



Bass Picks Up Family Fight to Honor Mitchell

By John Bresnahan
ROLL CALL STAFF

It's a goal his own father failed to achieve during his time in Congress, but Rep. Charles Bass (R-N.H.) has begun a campaign to restore the standing of a famous relative who quit the Army more than 75 years ago under pressure from a military establishment that hated his outspoken ways.

William "Billy" Mitchell, the father of the Air Force and a pioneer from the early days of flight, has become an icon to those who, like him, would rather buck the system than be part of it.

Mitchell left the Army in 1926 after a spectacular court martial

that riveted the nation. Faced with a five-year suspension at half pay following his conviction on trumped-up charges, Mitchell resigned his commission. He died a decade later, never having returned to the uniform that he proudly wore for 28 years.

Bass, who has heard family stories about "Uncle Willie" since he was a child, recently introduced legislation to posthumously grant Mitchell a new commission, with

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Viewed as the father of the modern Air Force, Billy Mitchell was Bass' great-uncle.



Courtesy Rep. Charles Bass

CBC Giving Edwards Hope

By Chris Cillizza
ROLL CALL STAFF

While most members of the Congressional Black Caucus are holding off on making endorsements in the presidential race, a combination of geography, fundraising and personal appeal has given Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) a foot in the door with the influential group.

"He is young, he is energetic, he gets it, and he is true to the basic principles of the party," said Rep. Albert Wynn (D-Md.), who has endorsed Edwards for the Democratic nomination. "That's the approach [former President Bill] Clinton took."

Edwards has done little to court Congressional endorsements, but half of the eight he has received are

from CBC members. Sens. John Kerry (Mass.) and Bob Graham (Fla.), however, have each been able to land three endorsements from the CBC.

"We are seeking out the support and endorsements of lots of leaders that share a vision and values with him," said Edwards spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri. "That is particularly true with a lot of African-American Members and the CBC. They come from the same place."

In the past week, Edwards has sought to raise his profile in key battleground states in the presidential

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By Ed Henry

See You in Court? Stephen Moore, president of the Club for Growth, may wind up with a lawsuit for parodying a well-known song in a new TV ad blasting Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.).

Moore's office confirmed to HOH that the group has been contacted at least twice by people close to Crosby, Stills and Nash, the famed band that is less than pleased with the take-off of "Our House" in the political ad.

With a refrain of "Tom's House," the ad blasts

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Group Seeks Taylor Probe

By Damon Chappie
ROLL CALL STAFF

A group of activists in western North Carolina wants the House ethics committee to look into allegations that Rep. Charles Taylor was aware of a number of fraudulent loans made by a thrift the North Carolina Republican controlled.

The group has gathered more than 600 signatures and hopes to collect a total of 2,500 names before sending the petition to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, said Grant Millin, a 38-year-old self-described Democratic activist who is collecting signatures with a group calling itself the Committee to Investigate Charles Taylor.



Taylor

"We're not investigating, we don't have the power or the authority to do that. But that's why we're asking Congress to look into this," Millin said in a telephone interview.

"We know the ethics committee isn't terribly active. It doesn't look like the mavericks of the House are appointed to the ethics committee, but this is something that deserves their attention," Millin said.

The allegations stem from testimony given in the recent criminal

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NOTE TO READERS
Our next issue will be Aug. 18. For updates, visit RollCall.com.

Chains, Charm Struggle to Co-Exist on Hill

Editor's note: This is the second installment in an occasional series looking at issues facing Capitol Hill residents.

By Jennifer Yachnin
ROLL CALL STAFF

For some residents on Capitol Hill, the brown paper in the first-floor windows at 401 Eighth St. SE is a sign of good things to come, and for others it's simply an albattross in the making.

In fact, the Starbucks Coffee outlet set to open there later this year is probably both. While it is perhaps just another benign coffee shop, it is also part of the debate over the

changing dynamic of the the Hill's business community.

The Starbucks, the second of the chain to open in Capitol Hill since 2001, is one of a handful of new businesses preparing to open its doors in the area, in part the result of citywide programs designed to lure retailers and restaurateurs into the District of Columbia.

Those programs include a focus on two Capitol Hill retail areas: Barracks Row along Eighth Street Southeast between Pennsylvania Avenue and the Navy Yard, and the 1.5-mile stretch of H Street North-

east between the Hopscotch Bridge behind Union Station and 15th Street Northeast.

Both neighborhoods are striving to fill shops that will not only provide needed services to Hill dwellers but also transform the areas into "destinations" for other Washington residents.

Local officials acknowledge that they also must strike a balance between small businesses and mammoth national retail chains.

"It's important to have some chains and franchises to show tourists that you're in a

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