



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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History Center to Send a Piece of Pittsburgh to the Moon **- Pittsburghers can vote which small keepsake will make the lunar journey through** **Astrobotic's MoonBox program -**

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 28, 2019 – As the Senator John Heinz History Center begins the “Final Countdown” to the closing of the epic Smithsonian exhibition ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*** on Feb. 18, 2019, the museum will look to the future of space travel by sending a piece of Pittsburgh to the Moon.

Astrobotic, a Pittsburgh-based space robotics company founded by Carnegie Mellon University's Red Whittaker, is leading the charge in developing the latest technology for the next generation of space travel – just as Pittsburgh companies and innovators played a crucial role in the Apollo 11 Moon landing mission 50 years ago.

Through Astrobotic's MoonBox program, the History Center will send a small Pittsburgh keepsake to the Moon as part of the first commercial lunar landing, set for 2021. The payload will be delivered by Astrobotic's Peregrine lunar lander, which is currently on display in the ***Destination Moon*** exhibit.

Pittsburghers are invited to cast their vote at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/MoonBox for which piece of Pittsburgh pop culture should make the 239,000-mile journey to the lunar surface:

- **Heinz Pickle Pin** – H.J. Heinz came up with this ingenious promotional item during the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.
- **Soil from Moon Park in Moon Township, Pa.** – Founded in 1788, Moon Township is the oldest township in Allegheny County. Some historians suggest its lunar name came from its proximity to a crescent-shaped portion of the Ohio River.
- **Piece of a Steelers Terrible Towel** – With six Super Bowl championships, the Pittsburgh Steelers are the greatest franchise in NFL history.
- **Photo of Toni Haggerty from Primanti Bros.** – No visit to Pittsburgh is complete without a stop to see Toni at Primanti Bros. in the Strip District. Primanti's signature sandwich (meat + fries + coleslaw + Italian bread) was invented as an affordable and practical meal for truck drivers and factory workers during the early 20th century.
- **City of Pittsburgh Flag Pin** – The Black and Gold design featured on the City of Pittsburgh's flag is based on the coat of arms of William Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham and the city's namesake.

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- **Kennywood Token** – Founded in 1898 as a small trolley park, Kennywood Park has thrilled millions of visitors with its unique blend of state-of-the-art and death-defying rides with a nostalgic atmosphere.
- **Mister Rogers’ “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” song (on micro SD card)** – Fred Rogers sung the iconic “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” song at the beginning of each episode of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” which made its national debut on Feb. 19, 1968.
- **Write-in your own choice!** – Pittsburghers will also have the option to write-in which object they think should be sent to the Moon.

Voting is open at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/MoonBox now through Wednesday, Feb. 13.

The History Center will announce the winning entry during the final week of **Destination Moon**, which closes on Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Astrobotic Technology, Inc. is a space robotics company that seeks to make space accessible to the world. The company’s lunar lander, Peregrine, delivers payloads to the Moon for companies, governments, universities, non-profits, and individuals at an industry-defining price of \$1.2 million per kilogram. The company is also developing advanced space robotics capabilities such as terrain relative navigation, mobile robotics for lunar surface operations, and reliable computing systems for mission-critical applications. Astrobotic has more than 30 prior and ongoing NASA and commercial technology contracts, a commercial partnership with Airbus DS, a corporate sponsorship with DHL, and 12 signed deals for Peregrine’s first mission to the Moon. The company is also an official partner with NASA through the Lunar CATALYST Program. Astrobotic was founded in 2007 and is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region’s remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city’s Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center’s museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



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