

## **II. DEDICATION: To the Memory of Dr. Nancy Foster, NOAA**

Captain Ted I. Lillestolen  
Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator, NOS/NOAA

Captain Lillestolen dedicated the Conference to the memory of Dr. Nancy Foster who “was an advocate and pioneer in the area of diversity” and fairness for all. Dr. Foster was a remarkable person. During her 23 years with NOAA, Dr. Foster’s vision, courage, and belief in the individual changed the cultural climate of NOAA to hold diversity as a priority in the workplace. She was known as well “nationally and internationally for her conservation work on protected areas, stewardship of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, the leadership of NMFS, the creation of NOAA’s Habitat Restoration Center, and numerous other pioneering works in marine conservation. In 1999, then President Clinton honored Dr. Foster with the rank of Distinguished Executive for leadership exemplifying the highest standards of service to the public.”

Dr. Foster received many other awards and commendations, including three Department of Commerce Bronze medals, and the Department’s Gold medal for her leadership in marine conservation. Former Vice President Gore praised her vision and directorship, writing that “much of the success of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, a treasure to the American people, is attributed to her tenure as director.”

On April 26, 2000, NOAA and the National Ocean Service (NOS) dedicated the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center in Key West, Florida in honor of her lifetime commitment to our national coasts and oceans.

NOAA was also honored to announce the *Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program*. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding scholarship and to encourage independent graduate-level research, particularly by female and minority students in oceanography, marine biology, and maritime archeology. Information about the scholarship is available at <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/>.

Captain Lillestolen ended the dedication by reminding everyone that Dr. Nancy Foster embodied courage, commitment, and dedication to service. He thanked the Conference participants for the great honor of Dr. Foster’s scholarship and urged anyone who could take advantage of the scholarship to do so.