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December 12, 2008

Arizona Commission on the Arts
Attn: Governor's Arts Award
417 West Roosevelt Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1326

Dear Sirs,

I have been asked to write a letter of support in behalf of James N. Muir in reference to the Governor's Arts Award.

As an art collector I have come to appreciate various forms of art, but what has been most interesting to me is the creator of the art itself. Having known many artists and many had become personal friends I was driven to build a private museum dedicated to the artist. The museum carries the works of several artists of different styles and talent.

Once in a lifetime an artist comes along that soars above his peers and in my humble opinion James Muir is top of his field. A saying that is very fitting to this man: "like bees they put their lives to the sting they give" artist James Muir has sacrificed his life into his art; not for material rewards but as his way of serving humanity. It's easy to connect a doctor's service to patients, a soldier's service to his country, but artists to mankind? Each one of us serves our fellowmen in his or her own way. Truly, James has this God given talent that he has cultivated to the service of humanity. His symbolic art reflects duty, sacrifice, honor, and love has been inspirational to viewers and collectors of his work.

I was able to acquire one of the five of James's American Pieta monument which was unveiled this year over Labor Day weekend as a tribute to the fallen American soldiers. The overwhelming sentiment it brought to the crowd was that of service, patriotism, and above all, pride to be an American. To quote one of our guest speaker Congressman Kirk, "we are privilege and proud to have this treasure in our state of Illinois." A comment from another guest Apollo XIII astronaut, James Lovell, "it is a piece of national heritage befitting a place at the Arlington National Cemetery as a tribute to all those who have done service to this country."

James artworks transcends to different aspects of humanity. Among many of his works the Band of Brothers, American Pieta, and Thomas Jefferson have brought closure to his life at West Point. His art is truly his way of serving humanity.

Sincerely,

Alfonso V. Mellijor, M.D.
Cancer Treatment Centers of America