

FROM: INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND
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**ONE-OF-A-KIND, HIGH-TECH PHYSICAL REHABILITATION CENTER
TO TREAT SEVERELY WOUNDED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES
RETURNING FROM WAR ZONES OPENS AT BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL
CENTER**

*Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain Among 3,000 in Attendance
Including Wounded and Recovering Soldiers and Their Families at Opening of The
Center for the Intrepid and 2 New Fisher Houses*

San Antonio, TX – More than 3,000 people, including wounded and recovering military service men and women and their families, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff **Gen. Peter Pace**, and **Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D – NY) and **John McCain** (R – AZ), took part in the dedication ceremony for The Center for the Intrepid – a \$50 million, 60,000 sq. ft., state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation center – and two new Fisher Houses, 21-room residences for hospitalized soldiers' families, here today. This facility will provide treatment that is available nowhere else in the world and is based on best practices, technology and facilities around the globe. The Center for the Intrepid brings "state-of-the-world" technology under one roof.

The program also featured a performance by singer **John Mellencamp**, and a military fly-over. Other special guests included **Denzel Washington**, **Rosie O'Donnell**, **Cher**, **Michelle Pfeiffer** and country music group **Big & Rich**.

“This Facility will not only serve military personnel injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, but all veterans injured in prior conflicts and service members critically injured in non-combat operations,” said **Bill White**, President of the Intrepid Foundation. “To date, more than 18,000 men and women have been wounded in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their future quality of life, their ability to care for themselves and provide for their families, and their very survival depends on the treatment, rehabilitation and advanced training skills they receive following their injury.”

The Center for the Intrepid is distinguished by the number of rehabilitation programs co-located under one roof, enabling a more comprehensive care approach. Many of the next-generation treatment and rehabilitation environments were conceptualized and designed based on direct input from specialists in amputee care, and the patients themselves.

The design team from SmithGroup, a national architectural and engineering firm, sought a balance throughout the facility by designing spaces to support the critical mission of rehabilitation and research, while providing supportive areas for patients and families. Most of the patient activities are intentionally placed along the outer edge of the building, and the generous use of glass provides patients, who often spend the entire day in rehabilitation, views to the outside and plenty of natural daylight.

"The Center for the Intrepid will provide for the critical needs of America's most severely wounded and disabled military personnel, giving them the best opportunity to regain their ability to live and work productively," said **Senator Clinton**, who personally supported the construction of the Center. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to these men and women who have volunteered to defend our country, and their sacrifice demands that their care and rehabilitation be given the highest priority."

“I am proud to be part of this wonderful initiative to help our severely wounded service personnel. I am equally inspired by the thousands of Americans who have stepped forward to help our wounded troops and veterans,” said **Senator McCain**, who also lent his personal support to the construction. “I am aware of the tremendous challenges facing the young men and women who have been injured in our nation’s service. This facility will go far in providing them the ability to meet those challenges.”

This unique project is made possible by the **Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (IFHF)**, which provides assistance to our nation’s military heroes who have been critically injured in the performance of duty and their families, and the Fisher House Foundation. The IFHF has raised more than \$90 million for military families, including for this Center, which is also known as the Armed Forces Physical Rehabilitation Center (AFPRC). The Fisher Houses, of which there are more than 35 around the country and in Germany, provide temporary nearby housing for families of military personnel undergoing surgery and intensive rehabilitation.

“The Center for the Intrepid is a wonderful example of Americans giving back to the men and women who serve our country,” said **Arnold Fisher**, Chairman of the Board of the Intrepid Museum Foundation. “They deserve the best and we are thrilled that here they will get the best: in care, in physical rehabilitation, in prosthetics. We owe them nothing less.”

Also opening today are two 21-bed Fisher Houses, designed as homes away from home for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. The homes are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available. There are more than 35 Fisher Houses located on 18 military installations and eight VA medical centers around the country and in Germany.

“We are happy to open our two newest Fisher Houses today,” said Fallen Heroes Fund chairman, **Ken Fisher**. “These houses provide a home away from home for the families of our wounded warriors, relieving them of the burdens and expenses of travel and housing, and allowing them to focus instead on helping their loved one in their treatment.”

“We thank the thousands upon thousands of people who contributed to this project,” said Fallen Heroes Fund president, **Richard Santulli**. “We received gifts from one dollar to 1 million dollars, all from the heart. It is great to see our country truly getting behind this important effort for our troops and veterans.”

“This facility will bring the highest level of care to our wounded warriors, helping them to regain the greatest possible capability and mobility. We sincerely thank all who have given something to make it possible,” said Deputy Secretary of Defense, **Gordon England**.

The Center for the Intrepid and the Fisher Houses are designed to co-exist in a “village concept” around a common courtyard on the five-acre site. One of the facility’s key areas, the rehabilitation training and exercise center, includes a cantilevered running track; a treadwall and 21-foot climbing tower with auto-belay; custom-designed elevating parallel bars; and other advanced equipment to promote strength, balance, agility and aerobic conditioning. A state-of-the-art Gait Laboratory is fitted with 24 cameras on an automated truss which use infrared light to analyze human motion, with particular emphasis on amputee gait (walking).

Adjacent to the Gait Lab is the Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment (CAREN), a 21-foot simulator dome with a 300-degree screen upon which a variety of “virtual realities” are displayed. The system, which was researched in its development stages in Israel, utilizes a moving platform and high-speed infrared cameras to immerse

patients in a fully reactive virtual and physical environment. Patients use atrophied muscles and relearn skills necessary to do everything from walking on different terrains to driving a car. This system is a first of its kind in the United States.

In the prosthetics fitting and factory, prosthetists and technicians will provide state-of-the-art, on-site fabrication of artificial limbs, using computer-assisted technology for design, milling, production and fitting of prosthetic devices, including unique specialty limbs for sports and other activities.

A natatorium contains a six-lane pool for pre-running activities, kayaking, water basketball and volleyball, and swimming. Also located here is the Flowrider[®], a unique indoor wave pool used to improve balance, coordination, strength, motivation and confidence.

A variety of comprehensive support spaces will help patients and their families maximize their potential for recovery, including social services, case management, and behavioral medicine.

Also at the dedication ceremony were: The Honorable **John Murtha** (D- PA); The Honorable **Francis Harvey**, Secretary, United States Army; The Honorable **William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD., M.B.A.**, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; **General James Conway, USMC**, Commandant, United States Marine Corps; **General Richard Cody, USA**, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army; **SMA Kenneth Preston, USA**, Sergeant Major of the Army; **Admiral Robert F. Willard, USN**, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; **Admiral William Fallon, USN**, Commander, United States Pacific Command; **Lieutenant General Kevin Kiley, USA**, Surgeon General, United States Army; **Vice Admiral Don Arthur, USN**, Surgeon General of the Navy; **Lieutenant General James Roudebush, USAF**, Surgeon General, United States Air Force; **Lieutenant General James Amos, USMC**, Commanding General Marine Corps Combat

Development Command; The Honorable **Christine Quinn**, Speaker, New York City Council; and Texas State Senators The Honorable **Jeff Wentworth** and The Honorable **Frank Corte**.

About the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund:

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund is an independent 501(c)(3) organization, which continues an effort begun in 1982 by Intrepid Foundation founders Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, who, between 1982 and 1999 made contributions of between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to the families of hundreds of military personnel lost in performance of their duty. These gifts were intended to assist these families through any financial hardships that might follow the loss of their loved ones. Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher personally funded this effort until Zachary's passing in 1999, at which time his nephews Arnold Fisher, Richard L. Fisher and Tony Fisher took on this effort and personally funded continuing contributions to military families. Following September 11, 2001 and the onset of military operations in Afghanistan, the Fishers determined that all Americans should join in this effort to support the families of our fallen heroes. The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund was established as a program of the Intrepid Foundation. Since 2000, the IFHF has distributed more than \$14 million to military families. New legislation enacted in May 2005 has significantly increased the death gratuity and the Service Members Group Life Insurance support to these families. At that time the Fund redirected its efforts to support the catastrophically disabled military personnel and their families.

About Brooke Army Medical Center:

Brooke Army Medical Center located on Fort Sam Houston, Texas, plays a critical role in patient care, Graduate Medical Education and Research, as well as taking care of wounded warriors from the Global War on Terrorism. The hospital staff provides inpatient care in a 224-bed facility, 1.5 million square foot, state-of-the-art facility that has the expansion capability of 450 beds. As the Army's only certified Level 1 Trauma Center, BAMC receives more than 4,000 emergency room visits each month. BAMC is one of only 15 hospitals in the United States that

holds both Level 1 Trauma certification and accreditation from the American Burn Association. Forty beds are devoted to the Army Institute of Surgical Research, which operates the renowned "Army Burn Center" – the only Department of Defense Burn Center. The hospital has cared for more than 2,400 service members including Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen who were injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

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