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Jesse White fights myths of organ donation

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By Joe Bennett
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NORMAL, Ill -- Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White visits communities every April to promote Donate Life month.

White was at Honor BroMenn Advocate Medical Center in Normal Tuesday dedicating a memorial bench for lives saved through organ and tissue donations.

A panel of speakers included those who lost loved ones who were organ donors, as well as some who were given a second chance at life.

White says part of the campaign is combating myths perpetuated by those who are against donating organs.

"They think when they're on life support that the doctors will not put forth a genuine effort to save them," White says. "They think their organs are going to be sold. They think the rich man is going to get before they get theirs. They think they won't look good in their going away, and the morticians have it down to a science how to restore the body, so that it looks presentable in your going away."

The Secretary is happy to announce numbers of organ donors are on the rise 5.2 million registered in Illinois.