

MEDIA ADVISORY

GEMINI 12 GETS A NEW HOME SPACECRAFT ARRIVES AT THE ADLER 8 AM MONDAY, APRIL 10

Almost forty years after landing safely back on Earth, the **Gemini 12** spacecraft will arrive at its new home – America's First Planetarium – at **8 a.m. on Monday, April 10**. **Gemini 12** will arrive at the Adler aboard an artifact truck early Monday morning after four months of renovations at the Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutcheson, Kansas.

NASA's Gemini 12 spacecraft will serve as the centerpiece of a new exhibition at the Adler - ***Shoot for the Moon***. The exhibition will tell the story of America's proud, early days in space and our bold plans to return to the Moon. The exhibition will open in two phases – the Gemini 12 spacecraft will be on display this July and the full exhibition will be dedicated on Veterans' Day (November 11), the 40th anniversary of the Gemini 12 mission.

Captain James A. Lovell, Jr. and Dr. Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin flew Gemini 12, the final mission of the Gemini program, in November 1966. During the four-day mission they conducted space walks and the first-ever automatic re-entry into Earth's orbit. Captain Lovell, veteran of four Gemini and Apollo missions and Honorary Chairman of the Adler's 75th Anniversary, helped the Adler secure the Gemini 12 spacecraft on long-term loan from the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum. Captain Lovell is personally guiding both the conservation of the Gemini 12 spacecraft and the development of ***Shoot for the Moon***.

The Adler Planetarium will remove its original Art Deco bronze doors and the beveled glass panels above the doors to allow the 4,500-pound spacecraft to enter the building. A 60-ton crane will lift the spacecraft from the artifact truck and carry it across the Chicago skyline to its new home inside "America's First Planetarium."

EVENT: Gemini 12 Capsule Arrives at the Adler

DATE: Monday, April 10

TIME: 8 a.m. – Unloading begins
WEATHER PERMITTING*

PHOTO OP: At 8 a.m. (approximately) – Gemini 12 will be unloaded from the artifact truck, unveiled and lifted by crane to the main Adler entrance.

INTERVIEWS: Adler Planetarium President Paul H. Knappenberger, Jr. will be available for interviews at 8:30 a.m. Please call with all interview requests.

LOCATION: Adler Planetarium – 1300 South Lake Shore Drive

***PLEASE NOTE:** The unloading of the Gemini 12 capsule is WEATHER PERMITTING. Time on this may vary. Please call PR contacts listed above for an updated schedule Monday morning at 7:15 a.m.