

Marcia Garrison Taylor holds her Athena Award in her office at Bennett Motor Express. She has been president of the company since 1981. Currently, the company sponsors a variety of things in the community. (Staff photo by Lisa Hart)



Keep on truckin'

Marcia Garrison Taylor cited for her business accomplishments

By Ray Lightner

Neighbor News Editor

Marcia Garrison Taylor is the 1996 Athena Award recipient.

Mrs. Garrison Taylor received the award from the Henry County Chamber of Commerce at a ceremony in January. She is president of Bennett Motor Express in McDonough.

The Athena Award is presented annually to an individual not only for professional and community service achievements, but for active and generous assistance to others in the achievement of excellence.

She has been president of the Bennett Motor Express since 1981, when her husband J.D. Garrison passed away.

They had been married for 10 years. She and her late husband purchased the company in 1974 from the Bennett family.

As president, Mrs. Garrison Taylor has built the trucking company into a multi-faceted international network of transportation related companies based in Henry County, with 122 employees.

The company is a family business. Mrs. Garrison Taylor's three children all work for divisions within Bennett International as vice presidents.

Danny Lowry, her oldest, works in sales and marketing. David Lowry heads up the international division, and daughter Lynette McBrayer heads up Trans-Port Travel, and Speed-Way Travel.

Bennett may be an international company but part of the Bennett mission statement is to work in the community, according to Mrs.

Garrison Taylor. Part of the Athena Award qualifications is community service and Bennett has been one of the most active organizations in Henry County. Mrs. Garrison Taylor stated, "we're always sponsoring something."

Bennett sponsors numerous ball teams in the county. They also sponsor a scholarship for their employees at Clayton State College.

The scholarship is named for Esper Amos, a former Bennett traffic manager. It is in its fourth year of existence, and was established to help Bennett's employees further their education.

Mrs. Garrison Taylor has been married for the past two years to Micheal K. Taylor. She has lived in Henry County, at Eagle's Landing, since 1971.

She has served on the executive board of directors for the Georgia Motor Trucking Association and the advisory board for Bank South. In 1988 she was recognized as Venture Magazine's entrepreneur of the year.

Up Close:

■ **Family:** Three grown children, who work for Bennett International, and five grand children.

■ **Hobbies:** work and golf—even though she never gets to play.

■ **Hometown:** Blueford, Ill.