

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

HONOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS DURING A SPECIAL VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 21, 2008) - In honor of Veteran's Day, the National Constitution Center will host a variety of activities for veterans and their families, as well as other visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2008. **Museum admission will be free for veterans all day.** (Admission is free every day for active military.)

The Center will hold a moment of silence and a wreath laying ceremony on the Grand Hall Overlook on Tuesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. and *Taps* will be played on the trumpet. This ceremony is similar to the national ceremony, which is held at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery each year.

Visitors can also participate in a variety of programming that explores our nation's service history and history of conflicts. Guests can design their own take-home flags from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; learn more about how Americans commemorate events in our show, *Memorials: Remembering the Past* at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; listen to a public reading of letters written by soldiers during the Vietnam War at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; and join in a conversation about the creation of the "Star Spangled Banner" at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. These events are free with regular museum admission.

In addition, visitors can learn about our nation's involvement in wars and conflicts and reflect on the service and heroism of American veterans through elements in the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*. The "Common Defense" section honors those who have served with a display of flags from each branch of the armed services. Another highlight is a video

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salute featuring a marching soldier who morphs into uniformed soldiers from different time periods, from the Revolutionary War to the present. Guests can also listen to historical letters written by soldiers reflecting on their experiences. A special "walk-in" environment depicts a Civil War battlefield landscape showing fallen soldiers at Antietam, furthering the message of our veterans' sacrifice throughout time. Here, a dirt floor allows visitors to feel as if they are on a country road, as James Earl Jones reads the Emancipation Proclamation. In the World War II section of the exhibit, visitors can see a bullet-scarred propeller tip of a Japanese airplane with an inscription to President Roosevelt from American schoolchildren; a "blue star" flag, which families hung in their windows of their homes to show they had a family member in military service; a Japanese Internment camp yearbook; and three air medals. In the Center's signature theater performance, "Freedom Rising", references are made to soldiers during such conflicts as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II, highlighting contributions that veterans have made in shaping our nation's history. In the Center's new *Headed to the White House* exhibition, visitors can also learn about presidents with military backgrounds, including George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, and Dwight Eisenhower. Guests can even have their photo taken as Theodore Roosevelt in his Rough Rider uniform.

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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