

JUDGE ISAAC C. PARKER FEDERAL BUILDING

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NOVEMBER 28, 1995.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. SHUSTER, from the Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1804]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1804) to designate the United States Post Office-Courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, as the “Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building”, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Judge Parker is a legendary figure in Arkansas and the surrounding states. As a soldier, a congressman, a lawyer, and a judge, his accomplishments were many.

In 1875 after his retirement from Congress, President Grant appointed him 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 Western District Court had fallen into disrepute because of the actions of Parker’s predecessor, Judge William Story. Under threat of impeachment, Story departed, and the President appointed Parker, asking him to “stay a year or two in Fort Smith and get things straightened out.”

Judge Parker’s court had jurisdiction over the western half of the State of Arkansas and over what is now the entire State of Oklahoma—which was called the Indian territory.

When he assumed office, Judge Parker dedicated himself to the reestablishment of the court as a power in the land. It was a court of no vacations except for Sundays and Christmas. Sessions often started at 7:30 in the morning, ran until noon, then from 1:30 until 6:00 and occasionally sessions ran far into the night.

The court calendar tells the story—during his service the court disposed of a grant total of 13,500 cases, of which 12,000 were criminal. Of the 12,000 criminal charges, 8,600 resulted in convictions, either by jury trials or guilty pleas.

However, Judge Parker is best known for his reputation as the “hanging judge.” Reportedly, he 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 law, 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. His colleagues said of him that he was one of the finest men that ever lived, whose friendships were eternal, and whose character was truly noble. He was devoted to his family and respected by all as a man of incorruptible integrity. He gave freely to charity and was intensely interested in education, serving as president of the school board at Fort Smith for several years.

The year that President Grant requested him to stay stretched out to twenty-one, until his death in November 1896. He had accomplished two goals of the President, as well as his own. These goals were to restore respect to the court and the law of the land, and to safeguard the citizens of his jurisdiction from the lawlessness that often pervaded the western frontier.

Judge Parker is buried in the National Cemetery in Forth 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 one hundred years later, to name the Federal building in their city in his honor.

Naming the United States Post Office and Courthouse in Fort Smith, Arkansas would be a fitting tribute to this distinguished jurist.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH RULE XI

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

(1) The Committee had held hearings on this legislation on June 15, 1995.

(2) The requirements of section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are not applicable to this legislation since it does not provide new budget authority or new or increased tax expenditures.

(3) The Committee has received no report from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of oversight findings and recommendations arrived at under clause 4(C)(2) of rule X of the rules of the House of Representatives.

(4) With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, a cost estimate by the Congressional Budget Office was received by the Committee. The report follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, November 20, 1995.*

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House  
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 1804, a bill to designate the United States post office-courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building." The bill was ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on November 16, 1995.

We estimate that enacting this bill would result in no significant cost to the federal government and in no cost to state or local governments. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is John R. Righter.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM  
(For June E. O'Neill, *Director*).

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Under (2)(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure estimates that enactment of H.R. 1804 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires a statement of the estimated cost to the United States which will be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1804, as reported, in fiscal year 1996, and each of the following 5 years. The implementation of this legislation is not expected to result in any increased costs to the United States.

COMMITTEE ACTION AND VOTE

In compliance with clause (2)(l)(2) (A) and (B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, at a meeting of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on November 16, 1995, a quorum being present, H.R. 1804 was unanimously approved by a voice vote and ordered reported.