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12-20-1974

News Release - 1974-12-20

E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 December 1974

FROM Kika de la Garza

Washington, D C -- Winning the grand prize today in the House of Representatives' annual office Christmas decoration contest was Rep Kika de la Garza's office.

The de la Garza's winning display consisted of a magnificent handmade 6ft tall angel and a gold pipe organ in front of a hand-painted caroler scene flanking the door to Rep de la Garza's suite of rooms in the Longworth House Office Building. A finishing touch to the outside scene was a replacement for the standard House of Representatives mail receptacle -- a typical rural route mailbox.

The Christmas scene was carried inside the de la Garza office where a fireplace was created complete with stockings. All provided further support for the winning exhibit.

Rep Kika de la Garza's entire staff participated in making the decorations under the direction of the newest member of the staff -- Ben Ornelas of San Benito. Ornelas, a graduate of San Benito high school and Texas A & I University, came to the de la Garza office after finishing a hitch with the Navy in Naples, Italy. In addition to working in the office, Ornelas is planning to do graduate study in art history.

Virtually all the material used in making the decorations came from throw-away cardboard boxes, spray paint, gilt, hand-painting by Ornelas and a tremendous amount of imagination!

Rep de la Garza stated, "I'm very proud of mystaff -- not only are they the most efficient staff on the hill but they are the most artistic!"

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