

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

Kathleen Maher
Press and Events Coordinator
215.409.6623
kmaher@constitutioncenter.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER LAUNCHES VIRTUAL EXHIBIT AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BARACK OBAMA'S RACE SPEECH AT THE CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (March 16, 2009) – The National Constitution Center will mark the one year anniversary of Barack Obama's Race Speech at the Constitution Center, which took place on March 18, 2008, by launching a virtual exhibit online. The interactive website and supplemental educational materials will provide users with a deeper understanding of this important speech.

The interactive webpage at www.constitutioncenter.org/obamaracespeech will debut on March 18, 2009, and will contain full video of President Obama's speech, *A More Perfect Union*, with a chapter index and a scrolling transcript to make it easy for users to follow along. The page will also feature quotes from media personalities and historians about the significance of the seminal speech, including audio of historian Harold Holzer comparing Lincoln's historic Cooper Union speech and Obama's Race Speech at the Constitution Center; press materials; and an image gallery of photographs from the event and of the Center's signed copy of the speech.

The Center is also offering a special high school lesson plan, designed to show the process of perfecting the Union through changes made to the Constitution. The lesson encourages student deliberation on race in America by taking an in-depth look at Obama's speech, the Constitution, selected legislation, and Supreme Court decisions

-MORE-

ADD ONE/ANNIVERSARY OF OBAMA RACE SPEECH

relating to race. Students will then identify and evaluate solutions proposed by President Obama for resolving racial tension. Through a combination of individual study, group work, and class discussion, students will form their own ideas about the progression of race relations in America and will create an action plan detailing how they will play a part in perfecting the Union.

In addition, on March 18, 2009, the Center's daily education team blog at www.civiclearning.blogspot.com will focus on how to utilize the Race Speech in the classroom, by using both the virtual exhibit and the lesson plan.

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.

###