

Whitten Building

Bldg. 791



The Whitten Building, dedicated May 15, 1989, is named in honor of Jamie Lloyd Whitten, U.S. Congressman from Mississippi. He was the central force in appropriating funds to build a new AO{A1} school, replacing the old school, which burned down Feb. 16, 1989.

Jamie L. Whitten was born April 18, 1910, in Cascilla, Mississippi, to Alymer Guy and Nettie Early Whitten. He was a lawyer and graduate of the University of Mississippi and was elected for the first time to the Mississippi Legislature at the age of 21 in 1931. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 1941. He served as a Mississippi congressman for 53 years.

Whitten served under 11 presidents, ranging from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Bill Clinton. He also served as Appropriations Committee chairman from 1978-1992.

In 1992 he suffered a stroke, and continued illnesses forced his retirement as a congressman in 1994. He died Sept. 9, 1995.

The 162,000-square-foot training facility was the largest building at the Navy base when it was built and held 22 classrooms, four laboratories and a hangar that could be used to simulate the loading of weapons for an entire squadron on an aircraft carrier. Whitten Building cost \$6.9 million to build and replaced a WWII hangar. At the time of its dedication the building served as the Aviation Ordnanceman Course, Class A1 Applied Instruction Building. Congressman Whitten was honored for his contributions to the modernization of naval training facilities, outstanding leadership as chairman of the House of Appropriations Committee and unwavering belief in the value of investment in American which served to greatly benefit all United States armed forces. His love for his county was demonstrated through more than half a century of public service and leadership.

The Whitten Building housed the Aviation Ordnanceman School until the Naval Air Technical Training Center moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1996. After extensive remodeling of the interior (to change it from a training building to office structure), Navy Personnel Command moved in, today it houses the Navy Personnel Command leadership structure, the personnel distribution arm for both officer and enlisted personnel, Human Resources and financial management.