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## December 2014 Newsletter

Hello Friends,

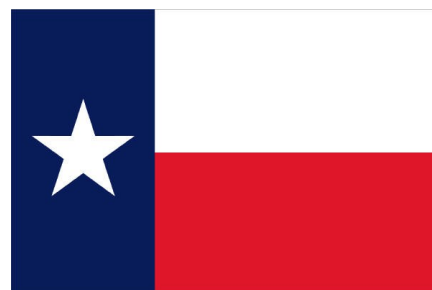
I hope that each of you had a good Christmas holiday and 2015 is off to a great start.

On January 13th, the 84th Legislative Session will begin in Austin. I am looking forward to again having the opportunity to represent the people of House District 59. I have already filed several bills in response to the needs of communities within District 59. Bill filing will continue through the middle of March, with the session concluding at the end of May, 2015.

Please feel free to contact me on issues of importance to you. I very much value your opinion as policies are created and votes are being taken.

Sincerely,

*J D Sheffield*



# Table of Contents

Page 2 — Bill Filings by Rep. Sheffield

Page 3 — Events Page

Page 4 — Pictures from Christmas at the State Capitol.

## Bills Filed



**House Bill 397-** This bill gives county commissioner courts the option to allow law enforcement officials the ability to cite for illegally using fireworks at road side parks if signage is posted. If counties exercise this option, this should help protect surrounding property owners from potential fire damage, particularly in times of drought.

**House Bills 398 & 402-** These bills provide for a new district court for Coryell County to help ease the backlog of cases in the local court system. As many of these cases are felony charges, the cost for housing defendants awaiting trial is substantial. An additional court would allow cases to be decided quicker and should ease the burden on local jails in addition to the existing 52nd State District Court.

**House Bill 404-** Currently, convicted sex offenders are prohibited from holding certain types of employment even once off of parole or probation. This bill adds a list of prohibited volunteer activities in which convicted sex offenders cannot engage.

# Events Page

## Texas Farm Bureau Honors Citizens from House District 59

House District 59 was fortunate to have two state-wide winners for Texas Farm Bureau this year. Mr. Connor McKenzie of Erath County won the Free Enterprise Speech Contest. The Richmond family of De Leon was named the Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher by Texas Farm Bureau. Congratulations on these outstanding accomplishments!



## Healthcare Conference

Healthcare remains an important issue for the citizens of Texas, particularly in our rural areas where access and services are often limited. On December 6th, Representative Sheffield joined with legislative colleagues Rep. Greg Bonnen, MD; Rep. John Zerwas, MD; Rep. Susan King, RN; and Sen. Donna Campbell, MD to discuss medicine in Texas.



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*Pictures from  
Christmas 2014 at  
the State Capitol.*



ASHLEY SYPERT DESIGNED THIS ORNAMENT TO REPRESENT HOUSE DISTRICT 59 ON THE OFFICIAL TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHRISTMAS TREE.