

NEWS RELEASE

THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2007

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Commonwealth News Bureau

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STATE MUSEUM HOSTS FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN IN SPACE

HARRISBURG – Appearances by Guion S. Bluford, Jr., the first African American in space, drew nearly 800 visitors to the State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Historical and Museum Commission said today. Monday evening, Bluford regaled an audience of nearly 200 with stories of his experiences as a NASA astronaut. He flew in space four times – a total of 688 hours – between 1983 and 1992, aboard the Challenger and Discovery space shuttles.

Today, nearly 600 Harrisburg-area elementary and high-school students filled three sessions, during which Bluford shared photos of his space travels and urged audience members to excel in school. “It’s wonderful to know so many adults and children enjoyed these inspiring talks by Dr. Bluford – at no charge,” PA Historical and Museum Commission Executive Director Barbara Franco said. “I’m glad that they took advantage of this special program highlighting the museum’s efforts to offer events that are both educational and entertaining.”

The event was also presented by The Pennsylvania Heritage Society and the Friends of The State Museum of Pennsylvania, and sponsored in part by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

For more information about the commission, visit www.phmc.state.pa.us.