

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CELEBRATE VETERAN'S DAY AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 18, 2007) - In honor of Veteran's Day, the National Constitution Center will host a variety of activities for veterans and their families, as well as other visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 10 through November 12. **Museum admission for veterans is free on Sunday, November 11.**

Visitors will have the chance to participate in a special *Memorials Program*, which explores how Americans commemorate past military events and how we honor those who served our country, ranging from the battle of Little Big Horn to the Vietnam Memorial. Children can also make Patriotic Pinwheels and Memorial Stars to take home as a reminder of what their ancestors sacrificed for their freedom and independence. These events are free with regular museum admission and will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 10 and Monday, November 12, and from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 11.

The Center will also welcome special guest, Judith Dupree, to discuss her book, *Monuments*, on Saturday, November 10 at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. inside the main exhibition. This event is free with regular museum admission.

In addition, the Center will hold a moment of silence and a wreath laying ceremony on Sunday, November 11 at 12:00 p.m. on the Grand Hall Overlook, and *Taps* will be played on the trumpet. This ceremony replicates the national ceremony, which is held at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery each year.

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## ADD ONE/VETERAN'S DAY 2007

Visitors can also learn about veterans' service to the country through elements in the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*. The "Common Defense" section honors those who have served with a display of flags from each branch of the armed services. Another highlight is a video salute featuring a marching soldier who morphs into uniformed soldiers from different time periods, from the Revolutionary War to the present. Guests can also listen to historical letters written by soldiers reflecting on their experiences. A special "walk-in" environment depicts a Civil War battlefield landscape showing fallen soldiers at Antietam, furthering the message of our veterans' sacrifice throughout time. Here, a dirt floor allows visitors to feel as if they are on a country road, as James Earl Jones reads the Emancipation Proclamation. In the World War II section of the exhibit, visitors can see President George H.W. Bush's World War II service revolver, which he donated to the museum this year. The revolver was used by then-Lieutenant Bush during his tour of duty in the Pacific Theater, and was with him on September 2, 1944, when his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire while making a bombing run over the Bonin Island of Chichi Jima, 600 miles south of Japan. In the Center's signature theater performance, "Freedom Rising", references are made to soldiers during such conflicts as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II, highlighting contributions that veterans have made in shaping our nation's history.

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

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