

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITERS DISCUSS WHAT AMERICANS WANT TO HEAR IN THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 25, 2008) – In conjunction with the ADDRESS AMERICA initiative presented by the National Constitution Center and SMITH Magazine, presidential speechwriters **Mary Kate Cary**, **J. Terry Edmonds**, and **Chris Matthews**, along with veteran Washington reporter **Robert Schlesinger**, will join the Center on Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. for a conversation about the ideas, themes, and values the American public wishes to hear included in the president's Inaugural Address. Admission is \$9 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$7 for teachers and students. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Mary Kate Cary is a professional speechwriter specializing in political and corporate communications. Cary authored over 100 presidential addresses by former President George H.W. Bush, serving as White House speechwriter from 1988 to early 1992. She then went on to become spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney General William Barr, serving in the Office of Policy and Communications at the Justice Department until the end of the Bush Administration. After leaving office, Cary became Deputy Director of Communications at the Republican National Committee in 1994. Since then, she has worked as a professional writer with numerous clients in political campaigns, Fortune 500 corporations, and public interest groups.

Terry Edmonds is Associate Vice President and Editorial Director at Columbia University. Edmonds served as Assistant to the President and Director of Speechwriting during the final term of President William Jefferson Clinton. He was responsible for the production of the President's domestic policy speeches on such issues as education, transportation, race

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ADD ONE/ADDRESS AMERICA PROGRAM

relations, welfare reform, health care reform, the State of the Union, and the federal budget. Prior to assuming the leadership of the White House speechwriting office, Edmonds served as Deputy Director of Speechwriting for the President.

Chris Matthews, host of “Hardball with Chris Matthews” and “The Chris Matthews Show,” has distinguished himself as a broadcast journalist, newspaper bureau chief, presidential speechwriter, and best-selling author. He spent 15 years in politics and government, working in the White House for four years under President Jimmy Carter as a presidential speechwriter and on the President’s Reorganization Project. In addition, Matthews worked in the U.S. Senate for five years on the staffs of Senator Frank Moss (Utah) and Senator Edmund Muskie (Maine), and as the top aide to Speaker of the House Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr. for six years.

Robert Schlesinger, author of *White House Ghosts: Presidents and Their Speechwriters*, is deputy assistant managing editor, opinion at *U.S. News & World Report*. He teaches a course on political reporting at Boston University’s Washington Journalism Center. From 2001 to early 2004, Schlesinger was a D.C. reporter for *The Boston Globe*, covering issues ranging from energy and the environment to national security and the Pentagon. In addition, he previously served as chief congressional correspondent for Voter.com, and a reporter and political editor at *The Hill*.

SMITH Magazine (smithmag.net), the online storytelling community behind the *New York Times* bestseller *NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS PLANNING: Six-Word Memoirs By Writers Famous & Obscure*, and the National Constitution Center have teamed up for a new project perfectly attuned to our times: **ADDRESS AMERICA: Six Words to Inspire a Nation**. SMITH and the Center are asking the country to suggest the half dozen words they hope to hear in President-elect Obama’s Inaugural speech on January 20, 2009. Entries can be submitted at www.constitutioncenter.org/addressamerica.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional

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ADD TWO/ADDRESS AMERICA PROGRAM

issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, “Freedom Rising”. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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