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County is honored at the White House

By Eric Gross
Staff Reporter

PUTNAM COUNTY — Putnam Legislator Vincent Tamagna called it a “thrill of a lifetime” to meet First Lady Laura Bush and to accept a recognition honoring Putnam County as one of America’s first Preserve America Community recipients.

Mr. Tamagna traveled to Washington, D.C. last Thursday on behalf of Putnam County government where he called it an “incredible privilege to meet the First Lady. She is warm, charming, sincere and is truly America’s first lady.”

Mrs. Bush congratulated Putnam County officials for demonstrating a commitment to preserving America’s heritage while

“ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment.”

Mrs. Bush talked about promoting American history. “Mrs. Bush spoke the words and mentioned all of the great features found across Putnam County,” said Mr. Tamagna.

Mrs. Bush said by preserving America’s cultural and natural resources, “Putnam County would

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—Laura Bush
First Lady

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Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton also participated in the White House ceremony. “Real historic places and communities generate excitement and curiosity about the people who lived

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there, along with the events they witnessed. There is no better educational tool," said the secretary.

John Nau, chairman of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, told the gathering that there were "significant economic, educational and cultural benefits that historic preservation bring to a community. Sustainable preservation is not a cost for

maintaining the past. It is an investment in building the future."

In addition to Putnam County being honored, other communities receiving Preserve America designation were Augusta, Ga.; Castroville, Texas; Delaware, Ohio; Dorchester County, Md.; Key West, Fla.; Steamboat Springs, Colo.; and Versailles, Ky.