

**The original documents are located in Box 22, folder “1975/01/04 HR11897 Gerald R Ford Federal Building (vetoed)” of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Exact duplicates within this folder were not digitized.

POCKET VETO  
(EFF MIDNIGHT 1/4/75)  
MEMO OF DISAPPROVAL  
(DATED 1/4/75) ISSUED 1/4/75

ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 4, 1975

Posted  
1/4/75

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: KEN COLE  
SUBJECT: Memorandum of Disapproval  
H.R. 11897 - Gerald R. Ford  
Federal Office Building

Attached for your signature is a memorandum of disapproval relating to your decision to pocket veto H.R. 11897.

OMB, Phil Areeda, Max Friedersdorf (Loen) and Paul Theis have all approved the proposed memorandum of disapproval.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum of disapproval (Tab A).



1/3

Pres will veto this bill

W. Henderson preparing

approp memo of scrapped.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 870

Date: December 27, 1974

Time: 8:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Geoff Shepard  
Phil Areeda *no obj*  
Max Friedersdorf *MF*

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks  
Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, December 30

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill H.R. 11897 - President Gerald R. Ford  
Federal Office Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action         | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief     | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks            |

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_  
K. R. COLE, JR.  
For the President

12:05

Warren

Hendriks

would like  
you to take  
a look at  
this.

~~No obj~~  
O.K.

Phil Ananda  
Pat O'Donnel



-I have today vetoed H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, a bill which would name the Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan the "Gerald R. Ford Building",

I wish to continue the policy of past Administrations that the Executive Branch not endorse the naming of Federal Office Buildings. Generally, the Executive Branch has deferred to the desires of the Congress on such matters.

While I am grateful for the sentiment expressed by the Congress in passing this bill, it would be improper for me as Chief Executive to sign it. Several of our Federal offices have been named after members of Congress but I can not recall any that have been named after a President while still in office. For an <sup>incumbent</sup> ~~incumbent~~ President to approve legislation naming a Federal building after himself is a precedent I do not wish to establish.

I would hope our Presidents will be remembered for their labors to build better Government rather than for the construction of public works projects. Office buildings for housing the Government's business should not be constructed as monuments to Federal officials but should reflect <sup>common</sup> ~~common~~ needs and be dedicated to all the people they are meant to serve.

Date: December 27, 1974

Time: 8:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Geoff Shepard  
Phil Areeda ✓  
Max Friedersdorf

cc (for information): Warren Hendrik  
Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, December 30

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill H.R. 11897 - President Gerald R. Ford  
Federal Office Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action         | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief     | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks            |

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

*No objection  
P Areeda OK*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Warren K. Hendricks  
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: WARREN HENDRIKS  
FROM: *Max L. Friedersdorf* MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF  
SUBJECT: Action Memorandum - Log No. 870  
Enrolled Bill H. R. 11897

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs in the attached proposal and has no additional recommendations.

Attachment

To  
Hamm Newlands  
12-26-74  
7:00 p.m.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

December 26, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 11897 - President Gerald R.  
Ford Federal Office Building  
Sponsors - Rep. Gray (D) Illinois and 24 others

Last Day for Action

January 4, 1975

Purpose

Names the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan as the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building."

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
General Services Administration	Approval
Administrative Office of the United States Courts	No recommendation

Discussion

In its views letter on the enrolled bill, the General Services Administration "heartily endorses this bill".

*Michael F. Romanell*

Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

*Memorandum of Disapproval*

I have today vetoed H.R. 11897, a bill which would name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building."

Although I appreciate the honor expressed by the Congress in enacting this legislation, I intend to continue the policy of past Administrations that the executive branch not endorse the naming of Federal office buildings. Generally, the executive branch has deferred to the desires of the Congress on such matters.

Although several Federal office buildings have been named for incumbent members of the Congress, I know of none that have been named for a President while still in office. I consider it improper for me as an incumbent President to approve legislation which places my name on a Federal building. This is a precedent I do not wish to establish.

In general, I feel this way: office buildings which house the functions of Government should not be used as monuments to Federal officials, but rather as workshops for the people's business.

In particular, I would hope our Presidents will be remembered for their labors in building better Government rather than for their efforts in constructing public works projects to themselves.



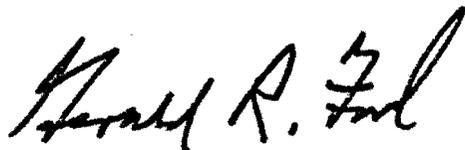
MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have today vetoed H.R. 11897, a bill which would name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building."

Although I appreciate the honor expressed by the Congress in enacting this legislation, I intend to continue the policy of past Administrations that the executive branch not endorse the naming of Federal office buildings. Generally, the executive branch has deferred to the desires of the Congress on such matters.

However, I know of no Federal office buildings that have been named for a President while still in office. This legislation might begin a precedent I believe it best not to establish.

The proposed naming of this facility for me in my home community is a great honor, and one for which I am deeply grateful; however, for the reasons I have assigned above I feel I cannot sign H.R. 11897.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "F" and "D".

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
January 4, 1975

A faint, circular stamp is visible in the lower right quadrant of the page. The text within the stamp is illegible due to fading.

PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD FEDERAL OFFICE  
BUILDING

DECEMBER 16, 1974.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. BLATNIK, from the Committee on Public Works,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 11897]

The Committee on Public Works, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 11897) to name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building at 110 Michigan Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building", having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On the first page, lines 6 and 9, strike out "Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building" and insert "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building".

Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building at 110 Michigan Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building".

BACKGROUND

Gerald R. Ford was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913. He was educated in the public schools of the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan and received a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan where he was a member of Michiganana, a top senior honor. He received a law degree from Yale University Law School in 1941 and was admitted to the Michigan State Bar (1941) and has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He won all-city and all-state football honors in Grand Rapids during high school; while earning three varsity letters, was a member of the University of Michigan's undefeated national championship teams of 1932 and 1933, and was named Michigan's most valuable player in 1934. He entered the U.S. Navy, serving 47 months on active duty during World War II, and participated in 3rd and 5th Fleet carrier operations abroad



the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Monterey* (CVL-26) for two years. Following shore duty with the Naval Aviation Training Program, he was released to inactive duty with rank of Lieutenant Commander in January, 1946.

He was elected to the 81st Congress on November 2, 1948 and served as the Representative of Michigan's 5th district until October 12, 1973 when he became the Vice Presidential designee. During his 25 years in Congress, he served as minority leader, was presented the George Washington Award by the American Good Government Society in May, 1966, chosen by the American Academy of Achievement to receive the Golden Plate Award as one of fifty "giants of accomplishment", presented during the Academy's 10th annual Salute to Excellence in June, 1971, and served as permanent chairman of the 1968 and 1972 Republican National Conventions.

On August 9, 1974 he became the 38th President of the United States, to fill the unexpired term of Richard M. Nixon.

#### COMMITTEE VIEWS

The Committee believes it fitting and proper to name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan as the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building" in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in public service.

#### COST TO THE UNITED STATES

Rule XIII, (7) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires a statement of the estimated costs to the United States which would be included in carrying out H.R. 11897, as reported, in Fiscal Year 1975 and each of the following five Fiscal Years.

Enactment of this legislation will not result in any cost to the United States.

#### VOTE

The committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

H.R. 1601

## PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING

---

DECEMBER 16, 1974.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

---

Mr. BLATNIK, from the Committee on Public Works,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 11897]

The Committee on Public Works, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 11897) to name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building at 110 Michigan Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building", having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On the first page, lines 6 and 9, strike out "Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building" and insert "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building".

Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building at 110 Michigan Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building".

#### BACKGROUND

Gerald R. Ford was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913. He was educated in the public schools of the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan and received a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan where he was a member of Michiganana, a top senior honor. He received a law degree from Yale University Law School in 1941 and was admitted to the Michigan State Bar (1941) and has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He won all-city and all-state football honors in Grand Rapids during high school; while earning three varsity letters, was a member of the University of Michigan's undefeated national championship teams of 1932 and 1933, and was named Michigan's most valuable player in 1934. He entered the U.S. Navy, serving 47 months on active duty during World War II, and participated in 3rd and 5th Fleet carrier operations abroad.

H.R. 1601



the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Monterey* (CVL-26) for two years. Following shore duty with the Naval Aviation Training Program, he was released to inactive duty with rank of Lieutenant Commander in January, 1946.

He was elected to the 81st Congress on November 2, 1948 and served as the Representative of Michigan's 5th district until October 12, 1973 when he became the Vice Presidential designee. During his 25 years in Congress, he served as minority leader, was presented the George Washington Award by the American Good Government Society in May, 1966, chosen by the American Academy of Achievement to receive the Golden Plate Award as one of fifty "giants of accomplishment", presented during the Academy's 10th annual Salute to Excellence in June, 1971, and served as permanent chairman of the 1968 and 1972 Republican National Conventions.

On August 9, 1974 he became the 38th President of the United States, to fill the unexpired term of Richard M. Nixon.

#### COMMITTEE VIEWS

The Committee believes it fitting and proper to name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan as the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building" in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in public service.

#### COST TO THE UNITED STATES

Rule XIII (7) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires a statement of the estimated costs to the United States which would be included in carrying out H.R. 11897, as reported, in Fiscal Year 1975 and each of the following five Fiscal Years.

Enactment of this legislation will not result in any cost to the United States.

#### VOTE

The committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

H.R. 1601



# Ninety-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-first day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four*

## An Act

To name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building at 110 Michigan Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building".

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building located at 110 Michigan Street, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, shall hereafter be known and designated as the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building". Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to such building shall be held to be a reference to the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building".*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

---

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*

Office of the White House Press Secretary

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I have today vetoed H. R. 11897, a bill which would name the United States Courthouse and Federal Office Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the "President Gerald R. Ford Federal Office Building."

Although I appreciate the honor expressed by the Congress in enacting this legislation, I intend to continue the policy of past Administrations that the executive branch not endorse the naming of Federal office buildings. Generally, the executive branch has deferred to the desires of the Congress on such matters.

However, I know of no Federal office buildings that have been named for a President while still in office. This legislation might begin a precedent I believe it best not to establish.

The proposed naming of this facility for me in my home community is a great honor, and one for which I am deeply grateful; however, for the reasons I have assigned above I feel I cannot sign H. R. 11897.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE  
January 4, 1975

December 24, 1974

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on December 24th:

S.J. Res. 40	S. 3481	H.R. 8958 ✓	H.R. 14600 ✓
S.J. Res. 133 ✓	S. 3548	H.R. 8981 ✓	H.R. 14689
S.J. Res. 262 ✓	S. 3934	H.R. 9182 ✓	H.R. 14718 ✓
S. 251	S. 3943 ✓	H.R. 9199 ✓	H.R. 15173 ✓
S. 356	S. 3976 ✓	H.R. 9588 ✓	H.R. 15223
S. 521 ✓	S. 4073 ✓	H.R. 9654 ✓	H.R. 15229 ✓
S. 544 ✓	S. 4206	H.R. 10212 ✓	H.R. 15322
S. 663 ✓	H.J. Res. 1178	H.R. 10701	H.R. 15977
S. 754	H.J. Res. 1180	H.R. 10710	H.R. 16045 ✓
S. 1017	H.R. 421	H.R. 10827 ✓	H.R. 16215 ✓
S. 1083	H.R. 1715 ✓	H.R. 11144	H.R. 16596
S. 1296	H.R. 1820 ✓	H.R. 11273	H.R. 16925
S. 1418	H.R. 2208 ✓	H.R. 11796	H.R. 17010
S. 2149	H.R. 2933	H.R. 11802	H.R. 17045
S. 2446	H.R. 3203 ✓	H.R. 11847 ✓	H.R. 17085
S. 2807 ✓	H.R. 3339 ✓	H.R. 11897	H.R. 17468
S. 2854 ✓	H.R. 5264	H.R. 12044 ✓	H.R. 17558 ✓
S. 2888	H.R. 5463 ✓	H.R. 12113 ✓	H.R. 17597
S. 2994	H.R. 5773	H.R. 12427 ✓	H.R. 17628 ✓
S. 3022	H.R. 7599 ✓	H.R. 12884	H.R. 17655
S. 3289 ✓	H.R. 7684 ✓	H.R. 13022 ✓	
S. 3358 ✓	H.R. 7767 ✓	H.R. 13296	
S. 3359 ✓	H.R. 8214 ✓	H.R. 13869 ✓	
S. 3394 ✓	H.R. 8322 ✓	H.R. 14449	
S. 3433	H.R. 8591 ✓	H.R. 14461 ✓	

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder  
Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable Roy L. Ash  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D. C.