

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
O: 215.409.6636 / C: 215.200.5506
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH BECOMES CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (January 11, 2007) – National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella today announced that **George H.W. Bush** has been elected Chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees, effective immediately, for the year 2007. The Center is the only organization for which President Bush serves as Chairman. Bush, the 41st President of the United States, was elected the 41st member of the board at a meeting yesterday. He succeeds John C. Bogle, who has served as chairman since September 1999, and was named as Chairman Emeritus.

Torsella also announced that **Larry Kent** of Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a member of the Board since 2004, has been elected as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board. Three additional new members – **Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** of Charlestown, Massachusetts, **Ambassador Peter Terpeluk, Jr.** of Chevy Chase, Maryland and **Richard Worley** of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania – were also elected to the Board.

"This is an extraordinary announcement about an extraordinary American, and that is fitting. For just three years after its opening, the National Constitution Center is indisputably an extraordinary American institution," said Torsella. "One of our core values is the importance of active citizenship and no American exemplifies that ethic better than President Bush. By a lifetime of service, he has come to occupy a special and beloved place in American life. He has had a long history with the Center and has been a supporter of our mission from the very early days, and it is a tremendous honor to welcome him as Chair of our institution."

President Bush, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery and was unable to attend the announcement, said in a statement, "I am proud to Chair this wonderful museum and education center, this jewel of America that brings the message of our Constitution, a timeless document which continues to change and transform our world, to the nation. The work of our Founders

-MORE-

BUSH ELECTED NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CHAIRMAN /ADD ONE

remains as current and timely as ever, and without the leadership and remarkable efforts of Joe Torsella, the Center staff, Jack Bogle, and this great Board of Trustees, fewer people would be touched by its magic.”

Outgoing Chairman John C. Bogle notified the Board in February 2006 of his intentions to step down from his post upon the identification of a new Chairman. He was unable to attend today's announcement but said in a statement, “I have had the great pleasure of leading this institution for the last seven years, and while it is with some sadness that I end this run, it is with tremendous pride and admiration I pass the gavel to George H.W. Bush.”

President Bush has been associated with the National Constitution Center since its creation by the Constitutional Heritage Act in 1988, passed when he was Vice President. In 1995, Bush filmed a public service announcement for the Center's celebration of Constitution Week, and in 1999, he presented the Center's We the People Award to Walter Annenberg. He also helped narrate the first video detailing the project in 1997 and then appeared in a later version in 1999. Bush and his wife, Barbara, have also served on the Center's National Honorary Committee, along with all living former Presidents and their wives, since the inception of that committee in 1996.

In 2004, President Bush visited the National Constitution Center and experienced the exhibits for the first time when he was honored by the Eisenhower Fellowships in an event held at the Center. He was most recently at the Constitution Center on October 5 when he and President Clinton were awarded the 2006 Liberty Medal for their Tsunami and Katrina Fund efforts.

Bogle, who is the founder of The Vanguard Group, Inc. and president of the Bogle Financial Markets Research Center, led the National Constitution Center Board during the Center's most dramatic period of growth and progress – from the final planning stages of the museum and its grand opening, to the expansion of its national programs and initiatives which quickly followed. He led the Board during the Center's \$185 million capital campaign, groundbreaking and grand opening ceremonies, expansion to include nationally-prominent leaders, and establishment as a regional and national institution.

-MORE-

BUSH ELECTED NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CHAIRMAN /ADD TWO

“The Center owes a sincere debt of gratitude to Jack Bogle for his heroic dedication and perseverance,” says Torsella. “He is one of the true founding fathers of this institution and his years of devotion will never be forgotten. It has been a rare privilege for me to work as his partner, to rely on his wisdom, and to know his friendship.”

While announcing Lawrence Kent’s appointment to Chairman of the Executive Committee, Torsella said, “Larry is a brilliant, passionate, and dedicated trustee who is committed to helping the Center continue to flourish in every way – thematically, programmatically, and financially – and I can think of no better person to help Chairman Bush lead this Board.”

Kent joined the Board of Trustees in September 2004 and served as a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Development Committee, since September 2005. He is Founding Partner of Kent & Kent, a private investment firm.

“It is my privilege to continue to serve this institution in this new capacity, and to have the opportunity to work closely with President Bush,” said Kent. “Jack Bogle has been an outstanding leader and he leaves us with an organization that is in solid health and full of promise.”

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.