

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOLDIERS AT USO BASE IN IRAQ RECITE
PREAMBLE OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
LIVE VIA SKYPE WITH MILITARY FAMILIES
AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER
*In celebration of Constitution Day 2008***

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

-- Preamble, U.S. Constitution

Philadelphia, PA (September 8, 2008) – **Live from Balad, Iraq**, U.S. soldiers will join U.S. military families at the National Constitution Center as they celebrate Constitution Day by reciting the powerful words of the Preamble of the Constitution via Skype (Voice over IP Technology) on September 17, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. The recitation, part of the Center's annual *America Reads the Constitution* event, will take place in front of the Preamble Wall, a visually stunning area of the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, on which the words of the Preamble are inscribed.

The soldiers at the USO Center in Balad will be joined at the Center by families of soldiers from New Jersey's Maguire Air Force Base and Fort Dix for what will be a historic and undoubtedly emotional reading of 52 of the most significant words in our nation's history. This event is made possible through the Center's partnership with the United Services Organization (USO) of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey and CBS 3. The public will be able to view the program following the event via webcast on www.constitutioncenter.org and www.cbs3.com.

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ADD ONE/ AMERICA READS

“We are honored to recognize the sacrifices our soldiers make daily to ‘provide for the common defense’ as a powerful reminder of the freedoms we enjoy as Americans,” says Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “The National Constitution Center is proud to partner with the USO in support of the men and women of the armed forces on this important day, commemorating the signing of the Constitution.”

“The recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution is the ideal way to emphasize the significance of the document and honor our soldiers for devoting their lives everyday to the preservation of our freedoms as Americans,” says Bob Baumann, President and Chief Operating Officer of the USO of Pennsylvania and South Jersey. “The United Services Organization is proud to be a partner in *America Reads* with the National Constitution Center on Constitution Day.”

Additional readings of the Preamble will be made by Constitution Center Member Anthony Crawford, a Marine who has served two tours in Iraq; Joseph M. Torsella, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center; Tracy Carter Dougherty, Chair of the USO Board; Pat Ciarrocchi and Ukee Washington, CBS 3 anchors; and Kelly Green of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters. Following the recitation, families and program guests will have the opportunity to view the Center’s award-winning “Freedom Rising” presentation and tour the museum.

In partnership with *USA TODAY*, the National Constitution Center will serve as the focal point for a wide variety of programs and activities in celebration of Constitution Day 2008. The programming surrounding the 221st birthday of the Constitution has been made possible with generous funding from the Annenberg Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts. For more information regarding the event schedule surrounding Constitution Day, please visit www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday.

For more than 66 years, the United Service Organizations (USO) has been a bridge between the American people and the men and women in uniform around the world. The USO is a private, non-profit organization that is committed to improving the quality of life of our service members and their families through recreation and morale boosting programs and service.

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ADD TWO/ AMERICA READS

CBS 3 (KYW-TV) is part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

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. The Center serves as 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. Also, 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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