

Administrator 724  
Bill Drew  
Dr Ready  
Dr Musher

Reverend Dr. Robinson - member of  
Congress -  
Oliver T. Evans

- S. J. McArthur

WASHINGTON, D.C., VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

# HOSPITAL DEDICATION

April 28, 1965

It is my honor to share this dedication  
with you.

This is the newest and most modern of VA  
hospitals. More than 8,000 veterans will come here  
each year to receive the care this hospital will  
provide. They will receive good care. Because  
VA medicine is good medicine.

As we are here today to dedicate this  
hospital, let us also dedicate ourselves to  
continuance of these high standards of medicine.

What will it take to maintain such standards?  
First, it will take modern and functional efficiency.

L Today, VA is engaged in the largest hospital building program in history. At this moment, at some stage in the construction pipeline, there are 355 VA projects under way. These projects are not undertaken for their own sake. They are designed to provide the best care possible to those who deserve it.

L Second, it will take effectiveness. This means locating VA hospital beds where they can treat the greatest number of veterans. The VA system has each year increased the number of veterans treated. This year, for example, VA hospitals will treat 100,000 more veterans than they did in 1960. Efficient placement of facilities makes this possible.

2 Third, it will take comprehensiveness of  
care. A veteran who enters the doors of this  
hospital will benefit from the availability of a  
full spectrum of modern medical techniques - ranging  
from open-heart surgery and radioactive cobalt  
therapy to a special kidney treatment unit which  
will literally save dozens of lives each year.

2 The President's budget request for fiscal  
year 1966 includes more funds for medical care than  
at any time in VA history. It clearly reflects  
this Administration's response to the need for  
continued high standards of VA medicine.

Funds requested for 1966:

L Will support activation of three new  
hospitals, including this one.

Will support the new nursing care program  
in VA operated facilities with an estimated average  
of 1,500 patients daily.

L Will support establishment of 13 special  
centers for heart surgery, of <sup>m. fa - Alma</sup> 26 emphysema treatment  
units, of two day treatment centers, of two mental  
hygiene clinics, <sup>and</sup> ~~as~~ a new blind rehabilitation  
center.

*Funds for 1966*

Will support expansion of medical and surgical  
bed sections in neuropsychiatric hospitals, and  
expansion of capability of the 11 centers for  
treatment of chronic kidney disease.

L Will support an increase in staff to provide  
corrective treatment for speech problems at 20 more  
hospitals.

1. The first of these is the

the second is the

the third is the

the fourth is the

the fifth is the

the sixth is the

the seventh is the

the eighth is the

the ninth is the

the tenth is the

the eleventh is the

the twelfth is the

Genl Hawley  
Paul Magnusson  
Admiral Brown  
Ar Middleton  
Mr McNamee  
Dr Masser

Medical  
Directors

Land Will support strengthening of VA's clinical laboratory services.

Land We view the VA hospital system as a national resource,  
~~that is in the area of~~ <sup>use</sup> veterans' medicine ~~an~~ essential part of a  
national health program.

Land The VA hospital program has been shaped so that it may  
render to veterans the best care in the power of medical science  
and in doing so help all Americans through medical research,  
the training of much-needed doctors and other medical profes-  
sionals.

Land In research, the VA has ~~moved from about absolute zero~~ <sup>become</sup>  
to one of the finest medical and clinical research programs in the  
world. In the ~~past~~ <sup>last</sup> 10 years alone this research program has  
expanded by some 700 per cent.

Land This hospital will play a significant role in that  
research effort.

But the contribution being made by the Veterans Administration to the health of the entire nation is not confined to the products of its laboratories. For, the VA, ~~through its program of affiliation~~, is now involved in a creative, mutually beneficial partnership with the nation's leading medical schools. *- this group affiliated for residency training - Georgetown, Geo Wash + Howard Universities*

Through this partnership with medical schools, approximately one-half of the junior medical students in the United States receive part of their clinical experience in veterans hospitals. A total of 3,200 out of 7,400 registered senior medical students have a part of their fourth-year clinical training in VA hospitals.

and L

Approximately 10 per cent of all medical residencies

are in VA hospitals. Many of America's best specialty training

programs have developed through combined university and

affiliated VA hospital programs. It is estimated that 15

per cent of all certified physicians today have received part

or all of their specialty training in Veterans Administration

hospitals.

yes L

We view the VA hospital program, with its goal of

high quality care for veterans, as part of the national health

effort. We also see that it is directly related to other creative

measures being taken to improve the health of all our citizens. These

measures at the heart of the Great Society we are all striving

to build.

But



And now it is my pleasant duty to join with  
Administrator of Veterans Affairs William J. Driver  
~~in presenting this official dedication certificate~~  
in presenting this official dedication certificate  
to the Director of this hospital, Dr. Thomas J.  
~~Ready, and to repose in him the heavy responsibility~~  
~~Ready~~, and to repose in him the heavy responsibility  
for carrying forward the work of healing the sick  
and distressed who enter these doors.

TEXT OF REMARKS  
BY  
THE HONORABLE  
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
WASHINGTON, D.C., VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
HOSPITAL DEDICATION  
April 28, 1965

Thank you very much, Mr. Driver, the distinguished and able Administrator of this great program relating to our veterans; and the Reverend Clergy; my colleagues in Congress, and I surely want to pay particular tribute to a gentleman whose nickname I think describes the character of the man when he's on your side, or if he isn't, Tiger Teague, as we call him, the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and Joe Evins, of Independent Offices Appropriations Committee, other Members of Congress; and to all of the gallant and faithful servants, public servants, of the Veterans Administration, my special greeting to you, and may I take a moment to say a special thanks to you -- all too often we indulge ourselves in the criticism of our civil servants and all too seldom in a word of commendation and praise, which is richly deserved by the thousands and thousands of people that faithfully serve the Government of the United States and the people of this great Republic, day in and day out.

I want to commend the medical administration of our Veterans Administration. I regret, of course, that the Director, Dr. McNinch,

isn't with us today, but his Assistant, his Aide, is here, Dr. Musser, and Dr. Ready, and Dr. Robinson -- these men we honor for their work beyond the call of duty. How fortunate it is that we have had such distinguished medical men, administrators in charge of this program.

It is my distinct honor and a very high privilege to share in this dedication of this new hospital with you.

This is the newest and the most modern of our VA hospitals; and I venture to say to the Hospital Director, Dr. Ready, and to the Area Medical Director, Dr. Robinson, that this hospital is one of the newest and most modern hospital facilities of its kind anywhere, whether it's in veterans' medicine or any other kind of medicine or hospital care. More than 8,000 of our veterans will come here each year to receive the care this hospital will so well provide, and they will receive good care because the fact is that medical and hospital care in our veterans' hospitals today is the best that this Country or that the medical arts and the healing arts can provide; and, as we are here today to dedicate this hospital, might I also add as has been indicated in our prayer that we dedicate ourselves to the continuance of these high standards of service and of care and of medicine which this structure that we see here today epitomizes.

What will it take to maintain these standards, high standards? Well, first, it has been agreed that it will take modern and functional

efficiency -- and may I digress to say that your Government wants to make sure that our hospitals are modern. You don't help anybody by maintaining and sustaining an institution or a facility that is obsolete, and we want to make sure that they're efficient.

Today, the VA is engaged in the largest hospital building program in history. Of course, we hear about a few facilities that may be closed up, but I might add that we're engaged in an expansion program, not a retracting program. At this moment, at some stage in the construction pipeline, there are 355 VA projects under way; and these projects are not undertaken just for their own sake. They are designed for one purpose, to provide the best care possible to those who so richly and justly deserve it.

Now, second, if we are going to maintain the high standards that we want, it will take effectiveness of administration and of operation. This means locating VA hospitals and hospital beds where they can treat the greatest number of veterans. The VA system has each year increased the number of veterans treated. This year, for example, I've been informed that the Veterans Administration hospitals will treat 100,000 more veterans than they did in 1960. Efficient placement of facilities makes this possible and, indeed, efficient placement of facilities makes it mandatory if we are going to treat that number, that increased number of patients.

Third, it will take comprehensiveness of care to maintain high standards. A veteran who enters the doors of this hospital will benefit from the availability of a full spectrum of modern medical techniques, ranging from open-heart surgery and radioactive cobalt therapy to a special kidney treatment unit which will literally save dozens of lives each year. I think it can be said that whatever modern medicine can provide will be available in this hospital.

The President's budget request for fiscal year 1966 -- I address myself now to our beloved friends in Congress who, by the way, are mighty generous and considerate in these matters -- and they are. This budget request for 1966 includes, as these men well know, more funds for medical care than at any time in VA history. It clearly reflects this Administration's response to the need for continued high standards of VA medicine. I am happy to say that I had an opportunity to review that budget and feel that it is, without a doubt, the best budget in terms of medical and hospital care that we will be privileged to have, and I know that it will receive the most generous and favorable assistance of the Congress of the United States -- Tiger, I want you to clap there on this! Well, we have no problem here, I'll tell you.

Now, let me just cite for you what we think these funds requested will do.

They'll support activation of three new hospitals, including this one, modern hospitals that every American can be proud of. You'll just

be proud to point to them and say, this is what the people of America think of their veterans.

These funds will support the new nursing care program in VA operated facilities with an estimated average of 1,500 patients daily -- expanded nursing care.

These funds will support establishment of 13 special centers for heart surgery, of 26 emphysema treatment units, of two day treatment centers, and of two mental hygiene clinics, and a new blind rehabilitation center. Now, these are all specialties -- this is over and beyond what we ordinarily have in a hospital unit, and these funds are in the new budget and are directed toward the expansion of these specialized facilities. We now know how to treat many of these serious illnesses and abnormalities and, if we know how to do it, it's the determination of your Government to see that it's done for the people that need it.

These funds will support expansion of medical and surgical bed sections in the neuropsychiatric hospitals, and they will support the expansion of capability of the 11 centers for treatment of chronic kidney disease.

The budget of this year will support an increase in staff to provide corrective treatment for speech problems at 20 or more hospitals, rehabilitation which we have found it is not only possible but profitable making people once again whole so that they can be self-sustaining and be happy people.

The funds will support strengthening of VA's clinical laboratory services, and will support the expansion of the veterans' medical and hospital research program. You see, we view the VA hospital system, not as a burden, not as a charge on the public, but as a national resource. Veterans' medicine is today an essential part, a very significant part of the national health program, and we are determined to bring the benefits and the miracles of modern medicine, as we know it, to be within the reach of every section of America and all the people of American, veteran or nonveteran; but, surely, the first claim to that medical care is upon those who have been willing to give all that they had for their Country, and that's why veterans' medicine must be the best.

Now, the VA hospital program has been shaped so that it may render to veterans the best care in the power of modern medical science and in doing so, help all Americans through medical research, and then help all Americans through the training of much-needed doctors and other professional people in the healing arts.

A word about research, because in research the VA has one of the finest medical and clinical research programs in the world, and on this platform today are men that made this possible. I know they have been mentioned before, but in the 16 years that I served in the Congress of the United States, I had the privilege of working with these men, and I want to pay much overdue credit and thanks to them -- when we think of those post-war years, and when we think of how the veterans' medicine has improved and how it has surged forward to be recognized for its high

standards, we can't help but remember, as was indicated here, General Hawley, Dr. Paul Magnuson, Doctor, or Admiral, Joel Boone, and Dr. Middleton and now, of course, Dr. McNinch. I have had the privilege of working with these men and I know the hard work that went into their program efforts, and I know of the sacrifice that they made, and if there are any heroes for the sick, if there are any heroes for the Veterans Administration, they're right here on this platform today and should so be recognized by the American people.

Now, let me just cite that in the last ten years -- well, I should say really in the last about twenty years, our research program has grown from almost nothing to where it stands today. In the last ten years it has increased by some 700 percent. Some of the finest medical research in the world is carried on right now in the veterans' hospitals without any sacrifice of care, might I add, in fact, with benefit to care; and this hospital right here will play a major role in that research record.

But the contribution being made by the Veterans Administration to the health of the entire nation is not confined to the products of its laboratories. For the VA, through its program of affiliation, is now involved in a creative, mutually beneficial partnership, which Mr. Driver has mentioned, with the nation's leading medical schools.

American medicine is better because of this program, and these hospitals are better because of our great universities and teaching schools, and our great medical schools. The medical profession and the Veterans



Administration have worked as partners, and the universities and the Veterans Administration medical division have worked as partners. The whole world is the better, and through this partnership with the medical schools -- right here for many years, Georgetown University, Howard University, and George Washington University have a partnership arrangement for the training of resident doctors with this hospital.

Through this partnership with medical schools, approximately one-half of the junior medical students in the United States will receive part of their clinical experience in veterans' hospitals. A total of 3,200 out of 7,400 registered senior medical students have a part of their fourth-year clinical training in VA hospitals.

Approximately ten percent of all the medical residencies in America are in VA hospitals. Many of America's best specialty training programs have developed through combined university and affiliated VA hospital programs. Thousands of lives are saved every year because of this partnership. It is estimated that 15 percent of all certified physicians today have received part or all of their specialty training in Veterans Administration hospitals. So, when somebody tells you about the cost of this medical program, and I've heard about it when I was in Congress, you just remind them and say, you're alive today because of it, and I don't think that's a cost.

Now it's my -- I just choked on that last one -- I may need a little of that speech therapy they're going to give here -- it's my pleasant duty to join with the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Mr. William J. Driver,

in presenting this official dedication certificate to the Director of this hospital, Dr. Thomas J. Ready, and to repose in him the heavy responsibility for carrying forward the work that he loves so much and the work that he will do so well, the work of healing the sick and the distressed who enter these doors over which he will have administrative direction, and, Dr. Ready, I surely want to wish you the very, very best, Doctor.



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)