

**SATURDAY**

MARCH 9, 1985

SUN (MORNING)  
(USPS 526-100)  
1-1-925-01-802358  
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VOL. 296 NUMBER 96

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



THE SUN/WALTER M. MCCARDELL, JR

Juanita Jackson Mitchell recalls her husband's belief in the "brotherhood of man." At right is Circuit Court Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan.

# Courthouse is rededicated to rights leader Mitchell

By Ann LoLordo

The city courthouse — where Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., had to fight against discrimination to do his job as a young reporter — was rededicated yesterday as a tribute to the late civil rights leader.

With two marching bands playing, a Baltimore police honor guard led a procession of the Mitchell family, city and state politicians, civil rights leaders, clergy and local and federal judges into a freshly painted courtroom festooned with flags.

It was a morning to recall the accomplishments of Mr. Mitchell, who as chief lobbyist for the Washington

*“This courthouse will be an eternal monument to a man who believed all people were entitled to dignity and esteem.”*

**MAYOR SCHAEFER**

branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People played a crucial role in winning passage of the country's most important civil rights legislation.

And it was a day to remember the character of a man who may have dined with dignitaries, but who never forgot the people of his hometown. All who remembered him

agreed that it was a fitting tribute to rededicate a courthouse, an arena for justice and the law, in the name of a man whose life work centered on making just laws.

The ceremony, which had been planned since soon after Mr. Mitchell's death a year ago, drew 300 people and was broadcast by television monitors to several hundred more

who filled nearby courtrooms.

It drew such civil rights activists as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks, as well as political guests including Governor Hughes, Mayor Schaefer, Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., of Maryland, Representative Steny H. Hoyer (D, Md., 5th), and city State's Attorney Kurt L. Schmoke.

“Clarence Mitchell used the law as well as the logic underlying all law” to erase bigotry and racism, Governor Hughes said.

Mayor Schaefer called his long

See **MITCHELL**, 10A, Col. 1



THE SUN/WALTER M. MCCARDELL, JR.

From left, those present at ceremony include Supreme Court Justices William J. Brennan, Jr., and Thurgood Marshall, U.S. District Court Judge Frank A. Kaufman and retired Judge Roszel C. Thomsen.

## Courthouse is dedicated to Mitchell

**MITCHELL**, from 1A

time friend a "a great American" who was compassionate, gentle and persuasive. "His memory, this courthouse, will be an eternal monument to a man who believed all people were entitled to dignity and esteem," the mayor said.

"Clarence knew if the great moral principles to which he dedicated his life could be incorporated into the Constitution of the United States, it would transform and redeem society," said Senator Sarbanes.

And while many spoke of the past and of Mr. Mitchell's great legacy, there were others who looked to his life's work as an inspiration to ensure civil rights in the future.

Clarence Mitchell's fight for justice and equality is far from over, said Mr. Hooks, of the NAACP, and unless his fight continues, "Mr. Mitchell will not rest, though courthouses are dedicated."

Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., for years a civil rights attorney who walked the halls of Congress with Mr. Mitchell, echoed Mr. Hooks's sentiments:

"He visualized a world of true equality and helped make that possible by opening the gates of opportunity to all. We will serve him and his memory best by dedicating ourselves to fulfilling Clarence's dream of real equality for all Americans."

Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D, Md., 7th) sought to put the rededication in the context of his brother's life. He said he remembered all too well what his brother faced as he walked the halls of this same courthouse as a young reporter for the *Afro-American* — "the ugly face of racism on a daily basis."

The congressman said the bitterness he still feels somehow fades when he sees the number of black judges and lawyers now occupying the courthouse. "I would urge you to on this day of dedication, make it a day for recommitment," he said.

The dedication brought not only dignitaries and officials, but Baltimore residents who came to witness what some said was an historic moment.

Col. Claude Ligon, a recent appointment to the state Public Service Commission, never met Clarence Mitchell, but that did not keep him from the ceremonies. "He was one of the great warriors of the civil rights movement, and hopefully his legacy will live on," he said.

Mary MacRae drove from her Silver Spring home to meet her friend, Muriel Fulton, at the ceremonies, where they both could pay homage to Mr. Mitchell, their old classmate from Douglass High School.

"He was a terrific guy in every sense of the word. He had a terrific sense of humor," said Mrs. Fulton.

The ceremonies, under the direction of Jodi Albright, chief of the mayor's committee on art and culture, brought some color to the courthouse. They also provided the incentive for a \$204,000 restoration program, spearheaded by Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan, administrative judge of the Circuit Court.

Red, white and blue bunting adorned the walls. Large baskets of ferns and trees lined the corridors. As many as 200 tulips adorned the hallways and the dais in the main ceremonial courtroom. A red carpet lined the St. Paul street entrance.

Brass plates and rails shone like

gold. The elevators, antiques in some respects, were repainted and carpeted. Work was begun on two Art Deco stained glass domes, which had been destroyed. A decorative panel depicting the figure of Logic was completed for the ceremonies.

At the end of the rededication ceremony, Mr. Mitchell's widow and lifelong companion in his civil rights struggle, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, was called to the podium. The matriarch of the Mitchell family was greeted with great applause.

Dressed in a cream-colored suit and a cocoa, feathered hat, Mrs. Mitchell told the audience, "My heart is full of joy today, because I look around and see the miracles."

She referred to Justice Marshall and his long struggle for civil rights, which included the fight to admit blacks to the University of Maryland. She also referred to the black judges in the courtroom, including two federal judges, Matthew J. Perry, of South Carolina, and Nathaniel R. Jones, of Ohio, whom her husband helped to get appointed.

And she spoke about the NAACP, the "Freedom Army" of which the Mitchell family represented a platoon, she said.

To her family, which filled almost four benches, she said, "You cannot give yourself to any higher loyalty than Daddy did — the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

To the audience, she said, "We can be one city. We can be one state. We can be one nation . . . one world if all of us give of ourself and dedicate ourself to that principle.

"Brothers all, we shall overcome."