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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hundreds of shipbuilders take to NASSCO gates to demand fair pay, fair treatment
NASSCO General Dynamics launches USNS Robert F. Kennedy while labor strife spills into streets

San Diego, Cal. (Oct. 28, 2023) — Today as NASSCO, a subsidiary of General Dynamics, launched its newest ship, the USNS Robert F. Kennedy, hundreds of shipbuilders took to the gates of the shipyard demanding that NASSCO, the recipient of billions of dollars in federal contracts, fairly treat and fairly pay its shipbuilders. The shipbuilders and their families were joined by a group of “Rosie the Riveters” leafleting attendees and asking: “What would Rosie think?”

“The White House has made it very clear that they don’t want to see federal contracts going to union busting, but at NASSCO, they are taking billions in federal contracts and not paying or treating its hardworking, highly skilled shipbuilders on par with other shipyards,” said Luis Miramontes, the Business Manager of Boilermakers Local 92, which represents Boilermakers at NASSCO.

“San Diego is an expensive place to live—too expensive on the wages NASSCO is willing to pay. We have members who commute over the border every single day so they can afford to support their families. Because of the unpredictability of the border crossing, they’re often getting to San Diego at 3 a.m. and sleeping in their cars. The workers entrusted to build and repair our nation’s Naval ships deserve to be treated with far more respect than that.”

Workers at the gate this morning expressed frustration with NASSCO. Many workers need to live in Mexico to afford to house and feed their families. San Diego has recently been named one of the Nation’s most expensive areas in which to live. This morning’s demonstration at NASSCO is the latest in a string of high profile worker unrest that is impacting operations around the country and garnering the attention of the Biden administration.

Watch this :30 video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLC5-qWIG4E>

Established in 1880, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers is a diverse union representing workers throughout the United States and Canada who are employed in industrial construction, maintenance and repair; ship building; manufacturing; railroads; cement; mining and related industries. More information can be found at www.boilermakers.org.

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