

## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall  
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650  
[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Denise Venuti Free  
Director of Public Relations  
215.409.6636  
[dvfree@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:dvfree@constitutioncenter.org)

### **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO MARK 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT WITH SCREENING OF COURT TV FILM *Screening of "Home of the Brave;" Congressman John Lewis to Appear***

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Philadelphia, PA (July 28, 2005) – To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Johnson's signing of the historic Voting Rights Act, the National Constitution Center and Court TV will present a preview of the documentary film "Home of the Brave" on July 28 at 6:30 p.m. To attend this free event, call the National Constitution Center at 215-409-6700.

"Home of the Brave" focuses on Viola Liuzzo, who was murdered in 1965 after participating in the Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights, a landmark of the Civil Rights Movement. The documentary tells the story through the eyes of Liuzzo's family. "Home of the Brave" is a part of Court TV's *In Pursuit of Justice* public service initiative. The documentary will premiere on Court TV on August 8 at 10:00 p.m.

The preview will be followed by a conversation moderated by Court TV Anchor Jami Floyd with Viola's daughter, Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe; Nick Kotz, author of the recent book, *Judgment Day*, about the relationship between President Johnson and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as they fought for the civil rights laws of 1964 and 1965; and Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), who was a hero of the civil rights movement. A reception hosted by Court TV will precede the event at 6:00 p.m.

"Home of the Brave" traces Viola Liuzzo's story through the eyes of her family in Detroit. Narrated by Stockard Channing, it was featured in the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, where it received a nomination for the Grand Jury Prize as Best Documentary. The film's writer, Paola di Florio, was also recognized for her work receiving a nomination for the Writer's Guild of America's 2005 Documentary Screenplay Award. It was inspired by Mary Stanton's 1998 book *From Selma to Sorrow: The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo*.

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## ADD ONE/VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Congressman John Lewis is a pioneer of the civil rights movement. In organizing the Freedom Rides, Lewis risked his life by simply sitting in seats reserved for white patrons. He was also beaten severely by angry mobs and arrested by police for challenging the injustice of Jim Crow segregation in the South. During the height of the Movement, from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was named Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form. SNCC was largely responsible for organizing student activism in the Movement, including sit-ins and other activities. While still a young man, John Lewis became a nationally recognized leader. By 1963, he was dubbed one of the Big Six leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. (The others were Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, Martin Luther King Jr., James Farmer and Roy Wilkins). At the age of 23, he was an architect of and a keynote speaker at the historic March on Washington in August 1963. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has said, "I've seen courage in action on many occasions. I can't say I've seen anyone possess more of it, and use it for any better purpose and to any greater effect, than John Lewis."

Located at 525 Arch St., 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. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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