

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell joined the thousands of Arizonans who mourn the recent loss of PFC Silvestre S. Herrera, the first Arizonan to receive the Medal of Honor during World War II and the only person to receive the highest military honors of both the United States and Mexico. Herrera was laid to rest today in Glendale.

“The loss of Silvestre Herrera is a loss to us all,” said Mitchell. “He was a great man who inspired so many with his bravery and patriotism. As the recipient of both the Medal of Honor and Mexico’s Order of Military Merit, service and sacrifice should never be forgotten by this grateful nation, nor in the place of his birth.”

Herrera, who was born in Mexico, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions near Mertzwiller, France on March 15, 1945. He was later granted U.S. citizenship.

The Mexican government awarded Herrera the nation’s highest military honor, the Order of Military Merit.

Herrera’s Medal of Honor citation is available at <http://www.army.mil/cmh/html/moh/wwII-g-l.html>