

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF READING CLERK JOE NOVOTNY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of the Reading Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Joe Novotny, as he prepares for his retirement. As Reading Clerk, Joe Novotny has served as the ‘Voice of the House,’ and his trusted leadership and valued presence on the House Floor will be missed by Members and staff on both sides of the aisle.

Joe Novotny has dedicated his entire career to the People’s House. A Chicago native, Novotny came to Washington to serve as a Congressional page at age 16. After studying Political Communication at George Washington University, he returned to the House, where he worked as a staffer for the House Education and Labor Committee for fifteen years, rising to become Chief Clerk for this essential committee. His service was greatly respected by all, including by Education and Labor Chair George Miller, who lauded Novotny as ‘an incredibly valuable asset to my staff [whose] unparalleled integrity and dedication helped our committee advance major policies that are making a difference in the lives of working families.’

In 2010, it was my great and proud honor as Speaker of the House to name Joe Novotny Reading Clerk: the first openly gay man to hold this important position. His historic service has made our Congress more inclusive, diverse and representative of the people whom we serve. As Novotny stated upon his appointment, ‘When you think about the diversity in this House now—and the fact that we have the first woman Speaker and we have the first African-American Clerk of the House—this is a Congress of firsts, so to be a part of that is a tremendous honor.’ As the child of immigrants, Novotny’s ascendance to service in the halls of the United States Capitol is, as he has proudly said, the story of the American Dream.

As Reading Clerk, Novotny has been vital in engaging and connecting our country with their Democracy, as he ensures that legislative measures debated in the House are clearly articulated not only to Members of Congress but to the American people and to communities around the world. He has consistently brought his steady, calming presence and great professionalism and institutional expertise to the House Floor, and in doing so, has helped advance the ability of the People’s House to do the people’s work.

His commitment to making the Congress more open, accessible and efficient has been particularly important to the functioning of the House and the health of our Democracy during the challenging time of the coronavirus pandemic, as our institution has adjusted to remote and virtual operations.

While Joe Novotny’s service will be missed, his great love for the House and his dedication to our Democracy stand as an inspiration for all who will follow in the path that he has blazed. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I thank Joe Novotny for his patriotic service, which has strengthened the Congress and Country.

CONGRATULATING THE EAGLE SCOUTS OF TROOP 2G OF WIN- CHESTER

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three young women from Virginia’s 10th Congressional District who made history as the first female Eagle Scouts in the Shenandoah Area Council. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank to earn in Scouts BSA, and Lauren Reed, Amelia ‘Mia’ Lunceford, and Elaina Truban of Winchester have all exemplified the remarkable leadership, talent, and perseverance to earn this distinction.

To achieve the Eagle title, scouts are required to earn 21 merit badges, complete and lead a service project that benefits their community and sit before the Eagle Scout Board of Review. For their thoughtful community projects, Lauren planted shrubbery and landscaping around a flag pole at Locust Grove Cemetery in Stephens City, Mia worked on a wildflower rain garden at Izaak Walton Lake in Frederick County, and Elaina made a raised flower bed and planted seven trees on the grounds of her church. Until recently, girls and young women were not allowed to join the program. Now, there are 83 female scouts in five different troops in the Shenandoah Area Council. All three of the first class of female Eagle Scouts in the Shenandoah Area Council are members of Troop 2G of Winchester.

These young women were honored and recognized in Winchester, Virginia on January 26, 2021. All three are following in the footsteps of their male siblings and other family members who attained the same recognition. Lauren, Mia, and Elaina now help pave the way for future female scouts to pursue the ranks of Eagle Scout, and they are just beginning their journeys as impactful community members and strong, female leaders.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 447 NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP ACT OF 2021

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judi-

ciary, on Homeland Security, on the Budget, and as a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, which invests more than \$3.5 billion over 5 years in expanding opportunities and access to Registered Apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships.

I thank Congressman SCOTT, the Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, for reintroducing this legislation which passed by a substantial margin in the 116th Congress as H.R. 8294.

This important legislation has the potential to yield \$10.6 billion in net benefits to U.S. taxpayers in the form of increased workers productivity and decreased spending on public-assistance programs and unemployment insurance and which bring America’s investments in apprenticeship more in line with countries around the world.

Madam Speaker, the Registered Apprenticeship (RAs) system is America’s most successful federally authorized workforce development program.

According to the Department of Labor, 94 percent of people who complete RAs are employed upon completion, earning an average starting wage of above \$70,000 annually.

Yet, according to the most recent data, only 0.3 percent of the overall workforce in America have completed an apprenticeship.

Madam Speaker, this legislation could not be more timely because during a time of record unemployment, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 invests more than \$3.5 billion over 5 years in expanding opportunities and access to Registered Apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships.

The legislation also creates an additional 1 million new apprenticeship opportunities on top of the current expected growth of the apprenticeship system, an investment that not only will pay off for workers and employers, but also benefit the taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is critical to expanding the nation’s workforce development system during our country’s deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Specifically, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 authorizes \$400 million for fiscal year (FY) 2022, increasing by \$100 million annually to \$800 million for FY 2026, to support the creation or expansion of registered apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs, including in non-traditional apprenticeship occupations and for nontraditional populations.

This funding will also attract and encourage employer participation and recruitment for individuals with barriers to employment, including individuals impacted by the criminal justice system.

Additionally, to ensure that apprenticeship agreements and program registration to ensure consistency in quality standards and worker protections, H.R. 447 codifies and streamlines standards for registered apprenticeships, youth apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Also codified are the existing regulations and practices to ensure that all individuals have an equal opportunity to participate in programs under the national apprenticeship system, and to increase diversity in the occupations offered and the individuals participating in programs, especially in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations.

The legislation institutionalizes, and establishes by statute, the Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship, and vests it with the following roles and responsibilities:

Increasing participation in programs under the national apprenticeship system through technical assistance and program recognition activities;

Bringing together industry sector leaders and experts, including employers, industry associations, joint labor-management organizations, labor organizations, education and training providers, credential providers, and apprentices to establish national frameworks to expand apprenticeships to new occupations and sectors; and

Improving data infrastructure to improve reporting and publicly disseminating information about apprenticeship programs.

Another strong feature of this legislation is that it codifies the roles and responsibilities of the State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAAs) by:

Authorizing annual funding for State Apprenticeship Offices and SAAs at \$75 million for fiscal year (FY) 2022, increasing by \$10 million annually to reach \$115 million for FY 2026, with one-third of funds equally distributed to all States and outlying areas, and two-thirds of funds distributed via formula to SAAs; and

Requiring SAAs to submit plans for registered apprenticeship activities, which generally mirror existing state requirements under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

My concluding reason for supporting this important legislation is that it strengthens the connections between the Department of Education and Department of Labor through an interagency agreement to support the creation and expansion of youth apprenticeships, college consortiums, and data sharing agreements.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS STORIES APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Houston Community College (HCC) Apprenticeship Program is a partnership between HCC and 11 U.S. Department of Labor approved Apprenticeship programs in Houston. The program provides a 3-5 year job training system for skilled trade and craft workers.

Employers, employer associations, and joint-labor management organizations known collectively as apprenticeship sponsors provide apprentices with on-the-job instruction that reflects industry needs, while HCC provides the classroom-related instruction. HCC apprentices can study in eight different disciplines including: carpenters, electricians, millwrights, pipe-fitters, welders, masons, stationary engineers, and glaziers.

In 2013, HCC launched a 35-million renovation project of the San Jacinto building on its Central campus with HCC apprentices contributing to the massive renovation and restoration project.

Ten HCC plumber and pipefitter apprentices helped upgrade the building's pool, basketball gymnasium, laid pipes and redesigned Memorial Green.

HCC apprenticeship program prides itself on the rapid development and professionalism of its students. Thus far, HCC apprentices can boast a zero OSHA injuries and a 24% increase in productivity and 43% decrease in job turnover.

"The quality of the work on this project will provide lower maintenance and operating cost for Houston Community College and is referred to as Life Cycle Engineering Cost. This project provides a win-win opportunity for Houston Community College and their students," said Apprenticeship Director, Doug Posey.

When the San Jacinto project is complete, it will become an academic center for Central College. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.

JOHN SOILEAU'S STORY

John Soileau knows his way around a plumbing system. He's spent the last 5-years learning to install and repair commercial and residential plumbing systems, as well as designing new systems, laying or fitting pipes and repairing and maintaining appliances in Houston Community College's (HCC) apprenticeship program.

"I've learned so much over the five year period. From math basic, AutoCAD, shop classes to welding and learning how to pipe a dollhouse," said Soileau.

Unlike many college students, Soileau got paid to go to school. The 3-5 year apprenticeship program mixes paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction allowing the student to earn as they learn.

"This program gave me the opportunity to make a living and eliminate any doubts I had about how I was going to pay my tuition. It was a win/win situation for me."

As Soileau nears the end of the apprenticeship program, he is looking forward to starting his career as a Master Plumber and with a five-year work history; he says he is confident about his training and his future.

HCC APPRENTICE STUDENTS HELP BUILD NEW HOSPITAL

Eleven Houston Community College (HCC) and Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) apprentice students broke ground on the Jeanie Sealy Hospital construction project in Galveston, Texas in September 2012. In collaboration with numerous contracted workers, HCC students are proving on a daily basis that their apprentice training is valuable to the project.

"The project is an example of the quality of electricians being trained at their apprentice school. The old time skills of electrical workers simply are no longer sufficient to meet the demands of modern day technology in accomplishing the work," said Eddie Rodriguez, Director of IEC Apprentice School.

The total project was design by computer aided drafting or AutoCAD with prefabrication of all conduits including the smaller 3/4" size conduit at their fabrication shop and shipped to the job site for installation. The complexity of this project has construction veterans in awe of the students' knowledge and success.

"I was totally impressed with the complexity and quality of the conduit installation in such a complex and compact facility as a modern hospital requires," said Doug Posey, HCC Director of Apprenticeship Programs.

Apprentice workers training has been recognized in providing increased productivity by 24%, worker turnover down by 43%, job site absenteeism down by 59%, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) re-

cordable injuries down by 67%, and first aid cases down by 90%.

"IEC continues to modernize their training methods and the technology needed to satisfy the contractor's needs to stay productive and competitive in today's market place," said Rodriguez.

The Jeanie Sealy Hospital project contract is valued at \$27.4 million. The project is scheduled to conclude August 2015.

HONORING EDGAR KING FOR HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK DAIRY FARMERS, AND THE ENTIRE NORTH COUNTRY REGION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Ms. STEFANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edgar "Ed" King for his lifetime dedication to public service for the betterment of Saratoga County and New York State's Dairy industry.

Born a Saratogian with deep family roots in dairy farming, Ed made improving New York's agricultural industry his life's work at the local, state, and national level. A lifelong farmer and graduate of the prestigious Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ed went on to serve as the Deputy Commissioner of New York State's Department of Agriculture and Markets from 1976 to 1987. When Ed returned from Albany, he immersed himself in local politics, and was elected Supervisor for Northumberland on the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors in 1992. He held that position until 2004, following in his father's footsteps who held the same seat after being elected in 1944. Ed also spent time serving on the boards of Dairy Management, Inc., the National Dairy Board, and the New England Dairy Promotion Board.

After retiring from his exemplary career in public service, Ed continued to be heavily involved in the day to day operation of Kings Ransom Farm in Schuylerville. This fifth-generation, family-run farm is one of the largest dairy farms in the region, established in 1901 by King's grandfather. Ed continued doing what he loved, interacting with and serving his community, as he and his wife, Carolyn, operated a bed and breakfast on the farm where they eagerly welcomed visitors, tourists, strangers, and friends. Ed was especially proud to watch as his sons very successfully expanded the business to add King Brothers Dairy, a dairy store that offers home delivery service. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, their four sons, and his extended family.

Ed was an extraordinary leader for Saratoga County, the dairy industry and beyond. He was tireless in his efforts to promote agricultural development throughout New York State. His welcoming demeanor, selfless service, and deep respect for everyone he encountered is a shining example for us all. Ed was an integral part of the community and will be greatly missed. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his remarkable leadership and life.