

point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' review, and urge all Members of the House of Representatives to express their support for the work of the Holocaust Memorial Museum by cosponsoring this legislation, House Resolution 316.

H. RES. 316

Deploring individuals who deny the historical reality of the Holocaust and commending the vital, ongoing work of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Whereas the Holocaust is a basic fact of history, the denial of which is no less absurd than the denial of the occurrence of the Second World War;

Whereas the Holocaust—the systematic, state-sponsored mass murders by Nazi Germany of 6,000,000 Jews, alongside millions of others, in the name of a perverse racial theory—stands as one of the most ferociously heinous state acts the world has ever known; and

Whereas those who promote the denial of the Holocaust do so out of profound ignorance or for the purpose of furthering anti-Semitism and racism: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) deplores the persistent, ongoing and malicious efforts by some persons in this country and abroad to deny the historical reality of the Holocaust; and

(2) commends the vital, ongoing work of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which memorializes the victims of the Holocaust and teaches all who are willing to learn profoundly compelling and universally resonant moral lessons.

H.R. 1804, THE JUDGE ISAAC  
PARKER FEDERAL BUILDING

HON. Y. TIM HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, recently the House passed H.R. 1804, which would name the Federal building in Fort Smith, AR, after Judge Issac Parker.

While this legislation was overwhelmingly supported by 373 Members of the House, there were 40 Members who voted against H.R. 1804. It was subsequently reported that a number of Members who voted against the bill did so because they believed Judge Parker was a racist and one was even quoted as saying Parker "Hung blacks because they were black."

This past year our country faced the issue of race in ways it never had before. It is a sad and unfortunate fact that racism is alive and well in our society today. It is also a fact that racism knows no color or ethnic boundaries. People of all races are subject to their own prejudices. We must all fight to overcome our own personal prejudices and biases.

That is why I cannot allow the statements about Judge Parker to go unanswered. I think it is important for people to know the real Judge Parker and the man that he was. He was a man who was ahead of his time. He was a man who freely gave of himself to his community. He was a man who had a deep respect for the law and a deep concern for those who came before his court. His reputation is so respected that 100 years after his death the citizens of Fort Smith, AR still want to honor him and his legacy.

I would, therefore, bring to your attention letters which were sent to me from the Department of the Interior the day after the vote on H.R. 1804. One is from the superintendent of the Fort Smith National Historic Site and the other is a letter to the editor by the park historian. I hope this information is helpful to Members' understanding of the real Judge Parker.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,  
Fort Smith, AR, December 6, 1995.

Hon. TIM HUTCHINSON,  
U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON: We have been following your efforts over the last few months to rename the Fort Smith federal building in honor of Judge Isaac C. Parker with great interest and support. I read the news article in this morning's paper and was surprised and disappointed to read the statements calling Judge Parker a racist and the unsubstantiated remarks that he hanged blacks "just because they were black". There is no historical record supporting these statements. In fact the record proves just the opposite. Our historian has written the attached letter to the editor to hopefully clarify the issue. She also received a call today from the AP service in Little Rock about this and she provided the same information to them. We are forwarding similar letters to Senators Bumpers and Pryor in the hopes that they will also support your efforts.

I am sorry that we did not offer you more substantial support earlier in the process. I was frankly surprised that there would be much protest. If we can provide you any further details or information please call on us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM N. BLACK,  
Superintendent.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,  
Forth Smith, AR, December 6, 1995.

EDITOR,  
Southwest Times Record,  
Forth Smith, AR.

TO THE EDITOR: In response to criticism of Isaac C. Parker leveled by lawmakers opposing the House bill to name the federal courthouse in Fort Smith after the judge, I would like to make the following comments. The statement that Parker hanged African Americans "just because they were black" is simply not true. Of the 87 men who were executed on the Fort Smith gallows (79 of those while Parker was on the bench), 33 (38%) were white, 36 (41%) were Indian and 18 (21%) were black. Of those 18 African Americans, 17 were convicted of murder and one of rape in jury trials. Federal statute at that time ordered that anyone convicted of rape or murder was to receive the death penalty. Parker had no choice except to sentence these people to death.

Furthermore, Parker provided opportunities for African Americans that otherwise would not have been available. He appointed Bass Reeves the first African American deputy U.S. marshal west of the Mississippi in 1875. Other blacks served prominently on the deputy force throughout Parker's years in Fort Smith, including Grant Johnson, Zeke Miller, Robert Fortune, John Garrett and Bynum Colbert. Parker's personal bailiff while he was in Fort Smith was a former slave named George Winston. Other African Americans served on the staff of the federal jail at Fort Smith.

Nothing in the historical record supports the idea that Parker was a racist. The Ohio native, Union Civil War veteran and Congressman from Missouri used his position as

a federal judge to empower African Americans. Yes, there were black men hanged on the gallows, but these were convicted criminals guilty of severe crimes. By the time they reach Parker's courtroom, there was little he could do but provide them a fair trial and then, if necessary, sentence them as the law provided.

Sincerely,

JULIET L. GALONKA,  
Park Historian.

AWARD-WINNING ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSCIOUSNESS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important issues for the future of our Nation is the application of responsible environmental policy. Our natural resources are most precious, and cannot be replaced. Our policy decisions must be based upon careful deliberations sounded in credible, objective, and thorough information. I am proud to say that the Bay City Times has been tremendously successful in meeting this test with its award-winning series, "Cleaning our Troubled Waters".

Over an 8-day period last year, the Bay City Times carefully examined the facts surrounding the condition of the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River. The State of Michigan had dedicated this waterway as the most contaminated body of water in the State. The people who live around the Saginaw Bay and River, and who depend upon it as a source of water, recreation, and commerce, deserved and needed accurate information, and they got it.

Nearly half of the editorial staff of the Times worked on this series over a 10-month period, carefully checking and rechecking information to provide as accurate a view of the situation as possible. Their hard work resulted in four major awards: the 1994 Associated Press Division 2 News Sweepstakes Award; 1st place in the 1994 AP Division 2 Public Service for News; Michigan United Conservation Club's Ben East Award; and 2d place for Local News Reporting from the Michigan Press Association.

Following an exhaustive review of environmental records, numerous site visits, extensive interviews, this series has enlightened many of us who truly care about how we preserve the Saginaw Water Basin, how we keep funding alive for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative, and what each of us can do to be more aware of the impact that we have on our environment.

I want to offer my heartiest congratulations to the dedicated staff who worked on this series: Reporters Eric English, Kelly Adrian Frick, Tom Gilchrist, Greta Guest, Lydia Hodges, John Herbst, Jenni Laidman, and Amy Reyes; photographers Wes Stafford and Dick Van Nostrand; graphic artist Tammie Stimpfel; and editors Elizabeth Gunther, Pam Panchak and David Vizard. These people contributed to the work of a lifetime, and their efforts should have a major impact on public policy designed to safeguard the Saginaw Bay and River. I also want to compliment Bay City Times publisher Kevin Dykema and editor Paul Keep for having the foresight to devote this level of skilled resources to a project that