

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S *MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU* CELEBRATION FEATURES FAMILY ACTIVITIES, NORMANDY BELL, AND NEW *LINCOLN: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR* EXHIBITION**

PHILADELPHIA – The National Constitution Center celebrates July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend with *May the Fourth Be With You*, part of Philadelphia's Four Days of the Fourth Celebration. This space-themed weekend includes screenings of the original *Star Wars* trilogy each day from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and out-of-this-world musical performances and activities.

On Friday, July 1, the Philadelphia 76ers promotions team will be in attendance to celebrate with visitors and participate in their high-flying “pop-a-shot” basketball activity from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Then, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, children can pretend to rocket to the moon in a giant moonbounce from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. On July 3, children can also create “far out” tie-dye activity and Lincoln penny pendants on the lawn from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Additionally on July 3, guests can join George Washington re-enactor, Carl Closs, as he brings the father of our country to life in a presentation, titled *We the People*, at 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m.

The National Constitution Center will also have extended hours during the week. On Friday, July 1, the National Constitution Center will be open from 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and museum admission will be FREE from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for First Friday. On Sunday, July 3, the Center will remain open from 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Additional showings of “Freedom Rising” will occur on both days. Also as a special treat, red, white, and blue glow necklaces will be given away to the first 1,000 kids, ages 12 and under, with paid museum admission each day from July 1 through July 4.

In addition, from July 1 through July 3, the Normandy Bell will be on display at the National Constitution Center. On July 4 at 12:00 noon, military personnel will then escort the Bell from the National Constitution Center to the Liberty Bell Center for the annual Let Freedom Ring ceremony at 2:00 p.m. On July 5, the Normandy Bell will return to the National Constitution Center, where visitors will have the honor of ringing the Bell on a daily basis at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.

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## MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU/ADD ONE

No living person has ever heard the Liberty Bell ring. However, this Fourth of July, America will hear the first ringing of the Normandy Bell, which is tuned to sound as the Liberty Bell once did before it cracked in 1846. The French government commissioned the replica of the Liberty Bell to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. The government chose the Liberty Bell because the bell was struck seven times on D-Day by the Philadelphia mayor to spell out the word Liberty.

Another highlight of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend is the National Constitution Center's first traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, which runs from June 10 to November 4, 2005. Sponsored by Lincoln Financial Group, the exhibition takes visitors along a tense, exciting reconstruction of how President Lincoln succeeded in saving the nation during this time of unparalleled turmoil, while staying true to the Center's signature combination of fun interactive elements, artifacts, text, photographs, and more.

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. From families to Civil War buffs and history scholars, everyone is sure to be engaged by this exhibition.

Through the exhibit's media and interactive elements, visitors will be able to stand alongside of Lincoln as he is sworn in as President, view Civil War military conflicts and Lincoln portraits through a replicated 1860s box camera, play a genuine 1862 board game called "The Secession Game", use clues to solve an electronic jigsaw puzzle, experience a replicated jail cell for citizens arrested for dissent or disloyalty, and more! 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.

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## MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU/ADD TWO

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. The museum 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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### CALENDAR LISTINGS:

#### Friday, July 1

76ers basketball activity, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Star Wars* trilogy screenings, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Normandy Bell on display

Extended hours 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., with additional showings of "Freedom Rising"

FREE Museum Admission from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, July 2

Moonbounce, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Star Wars* trilogy screenings, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Normandy Bell on display

Regular hours, 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, July 3

Tie-dye t-shirts and Lincoln penny pendants, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*We the People* at 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m.

Moonbounce, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Star Wars* trilogy screenings, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Normandy Bell on display

Extended hours 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., with additional showings of "Freedom Rising"

#### Monday, July 4

Moonbounce, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Star Wars* trilogy screenings, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Normandy Bell on parade to Liberty Bell Center at 12:00 noon for Let Freedom Ring ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

Regular hours, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.