

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S 1789 ACTS OF CONGRESS AND 1797 PARDON OF THE LEADERS OF THE WHISKEY REBELLION AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR PRESIDENTS DAY THROUGH NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE PLATFORM**

Philadelphia, PA (February 20, 2017) – A selection of rare presidential artifacts, curated by the **National Constitution Center**, can be viewed online on Google Arts & Culture by people around the world due to a new partnership between Google and the Constitution Center.

Thanks to this new virtual collection, users will be able to view the Acts of Congress, which was owned by George Washington and contains his annotated copy of the U.S. Constitution, Washington's pardon of the leaders of the Whiskey Rebellion, and many other treasures that have been featured at the Constitution Center in just a few clicks. This all comes as part of Google Arts & Culture's Presidents Day collection, ([g.co/american-democracy](http://g.co/american-democracy)) which celebrates the history of the United States presidency from George Washington to present day.

"The National Constitution Center is excited to work with Google Arts & Culture to make America's most priceless founding documents available to citizens across the U.S. and around the world," said National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen. "This virtual collection is a superb way to learn about our constitutional history, beginning with George Washington's own copy of the Constitution."

#### **Virtual Tour with Street View**

Using the Street View feature, people can move around the **National Constitution Center** [virtually](#), selecting works that interest them and clicking to discover more or diving into the high resolution images, where available.

A specially designed Street View 'trolley' took 360 degree images of selected galleries that were then stitched together, enabling smooth navigation over the Constitution Center's main exhibits. This includes *Signers' Hall*, one of the Center's most popular and iconic attractions, where visitors can walk among 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Framers of the Constitution. Street View also shows *The Story of We the People*, the Constitution Center's main exhibit, which guides visitors through milestones in America's history and reveals how the U.S. Constitution is as important today as it was in 1787.

#### **Digital Exhibits**

Specially curated virtual exhibits developed for online visitors include *Powers of the President and Preserve, Protect, and Defend*. In the [virtual Powers of the President exhibit](#), users can discover ways presidents have used and tested their constitutional authority and view original documents from such institutions as the National Archives and its presidential libraries. The exhibit, created by the National Constitution Center, explores several presidential powers contained primarily in Article II of the Constitution: vetoing legislation, issuing pardons, the ability to appoint and remove federal officers, and the powers that come with being chief executive, chief diplomat, and commander in chief. Document highlights include presidential vetoes, controversial executive orders, tickets from impeachment trials, and more.

## VISIT ★ LEARN ★ DEBATE

Featuring:

- **The Acts of Congress, owned and annotated by George Washington, 1789.** This book containing Washington’s copy of the Constitution with his notes represents the beginning of the American presidency (1789, Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association).
- **1797 Pardon of the Leaders of the Whiskey Rebellion.** As the first president, Washington set an example that future presidents would follow; in this pardon of the Whiskey Rebellion leaders, Washington showed that even treasonous individuals could be forgiven—an action that would set apart the American government from other forms of government (1797, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History).

The National Constitution Center’s [Preserve, Protect, and Defend virtual exhibit](#) displays multiple presidential artifacts drawn from presidential libraries, historic sites and societies, and the Center’s own collection; they illuminate both the public and private sides of those who have held the nation’s highest office.

Featuring:

- **Thomas Jefferson’s Inkwell, early 1800s** (Monticello)
- **Theodore Roosevelt’s Spurs, 1905** (Sagamore Hill National Historic Site)
- **Harry Truman’s Sport Shirt and Cap, ca. 1950s** (Harry S Truman National Historic Site)
- **Barack Obama’s “A More Perfect Union” Speech, 2008** (National Constitution Center Collection)

### About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis.” As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

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### About Google Arts & Culture

[Google Arts & Culture](#) is a new, immersive way to experience art, history, culture and world wonders from over a thousand organizations worldwide. Google Arts & Culture has been created by the Google Cultural Institute and it is available for free for everyone on [the web](#), on [iOS](#) and [Android](#). Read more [here](#).