

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of John (Cotton) Earl Taylor, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His life - a testament to dedication, love, and unwavering service - came to a peaceful close on Friday, August 1st.

John's roots ran deep in the Oklahoma soil. Born September 25, 1930, during the Great Depression and the start of the Dust Bowl, on the family farm near Temple and Walters. He cherished his upbringing and often fondly recalled his companionship with his steer, Snowball. These early experiences instilled in him a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for the land.

A lifelong learner, John's thirst for knowledge led him from Essaquanahdale Grade School and Walters High School (Class of 1948) to Oklahoma State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy in 1953 and briefly played for the legendary Coach, Henry Iba. After graduation, he served with distinction in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1953 to 1955, where he witnessed the aftermath of the Korean War firsthand. This experience shaped his character and instilled in him a deep sense of patriotism that remained a cornerstone of his life. His time in Korea, though undoubtedly challenging, left an indelible mark on his perspective and fueled his commitment to public service.

After he returned from Korea, he furthered his education with a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1972. This academic background formed the bedrock of his significant contributions to both agriculture and his community. John served the people of Oklahoma, working for the Land Office Commission during the first half of his career and later as a Superintendent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Oklahoma City.

He leaves behind a large and loving family who will deeply miss his guidance and unwavering support: his son, John Stephen Taylor and his wife, Gina; eight grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Gloria Anita Taylor (2021), his daughter, Teresa Lea Taylor-Lauderdale (1995), and three sisters.

John will be profoundly missed but the impact on the lives he touched will be felt for generations to come.

In Loving Memory Of



John Earl Taylor



September 25, 1930



August 1, 2025

Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one...
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways...
Of happy times and laughing
times and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who grieve
to dry before the sun...
Of happy memories that I leave
when life is done.*



John Taylor

Date of Birth

*September 25, 1930
Walters, Oklahoma*

Entered Into Rest

*August 1, 2025
Norman, Oklahoma*

Funeral Ceremony

*Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Two O'clock in the Afternoon
Walker Funeral Chapel
Shawnee, Oklahoma*

Officiant

Larry Sparks

Musical Selections

Final Resting Place

*Resthaven Memorial Park
Shawnee, Oklahoma*