



Dr. Jack Howard Taylor, Sr.

JUL 7, 1922 - OCT 26, 2012



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Dr. Jack Howard Taylor, Sr.

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Dr. Jack Howard Taylor, 90, died on October 26, 2012. Dr. Taylor was a lifelong Memphian. He graduated from Southside High School in 1940 and Southwestern at Memphis in 1944, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. During WWII he served at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. After the war he received his Ph.D. in physics from The Johns Hopkins University and returned to the Naval Research Laboratory where he developed the optical system of the Sidewinder missile. At the invitation of his mentor and life long friend, Dr. Peyton Rhodes, Dr. Taylor returned to Memphis in 1956 to join the faculty at Southwestern at Memphis (Rhodes College) where he taught until he retired in 1992. He was the recipient of the Dean's Award for Research and Creativity at Rhodes and the American Physical Society's Pegram Award for outstanding teacher. Dr. Taylor was an enthusiastic teacher and supporter of his students, many of whom have also had distinguished careers in physics. Fully invested in their lives, he thought of them as his children, as well. Locally he was a strong proponent of science education and his lecture room at Rhodes was a frequent destination for 'field trips' by science clubs, astronomy clubs, and scouts. Dr. Taylor seized any opportunity to pass his love of "natural philosophy" to all those around him. It was impossible to visit him at home without an impromptu physics experiment or quiz on Latin. Although passionate about science, "The Old Man's" greatest love was his family who are so grateful for his bountiful life. Dr. Taylor is survived by: Sara Sparr Taylor, his wife of 68 years, whom he lovingly referred to as "meine Frau"; William Sparr Taylor, "number two son"; John Charles Taylor, "number three son"; and Harold Sparr Taylor, "number four son." He is preceded in death by Jack Howard Taylor Jr., "number one son", and sister Marie Taylor Cockrill. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Visitation will be Tuesday, October 30, at 1 p.m. at Memorial Park Funeral Home, followed by



Obituary

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the service at 2:30. In lieu of flowers please send any memorials to Rhodes College or the Memphis Food Bank.



Tribute Wall

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MS

Monty Smith posted:

In the years since I was a student studying under the guidance of Dr. Jack Howard Taylor, I have never met anyone who enjoyed his job as much as Dr. Taylor enjoyed being a professor of physics at Southwestern at Memphis. His energy and enthusiasm showe

November 2 at 9:23 AM

SR

San Andrews Robertson posted:

Dr. Taylor was my most-thorough physics teacher. He made physics interesting, almost mesmerizing. I can still hear his voice saying, "...supershauntly small", when referring to particles. Part of his teaching movitated me to later become a mathematicia

October 31 at 5:38 AM

KF

Karen Francis posted:

To the Family of Dr. Jack Taylor So sorry to read of Dr. Taylor's passing from this life. May your memories of happy times together comfort you. My prayers are with you.Sincerely, Karen Francis

October 30 at 4:07 PM

JS

Jack Streete posted:

It is hard to know where to start in my comments about Jack Taylor. I have known him as my teacher, mentor, friend and a man who took it easy on me on the tennis court. When my dad died my sophomore year at, then, Southwestern at Memphis, Jack, in very su

October 30 at 1:03 PM

BH

Bill Hackleman posted:

As my major professor, mentor,and later boss for three years at Southwestern, Dr. Taylor greatly impacted my life. He was an outstanding demonstrator of physical principles. I want to express my condolences to his wife and family.

October 30 at 10:54 AM



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DA

David Assaf posted:

I will always remember my two semesters of physics with Dr. Taylor. He jokingly considered us junior math majors a lost cause, but we nevertheless loved the man and his lectures. "ASSAF! This is your chance to SHINE!" he would call out into the lecture

October 30 at 10:35 AM

JD

James Dobbins posted:

Though I was a philosophy major at Southwestern, I took physics with Dr. Taylor in 1968-69, and loved every minute of it. He instilled in me a deep appreciation of science. With heartfelt condolences, James Dobbins***** James C.

October 30 at 8:39 AM

KC

Kenneth M. Cushing posted:

It is with great sadness that I have learned of the passing of Dr. Taylor. He was a wonderful inspiration to me during my four years at Rhodes. I graduated with my B.S. in Physics (with Honors) in 1969. I remember the Introductory Physics class Dr. Tay

October 29 at 7:35 PM

GS

Glenn Sowell posted:

I graduated in physics at Southwestern in 1972, a student of Taylor, Stauffer, Barnhardt and Streete. All of them had a profound impact on me as a physicist, but it was Dr. Taylor who most shaped me as a physics teacher. I invoke his name or at least his

October 29 at 6:04 PM

DS

Dr. Carol Scott posted:

So sorry to hear of Dr. Taylor's passing. I will never forget his physics classes at Southwestern (Rhodes) I was a freshman and one of the few women in his class in 1970. We saw many experiments that "few men and no women had ever seen before". He was a t

October 29 at 6:02 PM



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SI

Sidney Ingram posted:

I am saddened to hear about Dr. Taylor's passing. Please accept my sincere and heartfelt sympathy. For a number of years I was fortunate to work with Jack, Jr. (his "number 1 son") at Crye-Leike Realtors. Jack would fondly relate stories about his Da

October 29 at 2:19 PM

RJ

Rj posted:

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dear loved one. I wanted to share the hope found in the bible, the hope of the resurrection. Jesus stated at John 5:28,29 "The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will come out." And at Reve

October 26 at 2:56 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jack by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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