

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today introduced legislation to name the federal courthouse under construction in Ft. Pierce in honor of former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Alto Lee Adams, Sr. The legislation would name the courthouse at 101 South U.S. 1 in Ft. Pierce the “Alto Lee Adams, Sr. United States Courthouse.”

“Chief Justice Adams set the standard for judicial excellence and community service, and he is remembered fondly throughout St. Lucie County and the state of Florida,” Rooney said. “The new federal courthouse under construction in Ft. Pierce will be a great asset to the community, and it’s only fitting to dedicate the courthouse in honor of Alto Adam, Sr.”

Chief Justice Adams was the first graduate of the University of Florida College of Law to become a State Supreme Court Justice and Chief Justice. He practiced law in Fort Pierce from 1924-1938 until he was appointed as Circuit Court Judge for St. Lucie County. In 1940, Adams was appointed by Governor Fred P. Cone to the State Supreme Court, where he served from 1940-1951 and 1967-1968 and as Chief Justice from 1949-1951.

Chief Justice Adams believed it was important to give back to his community, serving as President of the Florida State Elks Association in 1937 and as Vice Chairman of the State Welfare Board. In 1937, he started a cattle ranch named Adams Ranch in St. Lucie County, which is still run by the Adams family.

Representatives Jeff Miller (FL-01), Corrine Brown (FL-03), Ander Crenshaw (FL-04), Rich Nugent (FL-05), Daniel Webster (FL-08), Gus Bilirakis (FL-09), Bill Young (FL-10), Dennis Ross (FL-12), Vern Buchanan (FL-13), Bill Posey (FL-15), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18), Ted Deutch (FL-19), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-20), Mario Diaz-Bilart (FL-21), Allen West (FL-22), Alcee Hastings (FL-23), Sandy Adams (FL-24) and David Rivera (FL-25) cosponsored the bill.

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