

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4536

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”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2024

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

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,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress finds the following:

5               (1) Judge Harold L. Murphy was born in  
6       Felton, Georgia, in 1927.

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

4           (3) He resumed his studies at the University of  
5           Mississippi and the University of Georgia School of  
6           Law, where he graduated in 1949.

7           (4) He began a law practice in Haralson Coun-  
8           ty, Georgia, and in 1950 was elected to the Georgia  
9           House of Representatives as the youngest Member  
10          at the time.

11          (5) Judge Murphy served five consecutive terms  
12          before stepping down in 1961 to focus on practicing  
13          law.

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

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

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

1           (9) He always displayed a quick wit and a keen  
2 sense of humor, was kind and empathetic, and treat-  
3 ed all those who appeared before him with courtesy  
4 and respect.

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

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

11           (12) Judge Murphy received many professional  
12 awards and recognitions, including from the State  
13 Bar of Georgia and the University of Georgia School  
14 of Law.

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

22           (14) Above all else, Judge Murphy was a loving  
23 and devoted husband and father—and a strong role  
24 model.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.**

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

6 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

7       Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document,  
8 paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal  
9 building and United States courthouse referred to in sec-  
10 tion 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Harold  
11 L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Court-  
12 house”.

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