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**WITTE
MUSEUM**

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**Famous Painting Elephant to Sign
Declaration of *Elependence* at the Witte Museum
11 a.m., July 2**

SAN ANTONIO—Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus' famous painting elephant, **Kelly Ann**, is coming to the **Witte Museum** to sign the **Declaration of *Elependence*** in honor of July 4th and the United States of America's 233rd birthday. On the front steps of the Witte at **11 a.m.** on **July 2** Kelly Ann will be wearing the **first elephant-sized tri-corner hat**, designed specifically for this special occasion.

A **Ringmaster** will give a brief history of the Declaration of Independence and three **clowns** will sign the document in place of Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin and Samuel Adams. Then, in a **grand finale**, Kelly Ann, will sign the document in an elephant-size scale, **beating John Hancock as the largest signature on the Declaration of Independence**. Following this one-of-a-kind ceremony, the **Human Acrobats** will perform.

The event is free and open to the public and free snow cones will be served after the ceremony. All attendees will be offered a discount on general admission to the Witte Museum 11 a.m.-Noon on July 2.

This special event is held in conjunction with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus' 138th edition of The Greatest Show on Earth®, appearing at The Alamodome July 1-5, 2009.

The Witte Museum is home to the famous Hertzberg Circus Collection, one of the largest and most impressive collections of circus art and artifacts in the world. This fall the Witte is unveiling an exhibition drawn from this collection that will give visitors a glimpse behind the scenes of circus life with ***Circus Folk: Secrets Behind the Big Top***, opening October 24, 2009.

For more information the public should call 210.357.1910 or visit www.wittemuseum.org.

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