

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today participated in a Congressional hearing that examined the events surrounding the death of Army Cpl. Patrick Tillman and urged the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to continue its investigation into the matter.

Mitchell called for a Congressional investigation into the matter on March 28. Mitchell does not serve on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, but sought permission to participate in today's hearing, which was granted.

Mitchell told his colleagues:

“Today Congress is taking an important step in our quest to uncover the truth about Corporal Tillman's death and the misinformation that was told to the Tillman family and the American people in the aftermath of his death. I'm grateful to the Committee for looking into this.

“I applaud the Tillman family for its vigilant and continued efforts to uncover the truth, and I urge my colleagues in the House to continue their quest.

“The American people have a right to know who knew what, and when. They have a right to know if Corporal Tillman's death was used for public relations purposes.

“Make no mistake, every military family and every American has a stake in this investigation. The Tillman family is not the only family that has been told a false or misleading story about events on the battlefield. I hope that this investigation will shine a light on other cases and help more families get the answers they deserve.”

Earlier this month, the Tucson Citizen supported Mitchell's call for a Congressional investigation, opining, “Reports last week on the death of Army Ranger and former NFL star Pat Tillman of Arizona proved unsatisfactory to say the least.... Now questions must be answered - and appropriate remedies undertaken - if Americans are to continue having faith in military and government leaders.” [Source: [Tucson Citizen](#) , April 2, 2007]

On March 28, the New York Times wrote, in an editorial entitled, “A Death Embellished,” “The circumstances of this byzantine case cry out for Congressional hearings to get an independent evaluation of just who pulled the strings to sugar-coat a terrible battlefield accident as an instance of heroism under hostile fire.” [Source: [New York Times](#) , March 28, 2007]

Tillman was killed in a friendly-fire incident in Afghanistan on April 22, 2004. Although the Army was immediately aware that Tillman was killed by friendly fire, it failed to notify the family and the public until May 29, 2004.