

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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PENNSYLVANIA PACKET CONSTITUTION ON DISPLAY AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (July 21, 2005) – On July 25, the first public printing of the Constitution, published in the *Pennsylvania Packet* newspaper, will be reinstalled for display for one year at the National Constitution Center. There are fewer than 20 known copies of this document in the world. This version was originally on display when the Center first opened on July 4, 2003, but, due to its rarity, has been “resting” for the past six months. (A high-resolution facsimile replaced the original during that time.) The reinstallation offers yet another exciting reason for people to visit the museum this summer.

The *Pennsylvania Packet* Constitution was published on September 19, 1787, just two days after the Constitution was signed in Independence Hall. Robert L. McNeil, Jr. donated the document to the Center. It is particularly appropriate that this copy is on view at the National Constitution Center, because this was how “We the People” first learned about their new form of government.

The *Pennsylvania Packet* Constitution is included in the National Constitution Center’s permanent exhibition and is located across from *Signers’ Hall* on the second floor.

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*. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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