In Memoriam

Dexter Haven
1919-2011

Dexter Haven, President of NSA from 1975 to 1976, passed away on March 12, 2011 at the age of 92. Professor Emeritus at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Dexter also received the David H. Wallace Award in 1985 in recognition of his dedicated service in promoting shellfish research and was elected as an Honored Life Member, the association’s highest recognition, in 1993. For those who were unable to attend the 103rd Annual Meeting in Baltimore, the following Proclamation was read in honor of Dexter during the Business Luncheon.

Whereas, Dexter Haven was a Past President, David H. Wallace Award recipient and an Honored Life Member of the National Shellfisheries Association, and

Whereas, Dexter Haven was a lifelong advocate and hands-on practitioner of the use of all phases of science to develop the information needed to manage our estuaries, and

Whereas, Dexter Haven made long-lasting significant contributions to our fundamental knowledge of shellfish resources, and

Whereas, in pursuit of the goal of integrating knowledge and management Dexter Haven was respected by his scientific colleagues, resource managers and the watermen of Virginia and Maryland as an innovator, a scholar and a gentleman, and

Whereas, after a long and productive life Dexter Haven passed away on March 12, 2011 at the age of 92.

Be It Resolved that on March 30, 2011, the National Shellfisheries Association honors the passing of a beloved member, and resolves that these honors and well wishes be passed on to his family members.

More information on Dexter and his contributions to academia, industry, and NSA will appear in an upcoming volume of the Journal of Shellfisheries Research.

John Kraueter

Justin Taylor
1921-2011

Justin Taylor, a giant in the shellfish community, passed away earlier this year. He lived a full and vibrant life right up until his death on February 21st. Patriarch of Taylor Shellfish Farms, Justin was typically in the office daily or working on the shellfish beds at low tide. The week before he died, Justin turned 90 years old. Instead of celebrating his birthday, hundreds of people turned out for a service to celebrate his life. A testament to Justin’s legacy, his life was memorialized in stories in the Seattle Times, the Olympian and the Wall Street Journal.

Justin was born in Shelton, Washington on Feb. 16, 1921. He was married 55 years to Carol Hunter Taylor, and together they raised three outstanding children, Bill, Paul and Janet. Justin was a Navy veteran, serving on the USS Texas during World War II, enduring enemy fire at Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He also served on a Navy oil tanker during the Korean War. Justin helped build Taylor Shellfish Farms into the largest shellfish-farming business in the country. The business today employs roughly 500 people on 9,000 acres of tidelands, in processing and distribution facilities, hatcheries and nurseries in the U.S., Canada, Hong Kong and Fiji.

Justin’s passion for growing shellfish and the health of the Puget Sound was unmatched. Many of the condolences that poured in following Justin’s death captured the impact of his life. Longtime friend and scientist Jack Rensel called Justin “a great believer in aquaculture and the importance of water quality to humans and nature, he set a sterling example of how to conduct oneself, be a great businessman, but never profit from the misfortune of another”. He was clearly in his element on the beach. When the tide was out you knew you would find Justin with shovel or rake in hand, working and observing. Brett Bishop of Little Skookum Shellfish Growers said of Justin, “I would look out and see Justin in the bay, and I would feel everything is all right in the world”. Blain Reeves, with Washington’s Department of Natural Resources, commented “Mr. Taylor’s significant contribution toward cleaning up the Sound, advancing shellfish cultivation practices, and being an amazing human being are basically folklore for many here and we are all remembering and grieving the loss of this amazing Pacific Northwest icon.”

Justin once told reporter John Dodge. “Some people climb mountains, I walk mudflats.” My aspiration is to someday join Justin’s elite club of mudflat conquerors.

Bill Dewey