

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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GOVERNOR TOM RIDGE TO DISCUSS MEMOIR AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (August 21, 2009) – Governor **Tom Ridge** will join the National Constitution Center to discuss *The Test of Our Times: America Under Siege...And How We Can Be Safe Again*, a memoir of his time as secretary of Homeland Security, on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Author, journalist, and policy advisor Tony Blankley will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In *The Test of Our Times*, Ridge recounts the politics of the Bush administration, offering candor on both the successes and missteps of the Department of Homeland Security and the challenges he and his new department faced. Ridge also offers a prescriptive look to the future, advocating ways to insure America's safety, but not at the cost of personal liberty.

Tom Ridge was a Congressman for 12 years and Governor of Pennsylvania for six when he was chosen by President George W. Bush to coordinate the federal domestic counterterrorism effort after the attacks of September 11, 2001. He became the first secretary of Homeland Security in 2001 and served in President George W. Bush's cabinet until 2005. The former Congressman and Governor of Pennsylvania is the president and CEO of Ridge Global. He is a graduate of Harvard University. After his first year at the Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the United States Army, where he served as an infantry staff sergeant during the Vietnam War. After serving with distinction and earning the Bronze Star, Ridge returned to Pennsylvania and completed law school.

For more than 25 years, Tony Blankley has been at the intersection of national politics, media, and public policy. He has served as press secretary to then Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich and, prior to that, as a speechwriter and senior

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policy analyst for President Ronald Reagan. Before coming to Washington, Blankley was a California Deputy Attorney General. He co-hosts KCRW's popular show, "Left, Right & Center." In 1999, Blankley founded his nationally syndicated political column with *The Washington Times*. In 2002, he served as the paper's editorial and opinion page editor. Blankley authored his first book in 2005, a *New York Times* bestseller, *The West's Last Chance: Will We Win the Clash of Civilizations?*

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

This program is sponsored by Cozen O'Connor, as part of the *Knight Constitutional Conversation Series*, which has been generously underwritten by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of the U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Knight Foundation focuses on projects with the potential to create transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

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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