

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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VOICES FROM IRAQ: A SPECIAL PRE-MEMORIAL DAY DISCUSSION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER *A Conversation with Iraq War Veterans and Author Yvonne Latty*

PHILADELPHIA, PA (May 4, 2006) – The National Constitution Center will present a discussion with two Iraq war veterans on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Sgt. Samuel White and Sgt. Jaquaie McAtee will discuss their experiences in the Iraq War with former *Philadelphia Daily News* reporter Yvonne Latty, author of the book, *In Conflict: Iraq War Veterans Speak Out on Duty, Loss and the Fight to Stay Alive*. The event is free, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Sgt. Samuel White has served in the Marines for four years. In 2003, he was called back for duty in Iraq and served in Fallujah during the rise in the insurgency, where he experienced both the loss of a close friend and his own near death experience. Sgt. White is a supporter of the war in Iraq, and saw progress during his second tour. He believes there is hope for an Iraqi democracy.

Sgt. Jaquaie McAtee served in Afghanistan after 9/11 and has served in three tours of duty, including one in Fallujah, specializing in the detonation of enemy mines. During his first tour, his unit found over 2,000 land mines. McAtee has also witnessed numerous casualties, including watching his Marine mentor lose a leg after stepping on a land mine. Since returning home, McAtee has struggled and no longer supports the war; he instead questions the basis for the entire mission.

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In Conflict captures the experiences of 25 Iraq War veterans. With stories as diverse as their backgrounds, their common bond lies in the fact that their lives, as a result of the war, have been dramatically changed forever. Some are permanently disfigured. Others support the war effort and are eager to return to it. Still others feel they fought in vain for all the wrong reasons.

Yvonne Latty's previous works include *We Were There: Voices of African American Veterans, from World War II to the War In Iraq*, which formed the basis for a former exhibition at the National Constitution Center. She spent 13 years at the *Philadelphia Daily News*, where she was an award-winning reporter specializing in urban issues. Latty was featured in The History Channel's documentary "Honor Deferred" and has lectured nationally. She will join the faculty of New York University this fall as a Clinical Professor of Journalism. Latty earned her undergraduate degree in film/television and her master's degree in journalism from New York University.

From May 25 through September 3, 2007 the National Constitution Center will host *Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives*. The exhibition presents first-hand accounts of watershed events in American history. Through letters, diaries, photographs, and audio and film recordings from the National Archives and its Presidential libraries, visitors to the *Eyewitness* exhibition will gain new and unique insights into well-known occurrences.

Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives is free with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. An Acoustiguide audio tour is available for \$3 per person and \$2 for members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

The exhibition was created by the National Archives and Record Administration, Washington, DC, and the Foundation for the National Archives. The national tour of *Eyewitness* is sponsored by The Boeing Company. CBS 3 Eyewitness News is the official media partner for the Constitution Center's showing of the *Eyewitness* exhibit.

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

CBS 3 (KYW-TV) is part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation consisting of 39 stations, including 21 CBS, 11 The CW, three MyNetworkTV and four independent stations not affiliated with major networks.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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, serving 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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