



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FREE ADMISSION, HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENTS, AND A SIX-TON HOAGIE SALUTE PART OF
THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S INDEPENDENCE WEEK PROGRAMMING**

Admission to the museum is FREE on Thursday, June 29, courtesy of Wawa, and FREE on Sunday, July 2, courtesy of the John Templeton Foundation

Philadelphia, PA (June 28, 2017) – The National Constitution Center is proud to announce an array of patriotic festivities for the annual All-American Celebration on Independence Mall over Independence Week, **Thursday, June 29, through Tuesday, July 4.**

To kick off the festivities, the National Constitution Center will participate in **Wawa Hoagie Day on Thursday, June 29, 2017.** Admission to the museum is **FREE** on June 29, and includes access to the Center's signature multimedia theatrical performance of *Freedom Rising* presented in the Sidney Kimmel Theater as well as the Center's numerous feature exhibits, including *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, the critically acclaimed exhibit that brings the story of Prohibition vividly to life; *American Treasures: Documenting the Nation's Founding*, an intimate look at the path the Framers took to create the U.S. Constitution and secure the Bill of Rights; *John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice*, which explores Marshall's character, constitutional legacy, and the influential roles he played in the early Republic; and *Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights*, showcasing one of 12 original, surviving copies of the Bill of Rights.

Additional special programs include the National Constitution Center's Finding the Founders Scholarly Talks and Walking Tours on July 2, featuring free admission, courtesy of the John Templeton Foundation, as well as Philadelphia's Historic District Block Party on July 3.

NOTE: The National Constitution Center will have **extended hours** on Thursday, June 29 through Saturday, July 1, 9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. and extended hours on Sunday, July 2, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Regular hours, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., will be in effect on July 3 and July 4. Admission to the museum is free on Thursday, June 29, courtesy of Wawa, and free on Sunday, July 2, courtesy of the John Templeton Foundation.

[All-American Celebration Programming, June 29 to July 4, 2017](#)

The 1776 Experience—Revolutionary War Encampment

July 2-4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Front Lawn

At the re-created military encampment on the National Constitution Center's front lawn, visitors can stop by the medical tent to visit the surgeon, watch the blacksmith forge steel, practice being a soldier with a wooden musket, and see Continental Army soldiers march and drill on the grounds. *Presented in partnership with the [6th Pennsylvania Regiment](#).*

Family Fun Activities

Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Lobby and Front Lawn

- Make-and-Take Projects
- Colonial Demonstrations
- Eighteenth Century Games
- Thank-A-Vet Postcards

Independence Day Show

Daily, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook Stage

From parades to protests, cannons to flags waving, explosive words to fiery demonstrations, this show takes an in-depth look at this exciting celebration of freedom from the early days of American independence to the present day.

Voices of a Republic

June 29-July 1 & July 4, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

Bank of America Theater

[Voices of a Republic](#) is an original play inspired by the theatrical ideas of 12th grade student Orlando Hidalgo, winner of the 2017 Founding Freedoms playwriting competition. The production transports visitors to 1787 Philadelphia, where a town crier reads the newly minted Constitution of the United States to a group of people in the cobblestone streets of Philadelphia who become intrigued to hear more about their new nation. Elizabeth Powell, a Mayor's wife and the friend of George Washington, has always been at the center of the city's political conversations, but this feels different. Learn about the early voices of the republic in this production. **Voices of a Republic will premiere at 10:30 a.m. on June 29 and will run Tuesdays through Saturdays at the times listed above through July 29, 2017.**

Sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation.

Flag Ceremonies and Etiquette Workshop

Daily, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p. m.

Grand Hall Overlook Stage

Visitors can join the National Constitution Center staff each morning for a spirited flag raising ceremony, and then again in the evenings as they reverently lower it. In workshops, visitors will discover the history and symbolism of the American flag and learn about the proper way to treat it.

The Star-Spangled Banner: A History of Our National Anthem Show

Daily, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook Stage

Visitors can learn the story of Francis Scott Key, the Battle of Fort McHenry, and the flag that inspired the national anthem.

Giant Flag Folding

Daily, 12:45 p.m.

Front Lawn

Visitors can help members of the museum's staff fold a giant 20'X30' American flag.

[Wawa Hoagie Day](#)

Thursday, June 29, 2017,

FREE admission, courtesy of Wawa

The 25th annual Wawa Hoagie Day will feature a six-ton hoagie salute, **free Wawa hoagies served at noon to the crowd on Independence Mall**, a performance by the USO Show Troupe, and a hoagie building competition between police and firefighters. This year's Wawa Hoagie Day will honor individuals who have made a difference in the lives of our military members and will be hosted by WMMR's Preston Elliott & Casey. Click [here](#) for additional information and programming.

What America Eats: The History of the Hoagie Show

10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook Stage*

This engaging program explores the history of the American hoagie and the many names "We the People" use for this sandwich.

Hoagies for Heroes Displays and Activities

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

Visitors to the Center can join Wawa in supporting U.S. troops with activities, including letter writing and assembling a care package to send to the troops, and arts and crafts.

History of the Hoagie Exhibit

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

Visitors can explore the story of one of Philadelphia's most beloved companies.

[Finding the Founders Scholarly Talks and Walking Tours](#)

Sunday, July 2, 2017

FREE admission, courtesy of the John Templeton Foundation

Visitors can enjoy fascinating conversations with scholars at the National Constitution Center and neighboring sites throughout Historic Philadelphia. The day will also include special concerts performed by the Philomusica Chorale at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Featured speakers and tours include:

- **Dr. Philip Mead**, curator and historian at the Museum of the American Revolution (The Declarations Before the Declaration): 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., *Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S 3rd Street*
- **Dr. Matthew Pinsker** of Dickinson College (Remembering Reconstruction): 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., *Congress Hall, Independence National Historical Park (Enter Independence Square at 5th and Chestnut Streets)*
- **Historian Sandra Lloyd** (Women in Revolutionary America): 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., *Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street*
- Music historian **Michael Lasser** ("Land That I Love": The Unlikely Stories of Our Unofficial Anthems): 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., *National Constitution Center (525 Arch Street)*
- **Dr. George Boudreau** of La Salle University (Equality in America Walking Tour of the Historic District): 11:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., *Meet at National Constitution Center Front Lawn (525 Arch Street)*
- **Dr. Bruce Murphy** of Lafayette College (The Declaration and the Supreme Court in the Modern Era): 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. [National Constitution Center \(525 Arch Street\)](#)

- Choral Performance by the **Philomusica Chorale** (America, The Dream Goes On! Sing On!): 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., *National Constitution Center (525 Arch Street)*

[Philadelphia's Historic District Block Party](#)

Monday, July 3, 2017, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

On Monday, July 3, Philadelphia's Historic District Block Party returns with an exciting line up of events celebrating our country's independence. Now in its third year, Philadelphia's Historic District Block Party will bring together thousands of attendees throughout the day to enjoy a "Main Street Americana" block party. In addition to a variety of family-friendly activities and cuisines, the event will include three performance stages, an Artist's Stage, a Musical Performance Stage, and a Freedom of Speech Stage. Click [here](#) for additional information and programming.

[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.

[About Wawa, Inc.](#)

Wawa, Inc., a privately held company, began in 1803 as an iron foundry in New Jersey. Toward the end of the 19th Century, owner George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and the family began a small processing plant in Wawa, PA in 1902. The milk business was a huge success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. As home delivery of milk declined in the early 1960's, Grahame Wood, George's grandson, opened the first Wawa Food Market in 1964 as an outlet for dairy products. Today, Wawa is your all day, every day stop for freshly prepared foods, beverages, coffee, fuel services, and surcharge-free ATMs. A chain of more than 750 convenience retail stores (over 500 offering gasoline), Wawa stores are located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Florida. The stores offer a large fresh food service selection, including Wawa brands such as custom prepared hoagies, freshly-brewed coffee, hot breakfast sandwiches, Specialty Beverages, and an assortment of soups, sides and snacks. In 2016 Wawa was recognized in Forbes as one of America's Best Large Employers, a survey-based ranking of employers offering the best associate experiences and strongest opportunities. In 2017 Wawa was the recipient of a Silver Plate Award in the category of Retail & Specialty Foodservice by the International Foodservice Manufacturers' Association during their 63rd Annual Award Event. Wawa was also designated as a 2017 Best Place to Work for LGBT Equality by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

[About the John Templeton Foundation](#)

The [John Templeton Foundation](#) serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the deepest and most perplexing questions facing humankind. The Foundation supports research on subjects ranging

from complexity, evolution, and emergence to creativity, forgiveness, and free will. It encourages civil, informed dialogue among scientists, philosophers, and theologians, as well as between such experts and the public at large. In all cases, the Foundation's goal is the same: to spur curiosity and accelerate discovery. In order to catalyze such discoveries, the Foundation provides grants for independent research that advances the mission of the Foundation. Grants for public engagement help people worldwide engage the fruits of that research and explore the Big Questions.

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