NORTHBROOK, IL –With the passing of former U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde this morning, Congressman Mark Kirk released the following statement:

“America has lost a great leader with the passing of Henry Hyde,” Congressman Kirk said. “He served our country in the U.S. Navy, in the Illinois General Assembly and distinguished himself in the U.S. House. First elected in 1974, Henry was one of the most intellectual and dignified members of Congress. I had the great honor to work with him to fight heroin production in Afghanistan and combat extremism in South America during his tenure as Chairman of the House International Relations Committee. Recognizing his work for his country, this month the President bestowed the nation’s highest civilian honor on Henry – the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His legacy and service will not be forgotten.”