

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 88

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On November 21, 2002, the Permian Basin lost a man of
2 integrity and generosity, and the passing of John Lance Foster at
3 the age of 60 has left a void in the lives of the friends, family,
4 and colleagues of this esteemed gentleman; and

5 WHEREAS, Born January 22, 1942, in Bridgeport, Connecticut,
6 Mr. Foster came to Texas at an early age, attending Crockett Junior
7 High and Odessa High School before moving to Harlingen, Texas,
8 where he finished his schooling; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Foster began an illustrious career in
10 broadcasting in April 1959, when he was hired as a studio camera
11 operator at KMID-TV; by the age of 26, he was promoted to production
12 manager, and within a few years he became manager of the station;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In 1991, he embarked on a new challenge, joining
15 KWES-TV as general manager; with a seemingly natural gift for
16 broadcasting and marketing, he took both stations to the pinnacle
17 of their markets; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Foster was a pioneer in broadcasting for the
19 Spanish-speaking population of West Texas, creating innovative and
20 entertaining shows like *Mexico Tejano Colores Del Barrio* and
21 *Telemusica*, which featured Hispanic entertainment as well as
22 educational programming; his appreciation of the broadcast
23 interests of many Hispanic viewers led him to launch an affiliate of
24 Telemundo, a Spanish-language television network, which offered

1 the first Spanish newscast in West Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, This beloved gentleman was committed to the
3 betterment of his community, supporting such worthy organizations
4 as the Permian Basin AIDS Coalition, the Salvation Army, and the
5 Rape Crisis Center; he was also the founding sponsor of the Golden
6 Apple Awards, which recognize teachers who work with at-risk
7 students; and

8 WHEREAS, A tireless advocate for those in need, Mr. Foster
9 selflessly donated hundreds of volunteer hours to the United Ways
10 of Midland and Odessa; under his leadership, the television
11 stations he managed presented telethons for the Muscular Dystrophy
12 Association, Children's Miracle Network, and Easter Seals; he was
13 also the first in the nation to produce a telethon benefiting the
14 Ronald McDonald House; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Foster's enthusiasm for life was exemplified by
16 his love of rodeos and race cars; he played an instrumental role in
17 bringing the SandHills Stock Show and Rodeo and the Top Gun
18 Bullrides to West Texas, and in developing the Chaparral Wing of the
19 Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, which will house Jim Hall's race
20 cars; and

21 WHEREAS, Citizens of the Permian Basin have recognized Mr.
22 Foster's efforts in their behalf, awarding him the Heritage of
23 Odessa Community Statesman Award for excellence in community
24 service; one week before his passing, he was honored by the Muscular
25 Dystrophy Association with the John Foster Humanitarian Award,
26 which will be presented to future recipients who exemplify his
27 commitment to helping others; and

1 WHEREAS, John Foster's devotion to his community was
2 surpassed only by his love of family; he cherished his wife, Linda,
3 and his sons, Matt, Sean, and Johnny; and

4 WHEREAS, The life of John Foster serves as an inspiring
5 example to all, for he worked hard, loved his family, helped his
6 neighbor, and celebrated life; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
8 hereby honor the life of John Lance Foster and extend sincere
9 sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Linda; to his
10 sons, Matt and Sean Clements; to his daughter-in-law, Sarah; to his
11 sister, Nancy Mettler; to his nephew, Anthony Mettler; and to his
12 other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the members of his family, and that when the Texas
15 House of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in
16 memory of John Lance Foster.