

A local Fraser fir has been selected for the George W. Bush White House Blue Room this Christmas.

Ashe County grower Joe Freeman has been awarded the honor of providing the tree. Owner of Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree Farm, Freeman won first place in the National Christmas Tree Growers Association's biannual convention. The White House tree must be at least 18 ½ feet- a height that takes about 19 years to reach. The Chief White House Usher and representatives of the National Park Service and National Christmas Tree Association will visit Freeman's farm in October to select the tree. The tree will be cut in November and transported on a refrigerated truck to Washington D.C., where it will be officially presented to First Lady Laura Bush.