

WASHINGTON— Today, U.S. Representative Harry E. Mitchell commended The Supreme Court's decision to overturn the District of Columbia's Handgun ban. The court ruled 5-4 to overturn the District of Columbia's 32-year-old ban on handguns as inconsistent with Second Amendment.

In February, Mitchell joined more than 300 members of Congress to sign a bipartisan amicus brief urging the court to reverse the ban, which prohibited an individual from owning a handgun.

"This is an important ruling for those who believe in personal freedoms and understand that the D.C. ban when beyond constitutional limits" Mitchell said.

In 1976, the private possession of handguns was prohibited in the nation's capitol requiring rifles and shotguns were required to be locked away or dismantled. In March, 2007 the Supreme Court overturned the District's ordinance. The city appealed against the ruling and sent the case to the Supreme Court. [Source: [The Washington Post, June 26, 2008](#) ]

The ruling limit's possession of firearms by felons or the mentally ill and forbids the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as school and government building.