

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING  
HELEN FOSTER SNOW  
2020 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH**

**Chief Sponsor: Eric K. Hutchings**

Senate Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution honors the life and service of Helen Foster Snow.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the life of Helen Foster Snow in the United States and China;
- ▶ honors the work Helen Foster Snow created when she served as a war correspondent in China;
- ▶ recognizes the significant role Helen Foster Snow played in bearing witness to Chinese revolutionary leaders;
- ▶ recognizes Helen Foster Snow as a talented journalist and a principal leader in the creation of Chinese cooperatives;
- ▶ commemorates the awards and honors she received; and
- ▶ honors her legacy and recognizes August, 2021, as the 90th anniversary of when Helen Foster Snow moved to China.

**Special Clauses:**

None

---

---

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow was born in 1907 in Cedar City to John Moody Foster



and Hannah Davis;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow was a descendant of Mormon pioneers and was raised as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow, moved to Salt Lake City to live with her grandmother and aunt to attend West High School where she became the editor of the school's yearbook and was elected the vice president of the student government, the highest position for a female student at that time;

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Helen Foster Snow attended the University of Utah;

WHEREAS, in 1931, Helen Foster Snow ~~Ĥ→~~ **[moved]** traveled ~~←Ĥ~~ to China to pursue writing and

immediately met Edgar Snow, the first American journalist to give a full account of the history of the Chinese Communist Party and author of the book *Red Star Over China*, and who would later become her husband;

WHEREAS, less than one week after Helen Foster Snow traveled to China, she reported on the Yangtze River flood, which killed over 600,000 people and destroyed 12 million homes;

WHEREAS, Edgar Snow helped Helen Foster Snow get a press card to report on the Japanese invasion of Shanghai;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow became a journalist who reported from China in the 1930s under the name "Nym Wales" on the Chinese Civil War, the Korean Independence movement, and the Second Sino-Japanese War;

WHEREAS, Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the National Government of China, maintained a policy that focused on fighting the communists within China, rather than the external threat of the Japanese;

WHEREAS, in 1935, Helen Foster Snow played a significant role in orchestrating the December 9th Movement, whereby 800 students marched in Beijing to demand that the Chinese government actively resist Japanese aggression;

WHEREAS, the December 9th protest inspired 65 other demonstrations in 32 cities across China with about 10,000 student participants, which helped turn the tide of Chinese opinion and support against Japanese aggression;

WHEREAS, in October 1936, Helen Foster Snow interviewed Zhang Xueliang, deputy commander-in-chief of the National Government, and reported his desire to work with the

59 communists to fight the invading Japanese forces;

60 WHEREAS, two months later, General Zhang Xueliang detained Chiang Kai-shek in  
61 what is today known as the Xi'an Incident, and forced him to align with the communists against  
62 the Japanese;

63 WHEREAS, in 1937, in order to understand the revolutionary movement of the  
64 communists, Helen Foster Snow was the second foreign woman and eighth foreign journalist to  
65 travel to the city of Yan'an, the location of the Chinese Communist Party's headquarters, to  
66 interview prominent communist leaders, including Mao Zedong, Zhu De, and Zhou Enlai;

67 WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow made it a priority to interview and report on the lives  
68 of the female leaders of the Communist Party in Yan'an, who provided her with detailed  
69 information of the issues the Communist Party faced and resulted in her famous book *Inside*  
70 *Red China*, a companion of her husband's *Red Star Over China*;

71 WHEREAS, these two books, immediately after their publication, inspired the  
72 pilgrimage of thousands of young Chinese to go to Yan'an to seek a pathway for a united front  
73 to save China from Japanese aggression;

74 WHEREAS, in 1938, Helen Foster Snow was a principal organizer and creator of the  
75 Chinese industrial cooperatives and the ~~Ĥ→~~ ["~~Gung ho~~"] "Gung Ho" ~~←Ĥ~~ movement, which  
75a created jobs for millions

76 of destitute individuals driven from farms and workshops into the interior, quickly rehabilitated  
77 the industrial bases that were lost to Japan, and laid the social and economic foundation for  
78 rebuilding post-war China;

79 WHEREAS, ~~Ĥ→~~ ["~~gung ho~~"] "Gung Ho" ~~←Ĥ~~ is Chinese for "work together", which  
79a represents all peoples  
80 working together in cooperation;

81 WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow created support and financial backing in the United  
82 States for the Chinese cooperatives and eventually recruited then First Lady of the United  
83 States, Eleanor Roosevelt, as a member on the American Board of Sponsors for the  
84 cooperatives;

85 WHEREAS, after the cooperative's first year in existence, 1,284 cooperatives were  
86 functioning with 15,625 members, with support from both the nationalist and communist  
87 governments;

88 WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow received strong support for the cooperatives from  
89 Soong Ching Ling, Soong Ai Ling, and Soong Mei Ling, who were among China's most

significant political figures of the early 20th century;

WHEREAS, in 1941, Helen Foster Snow published *China Builds for Democracy*, which created publicity and support for cooperatives in the United States and worldwide, including India, Burma, and Japan;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1981 and 1982 for her world view on peace and progress in the world, and for her creation of the "gung ho" movement;

WHEREAS, in 1993, Helen Foster Snow was the first recipient of the China Writers Association's literary award;

WHEREAS, in 1996, Helen Foster Snow was the first American and fifth person ever to be honored by the Chinese government as a Friendship Ambassador, one of China's highest honors offered to a foreigner;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow was an exceptional Utahn who brought her pioneer heritage to make a positive impact on the world stage;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow, daughter of a suffragist, was a fearless pioneer who helped push the bounds for political roles for women in the early 20th century;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow wrote 60 books and 27 manuscripts, of which only seven books were published in the United States, including her 1984 autobiography, *My China Years: A Memoir*;

WHEREAS, after her death in 1997, ~~the~~ **[Helen's family]** the Helen Foster Snow Literary Trust ~~donated~~ unpublished manuscripts

and thousands of documents, letters, and photographs to the ~~the~~ **Harold B. Lee Library at** ~~the~~ Brigham Young University ~~the~~ **[library]** ~~the~~ and the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University;

WHEREAS, Helen Foster Snow was commemorated in an official Chinese memorial service in the Great Hall of the People, ~~the~~ **[a state building at the western edge of Tiananmen Square in Beijing]** ~~the~~ an honor rarely bestowed upon foreigners;

WHEREAS, there is a wing in the Communist Eighth Route Army Museum in Xi'an dedicated to the memory of Helen Foster Snow;

WHEREAS, in 2009, the United States-China Cultural Exchange Committee placed a seven foot bronze statue of Helen Foster Snow in the Main Street Park in her home town of Cedar City;

WHEREAS, in 2011, students and faculty from Southern Utah University began a

collaborative project with Chinese musicians, dancers, and artists to create a dance drama based on Helen Foster Snow's life, which was performed in multiple locations across China;

WHEREAS, although Helen Foster Snow was sympathetic to the early revolutionary movement in China, she was never a ~~H→ [sympathizer or] ←H~~ member of the Chinese or American

Communist Party;

WHEREAS, Senator Orrin Hatch summarized the ultimate aspiration of Helen Foster Snow at the time of her death as, "Mrs. Snow built a bridge of goodwill between the hearts of the Americans to the hearts of the Chinese people. Let her life stand as a reminder that what lies behind the very different political systems of the world are real people whose hearts and minds are not so far apart."; and

WHEREAS, August, 2021, will be the 90th anniversary of when Helen Foster Snow went to China:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Legislature, the Governor concurring therein, honors the memory and contributions of Helen Foster Snow and her legacy as a journalist, author, and visionary, who dedicated her life as a bridge-builder between the people of the United States and China; ~~H→ [and]~~

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Legislature, the Governor concurring therein, view Helen Foster Snow's bridge of goodwill as a reminder to bring American and Chinese people together; and ←H**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor commemorate August, 2021, as the 90th anniversary of Helen Foster Snow's first arrival in China.