

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall  
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650  
[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Denise Venuti Free  
Director of Public Relations  
215.409.6636  
[dvfree@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:dvfree@constitutioncenter.org)

## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS TOWN MEETING WITH 9/11 COMMISSIONERS

PHILADELPHIA, PA (August 15, 2005) —The National Constitution Center will host a town meeting to follow up on the work of the 9/11 Commission with former Commissioners Richard Ben-Veniste and former Senator Slade Gorton. This meeting will look back on the commissioners' recommendations and their results, and will examine the state of American and global security in light of the recent terror attacks on London and Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. National Constitution President and CEO Richard Stengel will moderate the meeting.

The 9/11 Commission, formally known as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Against the United States, was convened by President Bush in November of 2002. The bipartisan commission was composed of ten renowned statesmen and scholars, and it met throughout 2003, holding highly publicized hearings with government leaders in current and past administrations. Its report, *The 9/11 Commission Report*, presented the foundations and development of terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *The 9/11 Commission Report* was widely read and was heralded as an important bipartisan step toward increasing the nation's security. It was nominated for a National Book Award in 2004.

Admission to the town meeting is free, but seating is limited. Reservations are required, either by phone at 215-409-6700 or by email at [nationalprograms@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:nationalprograms@constitutioncenter.org).

Senator Slade Gorton represented Washington State in the United States Senate for 18 years, from 1982-2000. Gorton served on the appropriations, budget, commerce, science and transportation, and energy and national resources committees while in the Senate. In 2001, he served on the National Commission on Federal Election Reform. Senator Gorton has served as

-MORE-

## ADD ONE/ 9/11 COMMISSION

a member of the Republican leadership as counsel to the Majority Leader from 1996 to 2000. He began his political career in 1958 when he was elected Washington state representative, and was elected attorney general of Washington state in 1968, arguing 14 cases before the Supreme Court.

Richard Ben-Veniste is among the nation's foremost lawyers. Prior to his service on the 9/11 Commission, he served chief minority counsel to the Senate Whitewater Committee. From 1973 to 1975, he served as chief of the Watergate Task Force of the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Office. He has been a guest law school lecturer at Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Georgetown universities, among others, and is the co-author of *Stonewall: The Real Story of the Watergate Prosecution*. From 1976 to 1977, Ben-Veniste served as Special Outside Counsel to the Senate Committee on Government Operations. He is a partner in the Washington law firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center 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 4, 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". Beginning June 10, the museum will also feature its first new traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. The Center is open seven days a week, and admission is \$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.

The National Constitution Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

###