

## 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.

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