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NATIONAL REHABILITATION HOSPITAL REMARKS -- APRIL 7, 1986

Thank you so much for that warm welcome. I'm very happy to be here to help open the NRH and accept this special honor for my father. I know he is looking down on us and that he is proud to have this beautiful new facility dedicated in his name.

Being a surgeon's daughter, I feel very much at home here. Everytime I'm in a hospital, I'm reminded of the presence of my father. It makes me think of all the times I went on rounds with him -- the times I stood by his side and watched him work. From that, I learned so much about the doctor/patient relationship. He showed me how important that relationship is and the need to respect each and every patient as a noble human being.

And although I didn't pursue a profession in the medical field, I do have a little experience working in a hospital. During World War II, while I volunteered as a nurses aid in Chicago, I learned that the joy of helping people in need made every sacrifice worthwhile. It gave me such a deep inner satisfaction and helped me realize the importance of giving of ourselves to others. It has often been said that you don't begin to live until you begin to give.

So, in many ways I feel a closeness to all of you. You are here because you understand the need for good doctors and good hospitals -- and you are willing, like my father was, to give of yourselves to see that the very best in health care is available.

I'm very proud of all the hard work you've done to make this hospital a reality. And as I look around at this excellent facility, I'm comforted to see that my father's dream and his legacy are still very much alive at the National Rehabilitation Hospital. He joins me in saying thank you and God bless.

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