

November 11, 1940 [Bethesda Naval Medical Center Cornerstone Ceremony]

1347

FDR Speech File

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THE  
NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER

November 11, 1940

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This morning at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,  
the American people paid their tribute at the shrine of  
those who gave their lives in defense of our country.

It is fitting that this afternoon we assemble again in  
the patriotic cause of preserving the well-being of those  
who, living, wear the uniform of our defense.

This Nation is gaining in foresight. This  
Nation, thereby, is saving human life in war and in peace.

This mission today is particularly close to my  
heart. During the trying days of the World War, when  
serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, I well remember  
the tremendous load of patients that were cared for under  
the restricted facilities at the Naval Hospital overlooking  
Constitution Avenue. That hospital occupies an historic

site -- the place where General Braddock landed in 1755 when George Washington was serving as his aide-de-camp. In 1842, the Naval Observatory was located there and in 1893, the grounds and the building were assigned as the Naval Museum of Hygiene. Later, in 1902, the Naval Medical School was founded and, as you know, has accomplished great things in the training of medical officers and in the care of tens of thousands of our naval personnel.

The need for increased capacity and for better facilities led your Government some years ago to initiate the move from the old historic site to his present one. These new buildings had become a necessity even before the existing expansion in our defense forces. I have referred to foresight and that is one reason that in planning we have provided opportunity for expansion to any point that might become necessary in a national mobilization.

When this building is completed we shall have a 500-bed hospital incomparably modern in structure and

equipment. On these grounds will be provided quarters for the staff officers and nurses and enlisted personnel.

Its 247 acres provide ample space for any emergency that may be reasonably anticipated. It is convenient to transportation by road and rail. Across the highway, with its great research laboratories, the National Institute of Public Health, dedicated last week, is still its good neighbor.

And within this Naval Medical School itself will be joined the task of the clinician and the teacher. Technical instruction will go hand in hand with the care of human illness.

I am happy, too, that the physical work of construction has proceeded so well. Through efficient and harmonious cooperation between government and industry and labor, it is at least three months ahead of schedule and we hope to occupy these buildings by next October.

To all who have and have had a part in this work, I give  
the thanks of your Government.

In the years to come I am confident that the striking architecture of this great center will receive approval. It is a departure from the colonial type of many recent structures, as it is also from the monumental classic design of the buildings within the District of Columbia. It combines, I think, a practical usefulness for the facilities which will inhabit it and, at the same time, the harmony of its lines give expression to the thought that art is not dead in our midst.

This Naval Medical Center of which I lay the cornerstone is a tribute to a living democracy -- a democracy which intends to keep on living.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
*Very reading copy*

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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WILLIAM D. HALLIBURTON

This morning at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American people paid their tribute at the shrine of those who gave their lives in defense of our country. It is fitting that this afternoon we assemble again in the patriotic cause of preserving the well-being of those who, living, wear the uniform of our defense.

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FIRST DRAFT

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THE  
NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER

November 11, 1940

This morning at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American people paid their tribute at the shrine of those who gave their lives in defense of our country. It is fitting that this afternoon we assemble again in the patriotic cause of preserving the well-being of those who, living, wear the uniform of our defense.

This Nation is gaining in foresight. This Nation, thereby, is saving human life in war and in peace.

This mission today is particularly close to my heart. During the trying days of the World War, when serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, I well remember the tremendous load of patients that were cared for under the restricted facilities at the Naval Hospital overlooking Constitution Avenue. That hospital occupies an historic site -- the place where General Braddock landed in 1755 when George Washington was serving as his aide-de-camp. In 1842, the Naval Observatory was located there and in 1893, the grounds and the building were assigned as the

FIRST DRAFT

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Naval Museum of Hygiene. Later, in 1902, the Naval Medical School was founded, and, as you know, has accomplished great things in the training of medical officers and in the care of tens of thousands of our naval personnel.

The need for increased capacity and for better facilities <sup>led</sup> ~~led~~ your Government some years ago to initiate the move from the old historic site to this present one. These new buildings had become a necessity even before the existing expansion in our defense forces. I have referred to foresight and that is one reason that in planning we have provided opportunity for expansion to any point that might become necessary in a national mobilization.

When this building is completed we shall have a 500-bed hospital incomparably modern in structure and equipment. On these grounds will be provided quarters for the staff officers and nurses and enlisted personnel.

Its 247 acres provide ample space for any emergency that may be reasonable anticipated. It is convenient to transportation by road and rail. Across the highway, with its great research laboratories, the National Institute of Public Health, dedicated last week, is still its good neighbor.

FIRST DRAFT

-3-

And within this Naval Medical School itself will be joined the task of the clinician and the teacher. Technical instruction will go hand in hand with the care of human illness.

I am happy, too, that the physical work of construction has proceeded so well. Through efficient and harmonious cooperation between government and industry and labor, it is at least three months ahead of schedule and we hope to occupy these buildings by next October. To all who have and have had a part in this work, I give the thanks of your Government.

In the years to come I am confident that the striking architecture of this great center will receive approval. It is a departure from the colonial type of many recent structures, as it is also from the monumental classic design of the buildings within the District of Columbia. It combines, I think, a practical usefulness for the facilities which will inhabit it and, at the same time, the harmony of its lines give expression to the thought that art is not dead in our midst.

FIRST DRAFT

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This Naval Medical Center of which I lay the cornerstone is a tribute to a living democracy -- a democracy which intends to keep on living.

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[Signature]

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
On the occasion of the laying of the  
cornerstone of the Naval Medical Center  
Bethesda, Maryland  
November 11, 1940, 3:30 P.M.

ADMIRAL MCINTIRE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

This morning at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American people paid their tribute at the shrine of those who gave their lives in defense of our country. (It is fitting that) This afternoon it is fitting that we assemble again in the patriotic cause of preserving the well-being of those who, living, wear the uniform of our defense.

This Nation is gaining in foresight. This Nation, thereby, is saving human life in war and in peace.

This mission today is particularly close to my heart. During the trying days of the World War, when serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, I well remember the tremendous load of patients that were cared for under the restricted facilities at the Naval Hospital overlooking Constitution Avenue. That hospital occupies an historic site -- the place where General Braddock landed in 1755 when George Washington was serving as his aide-de-camp. In 1842, the Naval Observatory was located there and in 1893, the grounds and the building were assigned as the Naval Museum of Hygiene. Later on, in 1902, the Naval Medical School was founded and, as you know, has accomplished great things in the training of medical officers and in the care of tens of thousands of our naval personnel.

The need for increased capacity, (and) for better facilities led your Government some years ago to initiate the move from the old historic site to (this) the present one. These new buildings had

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words added to manuscript after it was prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

RECORDED ON THE ORIGINAL CONTINUOUS INDEX

newspaper ads, which I am sure add to what add to inflation add  
newspaper ads every one add to unride ads to students ride big slogan  
add to newspaper ads (this part of it) which add to pamphlet of  
parliament to come riding add to slogan chairman or make palette  
pamphlet add to another add new slogan add add to make-new add  
veterans' pension add slogan of printing of notice add  
slogan of tax law add still another slogan add  
slogan slogan of new government of labor unions add  
veterans' pension as universal basic tax below add to each private add  
each job situation to local authorities add national like I add add to  
new legislation level add to solidified resolution add whom not before  
the proposal as follows legislation add some a solidification of national  
solidification agree now said at bottom Roosevelt added really add  
new proposal level add still al - goes-on-said add as follows now  
Demands new stabilized add has authority add, said at has credit before  
level add, said at go now, namely to meet level add as  
an against most bad liquors and, word may as has behavior new food  
abuse add to one add all the existing system to minimize add  
leastwise level add to  
solidified raised not (has) , which is demanded not been add  
big add more even add stabilize of one many other demands but  
bad condition was about who expected add (also) of this proposal

become a necessity even before the existing expansion (in) of our defense forces. I have referred to foresight and that is one reason that in planning we have provided opportunity for expansion to any point that might become necessary in a national mobilization.

And when this building is completed we shall have a 500-bed hospital incomparably modern in structure and equipment. On these grounds will be provided quarters for the staff officers and nurses and enlisted personnel.

Its 247 acres provide ample space for any emergency that may be reasonably anticipated. It is convenient to transportation by road and rail. And across the highway, with its great research laboratories, the National Institute of Public Health, dedicated (last week) ten days ago, is still (its) our good neighbor.

And within this Naval Medical School itself (will) are going to be joined the task of the clinician and the teacher. In other words, technical instruction will go hand in hand with the care of human illness.

I am happy, too, that the physical work of construction has proceeded so well. Through efficient and harmonious cooperation between government and industry and labor, it is at least three months ahead of schedule and we hope to occupy these buildings by next October, and we will have another ceremony at that time. To all who have and have had a part in this work, I give the thanks of your Government.

In the years to come I am very confident that the striking architecture of this great center will receive approval. It is a departure from the colonial type of many recent structures, as it is also from the monumental classic design of the buildings within the

District of Columbia. It combines, I think, a practical usefulness for the facilities which will inhabit it and, at the same time, the harmony of its lines gives expression to the thought that art is not dead in our midst.

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## STATEMENTS FILE

## Shorthand By Kannee

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ILLIAN D. HALSETT

*Mon 9*

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And within this Naval Medical School itself ~~will be~~ joined the task of the clinician and the teacher. Technical instruction will go hand in hand with the care of human illness.

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