



Laborers' International Union of North America Midwest Regional Office

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LIUNA Legislative Update January 30, 2020

Governor Kicks off Spring Legislative Session with State of the State Address *Peoria Laborer Reggie Marizetts Attended as Guest of Gov. J.B. Pritzker*

Legislators from both chambers gathered yesterday to hear **Gov. J.B. Pritzker's** State of the State address, in which he celebrated the accomplishments of the last year and outlined priorities for the coming legislative session. The Governor emphasized the need for comprehensive energy legislation and stricter ethics regulations for legislators in the coming months. He also praised the \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois capital program enacted last year, and featured Laborers' Local 165 apprentice **Reggie Marizetts, Jr.**, when describing how the capital program will help create good jobs for Laborers and other trades, saying,

"Rebuild Illinois is about more than just roads, bridges and universities; it's about jobs: middle class careers with wages and benefits, the kind of jobs that help you raise a family...

With me today is Reggie Marizetts, Jr., a first-year apprentice with Laborers' Local 165 in Peoria. Reggie fell in love with hands-on work early in his life, and it's his apprenticeship where he is learning all the skills to succeed not just now, but for decades to come. Reggie intends to become a full-time journeyman and later to pursue his lifelong dream: opening a father-son construction company with his dad...

Over the next six years, in addition to our expansion of apprenticeships, Rebuild Illinois will transform our infrastructure – even as we create a lot more opportunities for Reggie and thousands of young people just like him, with steady work that will help make sure that our economy works for everyone."



Left: Reggie had the opportunity to meet Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, and First Lady M.K. Pritzker before the speech.

Right: Reggie sat in the House of Representatives balcony and was recognized by the Governor during the speech.

Sen. Don Harmon Elected New Senate President

Earlier this month, Senators gathered to elect their next leader, following the retirement of **Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago)**. Democrats selected **Sen. Don Harmon (D-Oak Park)** as the next President, with **Majority Leader Kim Lightford (D-Maywood)** continuing in that role. New Senate President Harmon has been a great friend of the Laborers' Union for many years, and has sponsored numerous important bills; most recently, legislation that strengthens the Prevailing Wage Act and the post-*Janus* decision legislation establishing public employee collective bargaining and privacy protections.

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