

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAVIS SMILEY DISCUSSES NEW MEMOIR AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 2, 2006) - On Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m., the National Constitution Center in partnership with the *Philadelphia Tribune* presents a *Citizens' Constitutional Conversation* with Tavis Smiley as he discusses his new, deeply moving memoir, *What I Know For Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*. Tickets cost \$15 for non-members, \$12 for members, and \$6 for K-12 students and teachers. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Media personality and author Tavis Smiley will share stories about the tumultuous days of his childhood, growing up in a family of thirteen in a small trailer. Being raised in an all-white rural community in Indiana had a tremendous impact on Smiley's life, and he will discuss his memoir of poverty, ambition, pain, atonement, his success, and his good works.

A nationally respected broadcaster, author, advocate, and philanthropist, Tavis Smiley continues to be an outstanding American voice for change. In 1998, *Newsweek* called him one of the "20 people changing how Americans get their news" and "a captain of the airwaves." Smiley hosts the late night television talk show *Tavis Smiley* on PBS, and his radio show *The Tavis Smiley Show* on public radio is distributed by PRI. He also offers political commentary twice weekly on the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*.

Smiley has authored nine books, including *Never Mind Success...Go for Greatness!* In addition to *What I Know For Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*, Smiley will also discuss his last book, *The Covenant with Black America*, a *New York Times* best seller.

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ADD ONE/TAVIS SMILEY

Citizens' Constitutional Conversations are underwritten by the Citizens Bank Foundation.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of the Joseph Fox Bookstore.

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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