

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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PRESIDENT BARTLET TO DONATE LETTER TO NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER IN DECEMBER 1ST EPISODE OF ‘THE WEST WING’

PHILADELPHIA, PA (November 23, 2004) – President Josiah Bartlet will donate a letter to the National Constitution Center during the December 1 episode of the NBC drama “The West Wing”.

In the episode, Bartlet (played by Martin Sheen) presents a letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania (not played by the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, but by Ed O’Neill, formerly of FOX’s “Married...With Children”) to give to the National Constitution Center for its permanent exhibition. The letter is the one Bartlet submitted to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House during the show’s previous season, proclaiming that he was temporarily unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, due to the kidnapping of his daughter. The provision for such a declaration is contained in the United States Constitution under the 25th Amendment, Section 3.

"I am thrilled that Hollywood is recognizing the importance of the National Constitution Center, one of my favorite places in Pennsylvania," said Governor Rendell.

The idea to include this donation to the Center in the show’s script came from one of the writers, Josh Singer, who is a Philadelphia native.

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 its relevance to Americans’ daily lives. Opened on July 3, 2003, 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 museum is open seven days a week, and admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Group rates are also available. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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