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IN MEMORIAM - JOHN P. TAYLOR

In Memory of John P. Taylor, 1954–2004: This special issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* is dedicated to the memory and work of John P. Taylor. His contributions to the field of wildlife conservation and management were significant and will be long lasting.

John began his career in July of 1974 as a Cooperative Education Student in Washington, DC. He then worked at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge as a Biological Science Student Trainee for a few months beginning in January 1978, followed by a position as a Range Technician for the Bureau of Land Management in Las Cruces during the summer of 1978. He was also attending classes at New Mexico State University during these initial work years. In January 1979, he served as a Student Trainee (Biology) at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, in Minnesota for a semester. He was placed as the Refuge Manager (Trainee) at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota in January 1981 and was there until November 1982, when he transferred to the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge—Culebra Island, Puerto Rico, as a Refuge Manager. In December 1985, he transferred to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, where he was most recently serving as the first Land Management Research and Demonstration Site biologist in the Refuge System.

In March of 2004, John was recognized by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as the Refuge System Employee of the Year, based on his outstanding accomplishments. John researched, pioneered, and implemented innovative techniques for conserving river water during severe drought while managing the conversion of salt cedar monocultures back to native vegetation. He fine-tuned the management of sandhill crane and other migratory bird populations and feeding resources to minimize damage to neighboring private croplands. In the process, he became an expert in the application of moist soil management techniques. John obtained grants for wetland preservations and restoration projects, wrote journal articles, delivered talks to interested groups, gave tours, and participated in several film and documentary projects. He worked extensively and effectively with other refuges and with conservation organizations, land management agencies, and universities throughout the southwest and in Mexico. John Taylor was widely known and respected for his depth of expertise and unwavering commitment to habitat conservation and restoration. He was a leader in his field and exemplified the professional wildlife biologists that the Refuge System needs in order to flourish in the future.