

CARL A. PARKER



Carl A. Parker served for more than 32 years in the Texas Legislature first as a State Representative from Jefferson County from 1962 to 1976, and then as Senator from 1977 until 1995. A staunch supporter and advocate of Southeast Texas educational institutions, Parker sponsored legislation in 1969 to change the name of Lamar State College of Technology to Lamar University.

A native of Port Arthur, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Arts and Science in 1956 from the University of Texas and completed his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law in 1958. He served for nearly four years as a lawyer in the Naval Reserve, handling more than 500 claims for and against the government.

Public safety, economic development and education were top priorities during his legislative career. Parker served on several committees in the House and Senate including the powerful Appropriations Committee in the House and the Finance Committee in the Senate. He served as Chairman of the Education Committee for a decade in the Senate, championing the cause of education by sponsoring the School Finance Reform Bill and Educational Opportunity Act, a landmark piece of legislation signed by Governor Mark White in 1984.

He actively litigates personal injury, business litigations, and civil rights cases from offices in Port Arthur and Austin.

“We’re certain the students who attend Lamar via this scholarship opportunity will emulate the great example set by Senator Carl Parker.”

Lamar University President James Simmons