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Taylor named Most Progressive Citizen

Senator Stratton Taylor, the Altus high school graduate who grew up to become the longest serving President Pro Tempore in the history of the Oklahoma Senate, was named Rogers County's Most Progressive Citizen on Friday night.

He becomes the 17th winner of the award since its inception in 1988. The award was presented by Claremore Daily Progress Publisher Dave Story following a video presentation in which Taylor's friends, colleagues, supporters and former teachers reminisced about him and congratulated him for the honor.

Dr. Don Davis, president emeritus of Cameron University, served as the master of ceremonies, and Dr. Glen Johnson, president of Southeastern State University and former speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, was the guest speaker.

Johnson praised Taylor for devoting his adult life to public service and working for the higher education bond issue, a highway funding package, expansion of veterans' centers and facilitating RSU's transition to a four-year university. Taylor, he said, has been devoted to the needs of his district.

The vision and leadership of Stratton Taylor is a vital part of the growth and success of Rogers County and the state of Oklahoma.

As a political science and pre-law major in 1975-76, Stratton Taylor served as President of the Student Senate at Claremore Junior College (the predecessor



PROGRESS PHOTO/ Troy Buchanan

Claremore Progress Publisher Dave Story (right) presented Sen. Stratton Taylor with the Most Progressive Citizen award at the annual Rogers County Business and Industry Banquet on Friday night.

institution of Rogers State University).

A mere 19 years later, he would earn the same title in the Oklahoma Legislature.

A lifelong believer in the importance of education, Stratton Taylor graduated from Altus High School in 1974 from a class of 17 students. He enrolled at "College Hill" with a Presidential Scholarship.

Taylor worked his way through college as a clerk at a local grocery store, but he still found the time to be involved in a variety of campus leadership roles at RSU.

After receiving an associate's degree in political science in 1976, Taylor transferred to the University of Tulsa where he earned a bachelor's degree in education two years later.

During his days at TU, he continued to live and work in Claremore.

In 1978, at the age of 22, Taylor campaigned for a seat in the Oklahoma House of Representatives while a senior at TU.

During the campaign he continued to work as a grocery clerk, a job that allowed him to pay for college and listen to the concerns of the citizens of Rogers County. He won the race by a two-to-one margin and became one of the youngest to be voted to the legislature.

Taylor remembered that his supporters said, "We're going to give the kid a chance" -- and you did ... From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for the

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