis offers were also participating in demonstrations, such as the Women in Nuclear organization’s event, which gave visitors the opportunity to build a model of a commercial nuclear reactor with candy. Rock band “Akkordion,” a group made up of Bettis employees, added the beat.

Gloria Sowko, a member of the Human Resources department, brought her husband and daughters to the event. “I know my family enjoyed it,” she commented. “They were surprised to see

how huge the facility is. What I enjoyed the most was mingling with everyone and their families. Everyone seemed to be having a good time.”

The reasoning behind Family Day lies with the idea that not only are the workers instrumental in the success of the operations taking place at the Naval Nuclear Laboratory, but the family members who support them are just as important.

“*People* are the key to our success,” stated Curtis Eshelman, the Bettis Laboratory Site Director. “We know our people cannot be successful without support.”

A thank you to employees and their families, Family Day was full of things to do and see—something that not many people who do not work behind its walls will ever get to experience.