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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

A life celebrated

Mitchell's work for civil rights remembered in laughter, song

By Sandy Banisky
and Ann LoLordo

Instead of mourning, there was music yesterday and laughter and the celebration of a life spent working for justice, as friends, civil rights leaders and political dignitaries gathered in a West Baltimore church to remember Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr.

Mr. Mitchell, who was 73, died Sunday night after a heart attack.

About 20 speakers remembered Mr. Mitchell, the longtime director of the Washington office of the Na-

**"America
honors a man
whose life has
honored America.
... Rest in peace,
my friend."**

—Arnold Aronson

tional Association for the Advancement of Colored People and lobbyist for the most important civil rights legislation passed by Congress.

An optimist, they said of him. A man of indomitable spirit and goodwill. A champion. A giant.

He became known as the 101st senator for his years of work on Capitol Hill and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter.

Yesterday, the crowd of people who came to pay tribute spilled out of the sanctuary of the granite church two blocks from the Mitchells' Druid Hill avenue home.

Seated in the church were Governor and Mrs. Hughes, Mayor Schaefer, Maryland Senators Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., and Paul S. Sarbanes, several members of Congress, members of the City Council and a large

delegation from the General Assembly.

Also attending were Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D, N.Y.); John Jacob, head of the Urban League; Vernon Jordan, former head of the Urban League; Enolla P. McMillan, national president of the NAACP, and William T. Coleman, Jr., former secretary of transportation.

All three candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination — former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and Senator Gary Hart of Colorado — were among the 2,000 people who crowded the Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church.

The candidates arrived quietly (Mr. Jackson as the first hymn was being sung, Mr. Hart 30 minutes late), sat on metal folding chairs set up in the aisles and left quietly before the service ended.

An overflow throng of about 450 watched the service on television monitors mounted in the basement. Outside, loudspeakers filled Etting street with hymns and tributes for about 200 people who stood behind police barricades outside, sat in doorways and leaned against brick row houses.

In the church, a large photograph of a smiling Mr. Mitchell and his wife of 46 years, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, was placed in front of the pulpit. There was no coffin; Mr. Mitchell left his body to science.

Baltimore City Councilman Michael B. Mitchell sat with his arm around his mother throughout the 2 1/4-hour service. Dr. Keiffer J. Mitchell sat on his mother's other side, sometimes holding her hand.

Two other sons, George Mitchell and state Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III, also sat in the front pew, along with Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D, Md., 7th), brother of Clarence Mitchell, Jr.

Audrey Phillips, a gospel singer, See MITCHELL, A3, Col. 1



Juanita Jackson Mitchell and a son, Dr. Keiffer J. Mitchell, sing during service for Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr.

The Sun/George H. Cook



Among family and friends at the funeral for Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., were (front row, from left): Mayor Schaefer, Arnold Aronson, a longtime friend of the Mitchell family and fellow lobbyist for civil rights legislation, and former

Vice President Walter F. Mondale. Seated behind the mayor are Lieutenant Governor J. Joseph Curran, Jr., New York Senator Daniel P. Moynihan, Governor and Mrs. Hughes, and Dr. Dorothy Heigt, the civil rights leader.

The Sun/George H. Cook

Mitchell's life recalled with laughter, song

MITCHELL, from A1
offered a song as a eulogy. "May the Work I've Done Speak for Me," she sang, as hundreds of feet kept time, tapping out a muffled background beat on the carpet.

Mrs. Jackson and her family laughed when Benjamin L. Hooks, the executive director of the NAACP, said he knew that Mr. Mitchell was "in heaven lobbying that things would be better down here."

"What he did helped me, her, even you," said Doris Anderson, as she stood with two friends along Etting street in a chilly wind. "You can't put a value on a man like that."

"His physical presence is gone

from us," said federal appeals Judge Nathaniel Jones. "And that is our pain." But Mr. Mitchell, he said, will be remembered in every union hall, in every real estate office, at every hotel registration desk for the laws he championed that outlawed discrimination.

Lynda Johnson Robb, daughter of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson and wife of Virginia Governor Charles S. Robb, recalled how Mr. Mitchell and her father worked together to push civil rights laws through Congress.

"I'm here because I loved him," she said.

She told how he spontaneously

joined her in a march for the equal rights amendment down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington. And she recalled his last visit to the LBJ Ranch, when he asked if he could walk to the cemetery there and remember.

Myrlie Evers, widow of Medgar Evers, the assassinated civil rights leader, recounted how Mr. Mitchell traveled to Mississippi in the 1950s and 1960s to encourage and counsel her family. And she recalled how Mr. Evers, invited by the Mitchell family, had visited the Sharp Street Memorial church just before his death.

Mr. Jackson, in a brief moment as he left the church, remembered his friend this way: "I loved what he

stood for. The Mitchell family is to social justice what the Rockefellers are to money."

"America honors a man whose life has honored America," said Arnold Aronson, a longtime friend who lobbied with Mr. Mitchell. "Rest in peace, my friend."

Federal appeals Judge Leon Higginbotham called Mr. Mitchell "our architect ... our master builder. ... Clarence Mitchell may well have been the best the world have ever known at designing and building a cathedral of justice."

"If they would try to get a memorial stone for my father," said George Mitchell, "it would seem they'd need the Rock of Gibraltar."