



## Phyllis M. Taylor

*Vermilion Parish*

*Nominated by: Mary Ellen Sommer  
& Odile Segrest*

*Community Foundation of Acadiana*

Phyllis M. Taylor is a distinguished figure in the realms of business, law, and philanthropy. Born with an innate sense of responsibility towards her community, she has dedicated her life to creating opportunities and uplifting others through her various ventures.

After completing her legal education at Tulane University School of Law, Mrs. Taylor embarked on a career that would become a testament to her unwavering commitment to justice. Her early experiences as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of Louisiana and Orleans Parish Civil District Court provided her with invaluable insights into the legal system.

In 1972, she transitioned into the oil industry, assuming the role of in-house counsel for John W. Mecom, Sr. This marked the beginning of her illustrious journey in the corporate world, where she would go on to make significant contributions to the industry.

Beyond her corporate endeavors, Phyllis Taylor is perhaps best known for her outstanding philanthropic work. As the Chairman of the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, she has steered the organization towards making substantial impacts in the fields of education, law enforcement, the armed forces, and various humanitarian efforts. Since its establishment in 1985, the foundation has been a beacon of positive change, touching the lives of countless individuals.

One of her most enduring legacies is her dedication to education. She has worked toward seeing that TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students), originally conceived by her late husband, Pat Taylor, continues to be funded by the Louisiana legislature and that the rigor of the curriculum and other qualifying requirements remain intact. Additionally, she and the Foundation have worked with numerous elementary and secondary schools, public, private, and parochial, throughout the State to provide opportunities in the areas of STEM and cultural program and activities.

Over four decades, Phyllis Taylor has been a stalwart presence on the boards of numerous esteemed organizations. Her contributions extend to the Smithsonian National Board, New Orleans Business Council, Catholic Leadership Institute, Tulane University Board, (where she now serves as an Emeritus Board Member), Xavier University, Audubon Institute, the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Through her involvement, she has helped in shaping the direction and impact of these institutions. For her unwavering dedication to public service, Mrs. Taylor has received a multitude of awards and honors. These accolades stand as a testament to her enduring commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

In every facet of her life, Phyllis M. Taylor exemplifies the values of compassion, dedication, and excellence. Her journey from law clerk to a prominent figure in the corporate and philanthropic spheres is a testament to the power of vision and the capacity to effect meaningful change. Through her tireless efforts, she continues to inspire and uplift communities, leaving an indelible mark on the world.