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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans
3 will present the annual "Dante Award" on May 17, 2012 to Stella
4 Foster, columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times; and

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

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, When the Sun-Times' editorial page featured
10 Personal Views, she contributed and expounded on a variety of
11 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, she 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, she was
22 widely heralded as one of the women behind his success; and

23 WHEREAS, She is a humanitarian who promotes organizations

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

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

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

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

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate Stella Foster on being named the recipient of
12 the 2012 Dante Award, presented by the Joint Civic Committee of
13 Italian Americans, for her dedication, service, and
14 inspiration in the field of reporting; and be it further

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