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House of Representatives

Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

Statement Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the South Dakota State Capitol

MS. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker I take this opportunity to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the State of South Dakota Capitol Building.

The South Dakota State Capitol building is located in Pierre, South Dakota. The South Dakota State Capitol building was designed by Minneapolis architects C.E. Bell and M.S. Detwiler and assembled between the years of 1905 and 1910. The building is more than 114,000 square feet in size and is made up of materials such as native field stone, Indiana Limestone, and Vermont and Italian Marble. The building is 161 feet tall, 190 feet wide, and 292 feet long and includes carved woodwork and marble, special cast brass, and hand laid stone. In 1977, the state of South Dakota decided to restore the building back to its original 1910 appearance. The restoration was completed in 1989 to the original color and style of the walls and drapes.

Some of the many important architectural features of the South Dakota Capitol building include the Capitol floor, which is made of terrazzo tile and was created by 66 Italian artists. Terrazzo tile is a type of marble flooring that consists of chips of marble meshed together through a process of layering which creates multicolored designs and patterns. The rotunda, located on the second floor, is another important feature of the Capitol. The rotunda encompasses a large 96 foot dome which can be seen outside the Capitol. The inside bottom ring of the dome looks like ribbons strung together and joined as one which resembles government as eternal in nature. The dome also displays the pasque flower, which is the South Dakota state flower. The third floor holds both the House of Representatives and Senate floors upon where all the state's laws are debated and voted.

Over its 100 years of history, the Capitol has stood as a testament to the beauty and strength that represents South Dakota, and I trust that this historic building will continue to remain a landmark for the next 100 years.