

First, the American Fisheries Society last month honored Dean Hogarth—as he is known to so many—with the Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award, one of our Nation's premier awards in fisheries sciences. The award recognizes Dean Hogarth's long career and leadership in preserving some of the world's most threatened marine species. It recognizes his passionate advocacy for environmental protections and his role in leading Florida's scientific response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

The second honor for Dean Hogarth in early September was bestowed upon him by the University of South Florida's Board of Trustees when it voted to name its newest research vessel in his namesake to recognize Dean Hogarth's passionate pursuit of funding for a new boat to replace the university system's more than 40-year-old research vessel.

For those of my colleagues who have had the opportunity to work with and meet Dean Hogarth over his long career, you know of his humble nature, his laugh, and, most notably, his deep southern drawl. You also know of his spirited passion for all issues related to fisheries and the oceans.

Dean Hogarth's first job was as a biologist and manager of ecological programs for Carolina Power & Light, and he later served as director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

His national and international stature grew in 1994, when he joined the National Marine Fisheries Service where he rose from a regional leader to be appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the agency's director from 2001 to 2007. Recognizing his leadership on national and international fisheries issues at a most critical juncture for the commercial and recreational fishing industries, President Bush appointed Dean Hogarth to represent our Nation as U.S. Commissioner and Chairman of both the International Whaling Commission and the International Commission for Conservation of the Atlantic.

During his tenure as director of NMFS, Dr. Hogarth worked with this Congress to update Federal fisheries laws to rebuild U.S. fisheries and set the recreational and commercial fishing industries on a new and sustainable course. In 2007, Dr. Hogarth retired from Federal service and joined the University of South Florida as interim dean, and then dean of the College of Marine Science in St. Petersburg.

Recognizing his leadership skills, Dr. Hogarth was then appointed in January 2011 as director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography, a consortium of more than 30 scientific and educational institutions across Florida. The USF president then called upon Dean Hogarth's leadership skills once again and asked him to assume a dual role, adding to his responsibilities the job of regional chancellor of USF-St. Petersburg from August 2012 to June 2013.

USF and the Florida Institute of Oceanography made national and inter-

national headlines following the 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig. Dr. Hogarth led a scientific response that focused on the immediate aftermath of the spill, including the path of the oil plume both above the water and in the Gulf's deepest reaches and currents. It focused also on the impact of the spill on fisheries and other wildlife and the response of the research community in the five-State region to address short- and long-term environmental concerns.

One of his final acts as director of the Institute of Oceanography before his official retirement on July 31 was to work with the Florida State legislature, our Governor, the university, and the city of St. Petersburg to secure funding to replace the 40-year-old Research Vessel Bellows. This ship, managed by the Institute of Oceanography, is a great resource to faculty and students alike, giving them invaluable assets to the Gulf of Mexico and other research waterways in pursuit of their studies. The new ship will now be named rightfully the RV William T. Hogarth and will continue to provide a path to sea for thousands of Florida students and educators.

Dean Hogarth will always be known to me as an educator. It is personal to me because he serves as a key advisory on fisheries issues that are so critical to our State and to our community. I will always call him Dean, as will so many others, and we look forward to his continued counsel in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking a most special person who has dedicated much of his career to one of the great interests of our Nation: our fisheries, our marine sciences, and our oceans. Dr. Hogarth is a national champion of our Nation's critical assets, our oceans. It is an honor for me to recognize him today, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. We wish him very well in retirement and we thank him for his service.

#### HURRICANE IKE ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks 8 years since Hurricane Ike made landfall over Galveston, Texas. This Category 4 storm ripped through communities in the city of Galveston and Galveston County, making its way inland through the Houston region. The storm caused over 100 fatalities, washed away homes, flooded communities, and shut down much of the region's energy production. In total, this hurricane cost \$37.5 billion nationwide, making it the third costliest hurricane in United States history. Even though Hurricane Ike caused extensive damage, we know it could have been much worse.

The effects of another major hurricane on the Houston region and our Nation would absolutely be devastating.

Over 6 million people call this area home, and many of them work in critical economic sectors like health care and energy refining. The impact would be felt in every congressional district across the country. For example, according to reports published immediately after Hurricane Ike made landfall, gas prices spiked between 30 and 60 cents per gallon across many States due to the disruption in energy production in the Houston region.

We do not know, Mr. Speaker, when the next big storm will hit our shores, which is why it is of paramount importance for Congress, the Federal Government, and our State to prioritize funding for coastal protection along the Texas coast. Progress on a comprehensive Federal evaluation of our coastal vulnerabilities is long overdue. I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that the Texas General Land Office and the Army Corps of Engineers are moving forward in partnership on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study. Once completed, this study will make the case for coastal infrastructure projects that would qualify for Federal dollars and would protect our vulnerable coastal communities, our energy infrastructure, maritime industries, and, most importantly, major population centers.

I am doing everything I can, Mr. Speaker, to make sure a Federal study of our coast is completed expeditiously. Along with Senator CORNYN, I have introduced the COAST Act, which is actually the Corps' Obligation to Assist in Safeguarding Texas Act. If enacted, this legislation would require the Army Corps to take into consideration existing studies and data already available to help expedite the Federal Government's work. This legislation would also immediately authorize any projects should they be justified.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with all relevant Federal, State, and local leaders to expedite Federal work to protect the Texas Gulf Coast from dangerous storms. This is a critical Federal interest and should be a national priority.

Mr. Speaker, you know that is right.

#### COMBATING DRUG EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, I was proud to vote in favor of a package of bills intended to crack down on the epidemic of heroin use and opioid abuse across our Nation. I was even happier to see that legislation pass the House and Senate with broad bipartisan support before being signed into law by the President.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act will help make grant funding available to State and local governments, create a task force to review physician prescribing guidelines

and make sure babies born opioid-dependent receive quality care.

While this is a step in the right direction, I continue to be impressed by the efforts of community members in my district to help turn the tide against this epidemic.

Townhall meetings have been held across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District in places such as Bradford, McKean County; and Ridgway, Elk County. Another meeting is planned for this evening in Centre County. These meetings, along with hearings held across the State by the Pennsylvania House Majority Policy Committee, are great steps in the battle against drugs and saving lives.

#### PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, later today on this House floor, we will be considering what I would very accurately describe as an opportunity bill.

We hear the media talk about how in the middle of this campaign election season that Congress really is not productive. I would argue to the contrary, and I point to this bill. It is a bill I am very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, we all know individuals in our communities, perhaps in our own families, who are in need of opportunity. We probably know young people who, as they go off this time of year to school, are not inspired. Maybe their heads are on their desk. They don't learn in the typical fashion that traditional education teaches of lecture and classrooms, but if you put them in an environment where they can use their hands and do applied academics—career and technical education training—they are inspired, they look forward to getting out of bed in the morning, and they excel.

We probably all know people—perhaps we are related to folks—who find themselves this morning stuck in unemployment. As we gathered around the breakfast table, they were gathered around the breakfast table just trying to figure out how to make ends meet since they have lost their job for whatever reasons, probably no fault of their own, and they need a strategy to be able to get back on their feet. They need a strategy to be able to provide for their families. A greater opportunity is what they are seeking.

We probably know folks as well—certainly people who we serve and people in our communities—who have been stuck in the web of poverty for generations, intergenerational poverty, with no exit ramp and with no exit strategy.

This opportunity bill today is one that I encourage all of my colleagues to support. The culture today has so much emphasis on the theory that people need a 4-year degree to be successful in this country. However, we have a huge gap of technical and vocational jobs that are good-paying jobs and family-sustaining jobs that aren't being filled. Job creators cannot find individuals who are qualified and trained to be able to fill those positions. I call that

the skills gap. Today we can take a tremendous step in closing the skills gap.

I have introduced a bill that will be considered on the floor today, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which, incidentally, is scheduled later today for a vote. This legislation reauthorizes and modernizes—more importantly, modernizes—the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to help more Americans enter the workforce with the skills necessary to compete and succeed in high-wage, high-demand careers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It starts career awareness earlier recognizing that kids have access to technology and will begin to provide career and technical education awareness in the lower middle schools. It brings business and industry to the table so when we invest and do offer career and technical education training, it leads to a job at the end of the day, whether it is a result of a certificate earned, a credential that is provided, or training that is completed, and it serves individuals of all ages.

So I just ask and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act on this House floor later today.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Wayne Lomax, The Fountain of New Life, Miami Gardens, Florida, offered the following prayer:

God, we thank You for the men and women who serve as Members of the United States Congress.

Though we have many needs in our Nation—better schools, better jobs, safer streets, fairer laws, better health care, and peaceful relationships with our neighbors at home and our neighbors abroad—today, we pause to pray for each other.

It is easy to forget that back home our Congressmen and -women have daughters who dance, sons who sing, mothers with mild strokes, fathers who slip and fall, siblings who struggle with addiction, and neighbors in homeless shelters, while our spouses and significant others hold down the fort.

We acknowledge that alongside our hopes and dreams are our personal struggles and fears—even our shortcomings and our sins.

So, as Jesus taught us, forgive us our debts and give us our daily bread.

Bless us with good sense and humble hearts as we serve to Your honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANGEVIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND WAYNE LOMAX

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to welcome the very gracious and accomplished Pastor Wayne Lomax to the House floor as our guest chaplain.

Pastor Lomax is the founder and senior pastor of the mega church, The Fountain of New Life, located in Miami Gardens, Florida. He is also a proud member of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, a mentoring program for boys of color.

Nearly 20 years ago, in his living room, with just 8 people, Pastor Lomax founded The Fountain of Pembroke Pines, now The Fountain of New Life. Today, it is one of the largest churches in Florida and is an indispensable community partner.

The church's humble beginnings and continuous growth are testaments to Pastor Lomax's unwavering leadership and strong faith. He is truly a man of all seasons—a true man of God who tackles issues, including hunger, poverty, and crime, in the Miami-Dade County community.

Pastor Lomax also served as pastor of the York Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and as assistant pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is the proud husband of his beautiful wife, Teresa. They have three beautiful children: Christopher, Marcus, and LeReine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Lomax for leading today's opening prayer and to