

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BREAKING BARRIERS: GAY IN THE NFL AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 8, 2006) – The National Constitution Center presents *Brokeback Barriers: Gay in the NFL* on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Esera Tuaolo's new book, *Alone in the Trenches: My Life as a Gay Man in the NFL*. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700. This program is held in conjunction with the Center's summer exhibit, *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*.

Esera Tuaolo grew up in Hawaii on a banana plantation. As a member of the NFL for nine years, he played for five major teams, including the Green Bay Packers, Jacksonville Jaguars, Carolina Panthers, Atlanta Falcons, and Minnesota Vikings. In 1999, he went to the Superbowl with the Atlanta Falcons. In 2002, he retired from football and publicly announced that he was gay.

Beginning with the heartbreaking loss of his brother to AIDS to the happiness he found with his partner and the family they've begun, *Alone in the Trenches* describes the difficulties Tuaolo faced as a gay NFL player. Today, Tuaolo is very outspoken regarding the NFL in anticipation that it will become more accepting of homosexuality.

This event is in partnership with the *Philadelphia Daily News* and in association with the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

A book signing will follow the discussion, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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## ADD ONE/BROKEBACK BARRIERS

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](http://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.

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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