

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3rd US COLORED INFANTRY REGIMENT PRESENTS DEMONSTRATION AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S *LINCOLN FAMILY FUN DAY*

Philadelphia, PA (June 15, 2005) – Members of the 3rd US Colored Infantry Regiment will present a lively day-long demonstration of Civil War camp life and technology, and will speak about the role African-Americans played as soldiers and on the home front during the first monthly *Lincoln Family Fun Day*, Saturday, June 25 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This free event is being presented in conjunction with the *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* exhibit. All *Lincoln Family Fun Days* are sponsored by The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

The members of the 3rd Regiment Infantry are dedicated to participating in living history presentations, reenactments and other events throughout the country. They preserve an accurate accounting of the contributions people of African descent have made to the development of this country during the Civil War in order to educate the masses in the history and service of colored troops of the United States. At the National Constitution Center, they will participate in a reenactment in full regalia, as well as present artifacts from the Civil War.

The 3rd United States Colored Infantry Regiment was the first regiment of US Colored Troops to complete training at Camp William Penn, located in Cheltenham Hills, Montgomery County. After training, the regiment departed Philadelphia for assignment to the Fourth Brigade, Tenth Corps Department of the South.

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ADD ONE/LINCOLN FAMILY FUN DAY

In late August 1863, the 3rd United States Colored Troops were stationed at Morris Island, South Carolina. There, they took part in the siege of Battery Wagner (depicted in the movie *Glory*) and Battery Gregg. In February of 1864, the regiment was transferred to the District of Florida. While in Florida, elements of the regiment were trained as heavy artillery and served in that capacity for an extended period. Other elements of the regiment served as Provost Guard in Tallahassee and at garrison duty in and around Jacksonville, Fernandina and other locations in the area of northern Florida. The 3rd was held in reserve during the Battle of Olustee and participated in supporting the retreat of the forces involved. The regiment remained in Florida until it was mustered out of service on October 31, 1865.

Lincoln Family Fun Days are FREE and do not require museum admission tickets. These activities are aimed at complimenting the Constitution Center's first traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, on view from June 10 through November 4, 2005. *Lincoln Family Fun Days*, occurring one Saturday each month throughout the run of the exhibit, will give kids the opportunity to participate in family-oriented activities that compliment the Lincoln exhibit experience.

Admission to the Lincoln exhibit is included in the National Constitution Center's regular admission fee of \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, children ages 4-12, and \$5.50 for groups of 20 or more. Children ages 3 and under are free. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Developed in partnership with The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and in cooperation with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, is a 2,500-square-foot exhibition that highlights the three constitutional crises which Lincoln faced as President – secession, slavery and civil liberties during the Civil War. The exhibition explores how one individual, who was deeply committed to the belief that citizens can make a real difference, exercised leadership at a pivotal time of crisis for the nation, the Constitution, and the course of freedom worldwide. The exhibition was made possible by a \$1 million grant from Lincoln Financial Group as part of its 100th anniversary celebration.

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ADD TWO/LINCOLN FAMILY FUN DAY

Located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's 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". For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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