

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CELEBRATES AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 21, 2006) – Fireworks, barbeques, and a trip to the beach are just some ways to celebrate America's independence. The National Constitution Center will celebrate July 4th with a series of events that will continue through Labor Day, September 4, 2006. Families will have the opportunity to celebrate America's birthday with a variety of activities. All events related to July 4th are free and do not require museum admission. To keep the celebration going, **the National Constitution Center will hold extended hours on Monday, July 3, 2006. The museum will remain open until 7:00 p.m., with additional showings of "Freedom Rising" at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

For many Americans, Independence Day is celebrated with barbeques, sports games, and most importantly, fireworks. Come learn the history behind this national holiday from its early beginnings to today's celebrations with *Fourth of July: The Anniversary of Independence and the Great American Holiday Show*. From Monday, May 29 through Monday, September 4, this free public program will be held daily in the Grand Hall Lobby.

On Friday, June 30 through Tuesday, July 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Center presents *July 4th and Goal Festival*. During this fun-filled event, kids can make their own sports player trading cards, sports pennants, and contribute to the National Constitution Center's rally banner. They can also try to break a National Constitution Center record for how quickly one can read the Preamble, hop on one foot, and more! Children can get their own sports tattoos or play the inflatable basketball game, Pop-a-Shot. Sports Bloopers videos will run throughout the day, as well.

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ADD ONE/CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday America!, an official **Sunoco Welcome America!** event, will try to make history on Monday, July 3, 2006 by hosting the biggest birthday celebration for America. From 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., visitors can enjoy free birthday cake, generously provided by Tastykake, and help make history on our nation's most historic mile.

Go 4th and Learn, another official **Sunoco Welcome America!** event, will take place on Tuesday, July 4, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Guests can listen to the story of America's birth from Once Upon A Nation storytellers. Kids will also have the opportunity to show their creative sides by adding to the Monster Murals in the Grand Hall Lobby. Following the event, children can participate in the Let Freedom Ring Children's Parade, which departs from the entrance of the National Constitution Center.

From May 26 through August 20, 2006 the National Constitution Center is hosting **Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers**, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition that tells the stories of 35 athletes and their performances in 17 different sports. The exhibit also features an exclusive National Constitution Center created section, *Local Legends*, as a tribute to hometown heroes who have made a difference in the Philadelphia sports community.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers is free with regular museum admission of \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers was developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Audi is the exclusive national sponsor of the exhibition.

The Constitution Center's showing of the *Sports* exhibit is sponsored in part by the *Philadelphia Daily News*. The *Daily News* has a longstanding tradition for excellent sports coverage by an award-winning staff. *Daily News* sports writers also are seen each weekday on *Daily News Live* from 5-6:30 p.m. on Comcast SportsNet. The show is currently in its ninth season.

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ADD TWO/CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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."

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