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## WHO ARE THE 13 “MOST FORGOTTEN” U.S. PRESIDENTS? MICHAEL GERHARDT SHARES HIS LIST AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (September 18, 2014) – Leading legal expert **Michael J. Gerhardt** joins the National Constitution Center for a myth-shattering discussion surveying the 13 presidents he deems the “most forgotten”—drawing from his recent book, *The Forgotten Presidents: Their Untold Constitutional Legacy*. Just who are these 13? Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, Chester Arthur, Grover Cleveland (first and second terms), Benjamin Harrison, William Howard Taft, Calvin Coolidge, and Jimmy Carter. Gerhardt argues that studying these presidencies shows why no one who serves as a president (even for just a few weeks) has left the Oval office or the Constitution. National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen moderates.

This program will take place on **Monday, October 6, 2014 at 12 p.m.** Admission starts at \$7 and includes a copy of *The Forgotten Presidents: Their Untold Constitutional Legacy*. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 215-409-6700 or visiting [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

Named to *Financial Times*' 2013 “Book of the Year” list, [The Forgotten Presidents: Their Untold Constitutional Legacy](#) provides an in-depth account of each of these 13 chief executives, citing reasons for their pitfalls while providing evidence to the contrary—how each transformed the constitutional landscape of their time. John Tyler battled with Congress—almost always successfully—over his powers as president, setting important precedents on impeachment, censure, and the scope of the Senate’s power. William Howard Taft reshaped the federal judiciary by appointing six Supreme Court justices in his single term as president and later becoming chief justice himself. In his second term, Grover Cleveland aggressively used presidential power to fortify many special prerogatives of the office, including the President’s veto, nominating and removal

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ADD ONE/MICHAEL GERHARDT

powers. About the book, Gerhardt notes “I have never had more fun writing a book than I did writing this one.”

[Michael J. Gerhardt](#) is the Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He specializes in constitutional conflicts and has written five books, including the critically-acclaimed books *The Power of Precedent* (2011). Gerhardt has participated in Supreme Court confirmation hearings for five of the nine justices currently sitting on the Supreme Court, including most recently as Special Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee for the nominations of Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court. He received a B.A. from Yale University, a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago. Besides consulting with the White House and Senate leaders on judicial selection, Professor Gerhardt has advised and testified before House and Senate committees on a wide range of constitutional questions, including the President’s recess appointment authority, the filibuster, and impeachment. During President Clinton’s impeachment proceedings, Professor Gerhardt was the only joint witness asked to testify before the House Judiciary Committee and served as CNN’s resident expert throughout the process.

#### About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America’s Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to “disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis,” the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America’s Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).