



## HEROES *NEED* HEROES

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** March 27, 2026

### **KSP Foundation Establishes the Judy Taylor Philanthropy Leadership Award**

**Frankfort, KY** — The Kentucky State Police Foundation is honored to announce the establishment of the **Judy Taylor Philanthropy Leadership Award**, a distinguished new recognition to be presented annually at the Foundation’s Roundtable Fundraising Events.

[Judy Taylor](#) passed away on October 12, 2023. This award has been created to honor and perpetuate her legacy as a devoted board member whose dedication, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to the men and women of the Kentucky State Police helped shape the Foundation’s philanthropic mission.

Through this award, the Foundation will recognize individuals who embody the same spirit of leadership, advocacy, generosity, and kindness, whose impact advances both the mission of the Kentucky State Police Foundation and the safety and wellbeing of communities across the Commonwealth.

*“Judy Taylor exemplified what it means to be a philanthropic leader, not only through her generosity, but through her tireless work behind the scenes to strengthen partnerships, mobilize resources, and champion the mission of the KSP Foundation,” said Luther Deaton, President and Chair of the KSP Foundation Board. “This award ensures that her legacy of impact will continue to inspire others.”*

Judy Taylor was a true trailblazer, serving as the first female contract lobbyist in Kentucky. She shattered glass ceilings in politics with both grace and grit. Having lived across the globe, Judy possessed a rare ability to connect with people from all walks of life. She was fiercely loyal to her clients, most notably advocating for Keeneland and the thoroughbred industry, and the law enforcement community.

Those who knew Judy often spoke first of her kindness. She had a genuine gift for making others feel valued and supported, and she held a deep and lasting connection to the Kentucky State Police Foundation. Her faith and her family were central to her life, guiding both her personal and professional commitments.

***Her daughter, Maresa Fawns, shared, “It is an honor to see my mother’s gifts of kindness and generosity remembered. Her legacy will be felt for many years, and this is a wonderful way to see her ideals encouraged and embodied in others.”***

Former State Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer, a friend and colleague, reflected on her lasting influence: *“I’m going to miss her. There’s a lot of us who will miss her. She was an institution. She was an institution at the state capitol, she was an institution at Keeneland,” Thayer said. “She was just one of those people you thought would be around forever.”*

The Judy Taylor Philanthropy Leadership Award will recognize individuals based on visionary leadership, fundraising and advocacy impact, sustained commitment, and most importantly, kindness and generosity.

Nominations and additional information about the award process can be found at <https://kspfoundation.org/>. The deadline to submit nominations is **April 17, 2026**.

## **About the Kentucky State Police Foundation**

The [Kentucky State Police Foundation](#) provides essential care, resources, and long-term support to troopers, their families, and the programs that strengthen our communities. Through philanthropic investment, the Foundation helps fund critical safety equipment, advanced training, wellness initiatives, and emergency assistance.

## **Inaugural Presentation**

The inaugural presentation of the Judy Taylor Philanthropy Leadership Award will take place at the Foundation’s Inaugural Roundtable Fundraising Dinner, with the official date and location to be announced. The Foundation looks forward to celebrating Judy’s legacy alongside supporters, stakeholders, and community leaders.

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*Prepared by: Executive Director – Last updated: March 25, 2026*