

RESOLUTION NO. 15-398

WHEREAS, the Huntsville City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that the life and legacy of Howard J. Foster will be honored during a celebration on June 19, 2015, at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University; and,

WHEREAS, Howard Jerry Foster was born September 22, 1926, in Gadsden, Alabama. Dr. Howard J. Foster was a seventh grade dropout. After serving in the armed forces, Dr. Foster returned to the seventh grade at the age of 23. He attended college at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated magna cum laude. He later obtained Master of Science degree in Physics. In 1964, he received a PhD in Physics from Catholic University of America with a special citation for academic performance; and,

WHEREAS, Before Alabama A&M University, Dr. Howard J. Foster held a position as solid state physicist in the Institute for Material Research at the US National Bureau of Standards. He also held consulting and part-time professional positions with NASA and the Atomic Energy Commission. He held a visiting professorship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and visiting lectureships at Universities in Huntsville and Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Howard J. Foster's work included teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels in physics and mathematics; consulting in environmental sciences; work in atomic energy; environmental control (space program); missile vibration shielding; prospecting for mineral resources from outer space; defense against sophisticated missile attack (Safeguard); laboratory director for high-temperature studies of missile nose-cone materials and nuclear fuels; electron microscopy and diffraction; thin films and crystal growth, and theoretical and experimental studies of Fermi surfaces in metals. Foster's recent work activity included quantum theoretical and experimental studies of Fermi surfaces and electronic properties of metals; work in crystal growth and purification of metals and alloys; and, consulting in some of these areas; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Howard J. Foster, chairman of the Department of Physics and Mathematics at Alabama A&M University, died on January 23, 1973. At the time of his death, Foster was on the advisory board of the Danforth Foundation, Trustee for the Roxbury Medical-Technical Institute of Boston, Massachusetts, and a member of the American Physical Society's Committee on Minorities in Physics; and,

WHEREAS, "Dr. Howard J. Foster did everything out of love of his student and the love he was given during his rise from dropout to accomplished physicist. Now it is our turn to inspire and develop students within our communities. We have an excellent model to guide us if we are willing to slow down and listen to the voices of those that have gone before"; and,

WHEREAS, 2015 will mark the 50st anniversary of Dr. Howard J. Foster establishing the Physics Department at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Howard J. Foster, in honor of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Physics Department at Alabama A&M University. May your legacy live on for countless years to come.

ADOPTED this the 11th day of June, 2015.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 11th day of June, 2015.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama