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**Western Specialty Contractors Uses Rapid Hardening Repair Materials
to Restore Damaged Chicago Parking Structure**

Crews given just four weeks to restore entire seven-level parking garage in The Columbian

(St. Louis, MO, July 30, 2015) - Constructed in 2008, The Columbian is a 47-story, residential skyscraper on Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois with breathtaking views of downtown's historic Grant Park and the city skyline. The floors of its seven-level parking structure were beginning to crack and its concrete to deteriorate as a result of Chicago's harsh winters.

The Columbian's condominium association hired Western Specialty Contractors, formerly named Western Waterproofing Company, to repair the parking structure's damage within an extremely tight schedule of just four weeks. The association allowed for a complete shutdown of the entire parking structure, with 232 vehicles relocated to surrounding off-property locations.

In order to meet the demands of the fast-track schedule and protect the association's investment, the engineer on the project, Thornton Tomasetti, specified that Western crews use rapid curing repair materials to complete the job. A two-part urethane sealant was used to seal the horizontal floor cracks and a rapid hardening concrete was used to repair other deteriorated concrete. A four-step, two-component rapid curing urethane traffic membrane system was also applied to the entire garage structure to expedite the schedule.

In addition to the application of new line striping, parking stall identification numbers were also applied to the floors and walls at each of the 232 parking stalls. Although the parking structure was completely shutdown, material and equipment staging areas were limited. All materials had to be stored at an off-site location and delivered to the project on a daily basis.

Western was able to successfully complete the project on schedule and under budget.

About Western Specialty Contractors

Family-owned and operated for 100 years, Western Specialty Contractors is the nation's largest specialty contractor in masonry and concrete restoration, waterproofing and specialty roofing. Offering a nationwide network of expertise, building owners, engineers, architects and property managers can count on Western to develop cost-effective, corrective measures that can add years of useful life to a variety of structures (industrial, commercial, healthcare, historic, educational and government buildings, parking garages, monuments, bridges and sports stadiums). Western is headquartered in St. Louis, MO with over 30 branch offices nationwide and employs more than 1,200 salaried and hourly professionals who offer the best, time-tested techniques and innovative technology available. For more information about Western Specialty Contractors, visit www.westernspecialtycontractors.com.

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