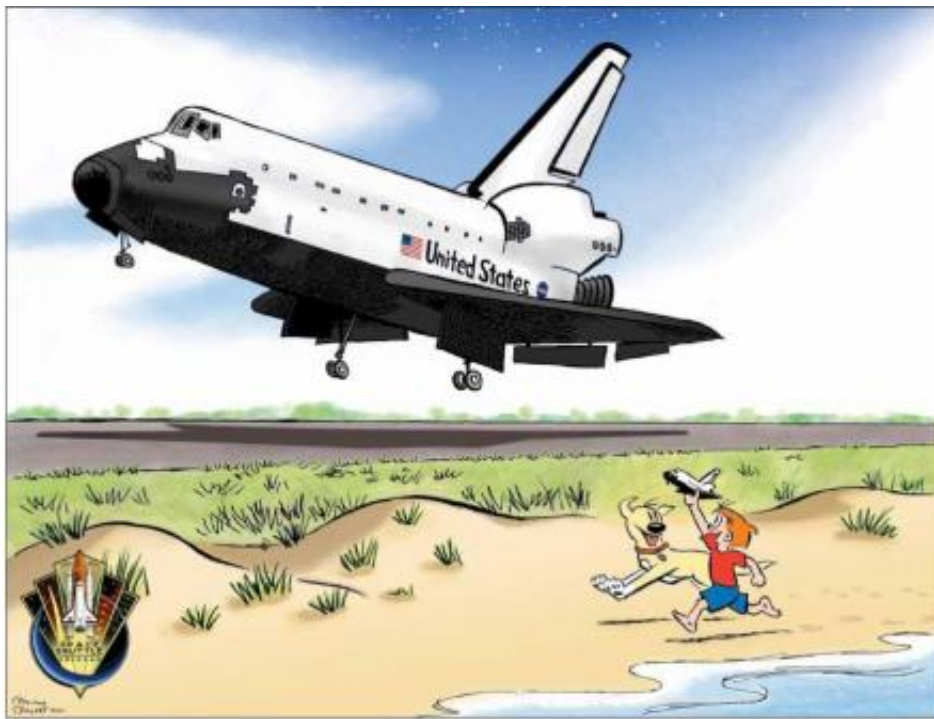


# Commemorative space shuttle cartoon created

April 6 2011, By Joshua Buck



*What a Ride it's Been!*  
by Brian Basset

What a Ride It's Been As a tribute to NASA's Space Shuttle Program, artist Brian Basset created this commemorative drawing depicting his characters, Red and Rover, racing alongside the space shuttle as it lands for the final time later this year. In 2004, Basset was honored with a one-man show of his space-themed comic strips at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. On July 26, 2005, an original drawing by Basset commemorating America's return to flight launched aboard shuttle Discovery on the STS-114 mission. Basset created the strip in 2000 about a boy and his dog, who dream of one day going into space. Twice nominated by the National Cartoonists Society for Best Comic Strip of the Year in 2003 and 2010, Red and Rover appears in more than 160 newspapers

worldwide and is syndicated by Universal Uclick. Previously, Basset worked as an editorial cartoonist for The Seattle Times. Credit: Brian Basset

Comic strip artist Brian Basset has created a drawing depicting his characters, Red and Rover, racing alongside the space shuttle as it lands for the final time. After 30 years and more than 130 missions, NASA's space shuttle fleet will retire later this year.

A poster commemorating the Space Shuttle Program's 30th anniversary will feature Basset's cartoon and a patch selected as part of a contest among [NASA](#) employees to honor the program.

"The U.S. space program has been the one constant throughout my entire life," Basset said. "I was humbled and honored when given the opportunity to create the art for the commemorative [Space Shuttle Program 30th anniversary poster](#)."

Basset, a supporter of [space exploration](#), created "Red and Rover" in 2000. A comic strip with a retro feel, it is about the unconditional love between a boy and his dog. The pair often dreams of going to space together. Nominated by the National Cartoonists Society for Best Comic Strip of the Year in 2003 and 2010, "Red and Rover" appears in more than 160 newspapers worldwide and syndicated by Universal Uclick.

In 2004, Basset became the only cartoonist to have his space-themed comic strips displayed at NASA's headquarters in Washington. On July 26, 2005, Basset's original drawing commemorating NASA's return to flight after the Columbia accident launched aboard [shuttle Discovery](#) on the STS-114 mission.

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: Commemorative space shuttle cartoon created (2011, April 6) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-04-commemorative-space-shuttle-cartoon.html>

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