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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Stella Foster, author of  
4 "Stella's Column" in the Chicago Sun-Times, for her work in  
5 journalism; and

6           WHEREAS, "Stella's Column," which debuted in the Chicago  
7 Sun-Times on December 2, 2003, is one of the newspaper's most  
8 popular columns; it's popularity is a testimony to it's writer,  
9 Chicago journalist Stella Foster, who has enjoyed a career as a  
10 writer, broadcaster, and as the long-time assistant to the late  
11 Irv Kupcinet; "Stella's Column," which runs every Tuesday and  
12 Thursday, reflects Stella's personality, zest for life,  
13 compassion, and love of people; and

14           WHEREAS, The column is multiethnic, multigenerational, and  
15 covers a broad interest base; it also publicizes charitable  
16 events, particularly those that benefit causes that are close  
17 to Stella's heart, like child abuse, teenage pregnancy, and  
18 women's issues; and

19           WHEREAS, Her current status as a highly-respected  
20 journalist began in August of 1969 when her sister told her  
21 that the legendary Irv Kupcinet was looking for a new  
22 secretary; she interviewed for the position and was hired; and

1           WHEREAS, For 34 years, Stella was Kup's assistant,  
2           confidante, organizer, and the glue that kept the column alive  
3           and vibrant; her writing career was officially launched in the  
4           mid 1980s, when her brother-in-law approached her about writing  
5           for Sister 2 Sister, a national entertainment magazine; without  
6           the benefit of formal journalistic training, she penned the  
7           monthly entertainment column titled "Starlights by Stella"  
8           that featured celebrity news; and

9           WHEREAS, When the Sun Times' editorial page featured  
10          Personal Views, Stella contributed and expounded on a variety  
11          of topics that piqued readers' curiosity and elicited diverse  
12          opinions; she took her "act" to television when Fox News  
13          approached her about being a morning commentator; the weekly  
14          segment, titled, "Stella Sez," featured a mix of newsy nuggets  
15          that captivated viewers during the year it was on the air; and

16          WHEREAS, As Kup began to age, his health began to  
17          deteriorate and he was in the office less frequently; to keep  
18          the column alive, Stella began assuming the bulk of the writing  
19          duties; the Sun Times recognized her contribution by giving her  
20          a byline at the end of the column, and eventually gave her  
21          co-writing credits; when Kup died on November 10, 2003, Stella  
22          was widely heralded as one of the women behind his success; and

1           WHEREAS, She is a humanitarian who promotes organizations  
2 whose missions parallel causes that are dear to her heart; she  
3 uses the power and pull of her column to galvanize her readers  
4 and friends around these issues; she has been profiled in  
5 Chicago Magazine, Today's Chicago Woman, N'Digo Magapaper,  
6 Rolling Out, and the Chicago Defender; and

7           WHEREAS, She is the recipient of numerous awards including  
8 the "Promises Fulfilled Award" from South Central Community  
9 Services, a Communications Award from the 100 Black Men of  
10 Chicago, the Archibald Motley Excellence in Arts Award from the  
11 Englewood Committee, Mt. Sinai's Parenting Institute's African  
12 Village Award, the Torch for Journalism from Sigma Gamma Rho  
13 Sorority, the "Making A Difference Award" from Rainbow PUSH  
14 Coalition as a Woman of Distinction, the State of Illinois  
15 African-American Media Award from the Illinois Secretary of  
16 State's Office, the African-American History Service Award  
17 from Sixth Grace Presbyterian Church, the A. Philip Randolph  
18 Gentle Warrior Award, and the "Shero" Award for Career  
19 Achievement from NABFEME; and

20           WHEREAS, She has been saluted by the Midwest Radio and  
21 Music Association, hailed as a "Phenomenal Woman" by the Expo  
22 for Today's Black Woman, and earned awards from the Chicago  
23 Black Public Relations Society and the National Council of  
24 Negro Women; she was also presented the Irv Kupcinet Media

1 Giant Award, named in honor of her late friend and mentor; and

2 WHEREAS, She is a member of the Chicago Association of  
3 Black Journalists, the Association of Women Journalists, the  
4 Press Club, the Chicago Journalists Association, and the  
5 Chicago Press Veterans; she has appeared on WVON, and has been  
6 a guest on numerous other media outlets; she enjoys reading,  
7 watching television, dancing, and listening to rhythm and  
8 blues; she also enjoys downtime with her family, whom she  
9 values and cherishes; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we honor Stella Foster for her hard work in journalism and the  
13 value she has brought to the City of Chicago and the State of  
14 Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to Stella Foster as a symbol of our respect and  
17 esteem.