

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 869, as amended, a bill to designate the Federal Building and Courthouse located in Youngstown, OH, as the "Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building and United States Courthouse." Judge Lambros was born and raised in Ashtabula, OH. He attended Fairmont State College in Fairmont, WV and received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1952.

Prior to his career as a judge, he served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. In 1960, Judge Lambros began his career in public service with his election to the Court of Common Pleas in Ashtabula County. In light of Judge Lambros' excellent reputation as a fair and dedicated jurist, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated him in 1967 to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. As a district court judge, Judge Lambros was responsible for several important legal reforms such as the voluntary public defender program, which provided indigent criminal defendants with free counsel. This reform eventually became law in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Gideon versus Wainwright*. Judge Lambros became Chief Judge of the Northern District of Ohio in 1990, and officially resigned from this position in February 1995. Judge Lambros also received numerous honors and awards throughout his career including the Cross of Paideia presented by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, and an honorary doctorate of law from Capital University Law and Graduate Center.

It is a fitting tribute to name this building after Judge Lambros because he played such an instrumental role in its construction. Prior to the opening of the U.S. courthouse in Youngstown, citizens had to travel at least 65 miles to Cleveland to seek justice in the Federal court system. Judge Lambros recognized the hardship this imposed on many people, especially senior citizens and the indigent. I strongly urge all Members to support this bill.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the distinguished ranking member.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I compliment the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], the leader on our side, for persisting on this legislation and bringing it forward once again. It passed the

House in the last Congress and again did not muster support in the Senate.

I appreciate the role that the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] has played in assuring that we again consider this legislation and bring it to the floor and I appreciate his support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, it certainly is appropriate to honor Judge Lambros, who played a role in a very important area of law that often is poorly understood and overlooked, and that is the voluntary public defender program that provides free counsel for indigent criminal defendants. Judge Lambros was responsible for reforms in this area of the law that are very significant, and he laid the groundwork for, but his work preceded the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Gideon versus Wainwright* that guaranteed free counsel to indigent criminal defendants.

It is often difficult for us to understand and to take up the cause of those who are indigent and who have committed a crime, but nonetheless they deserve in our legal system legal counsel.

For a judge who provided that kind of distinguished leadership in an often neglected and poorly understood area of the law, it is appropriate to honor Judge Lambros by naming a Federal building and courthouse in his honor. He is a good friend of the Democratic leader on the subcommittee, Mr. TRAFICANT, who has been an advocate for this cause, and I compliment the gentleman, and I know that today we will again pass this legislation so justly deserved.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] for his comments and remarks.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the distinguished career of Judge Lambros, who retired in February, he embraced the rule of law, human rights, and social justice for all citizens. I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor him than to name this courthouse and have this courthouse bear his name.

Judge Lambros was born in Ashtabula, OH, where he graduated from Ashtabula High School. He attended Fairmont State College in Fairmont, WV, and received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1952. From 1954 to 1956 he served in the U.S. Army; distinguished service, I might add. In 1960, Judge Lambros was elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Ohio's Ashtabula County. He was re-elected to a second full term without opposition, as his reputation for fairness continued to grow.

In 1967, that fairness was nevertheless recognized by former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who nominated Judge Lambros to the Federal bench, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio. As a district court judge, as so aptly stated by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], Judge

Lambros was responsible for many important reforms, such as the voluntary public defender program to provide indigent criminal defendants with free counsel. His groundbreaking work, Members, in this area preceded the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Gideon versus Wainwright*, which guaranteed free counsel to indigent criminal defendants.

In 1990, Judge Lambros became chief judge in the Northern District of Ohio. From there he officially retired in February 1995.

Mr. Speaker, this is a most beautiful man. His efforts in the field of law will be remembered for years. I urge all to support this legislation.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] and all of those who participated for such help and ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers on this bill. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] for his work on this, and I too urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 869, as amended.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ROMANO L. MAZZOLI FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 965) to designate the Federal building located at 1600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place in Louisville, KY, as the "Romano L. Mazzoli Federal Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 965

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 600 Martin Luther King, Jr. Place in Louisville, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the "Romano L. Mazzoli Federal Building".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the Under States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Romano L. Mazzoli Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 965, a bill which designates the Federal building located in Louisville, KY, as the "Romano L. Mazzoli Federal Building." Romano L. Mazzoli was born and raised in Louisville, KY. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, he served in the Army for 2 years before returning to attend law school at the University of Louisville. Ron was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1960, and began practicing law in Louisville. In 1967, he began his career in public service by being elected to the Kentucky Senate, where he served from 1968 to 1970. In 1970, he was elected to join the House of Representatives, and the people of Kentucky's 3d Congressional District returned him to Washington in 11 subsequent elections, where he served from 1970 to his retirement in 1994.

Mr. Mazzoli may be best remembered for his tireless efforts on immigration issues. He was also an active voice on issues concerning campaign finance reform, smoking in public places, and cigarette advertising. Romano Mazzoli built a strong reputation as one of the most dedicated ethical and courageous Members ever to serve in Congress. Naming this Federal Building in his honor would be a fitting tribute to this distinguished former Member of Congress. I urge all Members to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the distinguished ranking Democrat on the committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], our senior Democrat on the subcommittee, for bringing forth this legislation, and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] for his support of the legislation to honor Ron Mazzoli.

Mr. Speaker, I came to know Ron Mazzoli, a very distinguished and special man, when I served on the staff of the Committee on Public Works and on the staff of my predecessor, John Blatnik, when I was administrative assistant and who took Mr. Mazzoli under his wing when Ron was first elected and counseled him in his early days serving in the Congress.

I think what the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] said of Ron Mazzoli epitomizes his service in the Congress: Honor, integrity, respect for the institution, a person who approached each issue on the basis of the merits of the case. He studied every issue that he was about to vote on the House floor, often agonized over votes where there was a conflict, at least ideologically, between a national issue and the views of his constituency.

He always made sure that the vote he cast was the right vote, not just for his district, but also for the national interests. He left a great example that all of us could well follow.

Clearly, his great legacy will be that in the field of immigration. The Simpson-Mazzoli Act that shapes the current body of immigration laws is one that scholars, attorneys, and Federal agency administrators will pour over for years to come. It was his great legacy, along with many other issues that were listed by our chairman.

For me, this is a very personal matter. Ron was a graduate of Notre Dame. I am very proud of his education at Notre Dame. When my son graduated from high school, Notre Dame was at the top of his list of universities that he wanted to attend, and he was a little uncertain about Notre Dame and I arranged for Ron to visit with him. It was Ron's encouragement, painting a picture of the quality of education, but especially the values.

Whether you agree with Notre Dame on football or basketball or any other sports activity, on the matter of values I think there can be no question of the standard set by Notre Dame. It was that that persuaded Ted, and he entered Notre Dame on a scholarship, graduated with distinction, is now pursuing a master's degree in theology, and with very fond and very warm memories of Ron Mazzoli.

I mention that because so often I saw him take time with young people to talk to them about education, about career, and about values, and about what is important in life. That we name a Federal building in his honor is a tribute to his service to this country and to his care and concern for what this institution is all about, the people we represent. No one served them better than Ron Mazzoli.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS], a colleague of Mr. Mazzoli.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as the dean of the Kentucky delegation this year, I am honored today to rise and strongly support this bill and praise my most immediate predecessor as the dean of the delegation, our friend Ron Mazzoli.

Kentucky, Mr. Speaker, has been blessed with many outstanding Representatives in the Congress during the 20th century. The names are in history. Carl Perkins, Tim Lee Carter, John Sherman Cooper, and of course the unparalleled Bill Natcher, to name just a few. There have been many others of an outstanding nature as well, but Ron Mazzoli is another Member who distinguished our State and certainly this body.

First elected in 1970, Ron served nearly a quarter of a century in the Congress, representing Louisville and most of Jefferson County. As many of my colleagues know, Ron retired last

year to return to Louisville to spend more time with his wonderful wife, Helen, and their children and grandchildren. He was and still remains a great man, admired at home and certainly here in Washington.

□ 1615

Ron, as the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] has said, was a very conscientious and very determined legislator. He stood fast to his beliefs and dealt honorably with supporters and adversaries alike. If he made his mind up to vote a certain way on a bill, it did not matter who was President or who was Speaker or who was chairman of this or whatever, Ron Mazzoli would vote his conscience regardless of the consequences. That is what made him a very valued and valuable Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Even in the heat of battle, Ron's principled manner drew nothing but cooperation and respect from all Members of this body.

He pursued with intelligence and vigor the different issues of our Nation's immigration policies as chairman of that subcommittee on Judiciary. He became the foremost expert, in fact, on immigration, something completely unrelated to his district in Louisville, but it was his responsibility here in the Congress that was assigned to him, and he did it to the utmost ability that he had, which was great. And so he became the foremost expert on that very arcane subject and his work is reflected in the major laws that govern immigration in this country to this day.

Ron was also a sentry for the disadvantaged, working on any number of issues for more than 20 years of service on the Committee on the Judiciary. First and foremost, however, he worked for the Third District of Kentucky, for the people who honored him with their many years of devoted support.

In Ron's last speech to the Congress on November 29, 1994, he said, "This is the kind of day that is steeped in nostalgia, as we look backward, but also look forward to new lives."

That is Ron Mazzoli. Always remembering the good times with a warm heart but looking forward to new challenges and new opportunities with a smile.

I am very pleased to join Ron's many friends here in this body to this day. I know of no Member who made more friends across that aisle than did Ron Mazzoli. I am very pleased to join many of them here today as we seek to pass this legislation to name the Federal building that has been designated for our friend Ron Mazzoli. It is an honor he has earned through his years of dedication and service for the people of his district, for Kentucky, and for our Nation.

So I hope today we pass this legislation as a symbol of the respect that Ron Mazzoli earned along the way.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to help us pass our bill, and that bill is a large one indeed that we owe to Ron Mazzoli for service to his Nation.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WARD] the outstanding individual who has succeeded our fine past Member Ron Mazzoli.

Mr. WARD. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my friends and colleagues, especially proud to follow my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS], in speaking on behalf of this bill today.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation which will serve as a lasting tribute to such a distinguished Member who served in this body for 24 years.

Ron Mazzoli, as many Members who had the privilege to serve with him know, earned the reputation as one of the most devoted and ethical Members ever to serve in this House. His work on immigration issues and campaign finance reform will continue to serve as a lasting testament to his years of public service for many years to come.

I have had the pleasure of succeeding Ron Mazzoli here and of being, I hope, associated with the kind of commitment that he had by virtue of that succession. I also served in the Kentucky legislature where Congressman Mazzoli served with great distinction for 4 years.

I serve in this Congress and feel that it is a great honor to be able to say when I introduced myself to my new colleagues upon arrival that I have Ron Mazzoli's seat.

As an unassuming man, Ron Mazzoli would never ask for this distinction or seek to have it bestowed upon him. But no one is more deserving of such an honor.

I urge all Members to support this legislation because by doing so this Congress will give me the privilege of going to my district office by walking into the Romano L. Mazzoli Federal Building.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL]. Due to travel schedules, he had a little rough time getting here exactly on time. He is one of the sponsors of the legislation honoring and naming the building after Judge Thurgood Marshall and will speak out order on that bill as well as on this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my friend from Ohio for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also add my voice in the designation of H.R. 965, to designate the Federal building in Louisville, KY, as the Romano Mazzoli Federal Building.

Having served with Ron Mazzoli, I can think of no greater or fitting honor and I am just delighted that this bill is here this afternoon. I know that all of our colleagues will support it, because

Ron was truly one of the great members of Congress with which many of us served.

I am here today also now to thank my colleagues for the passage of the bill which commemorates one of the most distinguished Americans of this century, and that is the designation of the U.S. courthouse in White Plains, NY, as the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. As representatives of the Westchester, NY, area I am here on behalf of Congresswomen NITA LOWEY, SUE KELLY, and Congressman BEN GILMAN to urge the bestowal of this honor in memory of an historic and influential man, and the ideals for which he stood.

Mr. Marshall, as we know, began his distinguished career in private practice. Specializing in civil rights cases, he represented clients who very often could not afford to pay for his services. As the national counsel of the NAACP, Mr. Marshall spent much of his time in the South furthering the cause of civil rights and challenging segregated education. In 1954, Mr. Marshall's struggle for integrated education culminated in his argument before the Supreme Court in the landmark *Brown versus Board of Education* case. Following this decision, he focused his energies on the elimination of segregation and discrimination in voting, housing, public accommodations, as well as within our defense.

He chose to fight the battle of civil rights on a different front when he accepted President Kennedy's appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He continued to break down the walls of segregation on the other side of the bench, accepting posts traditionally held by white males. As solicitor general he argued such cases as the Voting Rights Act of 1965, abolishing literacy requirements, voter qualification tests, and poll taxes.

On June 13, 1967, Thurgood Marshall, the great grandson of an African man brought to this country as a slave, was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States, the first African-American to hold that position. As a Supreme Court Justice, Mr. Marshall continued his work in the name of individual rights for minorities, women, and all those who for so long did not have a voice in our Government.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the highlights in the distinguished career of a man who earned the respect of his colleagues through his intelligence, hard work, and commitment to the civil rights of all Americans. Mr. Marshall said of himself that he hoped to be thought of as one who did the best he could with what he had. We know that he deserves a better and more lasting memory.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators, the Common Council of the City of White Plains, the African-American Federation of Westchester, the White Plains-Greenburgh Federation of the NAACP, and the constitu-

ents of Westchester County have asked that we name the courthouse at 300 Quarropas Street as a lasting memorial to Mr. Marshall's legacy. Sixty years ago Mr. Marshall was at the forefront of a movement at its inception. The struggle for civil rights for minorities is one which we continue today. What tribute could be more fitting for a man who fought tirelessly for the cause of civil rights than to provide a tangible symbol of the principles of law and justice which will be defended within the walls of the courthouse.

I again thank my colleagues for passing this bill. I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] for his hospitality. I urge the passage of this other fitting tribute to Ron Mazzoli.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a sponsor of the bill, I am very proud to bring this legislation forth. I believe the record, as has been depicted in the statements made here by so many Members, justifiably brings forth the great contributions that Ron Mazzoli has made to the Nation and to his district.

I was a very good friend of Ron's. Being that he was an old Notre Dame grad and I was a University of Pittsburgh grad, we had certainly debated a lot about Pitt-Notre Dame games. But in addition to that we worked very hard on some common issues.

Maybe a little bit off the record here, I had the occasion to have a call from his mom, 83 years old. She was just so tickled that her son would be memorialized in such a fashion to have a building named after his distinguished record.

I think that that phone call basically said it all. There are many people that take tremendous interest in what we do here. Sometimes we overlook the contributions that many of them made to help many of us get here to serve our Nation. I am sure Mrs. Mazzoli back in Kentucky today is very proud. I would like to thank Mrs. Mazzoli for producing such a fine American who served so well in the Congress of the United States, ladies and gentlemen. I urge all to support this bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, urge an "aye" vote on this bill and would like to echo the sentiments of my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], to restate that Mr. Mazzoli, a Member of Congress, epitomizes what all of us would seek to be like, an honorable man, a just man, and without a doubt a good friend.

I urge support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 965.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### JUDGE ISAAC C. PARKER FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1804) to designate the United States Post Office-Courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR, as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1804

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Post Office-Courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building".

#### SEC. 2 REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Post Office-Courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1804, a bill to designate the United States Post Office-Courthouse located in Fort Smith, AR, as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building." Judge Parker is a legendary figure in Arkansas, and his fame extends to the surrounding States as well. He was a soldier, a lawyer, a member of Congress, and a judge. In 1875 after his retirement from Congress, President Ulysses Grant appointed him Chief Justice of the Utah Territory. However, at the President's request, he resigned to accept appointment to the United States Court for the Western District of Arkansas. The Western District Court had fallen into disrepute due to the actions of Judge Parker's predecessor, Judge William Story. Under the threat of impeachment, Judge Story had departed. The jurisdiction of the court covered the western half of Arkansas and what is now the entire State of Oklahoma. Judge Parker dedicated himself to reestablishing the court as a power in the land. During his service the court disposed of a grand total of 13,500 cases, of which 12,000 were criminal. Of the 12,000 criminal charges, 8,600 resulted in criminal convictions, either by jury trials or guilty

pleas. Judge Parker is best known for his reputation and nickname as the "hanging judge." Reportedly, he sentenced more men to the gallows than any other jurist in United States history. This reputation is particularly interesting in light of reports that he did not believe in capital punishment. But he did believe in the law, and is quoted as saying "I've never hanged a man, it is the law that has done it." Judge Parker died in November 1896. Perhaps nothing illustrates more vividly the legacy of Judge Parker than the request of the citizens of Fort Smith, almost 100 years later, to name the Federal building in their city in his honor. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the distinguished ranking member.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], the ranking member on the subcommittee, and the chairman, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST], for bringing forth this bill.

This is certainly a case of a tribute long delayed and an honor bestowed in a manner that certainly is appropriate. When a man is so great that the people of a community a century later ask that he be memorialized in a particular way, then certainly the Congress ought to respond to that appeal as we are doing today by naming the Federal building at Fort Smith, AR, in honor of Judge Parker, whose great career, whose remarkable career has been spelled out by Chairman GILCHREST.

I urge support of the legislation.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON].

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, let me first say I appreciate your assistance in bringing this bill to the floor today. I would also like to thank Chairman SHUSTER, as well as ranking member OBERSTAR and subcommittee ranking member TRAFICANT for their assistance.

This bill, H.R. 1804, would name the Federal building in Fort Smith, AR, after Judge Isaac Parker. Judge Parker is a great figure in Arkansas and the surrounding States. He was a soldier, a Congressman, a lawyer, and a judge.

In 1875 after his retirement from the U.S. Congress, President Grant appointed Isaac Parker as chief justice of the Utah Territory. However, at the request of the President, Parker resigned to accept appointment as judge of the United States Court for the Western District of Arkansas.

The court had fallen into disrepute because of the actions of Parker's predecessor. The President asked Parker to "stay a year or two in Fort Smith and get things straightened out."—Ended up staying 21 years.

When he assumed office Judge Parker dedicated himself to the reestablish-

ment of the court as a power in the land. The court calendar tells the story. It was a court of no vacations except for Sundays and Christmas. During his service the court disposed of a grand total of 13,500 cases, of which 12,000 were criminal. Of the 12,000 criminal charges 8,600 resulted in convictions.

However, Judge Parker is best known for his reputation as the "hanging judge." He unquestionably sentenced more men to the gallows than any other jurist in United States history. His nickname is particularly interesting in light of reports that Parker himself did not believe in capital punishment. But he did believe in the laws, and is quoted as having said, "I've never hanged a man. It is the law that has done it."

Off the bench, Judge Parker was known as a humorous and friendly man, devoted to his family and respected by all as a man of incorruptible integrity. He was active in local affairs and served for several years as president of the Fort Smith School Board.

The year or two that President Grant requested him to stay stretched out to 21, until his death in 1896. He had accomplished the goal of the President, as well as his own, to restore respect to the court and the law of the land, and to safeguard the citizens of his jurisdiction.

Judge Parker is buried in the national cemetery in Fort Smith near the court that he had so faithfully served for over two decades.

Perhaps nothing illustrates the legacy of Judge Parker more than the request of the citizens of Fort Smith, almost 100 years later, to name the Federal building in his honor. This is a remarkable and fitting tribute.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to another Arkansan, Mr. Larry Degen. The city of Fort Smith is currently planning events to mark the 100th anniversary of Judge Parker's death. The naming of the city's Federal building is one of the main initiatives that is being planned in connection with this anniversary.

Larry Degen was a very active leader in planning this celebration. In particular, he was one of the first people who contacted me requesting legislation to name the Federal building in honor of Judge Parker.

Larry continued to call and write me, encouraging Congress to move forward with this legislation in time for the anniversary. His last call was on October 27th. Tragically, Larry died on October 31st at the very young age of 47. A businessman, church member, community activist, father, and grandfather, Larry Degen represents the true spirit of the people of Fort Smith. I am sure Judge Parker would've been honored to know that a man of Larry's caliber worked on the legislation that honors his name.

I would urge my colleagues to support this measure.