



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Humanities Council Celebrates Bill of Rights**

Charleston, WV — The West Virginia Humanities Council is partnering with the National Archives to distribute an exhibit celebrating the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bill of Rights to selected venues in Kanawha and Putnam counties and other locations statewide.

The exhibit, *The Bill of Rights and You*, was created by the National Archives. It may be viewed at Bridge Valley Community & Technical College in South Charleston, Cross Lanes Library, Putnam County Library in Hurricane, the West Virginia Library Commission at the Culture Center, the West Virginia State Law Library at the State Capitol, and West Virginia State University in Institute.

The exhibit presents key information about the Bill of Rights including its history, implementation, and impact today. The 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary was observed nationally on December 15.

“The Bill of Rights, really the first ten amendments to the Constitution, represented the great compromise that was necessary to assure ratification,” points out historian Ken Sullivan, executive director of the Humanities Council. “Certain patriots, including Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, and others, bitterly opposed the Constitution as drafted, fearful of replacing one oppressive government with another. Adoption of these amendments guaranteeing the fundamental liberties of Americans is what it took to put the deal across.”

The Humanities Council coordinated the effort to identify exhibit sites in West Virginia, and worked with the National Archives to have the exhibit delivered statewide in early December. Each site will also receive digital educational materials from the National Archives.

For more information contact the local venue, call the West Virginia Humanities Council at (304)346-8500, or visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org).

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*The West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors whose members are drawn from all parts of West Virginia. It is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and by contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.*