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**WORLD'S FIRST US CONSTITUTION MUSEUM OPENS JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
*Week-long Patriotic Fun & Festivities in America's Birthplace*

**PHILADELPHIA**, February 19, 2003 – Celebrate an unforgettable Philly Fourth: a patriotic bash surrounding the Grand Opening of the **National Constitution Center**, the first museum in the world dedicated to honoring the US Constitution, and yet another milestone in the new Independence Mall expanse and transformation of Independence National Historical Park.

The opening coincides with Sunoco's Welcome America! festivities and Sweet Sounds of Liberty Concert & Fireworks extravaganza, followed by a weekend filled with Constitution-themed parades, events, lectures and performances throughout the region – making Philadelphia a once-in-a-lifetime destination this Fourth of July.

Get into the swing on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with an All-American Evening, featuring dance and music performances on the Constitution Center lawn. Doors of nearby sites in "America's most historic square mile" stay open late, and the celebration continues on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with The Constitution Ball and The Red, White and Blue To-Do, a black-tie fundraiser dinner and late-evening reception.

On the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, celebrate the grand opening of the **Constitution Center**, which promises you'll "enter as a visitor, leave as a citizen." Journey through more than 100 multimedia exhibits while surrounded by the words of the US Constitution, etched on a 450-foot-long, 16-foot-high glass wall. Live actors and interpreters share slices of late-18<sup>th</sup> century life, while film, music and audio recreate historic events, bringing the Constitution – and its impact on the life of every American – alive as never before.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA TOURISM MARKETING CORPORATION

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**Pennsylvania**  
*Memories last a lifetime.*

An oath ceremony video helps visitors come away understanding their roles as citizens, while fun and humor around the Bill of Rights make a lasting, light-hearted impression. Visitors can also cast their votes for their favorite president of all time. The exhibition finale takes place in Signers' Hall, complete with 42 life-size statues of the signers of the Constitution, including the three dissenters. Here visitors can sign the Constitution or "dissent", writing why they disagree with its principles.

Imbued with a new sense of civic duty and pride, visitors can stop in to Participation Café, where they can register to vote, email Congress representatives, and access the Web. Admission: \$6 adults; \$5 seniors/children (ages 4+); \$4 groups over 20. Independence Mall, 525 Arch Street, (215) 923-0004, [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

The Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation is a non-profit organization dedicated to generating awareness of and visitation to Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. For more information about travel to Philadelphia, visit [www.gophila.com](http://www.gophila.com) or call the new Independence Visitors Center, located in Independence National Historical Park, at (800) 537-7676.

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