By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP MONTH

WHEREAS, Virginia’s Division of Registered Apprenticeship is maintaining the established programs that champion Registered Apprenticeship and promoting the success of their many new apprentices; and

WHEREAS, the strong Virginia economy has allowed the Department of Labor and Industry to expand the message of this employment training model to new sectors, industries, and employers embracing new ways to create and sustain their employee pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the robust Registered Apprenticeship Program in Virginia adds value to the economic development message to employers and industries creating or expanding their commerce in America’s Top State for Business; and

WHEREAS, Youth Registered Apprenticeship is embedded within the Department of Education’s guidance for schools, students, and parents as one accepted path of Work-Based Learning, providing options to all students in the Commonwealth for career exposure and educational advancement; and

WHEREAS, the employer-driven model of Registered Apprenticeship encourages the integration of mutually beneficial processes that help align Career and Technical Education offerings in each unique community to the needs of their employer neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the established relationships with the Department of Veterans Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Community College System, and other workforce practitioners have contributed to the gold standard reputation of Registered Apprenticeship; and

WHEREAS, all citizens, regardless of their zip code, socio-economic status, or prior experiences are entitled to participate in pursuing enjoyable, meaningful, and sustaining occupations and be given a chance to join the ranks of lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS, diversification is the engine that will bring the Commonwealth into an even more respected state in which to do business by including individuals who want to earn, learn and contribute to their local economy; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship stands the test of time, yet moves forward boldly with the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize November 2019 as NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP MONTH in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.