

August 2, 2005

From the Capitol office of the late

State Senator

Larry Gene Taylor

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The following remarks on the recent passing of State Senator Larry Gene Taylor were delivered last month in the United States House of Representatives by Missouri Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay and are provided for your information and for use as you like.

The late Larry Gene Taylor represented the people of Ozark, Stone, Taney, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald counties as Senator for Missouri's 29th Senatorial District. Senator Taylor's assistants Pam Gilmore and Janet Ritter continue to staff the 29th District office in the state Capitol and can be reached using the contact information listed above.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MISSOURI LEGISLATOR

(Extensions of Remarks – July 15, 2005)

SPEECH OF HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2005

* Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Missouri congressional delegation, I would like to join with my colleagues, Representatives TODD AKIN, ROY BLUNT, RUSS CARNAHAN, EMANUEL CLEAVER, JO ANN EMERSON, SAM GRAVES, KENNY HULSHOF and IKE SKELTON in paying tribute to the late Honorable Larry Gene Taylor who passed away at the age of 51 on Wednesday, July 6, 2005, after a hard fought battle with cancer.

* It is with great sadness that I stand before you today to commemorate the life of one of this nation's outstanding public servants. Senator Larry Gene Taylor served in both the Missouri House and Senate during his career. He was a man filled with optimism and vision and he was a legislator who was truly dedicated to the people of Missouri.

* Senator Taylor was born on August 7, 1953, in Carthage, Missouri. He was educated in the Sarcoxie public schools and went on to attend Missouri Southern University in Joplin, Missouri. Mr. Taylor was a driven man who started his career in politics working in State Treasurer Wendell Bailey's office as his Director of Public Affairs. He was later elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002. As a State Representative he served as the Vice Chairman on the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Committee and as a majority member of the House Committee on Appropriations for Transportation and Economic Development and the House Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development.

* In 2004 he was elected to the State Senate where he was on several committees such as Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health, Ways and Means and Transportation. Senator Taylor worked vehemently to improve Missouri's infrastructure and played a key role in establishing a long term funding solution that greatly improved Missouri's education budget formula.

* Larry Gene Taylor was a public servant by blood. He inherited his love for politics from his father, the late U.S. Representative, Gene Taylor of Missouri's 7th Congressional District. Congressman Taylor was also a native Missourian who began his career in Missouri politics when he was elected mayor of Sarcoxie, Missouri in 1954. He spent the next 35 years of his life as a public servant holding numerous positions including that of a United States Congressman. Congressman Taylor retired from politics in 1989 and later passed away in 1998. Together this father and son team has left a great political legacy in the state of Missouri.

* In a time when politics is dividing so many, Senator Taylor was known as one who united. He was capable of working with anyone regardless of their political ideology or party affiliation. He possessed the true spirit of bipartisanship. Senator Taylor was never one to play party politics; he was devoted to the people of Missouri. The compassion and understanding that he showed to them will always be remembered through his work and the genuine heartfelt relationships that he developed.

* In spite of his bout with cancer, Senator Taylor's perseverance would not allow him to give up. In fact, many were astounded and moved by how he managed to work right through the unimaginable pain and suffering that he must have experienced. His love for life is truly an inspiration to all who had the opportunity to know him. Mr. Speaker, Senator Taylor was a source of great pride not just for Missourians but for Americans everywhere. Not only have I had the honor of working with Senator Larry Gene Taylor, I have had the privilege of calling him my friend.

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