



THE STATE OF TEXAS ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY FOUNDATION

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FEBRUARY 21, 2014-THE SHAFTER SILVER MINE-PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS

Presidio High School Metal Trades Department Leader Randall Cater (second from the left) acting as an eAdvisor of The Texas Silver Student Study Group organized on October 16, 2006 by The STAR DAY Foundation and hosted by Presidio ISD planned, developed and conducted the third "Expedition" to the Shafter Silver Mine to explore and discover the complex science, technology, engineering and mathematics principles of silver ore mining and processing resulting in the creation of "silver dore bars" weighing 50-60 pounds each and containing up to 95% pure silver that are then sent to a silver refinery to yield 99.9% fine silver bars that are sold in the international silver commodities marketplace. Pictured above from left to right are: The STAR DAY Foundation President Dennis M. Kulvicki and Randall Cater. Pictured above from right to left are: State Senator Jose E. Rodriguez's Marfa Office Manager Daniel Hernandez and Presidio ISD Transportation Manager Jesus Edsar Soteo. The attending students (not in picture order) are: Enrique Garcia, Hernan Meza, Emilio Lujan, Andres Juarez, Jose Holguin, Sergio Baeza, Alexis Armendariz, Jose Angel Sanchez and Emmanuel Melendez. The Expedition Guides were Rio Grande Mining Company (RGMC) employees Bill Woods and Donald Rose. RGMC is a subsidiary of the Aurcana Corporation, the mine owner. Photographed by Bill Woods



Students gather on the framework of the Ball Mill System Complex to be presented with an overview of one phase of silver ore processing. The overview was presented by Bill Woods pictured on the right. The each system component was explained with a note on the cost of the components. Photographed by Dennis M. Kulvicki

The Texas Silver Student Study Group (The Group) was organized by The STAR DAY Foundation initially at Presidio ISD Lucy Rede Franco Middle School on October 16, 2006 under the supervision of School Principal Teresa Porras as an expanded learning opportunities student enrichment program. The activities of the group featured a study of “The Founding and Founders of the Shafter Silver Mine”, the nomination and induction of “The Founders of The Shafter Silver Mine” into “The First Pioneers and Leaders of the State (PALS) of Texas Hall of Honor” sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation, several “Expeditions” to visit the Shafter Silver Mine to explore and discover the complex science, technology, engineering and mathematics principles involved with silver ore mining and processing. In addition, The Group proposed a bill in 2007 to designate “Silver” as “The Official State Precious Metal of Texas.” The proposed bill (HCR 102) was authored by State Representative Pete Gallego and was sponsored by State Senator Carlos Uresti. Governor Rick Perry, a 1999 STAR DAY Founder, issued a Commendation Letter to honor and recognize The Group for their service achievement of merit for enhancing the story of Texas for the people of Texas. The Group proposed to the City of Presidio in 2010 that the birthdates of John William Spencer (1818-1898) and William Rufus Shafter (1835-1906) be designated as “THE JOHN WILLIAM SPENCER DAY” and “THE WILLIAM RUFUS SHAFTER DAY” to honor and remember the life and achievements of the principal founders of the Shafter Silver Mine. The STAR DAY Foundation invited the Lucy Rede Franco Middle School Band to attend “The Spirit of STAR DAY 2009 Celebration” as “THE OFFICIAL SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2009 SCHOOL BAND” to present a band concert in the Texas State Capitol Rotunda on STAR DAY, February 19, 2009. Governor Perry issued a Commendation Letter to honor and recognize the school band for their outstanding band concert led by School Band Director Lucy Ferguson.



Bill Woods and Donald Rose provided a walking tour featuring a comprehensive overview of each silver ore processing system component and its function including a review of the engineering and chemistry principles. The attending students were provided a review of the complex vehicles used to conduct silver ore mining. Photographed by Dennis M. Kulvicki

The Group nominated Lucy Rede Franco (1902-1977) to be inducted into The First PALS of Texas Hall of Honor. Lucy Rede Franco was born in Shafter, Texas and was the “first” Hispanic student to be enrolled in Sul Ross State University in 1920. The induction service at Lucy Rede Franco Middle School on May 6, 2011 was planned, developed and conducted as an all school celebration event featuring a school band concert and featured speakers. Sul Ross State University President Dr. Ricardo Maestas was the featured speaker at the induction service. State Representative Pete Gallego authored House Resolution 1675 to designate May 6, 2011 as “THE LUCY REDE FRANCO DAY” in Texas. The induction service also featured a grand reunion of Franco family members. The Group also proposed the use of silver to mint “Donation Coins” to be offered to donors of The STAR DAY Foundation as donation gifts for supporting the conservation, preservation and restoration work pioneered and led by student study groups sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation. The STAR DAY Foundation proposed a Partnership In Education Proposal (The Proposal) as suggested by The Group to Governor Perry that featured the use of the “Official Seal of the State of Texas” as one side of donation coins. The Proposal was approved and Secretary of State John Steen issued a special license to “The Texas BisonStar Mint Corporation” organized as a for-profit Texas corporation by The STAR DAY Foundation to plan, develop and mint donation coins whose donation proceeds shall be used by The STAR DAY Foundation to support the goals of “The Official State Bison Herd of Texas Fund” announced on September 12, 2013, “THE MARY ANN (MOLLY) GOODNIGHT DAY”, at Caprock Canyons State Park in Quitaque, Briscoe County, Texas. The Group also nominated School Principal Teresa Porras to receive “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT OF MERIT AWARD (The Award).” School Principal Porras was presented The Award during “THE SPIRIT OF STAR DAY 2012 CELEBRATION” hosted by Brewster County Alpine Middle School on February 20, 2012. Most recently, Presidio High School Students Emilio Lujan and Sergio Baeza under the supervision of Randall Cater were awarded “THE JUNIOR PIONEERS AND LEADERS OF THE STATE (PALS) OF TEXAS YOUNG WRITERS AWARD” sponsored by The STAR DAY Foundation for co-authoring an article entitled “*SHAFTER SILVER MINE HISTORY.*” The award was presented on February 21, 2014 at the Presidio High School Metal Trades Department Shop by Dennis M. Kulvicki. The article shall appear in Volume 2 of The Texas Bison Student Study Group Journal at the website of The STAR DAY Foundation.