



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DES MOINES NATIVE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NASA AWARD**

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. (July 2009) – Des Moines native and United Space Alliance employee Richard Civitate was recently honored with NASA's prestigious Astronauts Personal Achievement Award, the Silver Snoopy, in recognition of his support of NASA's Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs at Kennedy Space Center.

Astronaut Jerry Ross 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.

Among his many responsibilities Civitate is responsible for assembling, testing and maintaining all the video cameras that fly in the Space Shuttle Payload Bay including the Orbiter Boom Sensor System that captures video and still imagery of the orbiter tiles after launch that helps insure the safety of the crew and vehicle. Civitate also inspects and stows astronaut clothing, food and tools used for spacewalks.

United Space Alliance is a world leader in space operations with extensive experience in all aspects of the field. Headquartered in Houston, USA has 9,300 employees working in Texas, Florida and Alabama. Currently, USA is applying its broad range of capabilities to NASA's Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation programs as well as to space operations customers in the commercial and international space industry sectors.

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