

11/18/2005 Moran Recognizes the Community of Ramona for Revitalization Efforts

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Moran to Present Townspeople with "Building Better Communities" Award Next Week

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RAMONA - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced he will recognize the citizens of Ramona for their successful community revitalization efforts with his "Building Better Communities" award next week. This town of 100 people, led by Pat Wick and Jessica Gilbert, has reestablished its roots by rebuilding community landmarks.

Wick and Gilbert, sisters originally from California, always considered their parents' birthplace and hometown of Ramona to be home. Between 1990 and 2000, the sisters renovated three houses - their home, "The Ramona House;" a bed and breakfast, "Cousin's Corner;" and a lodge, "Jake's Place." In honor of Ramona's pioneer history, "The Dirt Gamblers Museum" has also been opened.

Community involvement through several new civic and community events can also be attributed to the community's revitalization. Ramona now hosts a spring tea party, a citywide Memorial Day service, a Main Street Fourth of July parade and a festival of lights and outdoor nativity at Christmas. Ramona and several other area communities also recently completed a scarecrow parade to celebrate Halloween and promote regional tourism.

"We're romantics, and we have a passion for this place," Gilbert said. "We want people to be proud they're connected to the town and want them to invest in it again."

"Citizens in Ramona are working together to enhance the quality of life in their community," Moran said. "Their ongoing efforts to revitalize Ramona are an example of how hard work and vision can create such an opportunity."

The recognition ceremony for the community of Ramona will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 25, at the Barbershop Gallery, 207 D Street, in Ramona. In addition to celebrating the citizens of Ramona, Moran will also help celebrate the grand opening of Ramona's newest business, the Barbershop Gallery. A reception will follow.

The "Building Better Communities" award was established by Moran to showcase positive community action in Kansas. This is the fourth "Building Better Communities" award Moran has presented since coming to Congress. Beyond providing recognition, these awards showcase examples of how creative thinking and teamwork make a positive difference in rural America.

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