

No. R-234. Senate concurrent resolution honoring the Martin Family for its pioneering role in Vermont television broadcasting.

(S.C.R.16)

By Senator Mazza,

By Representative Condon of Colchester,

Whereas, although regularly scheduled U.S. television broadcasts started in the late 1940s, it was not until 1954 that Charles Hasbrook and his stepson, Stuart Martin, decided it was time that Vermont enter the television age, and

Whereas, in preparation for this momentous event, notwithstanding two hurricanes, a television transmission tower was constructed on the summit of Mt. Mansfield, the State's highest geographic location, which also required the building of a road, providing access to the tower's site, and

Whereas, starting on September 7, 1954, WCAX Television—Channel 3 (Burlington) began transmitting test patterns, a development prompting over 200 letters from eager Vermonters excited that a Vermont-based television station was soon to be inaugurated, and

Whereas, several days later, on September 11, 1954, WCAX Television signed on the air for the first time, and two weeks later, on September 26, 1954, the first Vermont-originated programs were aired, and

Whereas, two of WCAX's original local programs, *Across the Fence* and *You Can Quote Me* have remained on the air for the past 63 years, and

Whereas, WCAX Television has an award-winning news operation with bureaus in Montpelier, Rutland, the Upper Valley, and Plattsburgh, New York, as well as the main newsroom in South Burlington, and

Whereas, Channel 3 can originate remote telecasts, using its own microwave network and a state-of-the-art satellite truck, and

Whereas, since WCAX Television's first day on the air, the Martin family, first Stuart Martin, who died in 2005, his son, Peter Martin, who initially worked at the station in 1955, and in more recent years, the next generation, Alex Martin, has been at the station's helm, providing continuous local and family ownership for 63 years, and

Whereas, the tectonic changes in the television industry have made this type of ownership structure difficult to maintain, and reluctantly, the Martins have decided to sell Channel 3, the last family-owned CBS affiliate, to Gray Television in Atlanta, ending a 63-year saga in Vermont's broadcasting history, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Martin Family for its pioneering role in Vermont television broadcasting, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Peter Martin, to Alex Martin, and to WCAX Television.