Colonel Benjamin Franklin Taylor served with distinction in the 2nd Maryland Infantry, Union Army, and, until he died in 1919, vigorously honored the memories of those who were lost in the war.

Taylor was born in Baltimore City in 1840 and moved to Baltimore County with his parents as a young boy. He attended several local private schools and graduated from preparatory school St. Timothy's Hall, alma mater of many notable figures, including John Wilkes Booth. Enrolled in MAC by his father, Robert Taylor, he attended during the college's opening year, 1859-1860.

After his year at MAC, he returned to the Taylor family farm in Kingsville, Baltimore County. He enlisted as a private in September 1861 in Co. B, 2nd Maryland Infantry. He was promoted several times over the next 12 months, achieving the rank of captain by fall 1862.

Taylor participated in numerous significant engagements, including the First Battle of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, after which he was promoted to brevet colonel in recognition of his "conspicuous bravery." He also served in several administrative positions, referring to one of his titles as "as long as my saber." He was wounded three times.

In April 1865, Taylor was assigned to escort 500 prisoners, including General George Washington Custis Lee, who was later named MAC president, to the rear of the army. Fellow Marylander McHenry Howard commented on Taylor's gallantry and kindness on his trip in his memoir, Recollections of a Maryland Confederate Soldier, 1861-1866.

After the war, Taylor was active in the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veteran organization, attaining the rank of state commander in 1910. He corresponded regularly with many of his former troops, supporting pension claims and organizing gatherings. He was also active in Republican politics, served as a Baltimore County commissioner and a member of the Board of Elections, and organized the Baltimore County Grange.

Taylor was appointed to several battlefield commissions, most notably serving as the president of the Antietam Battlefield Commission of Maryland. He presented the Maryland monument at Antietam, the "first in the world erected by a sovereign state to its citizens fighting in opposing armies," to the federal government at a ceremony attended by President McKinley on May 30, 1900.

He was also devoted to honoring the war dead. At one time Assistant Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, Taylor was, at the time of his death in 1919, the Superintendent of the Loudon Park National Cemetery in Baltimore, the resting place of 2,300 Union and more than 700 Confederate soldiers.