

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1004

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas takes pleasure in recognizing the members of the Williams-Livingston family on the grand occasion of their annual family reunion, June 6 and 7, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Every year on the first Saturday in June, the members of the Williams-Livingston family hold a reunion to celebrate their heritage and to commemorate the birth of Mamie Elizabeth "Mama Mae" Williams; and

WHEREAS, Over 300 family members invite friends from across Texas and the United States to celebrate their love for their family and community; and

WHEREAS, Earliest family history reveals that the family of Charles and Caroline Livingston arrived in the Freestone County, Texas, area in the early 1800s; and

WHEREAS, Charles Livingston's family moved from Virginia as freed slaves to the Freestone County area known as Cotton Gin, Texas; they sharecropped on the area farms; and

WHEREAS, Caroline Livingston's family moved from Alabama as freed slaves to the Freestone County area of Kirvin, Texas; arriving in Texas in covered wagons, on horseback, and walking, they settled on the farm of Alfred Carter in order to work his land; and

WHEREAS, Caroline and Charles Livingston supported their community and were instrumental in the establishment of the Shiloh Baptist Church, Texas' oldest primitive Baptist church, and Woods Chapel Baptist Church; they also helped to create a public school system for the education of their children and the children of the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, The Williams-Livingston branch of the family stems from a daughter born to Caroline and Charles, Elizabeth Livingston, born July 2, 1866, who married Austin Williams, a freed slave from Tennessee; they were the parents of 10 children, one of whom was Mamie Elizabeth "Mama Mae" Williams, born June 1, 1889; and

WHEREAS, Mamie Elizabeth "Mama Mae" Williams was the matriarch of the Williams-Livingston family until October 13, 1987, when she died at the age of 98; and

WHEREAS, She was the mother of four daughters who moved with their families to other parts of Texas, including Dallas, where many of the Williams-Livingston family members reside and work today; and

WHEREAS, This year's reunion will showcase the life and legacy of Mamie's sister, Aggie Bertha Williams, who was born in Freestone County on November 23, 1894; she was the mother of two children, Howard Fulshur Williams and Lucy Veatras "Veatrice" Williams; she had one step-grandson, Theodore Leroy Williams, who was adopted by Howard; she also had five step-great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Nicknamed "Aunt Pigg" and "Pigg," Aunt Bertha was the character in the family, and her mischievous nature was recognized by all; she was outspoken and enjoyed interacting with the young people in the family; her hobbies were cooking, sewing, and canning; and

WHEREAS, She was a domestic engineer and worked for numerous families in Kirvin; an amputee, she drove her car with one leg until the remaining limb had to be removed; she died January 25, 1990, and was buried in the Carter Colored Cemetery in Kirvin; and

WHEREAS, The Williams-Livingston family members are successful men and women who have contributed greatly to their communities through their leadership, professionalism, and concern for others; each year more descendants from the other children of Caroline and Charles Livingston come to the reunion, thus reconnecting the original family; and

WHEREAS, The yearly reunion of the members of the Williams-Livingston family is a manifestation of their belief in family unity, loyalty, and pride in one's heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby extend to the members of the Williams-Livingston family best wishes for a joyous and memorable family reunion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the family as a memento of this special occasion.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 29, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate