

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISTINGUISHED POLITICAL ANALYST AND WRITER COKIE ROBERTS DISCUSSES IMPORTANCE OF *FOUNDING MOTHERS* AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (May 7, 2004) – How much do we owe our Founding Mothers? For Cokie Roberts, the answer is clear: “They fought for the foundation of this country and they made sure that the men did not allow it to fall apart.”

Roberts, a political analyst for ABC News and National Public Radio, will discuss the profound role of women during the infancy of our nation in a National Constitution Center *Constitutional Conversation*, “Who Were These Women?” at the Kirby Auditorium of the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach on Thursday, May 27 from 1 - 2 p.m. The program is based on her latest book, *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*. A book signing will follow the program.

“The Constitution Center is committed to presenting programs that shed light on portions of our constitutional history that may otherwise be overlooked,” said Richard Stengel, National Constitution Center President and CEO. “One of the goals of the Center is to use these constitutional conversations as a means to create a dialogue about ‘We the People’ – and women certainly are a part of ‘We the People’ - a sometimes neglected part.”

In *Founding Mothers*, Roberts surveys the tumultuous decades of the 1770s, 80s and 90s with an insightful political eye and a keen wit. While husbands fought battles,

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formed the laws of the new nation and were frequently away from home for years on end, the women held together home and family, were active and passionate patriots themselves and just as engaged in government and war as their husbands, sons, brothers, fathers and friends.

Roberts' broadcasting experience spans more than thirty years. From 1996-2002, she and Sam Donaldson co-anchored the weekly ABC interview program *This Week*. She is the recipient of two Emmy awards, has been inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame and was cited by the American Women in Radio and Television as one of the fifty greatest women in the history of broadcasting.

Roberts is the author of two *New York Times* bestsellers: *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, a story of women's roles and relationships throughout American history; and *From This Day Forward*, an account of her own thirty-five year marriage, as well as other well-known American marriages, that she co-wrote with her husband, Steven V. Roberts. The Roberts are contributing editors to *USA Magazine* and write a weekly column syndicated in newspapers around the country by United Media.

A 1964 graduate in political science from Wellesley College, Roberts received a 1985 Distinguished Alumnae Achievement Award in recognition of "excellence and distinction in professional pursuits." She also serves on the boards of several non-profit institutions and was appointed to the newly formed President's Commission on Service and Civic Participation. Roberts is the mother of two and the grandmother of four.

The program is \$9 for National Constitution Center members and \$12 for nonmembers. Seating is limited. For tickets or information, please call (215) 409-6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1988 to increase understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to the daily lives of Americans. It is the first museum in the world devoted to dramatically telling the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibit components, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts. The 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 and experts. The National Constitution Center is the first museum in the country designated as a member of the National Archives Experience Alliance Initiative. For more information, please call 215.923.0004 or visit the Center's Web site at www.constitutioncenter.org.

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