

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HONORS WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR., ESQ. WITH 2004 *WE THE PEOPLE AWARD*

Award to be presented by Justice Antonin Scalia and Peter Jennings

Philadelphia, PA (September 20, 2004) – William T. Coleman, Jr., Esq., former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Philadelphia native, will be presented with the 2004 *We the People Award* at an award dinner at the National Constitution Center on Thursday, September 23, 2004. The Award recognizes Coleman’s lifelong commitment to active citizenship and noteworthy contributions to constitutional principles. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will present the Award, following an introduction by ABC News’ Peter Jennings.

Coleman joins a distinguished line of Award recipients, including Senators Robert C. Byrd and Mark O. Hatfield (1996), publisher Benjamin C. Bradlee (1997), Ambassador Walter Annenberg (1999), Representative John R. Lewis (2001), and the members of the 100th/442nd “Go for Broke” units (2002).

The *We the People Award* Dinner will also include remarks by Richard Stengel, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center and John C. Bogle, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Center, as well as a toast led by Arthur Culvahouse, Jr. of O’Melveny & Myers LLP. Girard Academic Middle Program will sing the National Anthem, with a Presentation of Colors by Germantown High School. Girard Academic

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Middle Program will conclude the evening with a musical tribute.

William T. Coleman, Jr., Esq., was appointed the nation's fourth Secretary of Transportation on March 7, 1975 by President Gerald R. Ford. He has had a distinguished career in law, business and public service that included advisory or consultant positions to seven presidents.

Coleman has held several national-level public service positions, and was one of the authors of the legal brief that, in 1954, persuaded the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* to end segregation in public schools. He was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, by President Clinton in September 1995, as well as the Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. in November 1997. He is currently a Senior Partner and the Senior Counselor in the national and international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP of Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing.

Coleman graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1941, and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1946, where he was first in his class. He is married to the former Lovida Mae Hardin, and has three children.

The *We the People Award* Committee is chaired by National Constitution Center Trustee Paul R. Verkuil, Esq. and includes John C. Bogle, Gilbert F. Casellas, Esq., Hon. Ida K. Chen, Richard Stengel, and A.E. Wolf, also members of the Board of Trustees.

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ADD TWO/WE THE PEOPLE AWARD RELEASE

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1988 to increase understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to the daily lives of Americans. It is the first museum in the world devoted to dramatically telling the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibit components, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts. The 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 and experts. The National Constitution Center is the first museum in the country designated as a member of the National Archives Experience Alliance Initiative. For more information, please call 215.923.0004 or visit the Center's Web site at www.constitutioncenter.org.

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