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.
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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
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 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.
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.
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 MCINIRE, 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 over-
looking 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 1895, 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
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 extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

This nation is in a mood to do great things. It is a mood of passionate desire to get the world out of its present nadir and to make it the world of peace.

To stand by the world as it is now made and to submit to the law of impotence is to descend into the grave. To make an end of war, I will not only accept the recommendations of the men I have trusted over.

This nation is in a mood to make this nation and this world and this world's peace our business. The enterprise today is not merely a guarantee of the future but the enterprise of today.

The United Nations organization is the machinery of world security. It is the promise of a new chapter in the history of civilization. It is the promise of a new chapter in the history of civilization.

The nation's exultation is the exultation of the people. The nation's hopes are the hopes of the people. The nation's deeds are the deeds of the people. The nation's achievements are the achievements of the people.

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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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