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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY
UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF
THE HEALTH SCIENCES

National Naval Medical Center - Bethesda, Maryland

Thank you, Dave Packard. I am honored to be here on this historic day when the hopes of so many people over so many years have finally reached fruition.

I know how long Eddie Hebert and many of my other colleagues in the Congress have worked to make a joint Uniformed University of Health Sciences a reality. And I am aware that many dedicated people in the military services and the medical profession have contributed to this outstanding accomplishment as well.

And, with this groundbreaking ceremony today, it has become a reality. Here in the shadow of some of our Nation's greatest health facilities -- The National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, The National Institutes of Health, and The National Library of Medicine -- we are gathered to launch a new venture that will continue our long tradition of providing outstanding health care to the men and women who wear our country's uniform.

By bringing together men and women from the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, this new facility will serve another important function as well. It will give members of the three proud and independent service branches the opportunity to work together for a common goal without forsaking the separate traditions and the distinctive personal identities of their individual branches.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences will encourage cooperation between the services without reducing their integrity or independence. It is both a bold innovation and true to the best Armed Forces traditions.

So I am here to express my faith in what I believe will prove to be a great American undertaking -- one that we can all be proud of, and one that will pay great human dividends in the form of outstanding health care for the men and women of our Armed Forces for years to come.

This is a proud day for the Army, the Navy and the Air Force -- and for the American people they serve.

Thank you very much.

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