

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 91

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Houston, Texas, as the  
“Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred  
to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Houston,  
Texas, as the “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Vet-  
erans Affairs Medical Center”.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4        Congress finds as follows:

5                (1) Dr. Michael E. DeBakey played a critical  
6        role in establishing and developing the Department  
7        of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston,  
8        Texas. He has successfully elevated its professional  
9        staff and quality healthcare to meet high standards  
10       of excellence and encouraged minorities to fulfill

1 their potential in education, and particularly in the  
2 health professions.

3 (2) Dr. DeBakey's dedication to the Depart-  
4 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is ongoing.  
5 He is still chairman of the Dean's Committee of that  
6 medical center, as he has been since the beginning  
7 of that institution.

8 (3) Dr. DeBakey brought both the City of  
9 Houston and the State of Texas international rec-  
10 ognition for the Texas Medical Center through his  
11 pioneering of medical research, his leadership at  
12 Baylor College of Medicine, his national and inter-  
13 national medical statesmanship, and his cham-  
14 pioning of the rights and the welfare of the under-  
15 privileged.

16 (4) Dr. DeBakey is credited with the develop-  
17 ment of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals  
18 (MASH) concepts for the military, which led to sav-  
19 ing thousands of lives during the Korean and Viet-  
20 nam conflicts, as well as the development of special-  
21 ized medical and surgical center systems in order to  
22 treat returning military personnel.

23 (5) During World War II, Dr. DeBakey served  
24 as a colonel in the United States Army and was as-  
25 signed to the Surgical Consultant Division in the of-

1        fice of the Surgeon General. His active duty service  
2        was from 1942 to 1946. He remained on active duty  
3        in 1946 and recruited 100 additional specialists to  
4        care for World War II wounded military personnel  
5        in Army specialty centers.

6                (6) For his service in the Armed Forces, Dr.  
7        DeBakey received the Legion of Merit.

8        **SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
9                        **MEDICAL CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS.**

10        (a) NAME.—The Department of Veterans Affairs  
11        medical center in Houston, Texas, shall after the date of  
12        the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the  
13        “Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs  
14        Medical Center”.

15        (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-  
16        tion, map, document, record, or other paper of the United  
17        States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a)  
18        shall be considered to be a reference to the Michael E.  
19        DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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