

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HARRISBURG NATIVE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NASA AWARD**

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. (March 2005) – A Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, native was recently recognized with NASA's Astronauts Personal Achievement Award, better known as the Silver Snoopy. Jack Gardner was honored for his contributions as a United Space Alliance lead technician in the External Tank-Solid Rocket Booster Processing Department at the Kennedy Space Center.

Astronaut Chris Ferguson presented the award during a recent visit to the Florida spaceport. Known by its identifying character from the Charles Schulz comic strip, the Silver Snoopy Award is presented to those NASA and contractor employees who are nominated by an astronaut or manager for their "professionalism, dedication and outstanding support that greatly enhances flight safety and mission success during the Space Shuttle program."

Gardner was awarded the Silver Snoopy for his work to continuously implement new technology and ideas to streamline day-to-day Shuttle processing. One example is Gardner's involvement in the development of new protective covers to protect the struts that connect the Solid Rocket Boosters with the External Tank. New molds eliminated processing debris by more than 80 percent and reflect a reduction in cost of approximately \$3,000 per flight.

United Space Alliance, established in 1995, is a leader in space operations offering extensive experience in space launch and recovery operations; mission planning and control; flight hardware processing; space flight training; on-orbit assembly, payload deployment and servicing; rendezvous/proximity operations and docking; large-scale integration and sustaining engineering. United Space Alliance serves as NASA's prime contractor for the Space Shuttle and provides operations services for the International Space Station. United Space Alliance employs more than 10,000 people in Texas, Florida, and Alabama.

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# PHOTO RELEASE



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## **HARRISBURG NATIVE RECEIVES NASA SILVER SNOOPY AWARD**

**Caption:** The contributions of United Space Alliance Computer Science Specialist Jack Gardner, left, were recently recognized with the Astronauts Personal Achievement Award, the Silver Snoopy. The Harrisburg, Penn., native was presented the honor by NASA Astronaut Chris Ferguson.

**Photo Credit:** United Space Alliance Photo

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