



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

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*PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST*

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**VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER  
AND SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NATION  
CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY**

Philadelphia, PA (September 27, 2005) – America’s first Constitution Day as established by law, September 17, was celebrated with high energy at the National Constitution Center and throughout the country. This seminal event provided a cause for celebration and a better understanding of the continued significance of our nation’s founding document. The National Constitution Center honored the special day with on and off-site programming and events, as well as by providing educational materials to schools throughout the United States on a special website visited by 65,000 educators around the country.

The highlight of the Constitution Center’s on-site activities was “America Reads the Constitution,” a live reading of the Constitution by local celebrities, public officials, children, and representatives of “We the People” from all walks of life. Over 100 people participated and special guests included Governor Edward G. Rendell and Tamara Montgomery, an Army Captain who won a Purple Heart for her heroism in an Easter Sunday attack in Baghdad. Other activities included discussions with top scholars and renowned attorneys, family-centered events, and a naturalization ceremony for 50 new citizens.

The National Constitution Center, serving as America’s resource for constitutional education, also launched [www.constitutionday.us](http://www.constitutionday.us) earlier this year in response to a law sponsored by Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), requiring all educational institutions receiving federal funds, as well as all federal agencies, to hold programming on the Constitution every September 17.

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## ADD ONE/CONSTITUTION DAY RECAP

In response to the law, the National Constitution Center brought together partners, including Scholastic, the American Bar Association, Court TV, and others, in a unique web portal to help America fulfill the promise of the Byrd law. [www.constitutionday.us](http://www.constitutionday.us) operated as a marketplace of programs and materials which teachers, federal agencies, organizations, and citizens could utilize. On the Thursday before Constitution Day, almost 9,000 people visited the website, and during its life, more than 65,000 educators.

[www.constitutionday.us](http://www.constitutionday.us) houses a suite of tools for educators and government agencies to use in complying with the Byrd legislation, as well as for all representatives of “We the People” to mark the anniversary. Among these are plans that organizations nationwide can use to implement two of the National Constitution Center’s existing programs, “I Signed the Constitution” and “America Reads the Constitution.”

Schools across the country utilized these tools and took Constitution Day to the next level by participating in their own celebratory activities throughout the week. A few examples include the following:

- The Chicopee High School in Massachusetts did “America Reads the Constitution” with its students and the mayor of the town.
- The Scott High School in Madison, West Virginia held an “I Signed the Constitution” event with its students, faculty, and members of the community.
- Wellesley College read the Constitution on the steps of the library.
- The Brushton-Moira Central School in Brushton, New York asked every student from kindergarten to sixth grade to memorize the Preamble and then they recited it in the cafeteria during lunch.

"Our vision is that in five to ten years, Constitution Day will rank with Independence Day. But unlike July 4th, it will be a day for learning, contemplation, and reverence for this document which has kept us together for 218 years," says National Constitution Center President and CEO Richard Stengel.

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## ADD TWO/CONSTITUTION DAY RECAP

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 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". From June 10 through November 4, the museum is also featuring 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).

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