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## **Senator Wendell Mitchell honored by Alabama Historical Commission**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) honored State Senator Wendell Mitchell of Luverne with the Distinguished Service Award at its annual conference in Montgomery on October 8.

The AHC honored Senator Mitchell for his efforts leading to significant reform of Alabama's burial laws.

Senator Mitchell has worked for years to enhance Alabama's cemetery preservation laws. Through his support, Alabama's cemeteries are more accessible and protected. Without his leadership, these laws would not have been passed. Senator Mitchell has affected real change for historic cemetery preservation in the state.

In January 2010, Senator Mitchell introduced legislation that strengthened the state's burial laws. This bill removed prejudicial language from the law that had allowed for the destruction of Native American burials on private property. On April 30, Governor Riley signed the bill into law.

The Alabama Historical Commission honored seven people this year at its awards ceremony on October 8. The ceremony was part of the annual historic preservation conference, held in Montgomery this year.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.***

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