

George Edward Mitchell

(3 Mar 1781 – 28 Jun 1832)

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989

A Representative from Maryland; born at Head of Elk (now Elkton), Cecil County, Md., March 3, 1781; completed preparatory studies, and was graduated from the medical department at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia June 5, 1805, practiced medicine in Elkton, Md. 1806-1812; member of the State house of delegates in 1808; member of the executive council of Md. and served as President 1809-1812; served in the War of 1812; commissioned major of the 3rd Maryland Artillery May 1, 1812; lieutenant colonel March 3, 1813; transferred to the Artillery Corps May 12, 1814, and to the 3rd Artillery June 1, 1814; brevetted colonel 1814, for gallant conduct in repelling attack of British forces at Fort Oswego, NY; resigned June 1, 1821; elected as a Democrat to the 18th and 19th Congresses (March 4, 1823 to March 3, 1827); was not a candidate for renomination in 1826; unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1829; elected to the 21st and 22nd Congresses and served from December 7, 1829 until his death in Washington, D.C. June 28, 1832.

The National Intelligencer, June 29, 1832

It gives us pain to have to announce the decease of another member of Congress, the Hon. George E. Mitchell, one of the representatives from Maryland, who died yesterday. He has been for more than a year past laboring under disease, has been able to attend his public duties only occasionally since he arrived here in December last, and has not been expected, we believe, by his friends, to outlive the session. From some friend of his we expect some notice of the character and services of the deceased. He was a distinguished officer of the army during the last war, and universally esteemed and respected by all who knew him, for the several years that he was subsequently in public life.

The National Intelligencer, June 30, 1832

In The House of Representatives

After the journal of the previous day's proceedings we read --
Mr. Howard, of Maryland, rose and thus addressed the House:

Mr. Speaker: It has devolved upon me to communicate to the House, the decease of George E. Mitchell one of the Representatives of the State of Maryland. The infirm state of health in which he had been for a long time past, must have been apparent to every one, until at length, the struggles between a naturally robust constitution, and an inveterate disease, are over, have terminated in his decease, and he now sleeps with his fathers. It is but a short time, since, we were called on to pay the last melancholy tribute of respect, and to follow to the tomb the remains of one of our body, who was suddenly cut off in the meridian of his usefulness, and now, we find our ranks again broken. These events force one reflection of my mind, which I crave leave to express. Whilst in the performance of our duties, we are prescribing laws for others, we find ourselves the subjects of a system of other laws, which we had no share in enacting. Sire, there is no Republic in the government of the Universe; and yet how absolute is the necessity, how absolute the obligation, of obedience to the Deity, who, in his wisdom, has framed that code. I will not attempt now or here, to portray the life or character of the deceased. The spontaneous offer, on the part of the military authorities of the city, to join in such testimonial of respect as the House may order sufficiently demonstrates that the name of Mitchell is inscribed on the rolls of Fame. Whilst in the service of his country, during the recent war, his brilliant defense of the Fort

of Oswego, with which he was entrusted, won the applause due to successful valor: returning from his military career, and embarking in all the turmoil's of political life, he brought into this House a frankness of deportment, unobtrusive efficiency, and such steady judgment, that I may with perfect safety assert that he won the friendship of those who knew him well, and obtained respect from all. Let us withdraw awhile from the cares which surround us here, and unite in paying the last tribute of respect to his memory. In order that we may do so, I submit to you the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Members of this House will attend the funeral of the late Geo. E. Mitchell, at 5 o'clock, p.m.

That a Committee be appointed to take order for superintending the funeral of George E. Mitchell, deceased, late a member of this House, from the State of Maryland.

That the members of this House will testify their respect for his memory by wearing crape, etc.

It was then ordered that a Message be sent to the Senate to notify to them the death of Mr. M., and the hour that his funeral would take place.

Mr. Howard, Mr. Thompson, of Georgia, Mr. Blair, of S.C., Mr. Alexander, Mr. Carson, Mr. Dearborn, and Mr. Ward, were named as the Committee.

After which, the House adjourned.