

## Pioneering Artificial Heart Patient Dies



Robert Tools

(AP)—Robert Tools, the first person to receive a fully self-contained artificial heart, died Friday after suffering a setback. He was 59 and had lived with the device for 151 days.

Tools died of complications after severe abdominal bleeding, said Drs. Laman Gray Jr. and Robert Dowling, who implanted the softball-sized device on July 2 at Jewish Hospital.

"Bob became a dear friend to all of us," Dowling said. "We will miss Bob's laugh, his sense of humor and his fighting spirit."

Tools, a retired telephone company worker, was suffering from congestive heart failure, diabetes and kidney disease before receiving the artificial heart. He had been given little chance of surviving 30 days without the surgery.

Tools began bleeding Thursday and his organs began failing later that night, the hospital said. His abdominal bleeding was caused by continuous anti-coagulation problems Tools had experienced since the landmark surgery.

His death was unrelated to the stroke he suffered Nov. 11, the hospital said. The hospital also said the deterioration of his condition was not caused by complications or any malfunction of the experimental AbioCor heart device.

## DePriest Receives New Kidney

Oregon Symphony conductor James DePriest was in good condition Tuesday after surgery Monday to receive a kidney from an anonymous donor.

DePriest went into surgery just before noon, and the procedure was completed at 5 p.m., said Maggie Huffman, a spokeswoman for Legacy Health Systems. The surgery was performed by Dr. Viken Douzjian at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center.

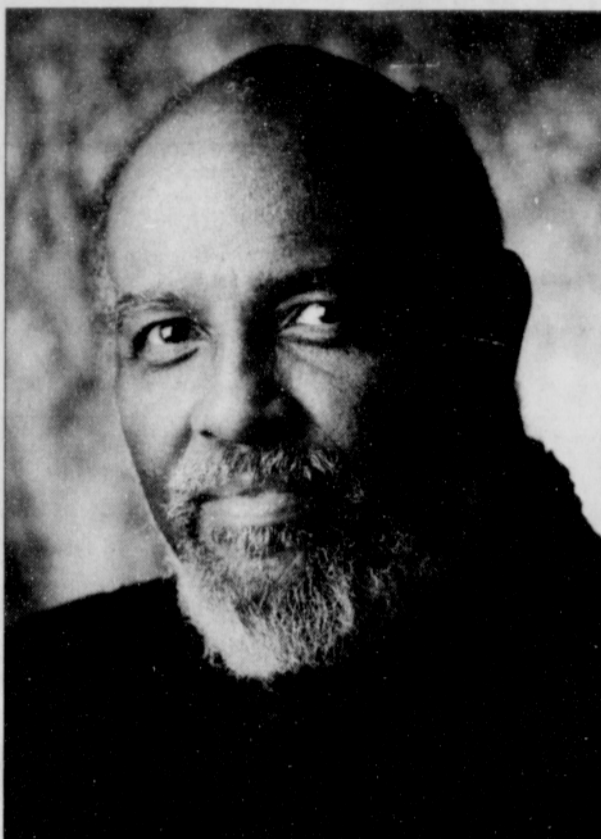
The donor came forward in October, Huffman said.

DePriest, who joined the symphony in 1980 and frequently conducts other orchestras in the United States and around the world, was added to the transplant list in May.

He suffers from kidney disease, which is incurable, but DePriest has said a new kidney "lasts indefinitely."

DePriest has been on kidney dialysis for almost two years. He had said he was doing well with treatment, but decided to get a transplant on the recommendation of his doctor.

DePriest expects his recovery to take six weeks or longer.



Oregon Symphony Leader, James DePriest

## NAACP Sets Schedule for the Holidays

The Portland branch of the NAACP will resume general membership meetings in January.

There will be no general meetings during the holidays, but all

committees will continue regular business as usual.

For more information, to join or become involved in the local NAACP, send an email to NAACPOREGON@AOL.COM

or call 503-224-5794, extension 45.

Information is also available at the group's website at NAACPOREGON.COM.

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## Candles Increase Risk of Holiday Fires

As the holiday season begins, Kaiser Permanente reminds us to be cautious when using candles.

"Although candles can be relaxing, the open flame does pose the risk of igniting other material, especially holiday decorations," says Cheryl Weaver, a nurse and emergency department coordinator at Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center in Clackamas. "It is important to keep candles away from flammable material, and out of the reach of children. And never leave a burning candle unattended."

Candle sales typically increase during the holidays along with residential fires resulting from their careless use. The month of December has nearly twice the average number of candle fires than other months according to the National Fire Protection Association. Throughout the year, candles are most likely to first set fire to cabinetry, mattresses, curtains and furniture.

During December, holiday decorations, such as Christmas trees, are the leading materials first ignited by candles. Nationwide, candles are responsible for approximately 10,000 residential fires each year. Those fires cause 1,000 injuries, 85 fatalities and \$120 million in property loss per year, according to 1993-98 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Protection Association.

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