

Resolution Subject: Memorial Resolution Justin Taylor

Text of Resolution: *Whereas*, Justin Taylor was born in Shelton, Mason County, on February 16, 1921, and died 90 years later on February 22, 2011. Mr. Taylor helped build his family business, Taylor Shellfish, into a family dynasty now in the fifth generation, and the largest shellfish-farming business in the country. A Navy veteran, Mr. Taylor served on the USS Texas during World War II, enduring enemy fire at Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, then went back to serve his country again on a Navy oil tanker during the Korean War.

Whereas, Justin grew up alongside Squaxin Island tribal members, with whom his family formed close friendships. His family gifted to the tribe the land on which its museum and cultural center stands, and his relationships with tribal members stretch back to childhood.

Whereas, as a young man Justin logged by hand with a crosscut saw, later using a chain saw in the redwoods of Northern California. He gave up working in the woods when he married, considering the work too dangerous for a family man, and returned in 1956 to the shellfish beds of Puget Sound, slowly buying up property and building the business. Known for his modesty, he was the type to park his rig a long way from the headquarters office or processing plant, to leave the good spots for other people — even though he was nearly 90.

Whereas, Justin was married 55 years to Carol Hunter Taylor and raised three children, and lived to see the business founded by his father not only grow, but pass on successfully to the fifth generation. The company has about 600 employees, 9,000 acres of shellfish beds in production, customers all over the world and operations in the U.S., Canada, Hong Kong and Fiji.

Whereas, Justin had a high-school education, and the mind of a Renaissance man, stoked by a lifelong curiosity, reading everything he could get his hands on, and still coming into the office at Taylor Shellfish in Shelton nearly every day to share a clipping he had just read, and go out for lunch with his sons or visit with employees.

Whereas, Puget Sound was Justin's home, and he fought for its cleanup and conservation long before it was a popular cause, filing one of the first environmental lawsuits ever in Washington against the pulp-mill industry. He kept at it. A letter written in his firm hand in 2009 to Gov. Chris Gregoire reads: "I am writing this because of my concern for Puget Sound. I am 88 years old and still get out on the tide flats most daylight tides. I am appalled at the ever-increasing decline of water quality."

Whereas, Justin was a humble giant, and a real friend of the water. He had a real bond with the Sound, and the waterman's life.

Be It Therefore Resolved that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference extends its gratitude for Justin's leadership and lasting contributions to the organization; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference acknowledge his contributions by a letter to that effect to his family.

Action by 2011 Resolutions Committee Recommended adoption of Resolution 11-001 as submitted.

Action by 2011 Executive Board Recommended adoption of Resolutions Committee recommendation on Resolution 11-001.

Action by 2011 General Assembly Adopted Resolution 11-001.

Action by FDA February 26, 2012 Concurred with Conference action on Resolution 11-001.