

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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KEN BURNS DISCUSSES *THE WAR* AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

A Special Veteran's Day Event

Philadelphia, PA (October 22, 2007) – In a special Veteran's Day event, the National Constitution Center welcomes award-winning documentary filmmaker and author **Ken Burns**, director of the new film series *The War*, which aired on PBS this month. Burns, who also co-wrote the companion volume, *The War: An Intimate History*, will share the American experience of World War II through the words and deeds of those who made history on the battlefields and on the home front. This event will take place on Monday, November 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$6 for K-12 students and teachers. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Focusing on the citizens of four towns – Waterbury, Connecticut; Mobile, Alabama; Sacramento, California; and Luverne, Minnesota – *The War* follows more than forty people from 1941 to 1945. Woven largely from their memories, the narrative unfolds as the war unfolded – month by month, including all the iconic events, from Pearl Harbor to the liberation of the concentration camps. The book also encompasses other worlds – those of prisoners of war and Japanese American internees, defense workers and schoolchildren, and those who struggled simply to keep families together while their men were shipped off to Europe, the Pacific, and North Africa. Enriched by maps and 450 photographs, many never seen before, this is an intimate, profoundly moving chronicle of the war that shaped our world.

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ADD ONE/KEN BURNS

Ken Burns, producer and director of the film series *The War*, founded his own documentary company, Florentine Films, in 1976. His films include *Jazz*, *Baseball*, and *The Civil War*, which was the highest-rated series in the history of American public television. His work has won numerous prizes, including Emmy and Peabody Awards, and two Academy Award nominations.

Patrick O'Donnell will moderate the conversation. As an oral historian, he has interviewed over 2,000 World War II veterans. O'Donnell is the best-selling author of *Beyond Valor*, the winner of the prestigious William E. Colby Award for Outstanding Military History, and is also the founder of The Drop Zone, an award-winning website and the first online oral history project for veterans of World War II and the interested public.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of the 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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