ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE THAT SPARKED THE CIVIL WAR
HARVARD PRESIDENT DREW GILPIN FAUST
IS SPECIAL GUEST AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

The noted historian sheds light on how the nation’s bloodiest war
ultimately healed the nation

Philadelphia, PA (March 23, 2012) – More than 600,000 soldiers lost their lives in the Civil War. An equivalent proportion of today’s population would be six million. On the anniversary of the battle that sparked the Civil War, Harvard University president and noted Civil War scholar Drew Gilpin Faust will visit the National Constitution Center for a thought-provoking discussion on the logistical, psychological and spiritual impact of the war’s unprecedented carnage and how death ultimately helped to heal a bloodied and bitterly divided nation. Joined by leading Abraham Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, Gilpin Faust’s discussion will draw from her critically acclaimed book This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War. The program will take place on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is $7 for members, students and teachers, $10 for non-members, and FREE for 1787 Society members. Reservations are required and can be made online at www.constitutioncenter.org or by calling 215.409.6700.

The number of soldiers who died between 1861 and 1865 is approximately equal to the combined total of American fatalities in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War, Gilpin Faust reveals how death on such a scale changed not only individual lives but the life of the nation, redefining the meanings of race, citizenship and nationhood.
ADD ONE/DREW GILPIN FAUST

Drew Gilpin Faust is president of Harvard University and the Lincoln Professor of History in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She is the author of six books, including This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War, which won the Bancroft Prize in 2009, was a finalist for both a National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize, and was named by The New York Times one of the “10 Best Books of 2008.”

Harold Holzer is chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and senior vice president for external affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He has written on the martyrdom of the war’s most famous victim in The Lincoln Image and other books. He is the author, co-author or editor of 42 books on Lincoln and the Civil War era, most recently Emancipating Lincoln. He has won many awards for his writing, including a second-place Lincoln Prize for his 2005 book Lincoln at Cooper Union. In 2008, Holzer was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President George W. Bush.

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

The National Constitution Center is the first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the most powerful vision of freedom ever expressed: the U.S. Constitution. Located on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of American freedom, the Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship through a state-of-the-art museum experience, including hundreds of interactive exhibits, films and rare artifacts; must-see feature exhibitions; the internationally acclaimed, 360-degree theatrical production Freedom Rising; and the iconic Signers’ Hall, where visitors can sign the Constitution alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. As America’s forum for constitutional dialogue, the Center engages diverse, distinguished leaders of government, public policy, journalism and scholarship in timely public discussions and debates. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the national hub for constitutional education, which offers cutting-edge civic learning resources both onsite and online. Freedom is calling. Answer it at the National Constitution Center. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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