

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## STORYTELLING, WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, AND EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS HONOR VETERANS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 25, 2006) - In honor of Veterans Day on November 11, 2006, the National Constitution Center will host a variety of activities for veterans and their families, as well as other visitors. **Museum admission for veterans is free on Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12.**

Throughout the day, Vietnam veteran John Campbell of Glassboro, NJ will speak about his experiences in the United States service. These discussions will occur in the "Domestic Tranquility" section of the museum's main exhibition, and are free with admission. A letter that Campbell had written to his friend and fellow soldier who died in Vietnam can also be heard in the "Common Defense" section of the main exhibition. Campbell is the author of *They Were Ours: Gloucester County's Loss in Vietnam*, which tells the story of the forty-three men from Gloucester County, NJ who died in service to our country during the Vietnam War. His work also appears in *Shrapnel in the Heart: Letters and Remembrances from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial* and *Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters*.

The Center will also hold a moment of silence and a wreath laying ceremony at 11:11 a.m. on the Grand Hall Overlook, and *Taps* will be played on the trumpet. This ceremony replicates the national ceremony, which is held at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery each year.

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## ADD ONE/VETERANS DAY 2006

Visitors can also learn about veterans' service to the country through elements in the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*. The "Common Defense" section honors those who have served with a display of flags from each branch of the armed services. Another highlight is a video salute featuring a marching soldier who morphs into uniformed soldiers from different time periods, from the Revolutionary War to the present. Guests can also listen to historical letters written by soldiers reflecting on their experiences. A special "walk-in" environment depicts a Civil War battlefield landscape showing fallen soldiers at Antietam, furthering the message of our veterans' sacrifice throughout time. Here, a dirt floor allows visitors to feel as if they are on a country road, as James Earl Jones reads the Emancipation Proclamation. In the World War II section of the exhibit, Turret gunner Frederick Margulies' medals are on display. Margulies earned the medals while flying more than 57 missions for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. A "Serving our Country" banner can also be seen in the same case. In the Center's signature theater performance, "Freedom Rising", references are made to soldiers during such conflicts as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II, highlighting contributions that veterans have made in shaping our nation's history.

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". General museum admission prices are \$9 for adults; \$7 for children ages 4-12, seniors ages 62 and over, and active military personnel; and \$6.50 for groups of 20 or more. Children ages 3 and under are free. 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 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).