



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MARK THE CALENDAR: *FLAG FESTIVAL 2010* IS SET JUNE 12-13;
TURN OF THE CENTURY CELEBRATION PROMISES AFFORDABLE FUN FOR ALL**

Philadelphia, PA -- It's a grand old flag and there's no better place to celebrate it than at the birthplace of our Stars and Stripes – Philadelphia's very own **Betsy Ross House**, located in the heart of America's most historic square mile. *Flag Festival 2010: A Turn of the Century Celebration*, set for June 12-13, 2010, will honor all things Old Glory and continue the tradition of Flag Day celebrations that began here more than 100 years ago and resumed with the first modern *Flag Festival* in 2008.

The Betsy Ross House hosted its first Flag Day event on June 14, 1891 and has long been the site of the city's official commemoration. For *Flag Fest '10*, visitors will step back in time to those early celebrations when patriotic fervor was at a fever pitch and the promise of the new century filled Americans with excitement.

A Victorian-style street fair takes over Arch Street 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13. Shop crafters making and selling traditional turn-of-the-century wares. Meet Uncle Sam, and other celebrities of the time. Marvel at the "newest" inventions, like high-wheel bicycles and the amazing steam car.

Kids will love the Midway, where both the games and the prizes will be a throwback to Victorian times. Visitors should bring their appetites, too, for All-American favorites, like hot dogs, popcorn and hand-dipped ice cream.

Decked out in red, white and blue, the Betsy Ross House Courtyard will host a variety of entertainment both days, from an organ grinder, to jugglers, to period dancers, ragtime ensembles and more. Plus, visitors will meet Charles Weisgerber, the unsung patriot responsible for restoring the Betsy Ross House and opening it to the public, insuring that Betsy's story would be treasured by generations of Americans.

Flag Festival 2010: A Turn of the Century Celebration promises fun for the whole family. Most events are free and, in the spirit of both yesteryear and today's difficult economic times, food and game prizes will be affordable to all. In fact, kids' games will cost just a dime!

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About the Betsy Ross House:

The Betsy Ross House is dedicated to preserving the legend of the first flag and the story of Betsy Ross, herself, and of all colonial women. The House, located at 239 Arch Street, just blocks from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is one of Philadelphia's most popular historic attractions with nearly 300,000 visitors annually.

The Betsy Ross House is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily April through September; closed Mondays October through March and Mondays and Tuesdays in January and February. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and seniors. An optional audio guide is \$5, which includes admission.

For more information about *Flag Festival* or any other programs at the Betsy Ross House, call (215) 686-1252 or visit www.betsyrosshouse.org.

The Betsy Ross House is managed by Historic Philadelphia, Inc. HPI enhances the visitor experience and helps strengthen Philadelphia's tourism industry through interpretation and interaction, making our nation's history relevant and real. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s other programs include Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and Lights of Liberty. For more information, call (215) 629-4026 or visit www.historicphiladelphia.org.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution photographs are available for media usage by emailing heather@historicphiladelphia.org or visiting www.betsyrosshouse.org