Dedication
of the

JAMES T. FOLEY
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Albany, New York
Thursday, October 27, 1988
JAMES THOMAS FOLEY

A native New Yorker, James T. Foley has had a remarkable career serving both his state and nation with distinction. Born in Troy, Judge Foley graduated from Troy Catholic Central High School, from Fordham College in New York City and Albany Law School. He received his law degree in June 1934, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in September, 1934.

He entered private law practice in Troy in 1935, and in 1936 became associated with the Honorable Abraham C. Goldstein in such practice. In 1938 he served as assistant legal counsel during the New York State Constitutional Convention. From 1939 to 1942 he served as law clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice William H. Murray of the Third Judicial District in addition to maintaining his private law practice as a trial lawyer and appellate counsel.

Foley interrupted his promising legal career and enlisted as an Apprentice Seaman in the U.S. Navy in February, 1942. After combat service in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters, he was separated honorably in September, 1945 from active service with the rank of Lieutenant Senior Grade.

At the conclusion of World War II, Foley resumed his private law practice and position with Justice Murray. On February 2, 1949, President Harry S. Truman appointed him a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. At that time, he was the youngest judge on the federal bench. In May, 1963, Foley became Chief Judge of the Northern District, a position he held until June 30, 1980. He is now serving as a Senior Judge in the Northern District that has federal jurisdiction in thirty-two (32) New York State counties.

Judge Foley has presided at hundreds of criminal and civil court and jury trials throughout the Northern District, and has presided at such trials in the federal district courts in New York City, Brooklyn and Vermont. His designated official residence and chambers has always been in the federal court house in the City of Albany.

Judge Foley is the recipient of a number of special honors and awards. The Albany Law School presented him with its Gold Medal for Distinguished Public Service in 1973, Siena College conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1979, and the Federal Bar Council awarded its Certificate in recognition of 35 years of outstanding judicial service. On January 1, 1986, the Tricentennial year for the City of Albany, Judge Foley acted as Master of Ceremonies at the Inauguration and Reception held in the Convention Center, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza, administering the oath of office to the newly elected Mayor of Albany, Thomas M. Whalen, III.

Judge Foley is a member of the Troy Lodge of Elks, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Knights of Columbus. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, and the New York State and Rensselaer County Bar Associations.

Judge Foley resides in the Town of North Greenbush, with his wife of thirty-five (35) years, the former Eleanor M. Anthony. Their daughter, Mary Jude Foley, is an accomplished equestrienne who owns M.J. Farms, a boarding stable for fine show horses in North Greenbush, New York.
PROGRAM

PRELUDE MUSIC
Christian Brothers Academy Band

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
William J. Diamond, Regional Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
The Right Reverend Monsignor Edward L. O'Malley
St. Mary's R.C. Church, Albany

GREETINGS
The Honorable Thomas M. Whalen
Mayor of Albany
The Honorable James J. Coyne
County Executive, County of Albany
The Honorable Mario Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
The Honorable Neal P. McCurn, Chief Judge
U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
The Honorable Francis Bergan
Judge, New York Court of Appeals (Retired)
The Honorable Roger J. Miner
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

PRESENTATION OF FLAG

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
"America The Beautiful" by Mary Jude Foley

REMARKS
The Honorable Gerald B. Solomon
U.S. Representative, 24th District of New York
The Honorable Sameul S. Stratton
U.S. Representative, 23rd District of New York
The Honorable Alfonse M. D'Amato
U.S. Senator, State of New York
The Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan
U.S. Senator, State of New York

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE

RESPONSE
The Honorable James T. Foley

BENEDICTION
The Reverend Harry Donaghy, Pastor
St. Mary's R.C. Church, Troy
SPECIAL THANKS

Commander Thomas Hayes
U.S. Navy Recruiting District, Albany

Owen Johnson
Bandmaster, Christian Brothers Academy Band

Brother William Martin
Director, Christian Brothers Academy

Mary Beth Quinn
Secretary to Judge Foley

Joseph R. Scully
Clerk, U.S. District Court
Northern District of New York

ABOUT THE BUILDING

The United States Post Office, Courthouse and Custom House in Albany was completed and opened in 1934. A marble structure, it was constructed in the Art Deco style popular during that era and evident in many other government buildings.

The newly-named James T. Foley United States Courthouse is currently home to the local federal courts and the offices of approximately twenty-five different federal agencies.

Of special interest in the building are the nine large ceiling murals in the lobby, painted by a Depression-period artist under the work Projects Administration. The murals reflect a map of the world. The world as it was in 1935, when a young Albany lawyer named James T. Foley had just started his impressive legal career.
Public Law 100–189
100th Congress

An Act

Oct. 14, 1988
[H.R. 4188]

To designate the United States courthouse located at 445 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the “James T. Foley United States Courthouse”.

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 courthouse located at 445 Broadway in Albany, New York, shall be known and designated as the “James T. Foley United States Courthouse”.

SEC. 2. LEGAL REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James T. Foley United States Courthouse”.


LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4188:

HOUSE REPORTS No. 100–699 (Comm. on Public Works and Transportation).
Sept. 22, considered and passed House.
Oct. 4, considered and passed Senate.
By John Galzer

Congress honors Judge Foley and his ‘second home’

ALBANY — From his perch on the fourth floor of the federal courthouse in Albany, Senior U.S. District Judge James T. Foley has spent nearly four decades serving his name on decisions mundane and monumental, some remembered, many forgotten.

On Oct. 27, the 78-year-old jurist appointed by President Harry S. Truman will become a permanent part of the courthouse itself when the newly renovated Foley U.S. District Court will be dedicated.

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate resolved to designate the 1968-era Bert D. Bates building the James T. Foley U.S. District Court.

The site was proposed several months ago by Court Clerk Joseph R. Scudder and presented to Congress by Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, D-Colonie, New York's entire congressional delegation support of the bill.

"This building became my second home," Foley said. "To have my name associated with it as a United States courthouse is a great honor that I shall always regard with pride and humility."

Foley, who lives in North Greenbush with his wife of 55 years, the former Eleanor Anthony, graduated from Catholic Central High School, Fordham University and Albany Law School and spent five years with the Navy in World War II before launching his judicial career.

He began with a private practice in Albany where he was born, and served as a law clerk to state Supreme Court Justice William H. Murray. In 1968, Foley was active in the Democratic Party, won an alternate delegate to the national convention in which Truman was nominated to run against President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A few months later, Foley, along with Democrat and Albany Democratic state Senator Dennis L. Lenahan, was appointed as a judge in the court by the governor.

"I have always been one to say that I am not a political district judge," Foley said. "Many people — including myself — feel that if the decisions are sound, it will be evident that it has been a good decision."

At Christmas time, 1978, the town of Bethlehem objected to efforts to establish the Job Corps Center there and went to court. Stratton said "Judge Foley was especially helpful in the town and in his opinion the judge noted the remarkable circumstances that an American town could have such a facility in the town without any more trouble that the farmers had to suffer at the time."

In 1980, Foley became chief judge of what was now the 19-county Northern District of New York and remained in that position until 1998, when he opted to become a "senior judge." In that post, he receives his salary, but follows a less hectic schedule in which he can "choose the type of cases he wishes to try."

"Judge Foley now concentrates mainly on railroad matters," Stratton said.

"In the past, Foley was in the forefront of modernizing the court, in areas such as civil rights and alternative action systems," Stratton said.

As a judge, Foley overcame his reluctance to use the power of the federal court and wrote a strongly worded decision that led New York to improve treatment of juvenile offenders.

"It is a hard job for the administration of a federal judge, not to want to damage either the good or the bad," Foley said.

See FOLEY / B-7

Foley

Contingent from B-1

Judge Foley, who is 77, said that he had been out and about before the dedication of the new courthouse.

The dedication ceremony, which included a dedication speech by Judge Foley and the presentation of the model courthouse, was held in the courthouse.

"I think it's wonderful that we have a model courthouse," Foley said.

In a pre-recorded message, Foley said, "I think that it's wonderful that we have a model courthouse."
DEDICATION

JAMES T. FOLEY UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

October 27, 1988

11:00 A.M.

Harry S. Truman, thirty-third president of the United States of America, unleashed two powerful forces -- the atomic bomb and James T. Foley. In designating this building the "James T. Foley United States Courthouse," Congress finally has recognized the more powerful of the two forces.

During his forty years of service as a Federal Judge, Jim Foley has exerted a far-reaching influence on the American System of Justice. Day in and day out, over that period of time, he has decided all his cases, great and small, with compassion; understanding; patience; fundamental fairness; good grace and with great learning and scholarship. His decisions have touched the lives of many, not only here in the Capital Region and the Northern District of New York, where he has served, but throughout the nation. His opinions have been cited far and wide and often have been referred to by the United States Supreme Court. Since he arrived at this building in February of 1949 at age 38, then the youngest federal judge in the country, Jim Foley has established precedent in many "cutting-edge" areas of the law -- in civil rights; in prisoners' litigation; in railroad disability; in trademarks; and in numerous others.
But to me, Jim Foley's greatest strength, his greatest force, has been as a teacher of judges. My father taught me how to be a lawyer, but Jim Foley taught me how to be a judge. He is a judge's judge and an exemplar of what every judge should be. Although he teaches by example, he also has been known to prod his colleagues in his kind and gentle way. "Have you read this new decision or that new decision?" "Have you noticed what Congress has enacted in this area or that area?" "Is your calendar up to date?" As a district judge, I stepped up my reading and writing in order to answer those questions properly, and so did my colleagues. Although I now serve on a different court, he still calls me every day that I am in Albany to ask me these same questions. He really thinks that appellate judges are more in need of guidance than anyone else.

There are lessons for all of us in Jim Foley's example -- kindness; generosity; charity; love for fellowman; patriotism; faith; diligence; dedication and humanity. All these qualities are grounded in a deep concern for people and the effect that the law has on their lives. For Jim Foley is a people person and always has enjoyed meeting his fellow citizens from all walks of life. My wife introduced him to Ivana Trump. He pronounced Ivana a "great lady" and she declared him "very cute." As yet, neither Donald nor Eleanor seems very concerned.

I consider it a great privilege and honor to know Jim Foley. To know him is to learn at first hand the lessons that he teaches. To know him is to love him. Lawyer, law clerk, seaman, naval
officer, district judge, chief judge and now senior judge in point of service in the nation, we fittingly honor this special man, who has honored all of us by his devoted and unselfish service to the nation. May he and his lovely wife, Eleanor, enjoy many more successful seasons at the August meet.
The James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse displays an excellent fusion of Classical and Art Deco style. Designed and constructed under the watchful eye of consulting architect Electus Darwin Litchfield, the Courthouse was completed on August 18, 1933 for the cost of $3,325,000. ($1,510,000 for the purchase of the site and $1,815,000 for construction.)

Kenny Brothers Construction Company of New York City was awarded the construction contract. Kenny Brothers agreed to complete construction in 500 working days by utilizing in excess of 200 workmen.

Exterior Features

The 269 foot frieze fronting Broadway depicts the activities of a Post Office. Carved in marble are depictions of letter carriers, propeller driven airplanes, trains, steamships and trucks working to deliver mail worldwide.

The North end of the building is graced with a 150 foot frieze which depicts the activities of a traditional customs house. Scenes depicting immigration interviews, passport issuance and cargo inspections remind us that Albany’s past is deeply rooted in it’s history as an active port.

The frieze at the South end of the facility is devoted to the activities of the Court. The judge seated behind the bench watches as a witness is sworn in by the bailiff. Twelve attentive jurors observe this scene from the jury box. As was custom in those days, the three jurors to the far right bear a remarkable resemblance to the three prominent architects who worked on the project, John Gander, Electus Litchfield and Norman Sturgis.

Interior Features

Public vestibules: On each end of the main lobby are public vestibules. Each vestibule is equipped with four light standards. Directly above each light standard is plaque displaying a figure holding one of the major forms of modern transportation, an airplane, a locomotive, a truck and a ship.

Stairwells: The stairwells are composed of decorative cast aluminum and were designed by the sculptor Enea Biafora. Within the design of the railing are ornamental panels with three motifs - an airplane, the scales of justice and a beaver (the official animal of New York State). On the stair landings are register grilles. Each grille is divided into two small side panels and a large center panel. Within the large center grille is a panel representing the Great Seal of the United States.

Main lobby: The main lobby is a long rectangular space 20’-7” wide by 186’ long and 17’-1” high. It features nine ceiling maps executed in oil on canvas by Ethel M. Parsons. From North to South these maps depict North America, South America, Australia, the North Pole, the United States, Antarctica, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Separating the Parson maps are relief sculptures of postage stamps featuring famous Americans.

Trivia Question: Can you identify the famous Americans depicted in the relief sculptures of the postage stamps?

Trivia Answers:

From North to South the famous Americans depicted are:
FOLEY, JAMES THOMAS
United States District Judge
Northern District of New York
Office address:
P.O. Box 1709
Post Office & Courthouse Bldg.
Albany, New York 12201
Phone: (518) 472-5665 Com.
      562-5665 FTS
Born: Troy, New York
      July 9, 1910
Home address:
Teliska Avenue
DeFreestville, R.D. #1
Rensselaer, New York 12144
Phone: (518) 283-1321

Judge Foley was appointed United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York on February 2, 1949 and entered on duty February 16, 1949. He served as Chief Judge from May 1, 1963 to June 30, 1969, at which time he took senior judge status. Judge Foley is a graduate of Fordham College, receiving an A.B. degree in 1931, and a graduate of the Albany Law School, receiving an LL.B. degree in 1934.

Judge Foley was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve from 1942 to 1945 and secretary to a New York State Supreme Court Justice, 1939 to 1942 and 1946 to 1949.

Judge Foley is married to the former Eleanor M. Anthony and has one daughter, Mary Jude. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the American Judicature Society. He is an honorary member of the Albany County Bar Association and the Onondaga County Bar Association; and member and trustee of the Rensselaer County Bar Association.

Dec. 8/17/49
49

305
JAMES T. FOLEY
UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT

THIS BUILDING IS NAMED IN HONOR OF

JAMES T. FOLEY

A DISTINGUISHED JURIST OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF N.Y., APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN IN 1949. CHIEF JUDGE FROM 1963 TO 1980, THEN SENIOR JUDGE. A WORLD WAR II NAVY SEAMAN AND LIEUT. A WARM AND ENDURING PRESENCE IN THIS CAPITAL CITY OF ALBANY.

SAMUEL S. STRATTON
U.S. CONGRESSMAN
23RD DISTRICT

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN
U.S. SENATOR

GERALD B. SOLOMON
U.S. CONGRESSMAN

ALFONSE M. D'AMATO
U.S. SENATOR

24TH DISTRICT

RICHARD G. AUSTIN
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WILLIAM J. DIAMOND
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

OCTOBER 1988
JAMES T. FOLEY
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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OCTOBER 1988