

GLENDALE - The American Legion Department of Arizona has presented U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell with its Distinguished Legislator Award for his work on behalf of the nation's veterans. Mitchell accepted the award and addressed the organization at its annual convention in Glendale on Saturday, June 18, 2009.

"I am honored to be recognized by the American Legion and proud of the work we have done on behalf of veterans in Arizona and across the nation," Mitchell said. "Our veterans have stood for us and it is our duty to stand for them."

Since being elected to Congress, Mitchell has consistently fought for our veterans, serving on the House Veterans Affairs Committee and chairing the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Under his leadership, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee has addressed the quality of patient care, the hurdles that service members face in their transition to civilian life, and the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to reach out to America's 17 million veterans who aren't enrolled with the VA. Mitchell was also the lead sponsor of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, which was signed into law last June.

The American Legion is Arizona's and the nation's largest veterans organization with approximately 50,000 members in the state and 2.5 million nationally. It is also the largest community organization in the state.

Previous Distinguished Legislator Award recipients include Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl, former Governor Janet Napolitano, and former State Senate President Tim Bee.

The text of the official award is below:

*Distinguished Legislator Award Presented to
Congressman Harry E. Mitchell*

Mitchell Earns American Legion 'Distinguished Legislator' Award

Monday, 22 June 2009 00:00

For his consistent support for veterans of Arizona and his welcomed efforts on behalf of American Legion programs for Children & Youth, Americanism and Veterans Health and Rehabilitation.

*Presented this 18th day of June 2009 at Glendale, Arizona
By The American Legion Department of Arizona*

*Henry Branch
Commander*

*John Aldecoa
Adjutant*

*S. Paul Griffin
Legislative Chairman*