

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today joined the millions of American who mourn the passing of U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos of California, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress.

“In many ways, Congressman Lantos was the conscience of the House of Representatives,” said Mitchell. “When he spoke about the continuing struggle to advance human dignity throughout the world, the power of his voice compelled the entire House to listen. Congressman Lantos created the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and worked to educate Americans about the Holocaust, fight anti-Semitism and strengthen our nation’s relationship with Israel. He used his voice in the Congress to wake up the world to the atrocities that continue every day in the Sudan by taking an active role in admonishing the human rights abuses in Darfur.”

Lantos, who announced last year that he would not seek re-election because his battle with cancer, was first elected to the House in 1980. He was 80 years old.