

Immediate Release

Contact: Topper Ray, Melissa Volin
215.569.5596

**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CENTER NAMES
BRUCE COLE PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**Center will Focus on Becoming a National and International Center for the
Study of the American Revolution and its Legacy**

Wayne, PA – November 12, 2008 – The American Revolution Center (ARC) is pleased to announce that Dr. Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will join the organization as President and CEO effective in January 2009. Under Cole’s leadership, ARC will become a national and international museum and education center in Valley Forge for the study of the American Revolution, and the enduring principles of democracy upon which our Nation was founded. The museum and education center will provide on-site and distance learning opportunities to bring the history of the American Revolution alive for people of all ages worldwide.

Chairman Cole has spent his notable career in the fields of education and public service. Appointed Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities by President George W. Bush, Cole was confirmed by the Senate in December, 2001, and reconfirmed in 2005 for a second term. Cole is the longest serving Chairman of the NEH. During his time at the Endowment, Cole launched *We the People*, a program to encourage the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture, and the *Picturing America* initiative, which brings great American art to schools and public libraries nationwide, to help our citizens trace America’s national story.

Prior to leading the NEH, Chairman Cole was Distinguished Professor of Art History and Professor of Comparative Literature at Indiana University. He also was a NEH fellow, served as a panelist in NEH’s peer review system, and was a member of the National Council on the Humanities. A graduate of Case Western Reserve University, he earned his master’s degree from Oberlin College and his doctorate from Bryn Mawr College. He is a corresponding member of the Academia Senese degli Intronati, the oldest learned society in Europe. In 2008, he was decorated Knight of the Grand Cross, the highest honor of the Republic of Italy. He has held numerous fellowships and grants, and is the author of 14 books.

“Throughout his career, Bruce Cole has been a powerful force in humanities and history education,” said H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest, Chairman of the American Revolution Center board. “Under his leadership, ARC will develop from concept to reality, working towards our goal of becoming a leading educational resource on the American Revolution which led to our independence as a Nation.”

The only museum dedicated to the American Revolution, ARC commemorates not only the hallowed ground of Valley Forge, but the hallowed principles to which General Washington and his troops pledged, as the Declaration states, their "lives," "fortunes," and "sacred honor." These principles--of human equality, inalienable rights, and government by consent of the governed, as announced in the Declaration --transformed what happened at Valley Forge in 1777-78 into a world-historical event, which continues to evolve and shape history to the present day.

“I am honored and excited to lead the American Revolution Center through the next chapter in its history, building on the strong foundation already in place to create what I believe will be one of America’s great museums,” said Chairman Cole. “The American Revolution is a critical period in world history. By sharpening our focus on educational initiatives designed to teach and inspire, ARC will raise understanding of this transformative period of American history for our citizens and people around the world. In addition, I look forward to working with the National Park Service and others as ARC becomes a national and international museum and education center for the study of the American Revolution and the enduring legacy of democratic institutions.”

The American Revolution Center (ARC) is working to establish the world’s first center to commemorate the complete story of the American Revolution. The museum will display a preeminent collection of objects, artifacts and manuscripts from the American Revolution. The education center will offer local programming and interactive internet learning for teachers, students and the general public, host programs, lectures, symposia and other many activities.

#