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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO PRESENT
CITIZENS' CONSTITUTIONAL CONVERSATION WITH CORNEL WEST
Will Support Premise that American Democracy is in Jeopardy

Philadelphia, PA (August 24, 2005) — Award-winning scholar, professor, author and social commentator Cornel West will be featured in a *Citizens' Constitutional Conversations* program on Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the National Constitution Center. President and CEO Richard Stengel will speak with Professor West about his most recent book, *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism*. A book signing will follow. The *Citizens' Constitutional Conversations* series is underwritten by Citizens Bank.

In this controversial sequel to 1993's *Race Matters*, West's takes what Publisher's Weekly calls an "unflinching" look at what he sees as American imperialism. American democracy, argues West, is at risk because of threatened by free market fundamentalism, aggressive militarism and escalating authoritarianism. West makes extensive use of literary and historical parallels, ranging from Alexis de Tocqueville, Herman Melville and Ralph Waldo Emerson to Toni Morrison.

Tickets for the event are \$9 for National Constitution Center members, \$12 for the general public, and \$6 for students. Seating is limited and reservations are required, either by phone at 215.409.6700 or email at nationalprograms@constitutioncenter.org.

Dr. Cornel West, the Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion at Princeton University, is a respected scholar of religion, philosophy, and African-American history. He is the author of nearly 20 books, and is among the nation's foremost public intellectuals. *Democracy Matters* is the sequel to his critically-acclaimed 1993 book *Race Matters*. West won an American Book Award in 1993 for *Prophetic Thought in Post-Modern Times*.

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About the Citizens Bank Foundation

The Citizens Bank Foundation is the principle charitable contributions vehicle of Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. The foundation's support is focused on housing, community development and basic human needs.

About the National Constitution Center

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. 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.

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