

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

WHEREAS, William Barrett Travis, commander of the Texan rebels at the Alamo, wrote a letter on February 24, 1836, asking for immediate help to come to the aid of his forces, which were under siege by Mexican troops under General Santa Anna; and

WHEREAS, Addressed to all Americans in the world, the letter told of answering the Mexicans' demand for surrender with cannon fire and stated that Texan forces would never surrender or retreat; it came to be known as the Victory or Death letter from the way Colonel Travis concluded it: "I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country--Victory or Death"; and

WHEREAS, The eloquence and courage of this dispatch played a vital role in transforming the Texas Revolution into an American fight for liberty against tyranny; and

WHEREAS, The Victory or Death letter has not returned to the Alamo since it was carried out by horseback under cover of darkness in 1836; under the leadership of Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the letter will be brought back to the Alamo for public display February 23 through March 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Victory or Death letter is an invaluable reminder of the cost of freedom, and it is truly fitting that it be returned to its place of origin so that all people can better appreciate its impact on the foundations of Texas freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend all those who have played a part in returning the Victory or Death letter to the Alamo; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this historic occasion.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 6, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate