

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HONORS 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINCOLN/DOUGLAS DEBATES

Philadelphia, PA (April 22, 2008) – On Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., **Allen C. Guelzo**, historian and two-time winner of the prestigious Lincoln Prize, will join the National Constitution Center to discuss his new book, *Lincoln & Douglas: The Debates that Defined America*. Guelzo's book honors the 150th anniversary of the debates that made Abraham Lincoln a national figure and defined the slavery issue that brought our country to Civil War. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

The great debates between Lincoln and Stephen Douglas for the U.S. Senate in 1858 were momentous and have passed into American political legend. They built a national reputation for Lincoln and set the stage for his election as president in 1860. Even more significantly, Lincoln and Douglas posed questions about the very nature of democracy and about the role of morality in determining public policy that continue to be relevant and hotly contested in our national politics.

Allen C. Guelzo is the Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era at Gettysburg College, where he also directs the Civil War Era Studies Program. He is the author or editor of nine previous works of history. His biography, *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*, won the Lincoln Prize in 2000. His most recent work, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America*, won the Lincoln Prize for a second time in 2005.

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## ADD ONE/LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE

Guelzo has written for *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

This program is part of *The Legacy of 1808* speaker series, a year long dialogue at the National Constitution Center with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance. *The Legacy of 1808* explores issues of race, segregation, suffrage, and individual rights in forums intended for people of all ages and backgrounds, revealing how the issue of slavery cast a dark shadow over the nation's founding and influenced the evolution of American culture and society.

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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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