



Senator Larry Gene Taylor

August 7, 1953 – July 6, 2005

Senator Larry Gene Taylor passed away on July 6, 2005, in St. John's Hospital in Joplin, Missouri, after a brief illness.

Senator Taylor was born in Carthage, Missouri, on August 7, 1953, to Dorothy Taylor and the late United States Congressman Gene Taylor. Senator Taylor was a sixth-generation Missourian and was educated in the Sarcoxie Public School System and Missouri Southern University, in Joplin, Missouri.

Senator Taylor is survived by his wife Gay and daughter Jamie of the home in Shell Knob; his son Charles "Chip" Taylor of Springfield; his daughter Chelsea Corp and her husband Brad of Ozark; his three grandchildren, Hannah, Jack and Owen Corp; his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Taylor of Sarcoxie; his sister, Linda Cobine and her children Heath and Heather; and by Lola and Bill Craig of Bella Vista, Arkansas.

Senator Taylor was preceded in death by his father, Congressman Gene Taylor; his brother-in-law, Buster Cobine; and by his paternal and maternal grandparents.

Senator Taylor was a businessman before he began his public service career and managed the family business, Gene Taylor Ford in Sarcoxie, and was involved in a beef cattle farming operation.

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Larry Gene Taylor began his public service career when he was appointed by former State Treasurer Wendell Bailey as public affairs director for the Office of Missouri State Treasurer. He was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002. During his two-year term, he served as vice-chairman of the House 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. He also served on the Republican Policy Development Committee.

In November of 2004, Mr. Taylor was elected to represent Barry, Lawrence, McDonald, Ozark, Stone and Taney counties as the State Senator of the 29th Senatorial District in Missouri's 93rd General Assembly. He was vice-chairman of the Senate Economic Development, Tourism and Local Government Committee and served on the Senate Committees on Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health; Ways and Means; and Transportation. Senator Taylor was also a member of the Joint Committee on Economic Development Policy and Planning, the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight and the Senate Interim Committee on Tax Increment Financing.

Senator Taylor's legislative priorities in the 2005 legislative session included ensuring that promises made regarding road improvement projects will be kept, ensuring that funding will be directed to correcting Southwest Missouri's transportation problems, protecting democracy by requiring proof of U.S. citizenship before registering to vote and developing a long-term funding solution to the shortfalls of the prior education funding formula.

Senator Taylor resided on Table Rock Lake at Shell Knob for several years. He was a Farm Bureau member and belonged to several chambers of commerce throughout the 29th District. Senator Taylor was past-president of the Barry County Republican Club, a member of Shell Knob Lions Club and was a 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner. He attended First Baptist Church in Cassville.

The family of Senator Larry Gene Taylor expresses their deepest appreciation for the members of the medical community involved in Senator Taylor's care. The family also thanks friends of the family for concerns expressed and prayers offered.

“The measure of life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.”

– Corrie Ten Boom, Dutch Evangelist (1892-1983)