

Resolution Subject: Resolution in Memory of Larry Simns

Text of Resolution: *Whereas*, Lawrence W. "Larry" Simns Sr., was born September 14, 1937. He was the son of George Clifton Simns, a waterman and part-time barber, and his wife, Rebecca. He was raised in the small Eastern Shore fishing village of Rock Hall, where he lived his entire life. After graduating from Rock Hall High School in 1956, he looked to the Chesapeake Bay for his livelihood. Larry died March 14, 2013, of bone cancer at his Rock Hall, Maryland home.

Whereas, Larry, was a fourth-generation waterman and longtime advocate for the Chesapeake Bay and those who make their living from its waters. More than 40 years ago, pointing out the virtual disappearance of some fish stocks and low oyster and crab yields from what was clearly an ailing estuary, Larry found the mission that occupied him for the remainder of his life.

Whereas, Larry stood sentry for the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay for over 40 years and courageously carried their banner into the 21st century. He fought to preserve their traditions and their opportunity to work on the water like their forefathers. He also had the tough challenge of helping them navigate a tough economy and difficult environmental factors facing his beloved bay. In 1973, he established the Maryland Watermen's Association and served as its president until his death.

Whereas, He represented state watermen on numerous committees and panels, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Maryland Tidal Fish Advisory Committee and the Commercial Fishermen of America Association, among others.

Whereas, In that role, Larry was a passionate voice representing watermen at all levels of government. The boy who grew up yearning to make his living on the water found himself meeting presidents — including both Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton — governors and senators.

Whereas, Last year, Larry wrote an autobiography, "The Best of Times on the Chesapeake Bay: An Account of a Rock Hall Waterman," in collaboration with Robert Rich, Jr., which focuses largely on the 1960s and '70s. Larry said "I want to leave a record of the abundance I have known, so people will have an idea of what we need to get back to. I don't want people to save this Bay, because it's not good enough," he said in the Bay Journal interview last year. "We need to restore it."

Whereas, it has been said that Larry had amazing strength and fought and kept on pushing until the end. He was always looking ahead to set the course for the future for both the industry and watermen. In addition to his mother, Simns is survived by his wife, Carolyn Simns, a sister, three children, five stepchildren, 12 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

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

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

Action by 2013 Resolutions Committee Recommended adoption of Resolution 13-003 as submitted.
Action by 2013 General Assembly Adopted Resolution 13-003.