

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOR OUR NATION'S SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN DURING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER IN CONNECTION WITH *FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY* EXHIBITION

Philadelphia, PA – During World War II, many of our nation's servicemen and women fought for a victory overseas, as well as a victory over equality. In connection with *Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People"?*, visitors of all ages can participate in special programs and events that honor our men and women in uniform, particularly those who sought equal rights for their families and communities.

Special Events

Educator Open House

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

FREE; reservations required at 215.409.6700

Educators will experience the Center's innovative programs in order to enhance their next class visit and learn about professional development opportunities at the Center and partner sites. Participants will receive free materials for the classroom and admission to the Center's exhibitions, including *Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People"?* The Center offers pre-, post-, and on-site lessons for every grade level, aligned with national standards. These lessons are available for download from www.constitutioncenter.org under the "Educator Resources" tab.

Stars & Stripes Canteen

Thursday, October 13, 2011, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

\$30 for non-members, \$25 for members; includes special preview of *Fighting for Democracy* as well as drinks and light fare; ages 21+; reservations can be made at 215.409.6700

Kick up your heels at the National Constitution Center's 1940s-themed opening celebration for *Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People"?* This USO canteen party, complete with a stars and stripes motif and plenty of patriotic activities, will celebrate the accomplishments of our nation's men and women in uniform – particularly those who sought equal rights for their families and communities during World War II. Canteen guests will have exclusive access to the exhibition the day before it opens to the public, including the chance to see the first public performances of the

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theatrical production that takes place within the exhibition (show times at 6:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.) Guests also can savor all-American fare, sip Philadelphia Brewing Company beers and classic cocktails, pose for snapshots in a vintage photo booth, tap their feet to live patriotic music by the Liberty Bells, and take a swing dance lesson!

Fighting for Democracy Opening Weekend

Friday, October 14 – Sunday, October 16, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

The National Constitution Center will celebrate the public opening of *Fighting for Democracy* with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Throughout the weekend, guests can participate in activities and programs about the World War II era. During the interactive program, “Their Right to Fight,” visitors will learn about the experiences of those serving in minority branches of the Armed Service during World War II, including Navajo Code Talkers, Tuskegee Airmen and Women Air Force Service Pilots. At craft activity tables, visitors can create model airplanes, spotter cards and Army garrison hats while learning how children helped with the war effort during World War II.

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FREE with museum admission (admission is FREE to all veterans on November 11, 2011)

The National Constitution Center will honor our nation’s servicemen and women – including individuals highlighted in the *Fighting for Democracy* exhibition – during a moving Veterans Day celebration. Guests can participate in a variety of interactive programs and activities while learning more about this important holiday.

Flag Ceremonies

The National Constitution Center’s Veterans Day celebration will begin at 9:15 a.m. on the Center’s front lawn with a traditional flag raising ceremony. At 12:30 p.m. the Center will host a giant flag folding demonstration in the Grand Hall Lobby. The day will conclude with a flag lowering ceremony at 4:00 p.m.

Throughout the day, visitors also can join in hands-on flag etiquette workshops and discover the history and symbolism of the American flag.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

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

Soldier Talks

Visitors will have the opportunity to hear from veterans throughout the day, including John Campbell, Vietnam veteran and author of *They Were Ours: Gloucester County's Loss in Vietnam*.

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ADD TWO/FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS

Call to Action Tables

Visitors will have the opportunity to visit information tables from veteran service organizations throughout the country.

Dramatic Performance

The Center is bringing back two installments from its popular Gallery Theater Series in honor of Veterans Day. "She Went to War," a piece that accompanied the Center's 2009 exhibition, *America I AM: The African American Imprint*, tells the story of an African American woman who served in World War II. "Through Their Eyes," which accompanied the 2010 exhibition, *Art of the American Soldier*, is told from the point of view of a combat artist from the Vietnam War.

Commissioning Ceremony

New and returning soldiers will be commissioned at the Center during a special Veterans Day ceremony.

Their Right to Fight Program

Throughout the day, visitors can join in the interactive program, "Their Right to Fight." In connection with the *Fighting for Democracy* exhibition, participants will learn about the experiences of those serving in minority branches of the Armed Service during World War II, including Navajo Code Talkers, Tuskegee Airmen, and Women Air Force Service Pilots.

Patriotic Crafts and Activities

Children and their families can make their own American flags and star wreaths. They also will have the opportunity to write letters to servicemen and women currently serving in active duty.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

The individuals portrayed in the *Fighting for Democracy* exhibition volunteered to serve in the American military during World War II. The Center will explore how the war began, how America became involved in the war and the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

The *Fighting for Democracy* exhibition will close on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Much like Dr. King, the seven individuals featured in the exhibition fought for democracy by using their struggles to make positive changes in the world. Visitors to the Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day can enjoy craft activities and musical and dramatic performances. In the spirit of Dr. King, guests also can participate in a quilting service project for the Women Against Abuse shelter by helping to sew quilts, baby blankets and pillows.

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ADD THREE/FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS

Daily Offerings

Their Right to Fight

This daily program in the Center's Grand Hall Lobby will introduce visitors to four World War II service groups that fought for a double victory – winning the war and winning their rights as citizens. Participants will learn about the Women Air Force Service Pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, and the 442 Infantry Division, a unit comprised entirely of Japanese American soldiers. Visitors will have the opportunity try on uniforms and decipher Navajo Code during this interactive show.

Johnnie Crawford Flag: Gallery Talks

The Johnnie Crawford flag, on loan from the Philadelphia Flag Day Association, will be on display in the Center's Posterity Hall from October 14, 2011 through January 16, 2012. The flag belonged to Johnnie Crawford, an African American soldier who served in the 390th Quartermaster Truck Company during World War II. Crawford documented his wartime experiences on the flag's stripes, turning a national symbol into a unique and personal memento of his service. During special Gallery Talks, museum educators will demonstrate how the flag can be used as a primary source to tell this soldier's remarkable story.

Fighting for Democracy Gallery Talks

FREE with admission

Before entering the *Fighting for Democracy* exhibition, visitors can engage in a discussion about what it means to fight for freedom. As guests explore the stories of World War II veterans who fought for freedom and equality, they also will be challenged to think about the struggles that minorities continue to face in America.

Fighting for Democracy Reflection Section

In the Reflection section of the exhibition, guests can add response cards to a special timeline wall, conveying their reactions to the stories told throughout the exhibition and expressing their personal commitments to fight for democracy. Museum educators will be available to assist visitors.

Fighting for Democracy Exhibition Guide

The exhibition guide for *Fighting for Democracy* will illuminate the stories of the seven individuals featured in the exhibition and will help visitors discover ways that they, too, can participate in democracy.

From October 14, 2011 through January 16, 2012, the National Constitution Center will host *Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People"?* Paying homage to ordinary Americans with extraordinary legacies, the Center has created a groundbreaking visitor experience that combines a must-see, multimedia exhibition from the Japanese American National Museum with an original, world premiere theatrical

ADD FOUR/FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS

production. This exhibit-theater hybrid traces the real-life experiences of a diverse group of seven Americans who bravely fought for equality, freedom and justice overseas and at home during the World War II era. Their compelling stories connect powerfully to current debates about immigration, citizenship and civil rights in America.

Fighting for Democracy is presented by the National Constitution Center in partnership with the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, an educational program of the Japanese American National Museum, and is funded in part by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. The traveling exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of The Boeing Company.

Admission to *Fighting for Democracy* is FREE with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and over, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates also are available, and groups can book the *Fighting for Democracy* theater experience in advance. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

The National Constitution Center thanks the following for generously underwriting the production of *Fighting for Democracy*: The CHG Charitable Trust, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Dorrance H. Hamilton, William M. King Charitable Foundation, Macy's, National Endowment for the Arts, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Heritage Philadelphia Program, Team Clean Inc., Verizon Foundation, Wyncote Foundation.

CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners of the exhibition. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

Located on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia, the National Constitution Center is America's first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the U.S. Constitution. As a cutting-edge museum, national town hall and educational facility, the

ADD FIVE/FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS

Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires acts of citizenship through must-see multimedia exhibitions, live performances, timely public programs and dynamic educational resources. The museum dramatically tells the story of “We the People” through more than 100 interactive exhibits, films, photographs and rare artifacts; the stirring theatrical performance *Freedom Rising*; and the iconic attraction *Signers’ Hall*, featuring 42 life-sized bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. As America’s town hall for constitutional dialogue, the Center regularly engages political leaders, scholars, pundits and journalists of diverse viewpoints. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and provides exceptional civic learning resources both onsite and online. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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