

CONSTITUTION DAY 
SEPTEMBER 17TH

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HEAR UNIQUE CONSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES
DURING *WE THE PEOPLE STORIES*
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**
Presented in Conjunction with Constitution Day 2006

Philadelphia, PA – For its celebration of Constitution Day 2006, the National Constitution Center tops off four days of activities with *We the People Stories*, a conversation with a diverse group of people with unique constitutional connections on Monday, September 18, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Through brief, engaging stories, the panelists will demonstrate the everyday relevance of the Constitution, how it has affected them, how they have affected it, how it is indispensable in their daily lives, and how it protects them. Participants include *Black Hawk Down* author **Mark Bowden**; judge, author, and news analyst **Andrew P. Napolitano**; Former Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison **Mary Ann Meloy**; **Fatou N’Diaye**, chef-owner of Fatou & Fama restaurants; **Alex Crane**, co-inventor of the omni-directional wheelchair; bioethics professor **Arthur Caplan**; and **Major Philip Romanelli**, a Bronze Star winner for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Audience members will also be invited to tell their stories and discuss the issues with the participants.

The panelists will each speak to different facets of the Constitution. Mark Bowden will discuss the importance of a free press. A former *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter and national correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly*, Bowden wrote the best-seller *Black Hawk Down*, which became a top grossing and critically acclaimed film. Bowden’s latest book is *Guests of the Ayatollah: The First Battle in America’s War with Militant Islam*.

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ADD ONE / WE THE PEOPLE STORIES

Andrew P. Napolitano will discuss the importance of an independent judiciary. Judge Napolitano is the senior judicial analyst for Fox News and author of the new book, *The Constitution in Exile*, which makes the argument that the federal government has seized power by rewriting the U.S. Constitution.

Mary Ann Meloy will discuss the right to bear arms. A life member of the National Rifle Association, Meloy served as Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison during the Reagan Administration.

Fatou N'Diaye will discuss the privileges of citizenship. Born and raised in Senegal, N'Diaye immigrated to Philadelphia in the early 90's and is now the owner of several Philadelphia restaurants.

Alex Crane will address promoting the general welfare and the Constitution's importance in protecting intellectual property. Crane is an incoming engineering major at Drexel University whose participation in the first Robotics Competition led to the invention of a unique omni-directional wheelchair.

Arthur Caplan will speak to the front-page issues surrounding privacy, personal autonomy, and stem cell research. Caplan, Ph.D., is Chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and the Director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the author of *Who Owns Life?*

Major Philip F. Romanelli will discuss our duty to protect and defend our country. Romanelli is a US Army Reserve officer who earned the Bronze Star for his service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In civilian life, he is a Senior Consultant in Strategic Communications for the Wexford Group International, and is currently working with the Army Asymmetric Warfare Office in the Pentagon.

Moderating the event will be Jane Eisner, Vice President for Civic Initiatives at the National Constitution Center and a former editor, columnist, and reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Eisner is overseeing the Center's Constitution Day initiatives.

ADD TWO / WE THE PEOPLE STORIES

A book sale and signing will follow the event, courtesy of the Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. 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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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