

JOSEPH J. RELLA
120 Bay Street
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(251) 408-2252 (cell)

With over 35 years of Shipbuilding and repair experience for the US Navy and commercial maritime market segments, Mr. Rella has gained extensive practical knowledge and management experience to be an expert in the US maritime industry.

Mr. Rella is the President of St. Johns Ship Building, Inc., located in Palatka, FL. The shipyard builds Aluminum and Steel vessels for the Jones Act service, supporting both blue and brown water operators.

He was previously President and COO at Austal USA and has held executive roles at International Marine and Industrial Applicators. Rella, a US Navy Nuclear Power School Graduate, received his undergraduate in Marine Engineering Systems from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, and earned an MBA from Spring Hill College.

During his tenure with Austal USA as President and Chief Operating Officer, he presided over the bid and proposal efforts to win over \$5 billion and a twenty (20) ship backlog as a Prime Shipbuilder for the Joint High-Speed Vessel and the Littoral Combat Ship Programs. He has overseen the training and hiring of over 2,200 new employees, the establishment of a world-class shipyard, and the implementation of all new manufacturing processes incorporating a linear flow and modular manufacturing methodology. While at Austal, Mr. Rella sourced financing of more than \$225 million for facility expansion and successfully negotiated the award of training reimbursement funding from the State of Alabama for a total value of \$48 million in addition to \$25 million in capital inducements. He was a principal leader in promoting and establishing an Alabama State-funded \$13 million Maritime Training Center adjacent to the shipyard. He negotiated the exclusive use by Austal USA for two-thirds of the facility. The shipyard received numerous safety awards during his tenure with the company.

Mr. Rella, a licensed engineer, has sailed in the US Merchant Marine and participated in the strategic sealift supporting Operation Desert Shield. He has also sailed around the world on US-flagged merchant Ships. His experience in shipbuilding and repair includes US Navy, commercial vessels, and blue and brown water service.

Mr. Rella has been married to his wife, Juanita, for twenty-nine years. He has two children: Robert, twenty-five, an Auburn graduate who recently graduated from Medical School and is now in residency, and Ashley, twenty-four, also an Auburn graduate and a medical sonographer.