

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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LAST CHANCE TO SEE *THE KENNEDYS: PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY,* *PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD AVEDON* AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 16, 2007) – Visitors won't want to miss the opportunity to see ***The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family, Photographs by Richard Avedon***, now in its final weeks of display at the National Constitution Center before returning to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The never before exhibited photographs of John and Jacqueline Kennedy and their two children combine politics, style, and photographic history to provide a compelling glimpse of these American icons. The breathtaking images, as recently featured in *Vanity Fair*, *Good Morning America*, and *Access Hollywood*, will be on display inside the Center's main exhibition through December 2, 2007. Tickets are free with regular museum admission.

"It has been an honor to be the first museum to publicly display these remarkable photographs by Richard Avedon," says National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. "Everyone has a unique way of remembering the Kennedys, and it is fascinating to see our visitors' memories begin to unfold as they look at the photographs. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Kennedy family through a different lens."

In 1961, world-renowned photographer Richard Avedon took intimate and illuminating images of the Kennedy family on the eve of John F. Kennedy's inauguration. The full set of 217 black and white photographs from the Photographic History Collections at the National Museum of American History is on public display for the first time at the

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National Constitution Center. The photographs of John, Jacqueline, Caroline, and John Jr. provide a powerful view of one of America's most enduring political dynasties and share the story of a first family on the brink of history. As presidential historian Robert Dallek wrote in *Vanity Fair*, the images "tell the story of an American family – warm, close, confident – about to embrace a remarkable destiny for which it is fully prepared."

The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family, Photographs by Richard Avedon has been organized and developed by the National Museum of American History. The exhibit has been made possible with the support of Collins Design, *An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers* and The Rudolf Eickemeyer, Jr. Fund.

The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family coincides with the Center's showing of the *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition, on display now through December 31, 2007. Admission to *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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.