

## 4/27/2005 Moran Recognizes Kensington Community Grocery Store

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Moran to Present New Business in Kensington with "Building Better Communities" Award

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KENSINGTON -- Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will recognize the citizens of Kensington in their work to open a grocery store, with his "Building Better Communities" award. Since the community's only grocery store closed a year and a half ago, the community has joined together to form The Kensington Community Store, Inc. This organization was created to oversee the construction and development of a non-profit community grocery store with noon deli.

Since that time, the group has raised more than \$130,000 to support the project. Donations of all sizes have come from more than 250 individuals, businesses, clubs and foundations, including the land, building and materials for the store's construction. In addition, community work nights have been held to ready the store for opening, vo-tech classes at the local high school constructed metal and wood shelves and the local Lions Club assisted with interior construction of the store. Because of the community's effort, the community will open a new grocery store and deli on May 6.

"For many Kansas communities, the existence of a community grocery store can be the determining factor in their survival," Moran said. "In order for rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. The Kensington Community Store is an example of how hard work, innovation, professional management and community pride can create just such an opportunity."

The recognition ceremony and grand opening of the Kensington Community Store will be at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 6, at the grocery store, on Main Street, in Kensington. The presentation and opening will follow the Congressman's Smith County 69-county tour stop, which will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the same location.

The "Building Better Communities" award was established as a way to recognize and share the good things that are happening in the First Congressional District of Kansas. Beyond providing recognition, this program will provide examples of how creative thinking and teamwork make a positive difference in rural America. Any project, activity or community that enhances the quality of life in the First District is eligible for recognition. Award recipients must demonstrate a spirit of partnership and collaboration and must serve as a role model for other Kansas communities.

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