

## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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**WASHINGTON: DEVOUT OR DEIST?  
WITH PETER LILLBACK, JANA NOVAK, AND PETER HENRIQUES  
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

***A Presidents' Day Event***

Philadelphia, PA (January 18, 2007) – The truth about George Washington’s religious beliefs has long been disputed and continues to intrigue Americans. In a precursor to President’s Day, prominent authors **Peter Lillback**, **Jana Novak**, and **Peter Henriques** will explore the religiosity of our nation’s first president at the National Constitution Center on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Moderating the program will be former Bush White House official **John Dilulio** of the University of Pennsylvania. Tickets are free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215-409-6700.

Peter Lillback is the president of The Providence Forum, president of Westminster Theological Seminary, and is senior pastor at Proclamation Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr. He is the author of several books, including *George Washington’s Sacred Fire*, in which he argues that Washington was a man of genuine Christian faith. He writes that Washington’s “sacred fire” has dimmed because of revisionist history.

Jana Novak spent a decade working in politics for several prominent national politicians, including Newt Gingrich, Dennis Hastert, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, and Sam Brownback. She has also worked for the *Washingtonian*, *Crisis*, and *Rising Tide*, and is the co-author of *Washington’s God*, in which she makes the case that Washington was a very private Christian.

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## ADD ONE/WASHINGTON

Peter Henriques, Professor of History Emeritus at George Mason University, is the author of *Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington*, in which he tackles the complexities of Washington's life, including the controversy surrounding his religious beliefs. Henriques argues that Washington was sporadically involved in his local church, but was not theologically "orthodox" and his interest in religion was "perfunctory."

John Dilulio is a Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society and a Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as an assistant to President of George W. Bush and first Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of the Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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. The National Constitution Center's programs earned the organization a 2006 Best of Philly® award from *Philadelphia* magazine as the "Best Place To Smarten Up". For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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