

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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LAST CHANCE TO SEE *FIRST LADIES: POLITICAL ROLE AND PUBLIC IMAGE* AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (December 7, 2007) – During a special tour of the *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition before it opened to the public, First Lady Laura Bush said, “I want to encourage people to visit the National Constitution Center and see this exhibit. First ladies throughout our entire history have been very influential both to their husbands, but also to our country. And I think we see that in this show.” Now in its final weeks at the Center, visitors won’t want to miss this special exhibition, which will be on display through December 31, 2007. Families and their out-of-town visitors are encouraged to take a break from the whirlwind of holiday shopping to stop by the Center to learn more about first ladies and their families and how they have impacted our lives.

“The *First Ladies* exhibit has been tremendously popular and I encourage everyone to be sure to come to the Center in the final weeks of the exhibit,” says National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “This is the last chance to see this exhibit in its unique presentation and we are honored to be the final stop of the tour.”

The exhibition features more than two centuries of elegant inaugural and evening gowns, clothing and jewelry, White House furnishings and china, photographs and portraits, and campaign and personal memorabilia. It examines the demanding duties of the presidential partner and national hostess, explores how her role has evolved from ceremonial colleague to one of international celebrity and recognized political power, and illustrates the importance of the first lady’s public image to the success of a presidential administration.

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ADD ONE/FIRST LADIES LAST CHANCE

Admission to *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

First Ladies is based on one of the Smithsonian's most visited permanent exhibitions and contains artifacts from the rarely traveled first ladies collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *First Ladies* is made possible by A&E Network. Macy's is the local presenting sponsor and NBC 10 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *First Ladies*.

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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.

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