



ROBERT AND MARGRIT  
**MONDAVI CENTER**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
**UC DAVIS**



**MEDIA CONTACT**

Jessica Kelly, [jjkelly@mc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:jjkelly@mc.ucdavis.edu), 530-754-5428

**FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES**

<http://mondaviarts.org/press>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Oct. 24, 2008

**From Northern Ireland to the Ball Park:**  
**The Honorable George Mitchell Speaks at the Mondavi Center**

**Davis, Calif.**—A former Senate Majority Leader, **The Honorable George J. Mitchell** ranks among the most respected diplomats and statesmen in the world. On **Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m.**, Mitchell appears in **Jackson Hall** of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**, to address a broad range of topics, from the election and the economy to his role in the two-year negotiations that produced the landmark peace accord in Northern Ireland—for which he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom—and his recent investigation of steroid use in major league baseball.

**Pricing** is \$55/45/35 for regular tickets and \$27.50/22.50/17.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org), through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center's **Distinguished Speakers Series**.

**George Mitchell** entered the U.S. Senate in 1980, when he was appointed to complete the unexpired term of Senator Edmund Muskie, who resigned to become Secretary of State. Before the 1982 election, Senator Mitchell trailed in opinion polls by 36 points. His stunning come-from-behind victory gave him 61 percent of the votes cast, and Senator Mitchell went on to an illustrious 14-year Senate career.

In 1988, he was reelected with 81 percent of the vote, the largest margin in Maine history. In January 1989, he became Senate Majority Leader. He held that position until he left the Senate in 1995.

During his tenure, Senator Mitchell earned enormous bipartisan respect. For six consecutive years he was voted "the most respected member" of the Senate by a bipartisan group of senior congressional aides.

In 1996, the governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland asked Senator Mitchell to chair the peace negotiations in Northern Ireland. Senator Mitchell led the negotiations for two years, work that ultimately resulted in a historic accord that ended decades of conflict. In May 1998, the agreement was overwhelmingly endorsed by voters in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. He has received numerous awards and honors recognizing his service in the peace talks. These include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor the U.S. government can give; the Philadelphia Liberty Medal; the Truman Institute Peace Prize; the German (Hesse) Peace Prize; and the United Nations (UNESCO) Peace Prize. Senator Mitchell has received honorary degrees from more than 40 colleges and universities from several countries.

While in the Senate, Senator Mitchell served on the Finance, Veterans Affairs, and Environment and Public Works committees. He led the successful 1990 reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, including new controls on acid rain toxins. He was the author of the first national oil spill prevention and cleanup law. Senator Mitchell led the Senate to passage of the nation's first childcare bill and was principal author of the low-income housing tax credit program. He was instrumental in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation extending civil rights protections to the disabled. Senator Mitchell's efforts led to the passage of a higher education bill that expanded opportunities for millions of Americans. He was a leader in opening markets to trade and led the Senate to ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement and creation of the World Trade Organization.

After leaving the Senate, Senator Mitchell joined the law firm Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand, joining DLA Piper US in 2003 along with many other members of that firm. He is also chancellor of The Queen's University of Northern Ireland. He served as chairman of the International Crisis Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of crises in international affairs, as chairman of the Special Commission investigating allegations of impropriety in the bidding process for the Olympic Games, and as chairman of the National Health Care Commission. Working on a pro bono basis, Senator Mitchell was the independent overseer of the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund, an organization formed to help victims of the 9/11 attacks.

At the request of President Bill Clinton and Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Senator Mitchell served as chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East. The committee's recommendation, widely known as The Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the Bush Administration, the European Union, and many other governments.

Senator Mitchell is the author of four books: "Men of Zeal," co-authored with his colleague, then-Senator William S. Cohen, on the Iran-Contra investigation; "World on Fire," speaking to the threat of the greenhouse effect and recommending steps to curb it; "Not For America Alone: The Triumph of Democracy and The Fall of Communism;" and "Making Peace," an account of his experiences in Northern Ireland.

Says **Don Roth, Mondavi Center executive director**, "George Mitchell embodies all the best elements of the term 'statesman.'"

- **The Honorable George Mitchell**
- **Wed., Nov. 19, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$55/45/35 regular; \$27.50/22.50/17.50 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**  
**866-754-2787 (toll-free)**  
**530-754-5402 (TDD)**  
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