

IN MEMORY

AUSTIN STARKE TAYLOR, JR.

Austin Starke Taylor Jr., 92, died Monday of congestive heart failure at his Dallas home. He was a cotton merchant turned North Dallas land investor who was elected mayor on his first political ballot in 1983.

Taylor was 14 when he entered his father's cotton business, sweeping and picking up loose cotton from sample room floors. In 1939, he graduated from Highland Park High School and in 1943, Taylor received his bachelor's degree from what is now Rice University. He served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II.

After completing his military service, Taylor rejoined the family cotton business. "I got into exporting and sales, and I ate the cotton business, worked it and slept it," he said in 1983. "It was the kind of business you couldn't get away from. If you'd try to go fishing, they'd find you. If you were asleep at 3 a.m., you'd get a call, say from Japan."

In 1962, Taylor purchased his father's portion of the business. He worked to build both his business and the industry. He was president of the Dallas Cotton Exchange, the Dallas Cotton Shippers Association, the Texas Cotton Association, the Cotton Council International, and the American Cotton Shippers Association (1969-1970). President Richard Nixon appointed Taylor to the Department of Agriculture's advisory committee on cotton. In 1970, he was named Cotton Man of the Year by the industry publication *Cotton Digest*.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Hillcrest Memorial Park.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. There will be a reception afterward.

In addition to his wife, Carolyn, and daughter, Susan Salley, Taylor is survived by another daughter, Tracy Taylor of Dallas; three sons, A. Starke "Tracy" Taylor III, Charles Taylor and Chris Taylor, all of Dallas; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

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