



# A Patriot's Promise

## FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION

written by alexa bricker | photography by fisher house foundation, unless noted

**IN 1991, PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH** and his wife, Barbara, helped to dedicate a newly built temporary lodging facility for military families in Bethesda, Maryland. Presidents dedicate buildings all the time, but this occasion was even more exceptional.

Thanks to the vision and assistance of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, longtime philanthropic benefactors of the United States military, the first Fisher House opened on that day—and Fisher Houses have since changed the lives of millions.

“My uncle Zachary didn’t serve in the military but instilled patriotism in all of us,” says Ken Fisher, current chairman and CEO of Fisher House Foundation. “He told people he wanted to do something more for the military—for families—and when the need was brought to his attention, he said, ‘I have a developer and I have an architect. This is what I can do.’”

Zachary made his living in the New York real estate industry, and he spent the majority of his adult life fighting for and giving back to various veterans’ organizations. In 1978, Zachary helped save the aircraft carrier *USS Intrepid* from being scrapped and turned the legendary ship into the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, which is now the largest naval museum of its kind in the world.

