
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2007

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**Statement of Minority Business Development Agency
National Director Ronald N. Langston
on the Death of Congressman Parren Mitchell**

Washington, D.C. -- Minority Business Development Agency National Director Ronald N. Langston issued the following statement on the passing of Congressman Parren Mitchell.

“I am deeply saddened over the passing of Congressman Parren Mitchell. He was an American treasure and champion for the small business. The Minority Business Development Agency at the U.S. Department of Commerce is an outcome of his life’s work to enhance the growth and expansion of small and disadvantaged business, and in particular, minority business enterprises.

“His legacy lives on as the Agency pursues *procurement contracts and financial transactions* on behalf of minority business enterprises through *access to capital, financial literacy and the use of technology as an e-business tool*.

“He had to be proud to know that according to the U.S. Census, the fastest growing business segment in the U.S. over the last decade has been minority business enterprises with African American, Hispanic and women-owned firms leading that growth.

“The Minority Business Development Agency will continue to honor his vision and passion for the growth and expansion of minority business enterprises. We have indeed lost a tremendous leader and true pioneer. It is my commitment as National Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency to ensure his vision never dies.”

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