

NEWS

PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS BILL, AWARDING
DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal Tuesday, October 16, 2007, the highest civilian award bestowed by the U.S. Congress, for his lifetime of medical achievement and public service.



President George Bush finalized the award by signing a bill that was approved a few weeks prior by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

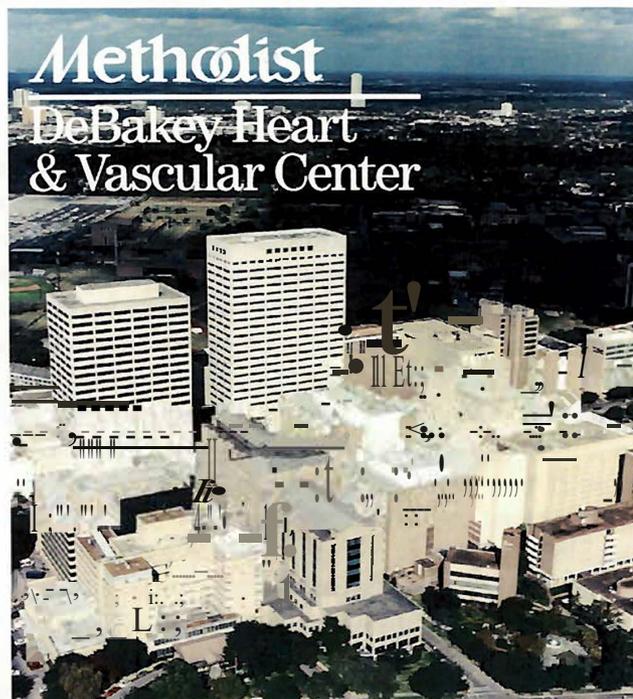
"After learning that I would receive the prestigious honor of the Congressional Gold Medal, my pride as a citizen of the United States of America is overflowing," DeBakey said. DeBakey, 99, has spent six decades at The Methodist Hospital as a pioneering heart surgeon credited with many medical firsts.

"He has been able to accomplish in his lifetime what it would normally take four or five individuals to achieve," said Dr. George Noon, a Methodist Hospital surgeon and partner of DeBakey's for more than 40 years. "He is deservedly known around the world for his contributions to mankind, and he certainly deserves this award."

Only 196 Congressional Gold Medals have been awarded since 1776, when the first was given to George Washington. With this honor, Dr. DeBakey is in the company of Washington, Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Nelson Mandela, Jackie Robinson, Jonas Salk, Pope John Paul II and others whose lives have made an impact on the world.

"Dr. Michael DeBakey is one of those singular geniuses whose name will truly be remembered in 1,000 years," said Congressman John Culberson, one of the original cosponsors of the bill. "He has genuinely made contributions that will last for many generations, and his work will continue to save lives well into the future."

For more information about Dr. Michael E. DeBakey and the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, including listing of his "firsts," background on his achievements and photos to download, please see www.debakeyheartcenter.com.

METHODIST DEBAKEY HEART CENTER
CHANGES ITS NAME

It's my pleasure to announce the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center is changing its name to the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center. While it is a subtle change, it is an important one. With heart disease being a leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States, there are literally thousands of heart centers across the country. Here at The Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, cardiovascular surgery is a cornerstone of our foundation. Dr. DeBakey himself was a cardiovascular surgeon.

Over the years, our reputation as leaders at heart has been built not just by our work in cardiology, but by our continued advances in the field of cardiovascular surgery. The collaborative effort between these two disciplines is what has made the heart center one of our top Centers of Excellence. By changing the name, we more accurately portray ourselves as the comprehensive and high-risk cardiac care center that we are.

- Dr. Miguel Quinones
Medical Director, Methodist
DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center