

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KANSAS CITY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NASA AWARD**

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. (April 2006) – Kansas City native Deborah Crane was recently recognized with NASA's prestigious Astronauts Personal Achievement Award, better known as the Silver Snoopy. The daughter of Mary Frances Stumpff, Crane is a United Space Alliance analytical engineer in Solid Rocket Booster (SRB) Forward Assembly and Component Department at the Kennedy Space Center.

Astronaut Greg Johnson 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."

Crane is responsible for conducting structural analyses, including modeling, stress and fracture examinations of Solid Rocket Booster (SRB) hardware. USA and NASA recently completed a joint evaluation of the safety of the graphite throat on the SRB Separation Motor. She was the lead analyst for the team and was instrumental in solving critical SRB issues required for flight safety.

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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## **KANSAS CITY NATIVE RECEIVES NASA SILVER SNOOPY AWARD**

**Caption:** The contributions of United Space Alliance engineer Deborah Crane (right) was recently recognized with the Astronauts Personal Achievement Award, the Silver Snoopy. The Kansas City native was presented the honor by NASA Astronaut Greg Johnson.

**Photo Credit:** United Space Alliance Photo

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