ABOUT CHARLES M. SCHULZ

"Why do musicians compose symphonies and poets write poems? They do it because life wouldn't have any meaning for them if they didn't. That's why I draw cartoons. It's my life." —Charles M. Schulz

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 26, 1922, Charles M. Schulz said on several occasions that he was "born to be a cartoonist." Following his service during World War II, Schulz worked to achieve his childhood dream of becoming a syndicated cartoonist.

On October 2, 1950, seven newspapers debuted Schulz's comic strip *Peanuts*. For five decades, Schulz wrote, drew, inked, and lettered every *Peanuts* strip—17,897 strips in total. The comic strip would become a global pop culture touchstone with millions of readers daily. Schulz would be recognized as the nation's top cartoonist twice with



Charles M. Schulz, c. 1987. © Schulz Family Intellectual Property Trust / Schulz Museum

the National Cartoonist Society's Reuben Award and receive Emmy Awards and a Peabody Award; have NASA spacecraft named after his characters; inspire a concert performance at Carnegie Hall; and more.

In December 1999, when Schulz announced his retirement because of his declining health, *Peanuts* was published in more than 2,600 newspapers worldwide, with book collections translated into over 25 languages. He died shortly after, on Saturday, February 12, 2000, just hours before the final *Peanuts* Sunday strip appeared in newspapers. His contributions were recognized that same year posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress.

For a deeper look into Schulz's life, visit the Schulz Museum's interactive timeline, including highlights from the museum's collection: schulzmuseum.org/timeline

ABOUT THE SCHULZ MUSEUM

Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 579-4452 | schulzmuseum.org

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center opened in 2002 to fulfill its mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of Charles M. Schulz, the creator of *Peanuts*, and building an understanding of cartoon art. Located 50 miles north of San Francisco in Sonoma County, California—where Schulz lived and worked for over 40 years—the Schulz Museum features the largest collection of original *Peanuts* comic strips in the world and presents changing exhibitions and programming for all ages. The museum also provides reference services and supports a robust traveling exhibition program. For more information, visit schulzmuseum.org and follow online @schulzmuseum on Instagram, Facebook, and Threads.