

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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BOB TOOLS, ABIOCOR PATIENT, CONTINUES PROGRESS

Recovery highlighted by surprise visitors

(LOUISVILLE, KY) – The University of Louisville surgeons who implanted an AbioCor replacement heart device at Jewish Hospital July 2 announced today that the patient, Bob Tools, has continued to improve and was able to be transferred out of the intensive care unit (ICU) this week. Drs. Laman Gray and Rob Dowling report that Mr. Tools' condition has improved to the point that ICU care is no longer necessary. He was moved to the transitional monitoring unit (TMU) on Thursday.

"While we continue to have ups and downs, Bob's overall recovery is remarkable," Gray explained. "Looking at him today, you would never know how gravely ill he was just 10 weeks ago."

"Bob is blessed with a tremendous fighting spirit and supportive family that are serving him well through his recovery," Dowling added. "It's wonderful to see him doing so well."

Thursday morning, September 6, Mr. Tools was visited by some of his fans, The Oak Ridge Boys. While traveling through Louisville, the multi-award winning vocal group visited with Mr. Tools, offered a variety of gifts, and promised to continue to pray for his full recovery. "Duane Allen invited me to go fishing with him on the lake at his home," Tools said. "I think I'll take him up on that."

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Jewish Hospital is among the top 10 cardiac centers in the United States and, along with the University of Louisville, is dedicated to excellence in clinical care, research and education. University of Louisville surgeons at Jewish Hospital have performed many heart care "firsts," including Kentucky's first heart transplant, the world's first heart transplant following the use of a Thoratec bi-ventricular assist device, the world's first endoscopic saphenous vein harvest and the first ventricular remodeling in the region.

Robert (Bob) Tools Benefit Fund

For people who would like to make contributions to the family of Mr. Tools, a benefit account has been opened in his hometown of Franklin, Kentucky at Integra Bank. Following is information regarding the account.

Organizer: Marie Buchanan
Friend of Family
270-586-9677

Bank: Integra Bank
Franklin, Kentucky
Darla Knight
270-586-4473

Contributions: Integra Bank
P.O. Box 617
Franklin, KY 42135
Attn: Robert Tools Benefit Account

Key Points:

- Mr. Tools is a medical pioneer – world’s first totally implantable artificial heart recipient (the patient is incurring NO medical costs as it relates to this procedure)
- The family is living on a very limited income
- Mr. Tools is receiving minimal disability income, but has not been able to work for quite a while
- Wife has left her full-time job to be with Mr. Tools while he recuperates
- A timeframe has not been established in terms of when Mr. Tools might be released so that his wife can begin working again
- The fund was started by members of the St. Mary’s Catholic Church, where Mr. Tools and his wife are members