

BURRAGE SEEKS TO FILL TAYLOR'S SHOES

By JOHN M. WYLIE II, Editor

Sean Burrage, a Claremore attorney with extensive experience in public service and higher education, today announced that he is seeking the Democratic nomination to succeed State Senator Stratton Taylor.

Burrage, 37, served as legislative director for U.S. Senator David Boren and, when Boren became University of Oklahoma president, as special assistant to the president and director of state and federal relations.

“Sean Burrage is uniquely qualified to serve in the State Senate,” said Boren. “I’ve never known anyone who worked harder, was more responsible, and cared more about doing the right thing. Sean’s someone you can count on, no matter what.”

Taylor, the legendary lawmaker who rose from a sacker at Humpty Dumpty grocery in Claremore to president pro tempore of the Oklahoma Senate, will retire after this session as District 2 senator due to term limits.

The district has been realigned since Taylor took the seat more than two decades ago, but still includes Oologah, Talala, Claremore, Foyil and Chelsea. It no longer covers the Limestone and Catoosa areas. It also includes much of Mayes County.

“I’m running for the State Senate to give middle-class families a voice in our state government,” Burrage said. “We have to make sure that our schools prosper, that we find solutions to health care problems, and that we promote a climate of economic opportunity. I think if you work hard and are accountable for your actions, you should have the chance to succeed.

“I’ll also work to protect fundamental rights. I’m pro-life and, as a gun owner myself, I will be a strong proponent of gun owners’ rights.”

Burrage said that he considers his close ties to Senator Taylor a big plus in his campaign “because he has done great things for the district.” But he said he has not been hand picked.

“My job is to work harder than anyone else,” he said during a meeting in downtown Oologah. “I am not his anointed successor. I have to be elected by the people of District 2 the same as anyone else would.”

Burrage and his wife Carole have been married for 12 years and have two sons: Truman, age 9, and Carter, age 1. Carter was recently diagnosed with cerebral palsy, bringing the looming health care crisis into the center of Sean’s life.

“The health care system is definitely broken in many ways. For it to be fixed, you have to put the interests of the patients to the forefront. Of course you have to balance that with

cost, but the issues are really very simple for me. “For the last 18 months my family has been on a very long journey through (that) system. So far we’ve been fortunate – we’re still making it. But many middle class families are one illness away from bankruptcy. Something has to change,” Burrage said.

Burrage will hold his opening campaign kick-off, reception and fundraiser from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30 at the Claremore Elks Lodge. More than 200 sponsors are listed, including leading attorneys, educators, bankers and business leaders from both parties