

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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Images and More Information Available in
Press Room at www.constitutioncenter.org

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DISCOVER THE DRAMA OF OUR NATION'S DARKEST DAYS IN THE NEW *LINCOLN: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR* EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, May 25, 2005 – The story of America's darkest days – when the country was tearing itself apart over the issue of slavery and a wartime president was suppressing civil liberties – is a gripping and largely unknown drama. Opening on June 10, 2005, the National Constitution Center's new exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, will take visitors along a tense, exciting reconstruction of just how President Abraham Lincoln succeeded in saving the nation during this time of unparalleled turmoil.

The Center's first new exhibition since opening on July 4, 2003, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* will be on view from June 10 through November 4, 2005. The exhibition has been made possible by a \$1 million grant from Lincoln Financial Group as part of its 100th anniversary celebration.

Developed in partnership with The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the exhibition is presented in cooperation with the congressionally chartered 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**. While staying true to the Center's signature combination of fun interactive elements, artifacts, text, photographs, and more, this exhibition explores how Lincoln met the enormous challenge of the Civil War and why his very human struggle still matters to us today. From families to Civil War buffs and history scholars, everyone is sure to be engaged by this new exhibit.

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Add One / National Constitution Center's Lincoln Exhibition

As the first interactive museum on the Constitution's history and contemporary relevance, the National Constitution Center is uniquely positioned to present the story of Lincoln and the Constitution in a fresh and compelling way. *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* features more than 100 images, historical documents and artifacts from the collections of The Lincoln Museum, and other nationally prominent institutions, incorporated into a variety of innovative and interactive exhibit formats. In addition, Lincoln's voice – in the form of excerpts from his writings and speeches, as recorded by acclaimed actor Sam Waterston – will enable visitors to hear first-hand his thoughts and views on issues such as equality, slavery, freedom, democracy, justice and the Constitution's rule of law.

The exhibition is organized into seven main exhibit areas: **The Impending Crisis, Meet Mr. Lincoln, Presidential Oath of Office, Crisis of Secession, Crisis of Slavery, Crisis of Civil Liberties, and Lincoln's Legacy: The Gettysburg Address In His Time and Ours.** Through the exhibit's media and interactive elements, visitors will be able to hear Lincoln being sworn in as President, view Civil War battles and Lincoln portraits through a replicated 1860s box camera, play a genuine 1862 board game called "The Secession Game," vote in the election of 1864, experience a replicated jail cell for citizens arrested for dissent or disloyalty and decide their fates, and more!

The National Constitution 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 advance tickets, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

To augment the exhibition, the Constitution Center's education and public programming staff in the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach will develop a variety of resource materials for educators, including online content on the Center's Web site at www.constitutioncenter.org, as well as special programs for visitors, including daily gallery walks and lobby activities, and monthly *Lincoln Family Fun Days*. Sponsored by Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company, *Lincoln Family Fun Days* will give kids the opportunity to participate in educational programs and other family-oriented activities that complement the Lincoln exhibit experience.

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Add Two / National Constitution Center's Lincoln Exhibition

Held one Saturday a month during the run of the exhibition, *Lincoln Family Fun Days* are FREE and do not require museum admission tickets. A complete schedule is available on the Center's Web site.

Also supplementing the exhibition and in keeping with the Center's mission to foster discussion and citizen engagement, a variety of public programs featuring Lincoln experts discussing current and historical topics that relate to the exhibition are planned for spring, summer and fall.

After its inaugural showing at the National Constitution Center from June 10 through November 4, 2005, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* will begin its national tour at The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, from February to June 2006. It will then travel to Hartford, Connecticut, where it will be on display at the Connecticut Historical Society from July to December 2006. The National Constitution Center will work with historical societies in both cities to customize the exhibit to include artifacts that reflect local history as it relates to the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and the Constitution. There are also plans for additional showings in other cities across the country.

About the National Constitution Center

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 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". The 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 contains diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

About Lincoln Financial Group

Lincoln Financial Group, with headquarters in Philadelphia, is the marketing name for Lincoln National Corporation (NYSE:LNC) and its affiliates. The company provides annuities, life insurance, 401(k) and 403(b) plans, 529 college savings plans, mutual funds, managed accounts, institutional investment and financial planning and advisory services. Lincoln Financial Group's Internet address is: www.LFG.com.

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