



U.S. CAPITOL
Visitor Center

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Capitol Visitor Center Approaches Two-Millionth Visitor

Public Invited to Constitution Week Activities and to See New Documents on Display

WASHINGTON, DC – As the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center gets ready to welcome its two-millionth visitor since opening on December 2, 2008, Terrie S. Rouse, CEO for Visitor Services, announced today that approximately 50 new historic documents will be on display beginning October 12 in the Visitor Center’s Exhibition Hall. Rouse also announced that from September 17 through September 23, the Visitor Center will host a series of public programs to celebrate Constitution Week at the Capitol.

“The numbers speak for themselves – nearly two million visitors have enjoyed the offerings at the Visitor Center – from our changing Exhibition Hall to our restaurant to our gift shops – and we are proud that we’ve been able to accommodate tours of the Capitol for nearly twice as many visitors as we’ve seen in recent years,” said Rouse.

Rouse also spoke enthusiastically about upcoming activities in the Visitor Center. “Even before we introduce a new treasure trove of historic documents in mid-October, we’re equally excited about the programs we’re offering during Constitution Week, which we hope will stimulate greater interest in the Capitol and the Legislative Branch and even entice some visitors to come back to see us a second time.”

The activities for the public for Constitution Week include special tours and talks in the Visitor Center’s Exhibition Hall led by experts from the National Archives and the Library of Congress who will discuss the Congress, the Constitution and the Capitol. There is also a professional development program for middle and high school teachers on September 16, 17 and 21. [Click here for more information.](#) Details are also available on the Visitor Center’s Website, www.visitthecapitol.gov <<http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/>> . All programs are free of charge.

Among the many new treasures coming soon to the Exhibition Hall are several envelopes colorfully illustrated by soldier artist Sam Boylston, who served in the South Pacific during World War II, returned home in 1945 and attended college on the GI Bill which provided World War II veterans with funds for education. The GI Bill (and successor legislation extending benefits to veterans of other wars) is considered one of the farthest-reaching acts of Congress in the 20th century.

Also included is Susan B. Anthony’s petition to Congress asking for remission of the fine she received when she was arrested and convicted for voting in a national election in 1872. Because women lacked full citizenship rights, Anthony could not appeal her conviction, so she petitioned Congress for

remission of her fine. Congress considered legislation to remit the fine, but took no action.

Another rare item is a letter that Dwight David Eisenhower wrote to Senator Joseph L. Bristow in 1910 requesting an appointment to the military academy at either Annapolis or West Point. Eisenhower, born October 14, 1890, was nearly 20, but claimed to be a year younger as the Naval Academy did not accept candidates over age 18. Eisenhower secured Bristow's recommendation to West Point.

These original documents are loaned to the Visitor Center from the National Archives and Records Administration, the Library of Congress and the Kansas State Historical Society. The new documents will be on display through March, 2010.

For more information about the Capitol Visitor Center, including all Constitution Week activities, go to www.visitthecapitol.gov <<http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/>> .

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Editor's Note: [Click here](#) for attachment Photo of "Where are the Ships?" n.d. by Sgt. Sam Boylston in the South Pacific, 1944; Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress