

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE COD STUDENTS ON WINNING THE DISTINGUISHED PROJECT MERIT AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 2018*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize students from the College of DuPage. Recently, seven students received the Distinguished Project Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects for their work on a gathering pavilion.

The students, Andrew Dunlop, Arlinda Haxhiu, Michael Keslinke, Jose Maldonado, Drew Peterson, Malak Saadeh, and Scott Sallmann, worked together to design, plan and build the gathering pavilion which is now located on the College of DuPage campus in Glen Ellyn. This student project was the overall focus of an eight week summer Design Build class. The wooden open-air structure was named Umbra 82 by the students. It takes the name Umbra from the darkest part of the shadow and the number 82 from the number of white boxes that make up the pavilion.

These seven students came from all corners of DuPage County, and each member has a strong passion for architecture. In a project such as this, it was necessary that the members of the team work together and rely on one another. The hard work and long hours spent planning, designing, and creating of this project will prepare them for the rigors of an architectural career and serve them greatly in the future. The new pavilion will stand as a testament to the student's dedication and creativity and serve the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students on winning the Distinguished Project Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects and wishing them the best of luck in the future.

HONORING ARTHUR KOEPP'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 2018*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend the happiest of birthday wishes to Mr. Arthur Koepf of Stephentown, New York who will be celebrating his 100th Birthday on January 15, 2018. Arthur has lived a life characterized by hard work and an unyielding selflessness, making him a pillar of his community.

From an early age, Arthur exhibited an outstanding work ethic and a profound concern for others and the environment. As a boy, he worked on his family's 100-acre farm, ran his

own farm stand, and was an active member of the local 4-H club. Arthur's curiosity about horticulture and farming led him to attend Cornell University to study agriculture. The active lifestyle of Arthur's youth has not diminished, however. He continues to live a fruitful life, one of passion, excitement, and variety.

A man of family, community, and faith, Arthur was a Deacon and a Sunday School teacher for most of his adult life. Alongside his wife, Esther, Arthur was also actively involved with missionary work to help strengthen communities and aid vulnerable populations throughout the country. Arthur's legacy of dedicated service is a source of inspiration, instilling the values of perseverance, confidence, and civility in his community.

Arthur's zeal for life has made him a great role model for the people of Upstate New York, and I am proud to be his Representative in Congress. Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. Arthur Koepf a very happy and healthy 100th birthday.

HONORING VICTOR B. WILLIAMS

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 2018*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Special Agent Victor B. Williams, who after 34 years of service with the federal government, is retiring to independently pursue his efforts to end human trafficking.

Victor began his career as a Petty Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he conducted search and rescue/law enforcement missions from 1982 until 1991. He then joined the U.S. Customs Service, which later became the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a special agent in ICE's Homeland Security Investigations Unit, Victor participated in both domestic and international law enforcement investigations dealing with a wide range of activities, including terrorism, narcotics, money laundering, identity and benefit fraud, maritime smuggling operations, container security, and human trafficking.

Victor's experiences during these investigations triggered a lifelong determination to not only combat human trafficking, but also to educate law enforcement personnel and the public about the importance of victim-centered approach. He has served and represented over 250 entities, including non-governmental organizations, churches, private organizations, and law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and local levels in his fight against the exploitation of people.

Victor B. Williams is an extraordinary man who has dedicated his life to serving others. I could not be prouder of the time and devotion he has given to his community and his country. I am honored to recognize Victor today for his invaluable contributions to combat modern-day slavery.

HONORING THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOLOMON NORTHPUP'S FREEDOM

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the legacy of New York native Solomon Northup on Solomon Northup Freedom Day.

165 years ago, Solomon Northup was set free from his enslavement. Born a free man in New York, Mr. Northup made a living as a farmer and as a professional violinist. Unlike many African American free men during this time period, Mr. Northup was a landowner in Hebron, New York.

In 1841, Mr. Northup was offered the position of violinist with a traveling circus. In Washington, D.C. the very same men who hired Mr. Northup drugged him, and sold him into the abhorrent institution that is slavery. Mr. Northup was sent to Louisiana, and lived in captivity for 11 years, 8 months, and 26 days.

During his horrific enslavement, Mr. Northup worked with a Canadian who helped get word to New York about his whereabouts. New York State provided aid to free New York citizens who had been kidnapped and sold into slavery. Mr. Northup's family and friends did not abandon hope. They sought the support of Washington Hunt, the Governor of New York, who helped Mr. Northup regain his freedom on the morning of January 4, 1853.

No longer enslaved, Mr. Northup took little time to rest after being freed from his captors. Mr. Northup became a fierce abolitionist. He began to lecture on his experience and appear at anti-slavery conferences throughout the northeast. His memoir, "Twelve Years A Slave," recounted the horrors and injustices that he faced, and received domestic and international acclaim.

Today, on Solomon Northup Freedom Day, I am proud to join the cities of Saratoga Springs and Auburn in recognizing the story of Solomon Northup. Central New York is such an important part of the Abolitionist Movement. After escaping from slavery, Harriet Tubman lived in Auburn, New York until the day she died. Tubman fought her whole life for the eradication of slavery. Today, the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn represents her legacy, and the importance of human rights, gender equality, and ending racism.

Solomon Northup Freedom Day also reaffirms the necessity of eradicating modern-day slavery, human trafficking, and racial prejudice. This January is National Human Trafficking Awareness month, and the United Nations estimates that more than 40 million men, women, and children continue to be enslaved globally.

Solomon Northup will be remembered for his dedicated efforts to fight for those who

• 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.