

was honored by The American Heart Association and received its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Marvin Kirsh is also an accomplished writer and has authored and co-authored more than 200 published articles on cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery and contributed to the works of nearly two dozen other authors. One of his best-known works is "Blunt Chest Trauma", published in 1997.

Because of the dedication, devotion and skill of Dr. Marvin Kirsh, the lives of hundreds of military veterans have been touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Dr. Marvin Kirsh and his legacy of surgical excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN J. "HOOT"
MCINERNEY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney, recipient of the St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital Man of the Year Award and Distinguished Community Service Award.

Known for his kindness and infectious personality, Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney is also known throughout the metro-Detroit area as a successful car dealer and philanthropist, supporting numerous charities on a local, national and international level.

Hoot was born and raised in Detroit. He began his career in the automobile industry as a young boy working for an auto dealership, being paid fifty cents a week to keep the coal furnace stoked over cold weekends. In 1963, Chrysler offered Hoot his first dealership. Forty-one years later Hoot has become a successful businessman owning numerous car dealerships in the metro-Detroit area. The former U.S. Marine is still known to "hang out" at his Star Lincoln Mercury dealership in Southfield, Michigan.

Hoot helped to establish the St. Joseph Mercy Men of Mercy in 1974. He is also one of the founders of the J.P. McCarthy Foundation, in honor of the late and renowned radio personality who was diagnosed with and succumbed to myelodysplastic syndrome. He is also a generous donor to several Catholic churches and schools in the metro-Detroit area as well as churches and schools in Honduras, Nicaragua and the Sisters of Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

In addition, Hoot supports Focus: HOPE, Operation Read, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Purple Rose Theater, Friends of Golf, St. John's Men's Guild, Angel's Place, the National Football Fund and Stewards of Tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, Hoot McInerney is deserving of this recognition for his humanitarian and volunteer efforts. His dedication to helping others has made a significant difference in the lives of many people.

RECOGNIZING SPENCER COPE FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Cope, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Cope for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JENNIFER HAMMER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jennifer Hammer of Northern Virginia, a friend and neighbor who passed away after succumbing to a three-year battle with Ovarian Cancer in November 2004.

Mrs. Hammer's courage and resilience should serve as an inspiration to us all. Despite her health, she remained an active member in her community. She volunteered at her children's schools and participated in the 350-mile AIDS bicycle ride from North Carolina to the National Mall. Mrs. Hammer worked hard to train, but was most concerned about the criteria to raise \$1,700 in order to participate. In the end, she raised over \$4,000 and finished the four-day ride with energy to spare.

On Election Day, Mrs. Hammer voted on the way to what would be her final surgery. She was so weak that the voting officials had to bring a voting machine to the car for her. She thanked them and then left for the hospital.

Mrs. Hammer touched many lives and is survived by her beloved husband Tom and children Adam and Samantha. Over Thanksgiving weekend, when many friends were out of town for the holiday, almost 600 people came to a memorial service to celebrate her life.

Mrs. Hammer showed us how to enjoy life in the good times and be positive and full of abundant grace in the worst of times. She was at peace in the end because of her faith in God and because she knew that she lived fully while on earth. Jennifer made a huge impact on many and was loved by all. Our lives were better for having known her, and we will continue to draw inspiration from her strength and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work Mrs. Hammer, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.

H.R. 5107, THE JUSTICE FOR ALL
ACT

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representatives SMITH and CARTER of Texas, I would like to include the attached letter from the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense regarding H.R. 5107, the Justice For All Act (P.L. 108-405), into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This letter responds directly to a statement found on page S11609 of the November 19, 2004 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The mission of the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense is to promote justice and fairness to all indigent persons accused of criminal conduct, including juvenile respondents, as provided by the laws and constitutions of the United States and Texas. The Task Force was created by state law, the Fair Defense Act of 2001, and took effect on January 1, 2002. Since its implementation, the Task Force has awarded over \$30 million to 250 counties in Texas in furtherance of its mission to improve legal representation for indigent persons accused of crimes.

TEXAS TASK FORCE
ON INDIGENT DEFENSE,

Austin, Texas, December 1, 2004.

Re H.R. 5107, the "Justice For All Act"—
Congressional Record page S11613.

Hon. TOM DELAY,
*U.S. House Majority Leader,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOHN CARTER,
*Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DELAY, SMITH, & CARTER: In response to an inquiry last week regarding the statements made by Mr. Leahy in his statement on November 19, 2004, I am offering the following for clarification of what I believe is the current state of indigent defense in Texas.

I commend the goals of this bill and the willingness of Congress to provide States much needed money in the criminal justice arena. Since the reforms to Texas indigent defense laws known as the Texas Fair Defense Act were originally enacted in 2001, the Task Force on Indigent Defense, the Texas judiciary, and local government have worked diligently to meet and exceed the mandates of this reform. This reform was hailed by Robert Spangenberg, a leading national expert on indigent defense as, "the most significant piece of indigent defense legislation passed by any state in the last twenty years."

Nevertheless, the key to meaningful reform lies in implementation. In that regard, Mr. Bill Beardall, Director of the Equal Justice Center, and leading advocate of indigent reform in Texas recently said that, "[S]ignificant indigent defense improvements were implemented both at the state level and in most of Texas's 254 counties in response to the new law."

Worth noting is that Mr. Spangenberg served as the primary author of the Fair Defense Report, which influenced the passage of the Fair Defense Act. In response to the progress made by Texas, he states: "In three short years, the Task Force has used the limited funding provided to mandate that each county has an indigent defense plan on file. Moreover, these plans are posted electronically and viewable by anyone. This in