

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SCHOLARS DISCUSS LINCOLN'S LEGACY AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (June 1, 2005) – On the opening day of the National Constitution Center's first changing exhibit, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, visitors will have the opportunity to be among the first to see the exhibit and hear from members of the advisory panel who helped create this very special show. These Lincoln scholars will be featured in a program titled *Lincoln's Constitutional Challenges: Yesterday and Today* at the National Constitution Center on Friday, June 10, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

*Lincoln's Constitutional Challenges: Yesterday and Today* will be held in the National Constitution Center's Kirby Auditorium, located on the second floor of the Center. The museum's Lincoln exhibit will remain open until 6:00 p.m. so that visitors can see the exhibit before attending the program and have the opportunity to hear more about the exhibit themes and how the exhibit was created. The museum will offer a cash bar and lite dinner fare from 5-6 pm for people who are visiting the Lincoln Exhibit and attending the program afterward. This program is FREE, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215-409-6700. This is the first of several programs being featured to correspond with the Center's new *Lincoln* exhibit.

The scholars will discuss the three constitutional challenges that Lincoln faced: secession, slavery, and the delicate balance between civil liberties and national security in wartime. The scholars will also discuss 1860 Civil War era history involving these issues, as well as how they relate to our post 9/11 world.

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## ADD ONE/LINCOLN SCHOLARS

The program will be moderated by John Yoo, a nationally recognized expert in constitutional law and professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley. The panel members include Harold Holzer, VP of Communication and Marketing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; and Joan Flinspach, President and CEO of The Lincoln Museum in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Professor Yoo has published articles about foreign affairs, international law and constitutional law in a number of the nation's leading law journals. A graduate of Yale Law School, Yoo clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served as General Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 1996. He received his B.A. in History from Harvard University.

Harold Holzer is one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. A prolific writer and lecturer and frequent guest on television, he serves as co-chairman of the United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. His latest book is the award-winning *Lincoln At Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President* (2004), which won a 2005 Lincoln Prize. From 1991-1996, Holzer served as president of the Lincoln Group of New York, and still serves on its executive committee. Holzer also serves on the board of historical advisors of the National Constitution Center.

Joan Flinspach directed the Historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs, Iowa, from 1984-1986. She has also directed the Boys Town Hall of History in Omaha, NE, which chronicles the story of the founding of Father Flanagan's Boys' Home. Most recently, Flinspach oversaw the construction of The Lincoln Museum with a permanent exhibit that includes 11 galleries, 4 theaters and 18 computerized hands-on exhibits.

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## ADD TWO/LINCOLN SCHOLARS

Located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, 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". Beginning June 10, the museum will also feature 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.

The National Constitution 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 contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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