

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PODCASTS REACH HALF A MILLION DOWNLOADS

Philadelphia, PA (June 30, 2008) – In 2005, the National Constitution Center became a leader in the use of state-of-the-art Internet broadcasting by placing programs and educational content on its website at www.constitutioncenter.org and the iTunes Music Store, where the Center's free podcasts were deemed "new and notable" by Apple. In less than three years, over half a million podcasts from the Center's "We the People Stories" have been downloaded, extending the reach of the Center's programming to not only a national audience, but also a global audience. People from England, France, Romania, the Philippines, and Taiwan have had the opportunity to experience these events.

"While our programs have an audience of a few hundred in the Kirby Auditorium, it is incredible to think that thousands of listeners can have the same experience outside our walls through these podcasts," said National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella.

"We the People Stories" podcasts feature a range of topics and speakers, including:

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sherrilyn Ifill, Elena Kagan, and Gene Pratter discussing the successes, continued challenges, and emerging issues faced by women in the legal profession with ABC's Lynn Sherr, as part of the Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution.
- Valerie Plame Wilson providing her perspective on the public disclosure of her identity as a CIA officer.
- Tom Brokaw discussing his book, *Boom! Personal Reflections on the Sixties and Today*.

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- Award winning documentary filmmaker and author Ken Burns in a special Veteran's Day event discussing his film series, *The War*.
- Tavis Smiley discussing his memoir, *What I Know For Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*.
- Conservative thinker Dinesh D'Souza discussing his provocative book, *The Enemy at Home: The Cultural Left and Its Responsibility for 9/11*.
- Senator John McCain discussing hot topics with WPHT's Michael Smerconish in a town hall meeting.
- Thirteen-term United States Congressman Barney Frank sharing his constitutional expertise on issues such as the evolving Supreme Court, Congressional ethics issues, and gay marriage.
- Acclaimed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin discussing her book, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.
- Princeton professor Cornel West discussing his premise that American democracy is in danger.

As the Center continues to host fascinating programs with a wide range of speakers through the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, they, too, will be available as podcasts.

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 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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