

For immediate release

25 July 2011

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Association of Centers for the Study of Congress Celebrates Second Annual “Congress Week” Sept. 12–16, 2011, to Promote the Study of Congress

The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) is sponsoring its second annual Congress Week with the theme “Of the People, By the People, For the People.” Congress Week (September 12–16, 2011) is a national initiative which will coincide with the commemoration of Constitution Day (September 17), and it is intended to promote the study of Congress and highlight its fundamental constitutional roles. It builds off of a successful inaugural Congress Week in 2010, celebrated by ACSC member centers around the country—including public lectures, a film series, exhibits, and appearances by current Senators and Representatives.

Many ACSC partners house the papers of key U.S. Senators and Representatives, as well as their oral histories and related memorabilia. Based on the “Of the People, By the People, For the People” theme, ACSC member organizations will host celebrations and events tailored to their unique holdings. Additionally, Congress Week posters will be distributed to each congressional office in Washington, D.C.

Among the potential themes and areas of focus to be explored:

- The processes involved in transforming a local idea or concern into a federal law
- The impact of grass-roots citizen participation on Congress and legislation
- Historic campaigns and elections
- Analyses of landmark legislation
- Biographical profiles of individual Members of Congress, stressing Representatives’ and Senators’ relationship to their particular districts or states
- Congress’s constitutional responsibility as a representative body

“The central goal of Congress Week is to foster the study of the U.S. House and Senate, and to promote a wider appreciation for the vital role the legislative branch plays in our

representative democracy,” said Sheryl B. Vogt, president of the ACSC and director of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia. “Appropriately, this year’s theme, ‘Of the People, By the People, For the People,’ recognizes that members of Congress are citizens elected by other citizens in popular and free elections, and that our system of representative democracy holds those representatives accountable to their local constituencies.”

The ACSC was founded in 2003 as an independent alliance of institutions and organizations that support a wide range of programs designed to inform and educate students, scholars, policy-makers, and members of the general public on the history of Congress, legislative process, and current issues facing Congress. The ACSC encourages the preservation of material that documents the work of Congress, including the papers of representatives and senators, and supports programs that make those materials available for educational and research use. The ACSC welcomes the participation of institutions and individuals committed to our goal of promoting a better understanding of Congress.

For more information about Congress Week or the ACSC, contact: Jill Severn at (706) 542-5766, jsevern@uga.edu; or Sheryl Vogt at (706) 542-5788, sbvogt@uga.edu.