Jonathan Larch Taylor  
USET President  
1976 - 1977

Jonathan Larch (Edd) Taylor was born on February 26, 1941 to Larch and Dixie Taylor. He resided in the Wolfetown Community on the Qualla Boundary until entering into the United States Army at the age of seventeen.

Taylor began his political career in 1972 as a Council Member for the Wolfetown Township, serving until 1985. He served as Vice Chairman of the Tribal Council for two terms and Chairman of Tribal Council for four terms. Taylor also served as Tribal Health Director.

Taylor served as President and Vice President of the United South and Eastern Tribes for several years, Area Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians, Area Health Board Member and voting member of the National Tribal Chairman’s Association.

During this period Taylor obtained funding through congressional testimonies and lobbying for a new hospital and new school for the Qualla Boundary. He established the first Emergency Medical Service Program and was also successful in implementing the Cherokee Language into the Cherokee School System.

In 1987, Taylor was elected Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, serving eight years. During these eight years he worked with Governors of North Carolina and the State Legislature and obtained approval to construct a nursing home in Cherokee. It was during this time that the Governor signed the first Compact for Gaming, which has led to many jobs and business opportunities for the area. As Chief, Taylor also testified before State Legislation on gas tax collected on the Qualla Boundary, and an agreement was reached that granted this revenue to be returned to the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

Taylor has been married to Cleo Proctor Taylor for forty-five years. They have seven children: Frances Taylor, Sherry Southards, Edith McCall, Savannah Wilnoty, Dennis (Bill) Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, Jr.; thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and a little Yorkie.