

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7915

To direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to obtain a statue of Clarence Mitchell, Jr. for placement in the United States Capitol.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BROWN, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. FIGURES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to obtain a statue of Clarence Mitchell, Jr. for placement in the United States Capitol.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Clarence Mitchell, Jr.
5 Statue Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Clarence Mitchell, Jr. was born in Balti-
9 more on March 8, 1911, attended Baltimore City

1 Public Schools, received his Juris Doctorate from
2 the University of Maryland School of Law, and
3 spent most of his career practicing law in Baltimore.

4 (2) Early in his career, Clarence Mitchell, Jr.
5 was a reporter for the Baltimore Afro-American
6 newspaper, the longest running African-American
7 family-owned newspaper in the nation. During his
8 time as a reporter, he reported on the lynching of
9 George Armwood, whose death marked the last re-
10 corded lynching in Maryland.

11 (3) According to the Maryland State Archives,
12 Clarence Mitchell, Jr. served as the director of the
13 National Association for the Advancement of Col-
14 ored People (“NAACP”) Washington Bureau from
15 1950 to 1978, waging a tireless campaign to secure
16 passage of passage of the 1957 and 1964 Civil
17 Rights Laws, the 1965 Voting Rights Laws, and the
18 1968 Fair Housing Law.

19 (4) Clarence Mitchell, Jr.’s success advocating
20 for policy stemmed largely from his fruitful relation-
21 ships across both sides of the aisle, including part-
22 nerships with leaders like former United States
23 Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and
24 United States Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen.

1 (5) A staunch supporter of civil rights for all,
2 Clarence Mitchell, Jr., was named a member of the
3 United States delegation to the United Nations in
4 1975.

5 (6) According to the NAACP, Clarence Mitch-
6 ell, Jr., firmly established the NAACP's presence in
7 Congress as the leader of the struggle for civil rights
8 laws by testifying at least 180 times before congres-
9 sional committees in the quest for civil rights laws
10 between 1946 and 1978.

11 (7) In 1980, then-President Jimmy Carter
12 awarded Clarence Mitchell, Jr. the Presidential
13 Medal of Freedom, with the citation reading: "Clar-
14 ence M. Mitchell, Jr., for decades waged in the halls
15 of Congress a stubborn, resourceful and historic
16 campaign for social justice. The integrity of this
17 '101st Senator' earned him the respect of friends
18 and adversaries alike. His brilliant advocacy helped
19 translate into law the protests and aspirations of
20 millions consigned too long to second-class citizen-
21 ship. The hard-won fruits of his labors have made
22 America a better and stronger nation."

23 **SEC. 3. PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF CLARENCE MITCHELL,**
24 **JR. IN UNITED STATES CAPITOL.**

25 (a) OBTAINING STATUE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint
3 Committee of Congress on the Library shall enter
4 into an agreement to obtain a statue of Clarence
5 Mitchell, Jr., under such terms and conditions as
6 the Joint Committee considers appropriate con-
7 sistent with applicable law.

8 (2) AUTHORIZATION FOR ARCHITECT OF THE
9 CAPITOL.—The Joint Committee may authorize the
10 Architect of the Capitol to enter into the agreement
11 and related contracts required under this subsection
12 on its behalf, under such terms and conditions as
13 the Joint Committee may require.

14 (b) PLACEMENT.—The Joint Committee of Congress
15 on the Library shall place the statue obtained under sub-
16 section (a) in a permanent public location in the United
17 States Capitol.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
20 necessary to carry out this Act, and any amounts so ap-
21 propriated shall remain available until expended.

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