

## **Mitchell Statement on the Dismissal of the Commanding General at Walter Reed**

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell released the following statement on the news that Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman, the commanding general of the Walter Reed hospital, has been relieved of his command:

"Today's news report that top officials at Walter Reed knew of the terrible conditions for as long as three years is deeply troubling.

"It is absolutely unacceptable for any official to have had knowledge of the dilapidated conditions at Walter Reed only to stay silent and do nothing. They must be held accountable for their actions.

"While I commend the Army's decision to relieve the commanding general at Walter Reed, the course of accountability must not end there. It appears from news reports that neglect by top officials was widespread, and my colleagues and I will continue to ask the tough questions.

"Congress now has a responsibility to make sure another Building 18 never happens again. Earlier today, I joined U.S. Sens. Barack Obama and Claire McCaskill and U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel to introduce the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007 to ensure that injured soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the care they deserve."