



U.S. CAPITOL
Visitor Center

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Capitol Visitor Center Launches New Exhibit: “Pirates, Protests and Public Health”
Public Reminded to Allow Plenty of Time for Visiting the Capitol

WASHINGTON, DC – Terrie S. Rouse, CEO for Visitor Services, announced today the opening of “Pirates, Protests and Public Health,” a selection of approximately 50 new historic documents on display beginning April 12 in the Capitol Visitor Center’s Exhibition Hall. These treasures include the original December 28, 1790 report of the Secretary of State listing prisoners captured by Barbary pirates and the ransoms demanded for their release. Such acts of piracy led Congress to create the Department of the Navy in April 1798.

“Visitors to the Capitol shouldn’t miss Exhibition Hall,” said Rouse. “This particular exhibit contains some intriguing items, including the map that the National American Woman Suffrage Association used in rallies and meetings during its state-by-state campaign for voting rights, and a very dramatic poster produced by the Food and Drug Administration in the 1930s warning truckers not to transport milk from farms where there were contagious diseases.”

These original documents have been loaned to the Visitor Center from the National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress, and they will be on display through September 30, 2010.

Rouse reminded spring visitors that one of the best ways to prepare for visiting the U.S. Capitol during the busiest tourism time of year for Washington, DC is to go to the Visitor Center Website, www.visitthecapitol.gov, which includes important logistical information about visiting the Capitol. She recommended that visitors arrive at the Capitol at least 60 minutes before their Capitol tour in order to complete the required security screening and tour pass pick-up process. “Even if visitors haven’t booked a tour ahead of time either online or through the offices of their Senators or Representatives, they can still come to the Visitor Center and take a tour when space becomes available,” Rouse said. “While they are waiting, they can tour Exhibition Hall, explore our remarkable statuary collection, get a bite to eat, or browse in one of our Gift Shops.”

Since opening on December 2, 2008, the Capitol Visitor Center has welcomed more than 2.5 million people to the Capitol. The pace of visitation to the Capitol has doubled since the Visitor Center opened.

For more information about the Capitol Visitor Center, go to www.visitthecapitol.gov.

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Editors' note: Photos available upon request