

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1158

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to the life of John William Spencer and to recognize his descendants on the grand occasion of their 2007 family reunion; and

WHEREAS, The first expedition to the Presidio territory was led by the Spaniard Cabeza de Vaca in 1536; the founding of the Mexican Presidio settlement for Spain in 1581 by Fray Juan Dominguez de Mendoza and Padre Fray Nicholas Lopez led to the establishment of the present City of Presidio, which is located at the confluence of Cibolo Creek, the Concho River, and the Rio Grande; and

WHEREAS, In 1746, the Spanish explorers were the first to build, administer, and control the Presidio; they stationed a garrison of men at Presidio de Belen in 1760; and

WHEREAS, In the spring of 1848 John William Spencer entered Texas at Indianola; he traveled throughout South Texas and Mexico, and upon settling in Presidio, he became one of the first settlers and entrepreneurs of the Presidio Valley; and

WHEREAS, John William Spencer and Ben Leaton contributed to the development of local and regional commerce by opening a retail business in Presidio that served the settlers arriving in the Presidio Valley; and

WHEREAS, In 1860, John William Spencer established the Spencer Brothers General Store, from which he sold dry goods and provisions to the communities of the Presidio Valley and Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, thus serving the border region of the United States and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, On April 5, 1861, the Honorable Edward Clark, governor of the State of Texas, appointed John William Spencer to the Office of Notary Public in and for the County of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, John William Spencer was a man of strong character, generosity, and integrity who instilled these traits in his children and grandchildren; he was known for his charitable deeds on behalf of those families of few resources who resided in the border region; and

WHEREAS, In 1883, John William Spencer discovered areas rich with silver ore in the Chinati Mountains, samples of which he took to General William R. Shafter, who was garrisoned at Shafter, Texas; and

WHEREAS, In 1885, the Presidio Mining Company was organized by John William Spencer and General Shafter; the company continued to operate until the early 1900s, contributing significantly to the economy of Texas and regions of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, John William Spencer's descendants have generously contributed to their respective communities, the State of Texas, and our country through their military service

and their hard work as attorneys, health professionals, educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials, and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, The descendants of John William Spencer and members of their families are hosting a family reunion October 27 through 29, 2007, in the Presidio Valley and in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, at which they will celebrate the good deeds and achievements of one of Presidio Valley's first settlers and entrepreneurs, John William Spencer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby honor the life of John William Spencer and express appreciation for the numerous accomplishments of the Spencer family members and their many contributions to their state and nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the descendants of John William Spencer as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

		Gallegos
		Hinojosa
		Lucio
Averitt	Harris	Shapleigh
Brimer	Hegar	Uresti
Carona	Jackson	Van de Putte
Deuell	Janek	Watson
Duncan	Nelson	Wentworth
Ellis	Nichols	West
Eltife	Ogden	Whitmire
Estes	Patrick	Williams
Fraser	Seliger	Zaffirini
	Shapiro	

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 25, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate