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## **HISTORIAN RICHARD REEVES TO DISCUSS THE BRAVE PILOTS OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (December 21, 2009) – Acclaimed journalist and historian **Richard Reeves** will join the National Constitution Center to discuss his new book, *Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of the Berlin Airlift*, on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Using previously unpublished documents and numerous interviews, *Daring Young Men* recounts the stories of the brave pilots who, during the Berlin Airlift, risked their lives to supply humanitarian aid to those who were considered enemies only a few years earlier during World War II. Due to the land and water blockade instituted by the Soviets in 1948, the pilots who took part in the airlift supplied vital goods to West Berlin. Some 227,000 flights were made in Soviet airspace during the fragile post-World War II years, with an average of 8,000 tons of goods delivered daily. The success of the Berlin Airlift is viewed as the first Cold War victory for Britain and America against the Soviet Union. By May of 1949, the Soviets lifted the blockade, but goods continued to be delivered until September of that year, in order to provide a surplus for the people of West Berlin.

Richard Reeves, Senior Lecturer at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, is an author and syndicated columnist whose articles have appeared in more than 100 newspapers since 1979. Reeves served as the Chief Correspondent on the PBS series “Frontline” and has made six television films, garnering numerous awards. In 1998, he won the Carey McWilliams Award from the

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## ADD ONE/RICHARD REEVES

American Political Science Association for his contributions to the understanding of American politics as the Goldman Lecturer on American Civilization and Government at the Library of Congress. In addition, he is the author of several books, including *A Ford, Not a Lincoln*, *What the People Know: Freedom and the Press*, *President Kennedy: Profile of Power*, and *President Nixon: Alone in the White House*.

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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