

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER INTRODUCES NEW PRESIDENTIAL TREASURES IN MAIN EXHIBITION

Philadelphia, PA (January 23, 2007) – The National Constitution Center is adding a variety of rare historical artifacts to its main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*. These treasures are linked to different presidents throughout history and will become a part of the museum experience on Friday, February 16, 2007 – just in time for Presidents' Day.

“We are thrilled to add such distinctive pieces of American history to our permanent exhibition,” says National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “Seeing these original artifacts in person truly brings history to life and gives visitors a unique glimpse into the lives of some of our past presidents.”

A highlight of the presidential artifacts is a letter sent from **George Washington** to Thomas Jefferson on September 18, 1787 – the day after the Constitution was signed. Jefferson was acting as Minister to France during the time of the signing, so Washington's letter provided him with the first news of the Constitution's completion.

Artifacts pertaining to **Abraham Lincoln** will also be on display, including the coat worn by William Withers, the orchestra leader of the Ford's Theatre, on the night Lincoln was assassinated – April 14, 1865. The coat was slashed by John Wilkes Booth during his escape and has never before been exhibited. A playbill from that evening's performance will also be displayed. Both items are on loan from Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

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ADD ONE/NEW ARTIFACTS

Another addition to the exhibition, on loan from Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, National Park Service, will be **Theodore Roosevelt's** "Rough Riders" jacket and his shaving kit with a presidential seal, which was used during his travels to South America and Africa. The Gerald Ford Library is also lending a ceremonial copy of **Gerald Ford's** pardon of Richard Nixon.

Other new artifacts being added to the Center's exhibition include a Revolutionary War powder horn and musket, on loan from The George C. Neumann Collection, a gift of the Sun Company to Valley Forge National Historical Park; and a broadside of the Philadelphia Merchants & Traders instructing others to not import British goods until repeal of the Stamp Act, on loan from the American Philosophical Society.

Admission to the National Constitution Center is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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. 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". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. The Center is also the home of the Liberty Medal award, presented annually as a lasting legacy to the 200th anniversary of the Constitution.

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