



History of Intrepid Museum

The Intrepid Foundation was founded by Zachary Fisher who rescued the USS Intrepid from scrapping. He believed in creating a place to honor our nation's heroes.

Zachary Fisher was a prominent figure in the New York real estate community and a major philanthropic benefactor for the men and women in the United States Armed Forces, as well as numerous other not-for-profit organizations.

In 1978, he founded the Intrepid Museum Foundation to save the historic and battle-scarred aircraft carrier Intrepid from the scrap yard. Four years of involvement with the Foundation resulted in his spearheading the opening of the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in New York City, now the world's largest naval museum.

In 1982, the same year as the Museum's opening, Mr. Fisher established the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation. Through the Foundation, he made significant contributions to the families of the victims of the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983. Since then, the Foundation has made contributions of \$25,000 to numerous military families who have lost loved ones under tragic circumstances.

In 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher began the Fisher House program, dedicating more than \$20 million to the construction of comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel. Thirty-eight Fisher Houses now operate at military bases and at several Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers throughout the nation. More than 153,000 days of lodging are provided by Fisher Houses every year, saving families an estimated \$5 million annually. Since the program's inception, more than 100,000 families have stayed in Fisher Houses.

In 1998, Mr. Fisher received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in honor of his wide-ranging contributions on behalf of the young men and women in the US Armed Forces. He also received the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Horatio Alger Award, the President's Volunteer Action Award, the Senior Civilian Award from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense, and the top civilian awards from each branch of the military. In December 1999, the United States Congress conferred upon Zachary the title of "Honorary Veteran of the United

States,” only the second American to receive such recognition (Bob Hope was the first).

Separately, Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as Margaret Thatcher and the late Yitzak Rabin, recognized Mr. Fisher for his support of charitable organizations throughout the United States. Mr. Fisher's devotion to his country can be summed up in the inscription on the Presidential Plaque presented to him by President Reagan: “To the tireless, dedicated work of many Americans, the Intrepid will serve as an inspiration. One man deserves special tribute Zachary Fisher, a patriotic American who never forgot and cares so much.”