

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Philadelphia, PA (October 23, 2009) - 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 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. **Museum admission will be free for veterans all day.** (Admission is free every day for active military).

Guests will have an opportunity to view the *Lost Heroes Art Quilt*, a moving tribute to the American soldiers who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be on display in the Center's Grand Hall Lobby. The quilt features photographs and descriptions of 82 fallen heroes – 50 in the central quilt, representing each state, and 32 around the border – to honor their sacrifices and memorialize their lives.

At 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., the Center will present *Letters Home: Soldiers' Voices through American History*, a dramatic reading of letters written by soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the present. The letters, read aloud by three professional actors, chronicle war time experiences and serve as a poignant reminder of the heroism of American veterans.

In another homage to our nation's servicemen and women, the Center will hold a moment of silence and a wreath laying ceremony, featuring the Drexel University Color Guard, on the Grand Hall Overlook at 11:00 a.m.

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## ADD ONE/VETERAN'S DAY 2009

Vietnam veteran John Campbell, of Glassboro, New Jersey, will speak about his experiences in the United States service in the "Domestic Tranquility" section of the main exhibition at 11:30 a.m. Campbell is the author of *They Were Ours: Gloucester County's Loss in Vietnam*, which tells the story of the forty-three men from Gloucester County, New Jersey, who died in service to our country during the Vietnam War. His work also appears in *Shrapnel in the Heart: Letters and Remembrances from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial* and *Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters*.

Visitors can also participate in a variety of activities and programs exploring our nation's service history. Guests can design take-home flags from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., learn how Americans have commemorated events throughout history during presentations of *Memorials: Remembering the Past* at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and join in conversations about the creation of the "Star Spangled Banner" at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. All Veteran's Day events are free with regular museum admission.

In addition to these special events, visitors can learn about our nation's involvement in wars and conflicts and reflect on the service of American veterans through elements in the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*. Relevant highlights include: the "Common Defense" section, which honors those who have served with a display of flags from each branch of the armed services; a video salute featuring a marching soldier who morphs into uniformed soldiers from different time periods, from the Revolutionary War to the present; a "walk-in" environment depicting a Civil War battlefield landscape showing fallen soldiers at Antietam, where James Earl Jones can be heard reading the Emancipation Proclamation; and the World War II section of the exhibition, where visitors can see the bullet-scarred propeller tip of a Japanese airplane with an inscription to President Roosevelt from American schoolchildren and a "blue star" flag, which families hung in their windows of their homes to show they had a family member in military service. In the Center's signature theater performance, "Freedom Rising", references are also made to soldiers during conflicts such as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II, highlighting contributions veterans have made in shaping our nation's history.

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ADD TWO/VETERAN'S DAY 2009

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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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