

## **Mayer Mitchell**

Mayer Mitchell was born in New Orleans in 1933 and grew up in Mobile. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics with Beta Gamma Sigma honors at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance in 1953. He then served as an Army first lieutenant in Korea, earning a commendation ribbon with medal pendant for meritorious service.

Returning home to Mobile with young wife Arlene, Mitchell recruited his brother Abraham to join him in founding a residential and commercial real estate development firm, The Mitchell Company, in 1958. Their business acumen surfaced and the firm grew rapidly, becoming one of the largest in the Southeast.

After serving as chairman and CEO of the company for nearly three decades, Mitchell sold his interest in 1986. Since selling his first entrepreneurial creation at age 53, Mitchell has spent the second half of his business life managing his investments through his current company, MBI L.L.C., and putting much of the return to work in support of his family, faith, and community.

Mitchell has been a tireless proponent of education and health care, serving more than 32 years on the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees, including a term as chairman. He has been particularly supportive of USA's medical, business and sports programs, but his giving has touched the entire University. He has used his considerable political and philanthropic influence in support of USA's cancer research efforts.

To date, the Mitchell family -- Mayer, Arlene and Abe -- has given more than \$36.6 million to the University of South Alabama. This includes a gift of \$22 million to support USA's cancer research institute, which is providing state-of-the-art care to people of the Gulf Coast region. USA's trustees named the "Mitchell Cancer Institute" in the family's honor. USA's Mitchell College of Business and Mitchell Center sports arena also bear the family name as testaments to their previous generosity. Also as a result of Mitchell generosity, USA's business learning resource center is named in honor of the Mitchells' parents, Joseph and Rebecca Mitchell.

In fact, the Mitchell family holds the distinction as having given more to a single public university than any other family in the history of the state of Alabama.

His philanthropic and leadership service has included Alabama Power Company, Wright School, Bishop State Community College, Leukemia Society of America, USA Foundation, AmSouth Bank, Altus Bank, Mobile Area United Way, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Congregation Ahavas Chesed, Mobile Jewish Welfare Fund, Mobile Federation of Jewish Charities, Mobile County Real Estate Association, Archives of American Art, Anti-Defamation League, and The Banc Corporation.

Mitchell was given the USA National Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2005. Honors also include Outstanding Young Men of America;

Jewish Welfare Fund Man of the Year; Prichard Honorary Citizen of the Year; Mobile County Realtor of the Year; and high honors from the Boy's Club of Mobile, Bishop State Community College, University of Rochester, New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Mobile Kiwanis Club, and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.