

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FAITH, POLITICS, AND THE CONSTITUTION DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 26, 2007) – The National Constitution Center will host a conversation about the role of religion in government and the influence of religious conservatives in politics with distinguished guests **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend** and **Dr. Peter A. Lillback**. **Dr. John J. Dilulio, Jr.** will moderate. This program will take place on Monday, December 17, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Townsend, author of *Failing America's Faithful: How Today's Churches Are Mixing God with Politics and Losing Their Way*, argues that for too long, the subject of religion has become polarized – politicized by the right and largely ignored by the left. In contrast, Lillback, author of *Wall of Misconception: Does the Separation of Church and State Mean the Separation of God and Government?*, counters the claims that Christianity must only reside in the walls of the church by pointing to the intentions and actions of America's Founding Fathers.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former Lt. Governor of Maryland, is now an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University's School of Public Policy and has been a Visiting Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, where she focuses her efforts on faith and public life. Before being elected as her state's first female Lt. Governor, Townsend served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the United States. She is the eldest child of Robert and Ethel Kennedy.

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ADD ONE/FAITH, POLITICS, AND THE CONSTITUTION

Dr. Peter A. Lillback is the president of The Providence Forum, a non-profit organization committed to preserve, defend, and advance the faith and values of our nation's founding. Lillback also serves as senior pastor of Proclamation Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and as president of Westminster Theological Seminary, where he is also Professor of Historical Theology. Previously, he served as Professor of Church History at Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia. Lillback is the voice of "Proclaiming The Word," a daily syndicated radio program, as well as "The Proclamation Worship Hour."

Moderating this discussion will be Dr. John J. Dilulio, Jr., the Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society and Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. Dilulio also serves as Faculty Director of the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program. During his leave from Penn in academic year 2000-2001, he served as Assistant to the President of the United States and the first Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. His new book is titled, *Godly Republic: A Centrist Blueprint for America's Faith-Based Future*.

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

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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