**For Immediate Release**

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HONORS DALAI LAMA DURING**

**27th ANNUAL LIBERTY MEDAL CEREMONY**

**Richard Gere to Participate in the Ceremony with Mayor Nutter**

**Dalai Lama Joins the Ceremony via Video**

Philadelphia (October 26, 2015) – Tonight at 5 p.m., Monday, October 26, the National Constitution Center will honor His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet during the 2015 Liberty Medal Ceremony, in recognition of his advocacy for human rights worldwide. Award-winning actor, activist, and philanthropist Richard Gere will participate in the ceremony and Dr. Thupten Jinpa, the principal English translator to the Dalai Lama and president of the Institute for Tibetan Classics, and Dr. Richard Davidson, board member of The Mind & Life Institute, will accept the award on behalf of His Holiness. Kaydor Aukatsang, the Representative of the Dalai Lama to North America, will also be in attendance.

The event begins with a performance from the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia Children’s Choir. Following the performance, attendees will hear remarks from Richard Gere; City of Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter; and Jeffrey Rosen, the Center’s president and CEO. Following a video greeting from former President George W. Bush, Mr. Gere will introduce a video tribute to His Holiness featuring the Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); the Honorable Diane Feinstein (D-CA); and actress Priyanka Chopra. In addition, His Holiness will make a special greeting to Liberty Medal attendees via video recording.

“We are thrilled to be honoring His Holiness the Dalai Lama at what will be an inspiring presentation of the Liberty Medal. We look forward to welcoming representatives of His Holiness and are especially pleased that Richard Gere – a native Philadelphian – will be part of the evening’s festivities,” said National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen.

The Liberty Medal, established in 1988, annually honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe. The event will also be broadcast on local ABC affiliate, WPVI-TV/6abc and livestreamed at www.6ABC.com.

Ira Lubert and Pamela Estadt are the Liberty Medal Prize Sponsor, Citizens Bank is the Chairman’s Reception Sponsor, and Stradley Ronan is the President’s Reception Sponsor.

About the Liberty Medal

The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Given annually, the medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe. For more information, visit [constititutioncenter.org/libertymedal](http://constitutioncenter.org/libertymedal/).

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://constitutioncenter.org/) in Philadelphia inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a non-partisan basis.”  As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits.  As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution.  For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

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*EDITOR’S NOTE: A complete list of Liberty Medal winners follows.*

**Past** **Recipients of the Liberty Medal**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2014**  **2013** | Malala Yousafzai\*  Hillary Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State |
| **2012** | Muhammad Ali |
| **2011**  **2010** | Robert M. Gates, former U.S. Secretary of Defense  Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister |
| **2009** | Steven Spielberg |
| **2008** | Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet Leader |
| **2007** | Bono and DATA |
| **2006** | George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton, former U.S. Presidents |
| **2005** | Viktor Yushchenko, former President of Ukraine |
| **2004** | Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan |
| **2003** | Sandra Day O’Connor, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (retired) |
| **2002** | Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State |
| **2001** | Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General\* |
| **2000** | James Watson and Francis Crick, Co-Discoverers of the Structure of DNA |
| **1999** | Kim Dae-jung, former President of South Korea\* |
| **1998** | George J. Mitchell, former U.S. Senator and Irish peace negotiator |
| **1997** | CNN International |
| **1996** | King Hussein I of Jordan and former Prime Minister of Israel  Shimon Peres |
| **1995** | Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| **1994** | Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic |
| **1993** | F.W. de Klerk, President of South Africa\* and Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress\* |
| **1992** | Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice (retired) |
| **1991** | Oscar Arias Sanchez, former President of Costa Rica and Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)\* |
| **1990** | Jimmy Carter, former U.S. President\* |
| **1989** | Lech Walesa, Co-Founder of Solidarity, Poland |

\* Nobel Peace Prize Recipients