

Susan Winckler, FDA Chief of Staff

Opening remarks used during the Building 1 Dedication Ceremony on 18 December 2008:

I will provide a few facts about the history of White Oak. Upon entering Building One, you may have noticed the plaque above the main entrance reads ““Naval Ordnance Laboratory””. In July, 1997, the Naval Surface Warfare Center that occupied this site for 52 years, and was so instrumental to our country and our history during and after World War 2, closed its doors and lowered the flag of the United States that flew in front of this special building for the last time.

A few weeks ago, on November 19, we welcomed over 200 of the alumni from the old Navy Base back to our Campus to see for the first time what the General Services Administration has built for us, and to see how their Old Building One has been restored.

It was a special, emotional reunion and visit for the alumni that, only served to enhance FDA’s appreciation for the history of White Oak and the loyal Americans who served our country here who preceded the loyal Americans in this room today who serve FDA and GSA here now.

On that day, the president of the White Oak Laboratories Alumni Association, Captain Ray Landrum former OIC of the WOL, presented FDA with the last American flag flown by the Navy here at White Oak. This morning, that very flag was raised on that same flagpole. As you look upon it today, it reminds us of the men and women of the Navy who walked these halls for over 50 years, helping our country win the 2nd World War as well as the men and women of FDA who make sure that the food and medical products we regulate are safe and will help win the war against sickness and disease for all Americans.

We will permanently display this special flag after it is lowered later today.