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## **News Release - 1991-11-01**

E. De la Garza

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# news release

## PROMOTION CEREMONY HONORS SOUTH TEXAS CAREER ARMY OFFICER

For immediate release, Friday, November 1, 1991

WASHINGTON -- The hearing room of the Committee on Agriculture of the U. S. House of Representatives, often the scene of important events relating to food and agriculture, took on a decidedly military air Friday as Rep. E (Kika) de la Garza, D-Texas, hosted promotion ceremonies for Lieutenant Colonel Marshall L. Best, a career U. S. Army officer from Falfurrias, Texas. Rep. de la Garza, who appointed Lt. Col. Best to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in 1970, welcomed Best, members of his family, a number of Best's fellow officers from the Pentagon, and other friends and guests to the event which included the traditional pinning of new insignia of rank -- two silver leaves denoting the new rank of Lieutenant Colonel - onto Lt. Col. Best's uniform. One silver leaf was pinned on by Rep. de la Garza, the other by his wife, the former Julie Brigitte Smithers.

"Marshall Best represents what is best about America, that a young man from a very small town in South Texas can by his own hard work and perseverance rise to the pinnacle. I am extremely proud of all the young men and women that I have had the honor to appoint to the service academies over my 25 year service in the Congress, but none stands higher in the esteem of his fellow officers and my own than Lt. Col. Marshall Best, a great Texan and a great American. I can only hope that when the time comes to pin a general's star on Marshall Best's shoulders, I will be around to do the honors," Rep. de la Garza said.

Lt. Col. Best, the son of Nathaniel and Ruth Best of Falfurrias, graduated from Falfurrias High School in 1970 and from West Point in 1974. In addition to his degree in military science from West Point, he has earned a master's degree in education.

In addition of a number of stateside assignments including his current position at the Pentagon, Lt. Col. Best has served with U. S. armed forces in South Korea, West Germany, and the Republic of Panama. As a career field artillery officer, he has advanced his military education through courses at the Field Artillery School; the Combined Arms Services Staff School; and the Command and General Staff College.

A highlight of the ceremony was the Lord's Prayer beautifully sung by Nathaniel Best, the honoree's father. In addition to Lt. Col. Best's parents, his wife's parents, U. S. Army Sergeant Major (retired) William and Mrs. Smithers of Lakewood, New Jersey also attended. The ceremonies concluded with a buffet luncheon for the guests hosted by Rep. and Mrs. de la Garza.

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