

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WHAT WOULD ABE SAY? MARIO CUOMO EXPLAINS WHY LINCOLN MATTERS AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (September 9, 2004) – Author and former New York governor Mario Cuomo will lead a “Constitutional Conversation” based on his latest book, *Why Lincoln Matters: Today More Than Ever* on Friday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the National Constitution Center’s Kirby Auditorium of the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach. The program, “What Would Abe Say?” will be moderated by Richard Stengel, President and CEO of the Center. A book signing will follow the discussion.

In *Why Lincoln Matters*, Cuomo aligns the issues that Abraham Lincoln struggled with during his term in office with the pressing issues of today. In doing so, he shows the relevance of Lincoln’s message for today’s hot-button subjects: equality, the role of government, war and peace, and the responsibilities of the fortunate few. Cuomo offers an optimistic forecast of our government’s ability to exist as a force for greater good in American society.

During the “Constitutional Conversation,” Cuomo will expand on Lincoln’s philosophy and provide insight on a liberal, generous and responsible path for the future according to Lincoln’s ideals. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

“Abraham Lincoln helped re-frame the Constitution during of the most critical periods in our nation’s history,” said Stengel. “I can’t think of a better and more timely dialogue

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than to hear Mario Cuomo talk about Lincoln's meaning today."

The program is a fitting preface to the Center's upcoming exhibit about Lincoln and the Constitution, opening in June 2005. The exhibit is made possible by a generous grant from Lincoln Financial Group.

Mario M. Cuomo served three terms as governor of the state of New York. He graduated summa cum laude from St. John's University in 1953, and tied for top of the class honors at St. John's University School of Law in 1956. He is the author of several books, and is currently a partner at the law firm Willkie, Farr & Gallagher. Cuomo has been married to the former Matilda Raffa since 1954. They have five children and eleven granddaughters, and reside in New York City.

A cash bar will be available from 6 – 6:30 p.m.

The program costs \$9 for members, \$12 for non-members. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. Please call 215.409.6700 for tickets. For questions, please e-mail [adultprograms@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:adultprograms@constitutioncenter.org) or call 215.409.6700.

#### **About the National Constitution Center**

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1988 to increase understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to the daily lives of Americans. It is the first museum in the world devoted to dramatically telling the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibit components, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates; and as a home for visiting scholars and experts. The National Constitution Center is the first museum in the country designated as a member of the National Archives Experience Alliance Initiative. For more information, please call 215.409.6600 or visit the Center's Web site at [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).