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Honoring an Oklahoma law maker

Kathy Parker
The Daily Times

He is known as the "road building Senator."

He spent eight years as President Pro Tempore of the State Senate; the longest term in Oklahoma history.

He attended Alliwe High School, graduating with a class of 17. He bagged groceries to pay for undergraduate school and hitchhiked to law school.

He remembered where he came from, and the people of Mayes and Rogers Counties elected him time after time.

Stratton Taylor will end his legislative career after 28 years of service in November because of term limits. He was honored with a reception at MidAmerica Industrial Park Sunday.

Chairman Doble Langenkamp presented a resolution to Taylor on behalf of OOWA.

"I was on the committee in Tulsa to discuss term limits," Langenkamp said. "I said this thing won't go anywhere. But it went somewhere and we're paying the price by losing Stratton."

Pat Lane presented a commendation to Taylor on behalf of Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce. She specifically mentioned the Highway 20 project and his help establishing Country Fever music park near Pryor.

Mayes County Commissioner Jim Montgomery said Taylor always recognized him, even when he was sitting in the gallery listening to the lawmakers.

"When I first started I was just kind of tongue-tied," Montgomery said, continuing he learned to speak and appear publicly from Taylor.

"He always spoke from his heart," Montgomery said. "Every time I saw him he would ask 'what can I do for the citizens of Mayes County?' He never asked me to do one thing in his life."

District Judge Dwayne Steidley served as a State Representative for Rogers County while Taylor was in the Senate.

"The thing I remember about his first race," Steidley said, "is my grandparents were big supporters of his opponent."

"It was a funny thing. They'd put a VanPelt sign up in their yard and it would disappear. Then a Taylor sign would appear there."

"They came around to voting for Stratton."

Steidley said Taylor got people involved in politics, to care about the issues. "He brought the community with him. When he went to Oklahoma City, it wasn't just

Stratton, he took all those people that were behind him. He leaves Oklahoma a much better state."

District Judge Jim Goodpaster described Taylor's career in four points. The first was honesty.

"In 28 years, he was never accused of one kind of wrong doing," Goodpaster said.

Goodpaster said persistence has also been a key to Stratton's success.

Representative Ben Sherrer presented a proclamation on behalf of the Oklahoma House,

see TAYLOR, page 8



Montgomery



Kathy Parker / The Daily Times

MidAmerica Industrial Park Administrator Sanders Mitchell presents a commendation to Senator Stratton Taylor at a reception Sunday.