

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 532

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

AN ACT

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the “Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Judge Harold L. Murphy was born in
4 Felton, Georgia, in 1927.

5 (2) He attended West Georgia College before
6 serving in the United States Navy during the closing
7 years of World War II.

8 (3) He resumed his studies at the University of
9 Mississippi and the University of Georgia School of
10 Law, where he graduated in 1949.

11 (4) He began a law practice in Haralson Coun-
12 ty, Georgia, and in 1950 was elected to the Georgia
13 House of Representatives as the youngest Member
14 at the time.

15 (5) Judge Murphy served five consecutive terms
16 before stepping down in 1961 to focus on practicing
17 law.

18 (6) In 1971, Judge Murphy was appointed by
19 Governor Jimmy Carter to the Superior Court for
20 the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit, and following his
21 election in 1976, President Carter nominated Judge
22 Murphy to the United States District Court for the
23 Northern District of Georgia.

24 (7) Judge Murphy was confirmed by the United
25 States Senate on July 28, 1977.

1 (8) For 45 years, he served his country on the
2 Federal bench and became an acclaimed jurist and
3 legal icon with a stellar reputation that extended far
4 beyond Georgia.

5 (9) He always displayed a quick wit and a keen
6 sense of humor, was kind and empathetic, and treat-
7 ed all those who appeared before him with courtesy
8 and respect.

9 (10) Judge Murphy worked tirelessly and car-
10 ried a full docket until the age of 90, when he took
11 senior judge status in the Northern District of Geor-
12 gia.

13 (11) He continued to preside over cases until
14 his death on December 28, 2022.

15 (12) Judge Murphy received many professional
16 awards and recognitions, including from the State
17 Bar of Georgia and the University of Georgia School
18 of Law.

19 (13) In 2014, Alabama State University re-
20 named its graduate school after Judge Murphy in
21 recognition of his landmark ruling in *Knight v. Ala-*
22 *bama*, a long-running case that the Eleventh Circuit
23 Court of Appeals asked him to handle involving the
24 vestiges of racial segregation then present in the
25 Alabama University System.

5 The Federal building and United States courthouse
6 located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, shall
7 be known and designated as the “Harold L. Murphy Fed-
8 eral Building and United States Courthouse”.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.