

For Immediate Release: January 18, 2010

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To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA
Coming to the Morris Museum
January 27 through April 18, 2010

Just before the first man landed on the moon, Charlie Brown and Snoopy soared through space with NASA's *Apollo 10* mission in May 1969. The exhibition *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA* examines the history of *Apollo 10* and the *Peanuts* characters' role in that flight and in the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program. ***To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA* will be on view at the Morris Museum from January 27 through April 18, 2010.**

Forty years ago, as the decade of the 1960s was coming to a close, America and the rest of the world waited with great anticipation to see if NASA could achieve President John F. Kennedy's challenge, put forth in May 1961, of putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade. The flight of *Apollo 10* in May 1969 was the "dress rehearsal" for the first lunar landing, which took place in July 1969. Consequently, it was a great honor when the crew of *Apollo 10* chose to nickname their command and lunar modules Charlie Brown and Snoopy, respectively. Astronauts Thomas Stafford and Eugene Cernan piloted "Snoopy" within 50,000 feet of the lunar surface as they scouted the landing area for *Apollo 11* while John Young orbited the moon in the command module "Charlie Brown."

Charles Schulz's involvement with NASA actually started a year earlier than the 1969 flight of *Apollo 10* when he was approached by NASA with a request to use Snoopy as their safety mascot. The Silver Snoopy Award program was instituted to improve the safety record of NASA employees and contractors. It proved to be a huge success with the astronauts and the employees. The Silver Snoopy pin is a much coveted award. Snoopy has been on the job for 40 plus years and continues to this day in his role as NASA's safety mascot.

In *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA*, visitors will see Snoopy's trip to the moon in the March 1969 *Peanuts* strip series (besting NASA's record by a few months!), learn about the NASA's Silver Snoopy Award program, and view a Silver Snoopy pin that was flown to the moon. The exhibit also contains a children's creative play space where children can dress up like an astronaut and have their photograph taken with a life-size *Apollo 10* astronaut display. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA* is organized and toured by the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, Santa Rosa, California.

Special Programs

While '*Snoopy Soars with NASA*' is on view at the Morris Museum, the museum's Bickford Theatre will offer Saturday matinee screenings of the **NASA documentary "*Apollo 10: To Sort Out The Unknowns*"**. Watch the documentary to learn the story of *Apollo 10*, and how the May 1969 mission served as a dress rehearsal for the successful moon landing in July 1969. Family matinees will be presented Saturdays at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday January 30, February 6, 13, 27 and April 3, 10 and 17. Free with museum admission.

Saturday, March 20, 2010 is **Astronomy Day**. Join the Morris Museum Astronomical Society for a day of space exploration for the whole family. Tour the exhibition, *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA*, and take part in a children's art workshop, lectures, telescope training and night sky observing. All activities will be at scheduled times throughout the day, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Free with museum admission. For more information about these programs please call 973.971.3720.

About the Morris Museum

The Morris Museum explores and celebrates the arts, sciences and humanities through exhibitions, educational programs, performing arts and special events. The museum recently celebrated its 95th anniversary, and serves over 200,000 adults and children each year. Funding for this exhibition has been made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Morris Museum, located at 6 Normandy Heights Road (at the corner of Columbia Turnpike) in Morristown, NJ, is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children, students and senior citizens. Admission is free for museum members and is free to the public every Thursday between 5 and 8 p.m. For more information, call 973-971-3700, or visit www.morrismuseum.org.

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Detail from *Peanuts* ~ March 13, 1969