

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIBERTY TREE EAGLE ON DISPLAY AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 12, 2006) – An eagle sculpture hand-carved from the last of the Revolutionary War-era Liberty Trees will be on display in the National Constitution Center's Grand Hall Lobby, beginning today. The eagle is on long-term loan from The Providence Forum, a nonprofit organization (www.ProvidenceForum.org).

Using one of the remaining large pieces of liberty tree wood, renowned woodcraftsman Eugene Landon from Montoursville, Pennsylvania sculpted this intricate carving of an American bald eagle, which spans six feet across and three feet high. Landon took seven months to carve the eagle from wood that came from the last standing Liberty Tree, which stood on the grounds of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, until it was cut down on October 25, 1999 after being fatally damaged by Hurricane Floyd. Each of the thirteen colonies had its own Liberty Tree, designated as a clandestine meeting place for supporters of the American Revolution. Landon is the recipient of many prestigious national awards and his one-of-a-kind work can be found in private homes and major museums throughout the country, including the White House.

The Providence Forum purchased all the salvageable wood from this felled historic tree in 2001, from which it has already fashioned several Bible boxes, currently in the collections of St. John's College and former President Jimmy Carter, and on display in the Oval Office. The Providence Forum also propagated seedlings from the Annapolis Liberty Tree, to be planted in the original 13 colonies, and just published the nationally

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bestselling book *George Washington's Sacred Fire*, detailing extensively the life and character of the first president. The Providence Forum, organized in 2000 to reaffirm the faith and values of America's Founding Fathers, executes projects like these to bring renewed attention to the legacy of America's origins and heritage.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. 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". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. The National Constitution Center's programs earned the organization a 2006 Best of Philly® award from *Philadelphia* magazine as the "Best Place To Smarten Up". For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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