



Rodney Alexander / Louisiana's 5th District
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

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Alexander Nominates Local Artist to Paint White House Christmas Tree Ornament

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Penny Holmes Abraham, an artist and art teacher from Alexandria, La., painted a Christmas tree ornament that now hangs in the Blue Room at the White House.

One artist from each of the United States' 435 congressional districts was asked to decorate a 9-inch circular ornament for the White House's official Christmas tree.

Abraham was selected by Rep. Rodney Alexander to create an ornament that symbolizes the 5th Congressional District.

“I applaud Penny for designing a great piece of art that represents our home to rest of the nation,” said Alexander. **“Penny’s ornament truly illustrates the charm and spirit emblematic of our region.”**

Each year the White House selects a theme for the Christmas tree. First Lady Laura Bush asked Members of Congress to nominate an artist to create a scene representing their area.

Abraham’s ornament prominently displays a Louisiana Brown Pelican perched above the Red River and an ornate fleur-de-lis. Highlighted throughout the ornament are decorative Mardi Gras beads, various musical notes, and renowned Louisiana cuisine, such as crawfish, shrimp, and crabs.

“This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me to have a piece of artwork displayed in the Blue Room at the White House,” said Abraham. “As an artist and art teacher, I felt honored to be able to represent Louisiana in this capacity. I think my students were just as excited, if not more, than me.”

Abraham was in Washington this week to attend a ceremony at the White House, where Laura Bush unveiled the 20-foot Fraser Fir, decorated with 400-plus handcrafted ornaments.

“The hospitality shown to me by the staff of Rep. Alexander and the White House was incredible,” said Abraham. “This was definitely the highlight of my career as an artist

and art teacher.”



Penny Holmes Abraham stands in front of the White House Christmas tree.

For high-resolution photos of the ornament and artist, please contact Jamie Hanks at 202.225.8490 or Jamie.hanks@mail.house.gov.

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