



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCM Art Students Design Christmas Ornament for Capitol



Goose Creek ISD photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

State Rep. Wayne Smith selected Goose Creek Memorial High School art students to design and paint the Lone Star Celebration ornament to represent House District 128. From left, are art students Cristina Trejo, Christina Magaña, Rep. Smith, art teacher Kelley Ellis, Bianca Salinas, and Kimberly Valencia.

The Lone Star State has experienced drought, wildfires, searing temperatures and many other challenges in 2011, but these events have not diminished our strong Texas spirit.

Each year about this time, members of the Texas House have the opportunity to provide a tangible symbol of this invincible spirit through the annual district ornament project.

To make the Lone Star Celebration Christmas Tree truly representative of Texas, members of the Texas House receive an unadorned ornament from the Speaker of the House's office to return fully decorated and showcasing the unique character of their House district.

Last year, almost 100 members provided ornaments for what proved to be a beautiful and memorable tree.

Rep. Wayne Smith, R-Baytown, selected Goose Creek Memorial High School to design and paint the Lone Star Celebration ornament to represent House District 128. The ornament will hang on the Christmas tree in the Texas Capitol's House Chamber from Dec. 3 to Jan. 4.

Rep. Smith's ornament was designed by Mrs. Ellis' AP art class at Goose Creek Memorial High School. "Visitors from all around the world tour the Texas Capitol during the holiday season.

Thanks to the Christmas ornament decorated by Goose Creek Memorial High School art students, guests at our State Capitol will be able to get a glimpse of the unique culture and rich history of District 128," said Smith. "I appreciate all of the time the students spent capturing the character of District 128 on this ornament and look forward to Dec. 2 when Brenda and I will hang this masterpiece on the Texas House of Representatives Christmas Tree."

Mrs. Ellis said the entire ornament was decoupage – which is basically just process of layering collage images and gluing under and over each image.

"We started with a layer of images of refineries because that is our area's foundation and how our town came to be. We then placed images of the Fred Hartman Bridge – an iconic and very recognizable symbol from our area, a Goose Creek CISD sign – which represents our school district and also more of our town's origins, and also the Lee College logo," Ellis said. "We then added some polka dots and patterns to add to the festive nature of the ornament."

The ornament's bow is made up of red and black ribbons, not only to be festive but also to represent Goose Creek Memorial High School.

The ornament also has a tag that says, "Wayne Smith – District 128" which resembles a Texas historical marker.

After the ornaments are returned to the Capitol, they hang on the Texas-sized tree in the House Chamber from Dec. 2 through Jan. 6.

The ornaments are seen and enjoyed by thousands of visitors who enter our Capitol during the holiday season, and every ornament proudly embodies our strong Texas spirit.

The ornaments will again be photographed and catalogued so that visitors to the House Chamber and House website will learn each ornament's story and a permanent record of this year's tree will be maintained.

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