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[Encyclopedia](#) > **Charles M. Schulz****Charles M. Schulz**

Born	Charles Monroe Schulz November 26, 1922 Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Died	February 12, 2000 (aged 77) Santa Rosa, California, USA
Cause of death	colon cancer
Occupation	Cartoonist
Known for	Peanuts comic strip (1950 – 2000)
Religious beliefs	Church of God (Anderson) , secular humanist in his later life
Spouse	Joyce Halverson (1951 – 1972) Jean Forsyth Clyde (1973 – 2000)
Children	Monte, Craig, Meredith, Jill, Amy

Charles Monroe Schulz ([November 26, 1922](#)^[1] – [February 12, 2000](#)) was a [20th-century cartoonist](#) best known worldwide for his [Peanuts comic strip](#).

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Life and career

Charles M. Schulz was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and grew up in [Saint Paul](#), Minnesota, the youngest child of Carl Schulz, who was German, and Dena, who was Norwegian.^[2] His 1

"Sparky" after the horse Spark Plug in the [Barney Google](#) comic strip.

Schulz attended St. Paul's Richard Gordon [Elementary School](#), where he skipped a grade and became a shy and isolated teenager, perhaps as a result of being the youngest in the [High School](#).

After his mother died in February 1943, he was drafted into the [United States Army](#) at [Fort Campbell](#) in [Kentucky](#). He was shipped to [Europe](#) two years later to fight with the [U.S. 20th Armored Division](#). Schulz attained the rank of [Staff Sergeant](#) and the [Combat Infantryman Badge](#).

After leaving the army in 1945, he returned to Minneapolis where he took a job at Art Instruction, Inc. — he had taken [correspondence courses](#) before he was drafted. After having his comics published, began doing lettering work for a Catholic comic book, *Timeless Topix*, where he would rush back and forth from dropping off his lettering to teaching at Art Instruction Schools, Inc.

Schulz's drawings were first published by [Robert Ripley](#) in his [Ripley's Believe It or Not!](#) regular cartoons, *Li'l Folks*, were published from 1947 to 1950 by the [St. Paul Pioneer-Press](#). He used the name [Charlie Brown](#) for a character there, although he applied the name to three different boys and one buried in sand. The series also had a dog that looked like a beagle. In 1948, Schulz sold a cartoon to the [Saturday Evening Post](#); the first of seven cartoons by Schulz that would be published there. In 1948, Schulz tried to have a syndicate through the Newspaper Enterprise Association. Schulz would have been an in-demand name for the syndicate, unheard of in the 1940s, but the deal fell through. *Li'l Folks* ended in January, 1950.

Later that year, Schulz approached the [United Feature Syndicate](#) with his best work, and *Peanuts* made its first appearance on [October 2, 1950](#). The strip became one of the most popular comic strips of all time. He also had a short-lived sports-oriented comic strip, *Young Pillars* (1957 – 1959), but abandoned it due to the demands of the successful *Peanuts*. Schulz also contributed a single-panel strip ("Young Pillars") featuring teenagers to *Young Pillars* associated with the Church of God (Anderson).

Charlie Brown, the principal character for *Peanuts*, was named after a co-worker at the Art Instruction Schools; he drew much of his inspiration, however, from his own life:

Some of the *Peanuts* gang

- Like Charlie Brown, Schulz's father was a barber and his mother a housewife.
- Schulz had a dog when he was a boy. Unlike Snoopy the beagle, it was a pointer. It was revealed that Snoopy had a desert-dwelling brother named [Spike](#).
- Spike's residence, outside of [Needles, California](#), was likely influenced by the house (built in 1930) that the Schulz family lived there; they had moved to Needles to join a family who had relocated from Minnesota to tend to an ill cousin.^[3]
- Schulz was also shy and withdrawn.
- Schulz's "Little Red-Haired Girl" was Donna Johnson, an Art Instruction School teacher with whom he had a relationship. She rejected his marriage proposal, but they remained friends for the rest of his life.
- [Linus](#) and [Shermy](#) were both named for good friends of his (Linus Maurel and Shermy respectively).
- [Lucy](#) was inspired by Joyce Halverson, his first wife.
- [Peppermint Patty](#) was inspired by Patricia Swanson, one of his cousins on his mother's side.

Schulz moved briefly to [Colorado Springs, Colorado](#). He painted a wall in that town, featuring Patty, Charlie Brown and Snoopy. The wall was removed in 1998 and is now in the Charles M. Schulz Museum in [Santa Rosa, California](#). The restored artwork is in the paperback edition of Chip Kidd's book *Peanuts: The Art of Charles M. Schulz*.

Schulz's family returned to Minneapolis and stayed until 1958. They then moved to [California](#), where Schulz built his first studio. It was here that Schulz was interviewed for a television documentary *A Boy Named Charlie Brown*. Some of the footage was used in a later documentary titled *Charlie Brown and Charles Schulz*. The original documentary is available on DVD from [The Charles M. Schulz Museum](#).

Schulz's father died while visiting him in 1966, the same year his Sebastopol strip was published. In 1969, Schulz had moved to [Santa Rosa, California](#), where he lived and worked for the remainder of his life.

Schulz had a long association with ice sports, as both [figure skating](#) and [ice hockey](#) were prominently featured in his cartoons. In Santa Rosa, he was the owner of the Redwood Ice Arena, which opened in 1969. Schulz's daughter Amy served as a model for the figure skating television special *She's a Good Skate, Charlie Brown*. Schulz also was very active in promoting ice hockey tournaments; in 1975, he formed Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament, and in 1981, he formed the Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament Ice Arena, and in 1981, Schulz was awarded the [Lester Patrick Trophy](#) for outstanding contribution to the sport of hockey in the United States. In 1998, he hosted the 1st ever Over 75 Hockey Tournament (although goalies could be younger - 60). In 2001, Saint Paul renamed The High Jump Arena the "Charles Schulz Arena" in his honor.

The first full-scale biography of Schulz, *Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography*, by Iain Sutherland, was released in [October 2007](#). The book has been heavily criticized by the Schulz family. Schulz maintains that there is "no question" his work is accurate.^[5] However, fellow cartoonist Bill Watterson (creator of [Calvin & Hobbes](#)) feels that the biography does justice to Schulz's life and provides insight into the emotional impetus of the creation of the strips.^[6]

In light of David Michaelis' biography and the controversy surrounding his interpretation of the personality that was Charles Schulz, responses from his family reveal some insight into the Schulz's persona beyond that of mere artist. [1]

Death

Peanuts ran for nearly 50 years without interruption and appeared in more than 75 countries. In November 1999 Schulz suffered a [stroke](#), and later it was discovered he had [colon cancer](#) that had [metastasized](#). Because of the [chemotherapy](#) and the fact that he could not see clearly, he announced his retirement on [December 14, 1999](#). This was difficult for him, as he was quoted as saying to [Al Roker](#) on *The Today Show*, "I never dreamed that this would happen to me. I always had the feeling that I would stay with the strip until I was in my 80s or something like that. But all of sudden it's gone. I did not take it away. This has happened to me."

Schulz died in Santa Rosa of complications from colon cancer at 9:45 p.m. on [November 12, 1999](#), at age 77. He was interred in Pleasant Hills Cemetery in Sebastopol.

The last original strip ran the day after his death. In it, a statement was included that the Schulz family wished for the strip to end when he was no longer able to produce it. Schulz had predicted that the strip would outlive him, with his reason being that comic strips are published several weeks before their publication. As part of his will, Schulz had requested that the strips remain as authentic as possible and that no new comic strips based on them be published. Features has legal ownership of the strip, but his wishes have been honored, and new strips and strip are still being [syndicated](#) to newspapers. New television specials have also been produced since Schulz's death, but the stories are based on previous strips.

Schulz had been asked if, for his final *Peanuts* strip, Charlie Brown would finally kick the football after so many decades. His response: "Oh, no! Definitely not! I *couldn't* kick that football; that would be a terrible disservice to him after nearly half a century of trying."

He was honored on [May 27, 2000](#), by cartoonists of 42 comic strips paying homage to Schulz's *Peanuts*.^[7]

Awards

Schulz received the [National Cartoonist Society](#) Humor Comic Strip Award in 1962 for *Peanuts*, the Society's Elzie Segar Award in 1980, their [Reuben Award](#) for 1955 and 1964, and their Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. He was also a hockey fan; in 1981, Schulz

was awarded the Lester Patrick Trophy for outstanding contributions to the sport of hockey in the United States, and he was inducted into the [United States Hockey Hall of Fame](#) in 1993. On [June 28, 1996](#), Schulz was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame adjacent to [Walt Disney's](#). A replica of this star appears outside his former studio. Schulz is a recipient of the [Silver Buffalo Award](#), the highest adult award given in the United States by [America](#), for his service to American youth.

On June 7, 2001 the United States Congress posthumously awarded Schulz the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#), the highest civilian honor the US legislature can award. Schulz's widow received the award on behalf of her late husband.

Schulz was inducted into the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2007.

Legacy

The greatest legacy Charles Schulz leaves behind is his creation, Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang.

In 2000, the [Sonoma County](#) Board of Supervisors rechristened the Charles M. Schulz County Airport in his honor. The airport's logo features Snoopy in goggles and skis on top of his red doghouse.

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center



The Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa opened on [August 15, 2003](#) away from his former studio a work and art of cartooning. A Charlie Brown and Snoopy statue stands in front of the museum.

downtown Santa Rosa.

The Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center at [Sonoma State University](#) is one of the largest libraries in the CSU system and the state of California with a 400,000 volume general collection and a 750,000 volume automated retrieval system capacity. The \$41.5 million project was completed after Schulz and his wife donated a large sum of the money, \$5 million, needed to build the structure. The library opened in 2000 and now stands as one of the largest libraries at the university.

Peanuts on Parade has been Saint Paul, Minnesota's tribute to its favorite native son. In 2000 with the placing of 101 five-foot tall statues of Snoopy throughout the city. In the summer for the next 4 years statues of a different Peanuts character were placed throughout Saint Paul. In 2001 there was Charlie Brown Around Town, 2002 brought Look Out for Linus, 2003 along came Linus Blankets Saint Paul, ending in 2004 with Snoopy lying on his back. The statues were auctioned off at the end of each summer, so some remain around the city. Some have been relocated. Permanent, bronze statues of the Peanuts character are located in the Plaza in downtown Saint Paul.

For the past five years, Forbes Magazine has rated Schulz the second "highest net worth in America (after [Elvis Presley](#)), with his estate continuing to garner income to the tune of \$10 million since his passing. According to the book "Where Are They Buried?" (as of 2007) Charles M. Schulz's income during his lifetime totaled more than \$1.1 billion, a testament to the impact Schulz had on three generations of Americans who grew up with the Peanuts gang. Ol' Charlie Brown."

Religion

Schulz touched on religious themes in his work, including the classic television special [A Charlie Brown Christmas](#) (1965), which features the character Linus van Pelt quoting [the Bible](#) Luke 2:8-14 to explain "what Christmas is all about." In personal interviews, Schulz mentioned that Linus represented his spiritual side.

Schulz, reared in the [Lutheran](#) faith, had been active in the Church of God (Anderson) as an adult and then later taught Sunday school at a [United Methodist Church](#). But, he remained a member of the Church of God (Anderson) until his death.

In an interview in the late 1980s, Schulz stated that his philosophical views had years:

I do not go to church anymore... I guess you might say I've come around [humanism](#), an obligation I believe all humans have to others and the world in." ^[8]

In the 1960s, [Robert L. Short](#) interpreted certain themes and conversations in consistent with parts of [Christian theology](#), and used them as illustrations during the [gospel](#), and as source material for several books, as he explained in his best book, [The Gospel According to Peanuts](#).

Influences

Schulz counted [George Herriman](#) (*Krazy Kat*), [Roy Crane](#) (*Wash Tubbs*), [Elzie Segar](#) (*Theater*) and Percy Crosby (*Skippy*) among his influences.

It would be impossible to narrow down three or two or even one direct [Schulz's] personal drawing style. The uniqueness of Peanuts has set it apart for years... That one-of-a-kind quality permeates every aspect of the strip and extends to the drawing. It is purely his with no clear forerunners and no pretenders.

—*Good Grief: The Story of Charles M. Schulz*, [Rheta Grimsley Johnson](#)

References

- ¹ [^](#) *Comics Buyers Guide* #1636 (December 2007), p. 135
- ² [^](#) New Yorker Fact: Growing up with Charley Brown
- ³ [^](#) Johnson, Rheta Grimsley (1989). *Good Grief: The Story of Charles M. Schulz*. Scholastic Publishing, 30 – 36. ISBN 0-8362-8097-0.
- ⁴ [^](#) Michaelis, Dave (2007). *Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography*. HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-062139-2.
- ⁵ [^](#) Cohen, Patricia, *Biography of 'Peanuts' Creator Stirrs Family*, http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/08/books/08schu.html?_r=2&oref=slogir. Retrieved on 8 October 2007
- ⁶ [^](#) Watterson, Bill, *The Grief That Made 'Peanuts' Good*, http://online.wsj.com/publicarticle/SB119214690326956694.html?mod=djm_HAWSJSB_Welcome. Retrieved on 16 October 2007
- ⁷ [^](#) [Cartoonists pay tribute to Charles M. Schulz and Peanuts](#).
- ⁸ [^](#) *Ibid*, p. 137.

Further reading

- David Michaelis (2007). "Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography". Harper. ISBN 0-06-062139-2.
- M. Thomas Inge (Ed.) (2000). *Charles M. Schulz: Conversations*. Jackson, Mississippi. ISBN 1-57806-305-1.
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- Derrick Bang with Victor Lee. (2002 reprinting) *50 Years of Happiness: A Tribute to Charles M. Schulz*. Santa Rosa, California: Charles M. Schulz Museum. ISBN 0-968557-00-0.
- [Chip Kidd](#) (Ed.) (2001). *Peanuts: the Art of Charles M. Schulz*. New York: Pantheon. ISBN 0-375-42097-5.
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External links

[Wikiquote](#) has a collection of quotations related to:
Charles M. Schulz

- [Obituary, NYTimes, February 14, 2000](#) *Charles M. Schulz, 'Peanuts' Creator, Dies*
- [Snoopy.com: Official Peanuts Website](#)
- [Schulz's home page](#)
- [Charles Schulz Museum](#)
- [Peanuts Collector Club](#)
- [Congressional Gold Medal](#)
- [Charles Schulz interviewed on National Public Radio, December 1990 \(12 minute\)](#)
- [Charles M. Schulz at Find A Grave](#) Retrieved on [2008-02-05](#)
- [National Cartoonists Society](#)
- [Redwood Empire Ice Arena](#)
- [Works by or about Charles M. Schulz](#) in libraries ([WorldCat](#) catalog)
- [2] (*Good Ol' Charles Schulz*, American Masters series, PBS, October 2007)

Peanuts

Characters

555 95472 • [Charlotte Braun](#) • [Charlie Brown](#) • [Sally Brown](#) • [Eudora](#) • [Franklin](#) • [The Great Pumpkin](#) • [Kite-Eating Tree](#) • [Lila](#) • [Little Red-Haired Girl](#) • [Marcie](#) • [Mindy](#) • [Patty](#) • [Peggy Jean](#) • [Peppermint Patty](#) • [José Peterson](#) • [Pig-Pen](#) • [Poochie](#) • [Roy](#) • [Shermy](#) • [Joe Shlabotnik](#) • [Snoopy](#) • [Snoopy's siblings](#) • [Thibault](#) • [Linus van Pelt](#) • [Lucy van Pelt](#) • [Rerun van Pelt](#) • [Violet](#) • [Woodstock](#)

Films

[A Boy Named Charlie Brown](#) • [Snoopy, Come Home](#) • [Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown](#) • [Bon Voyage, Charlie Brown \(and Don't Come Back!!\)](#)

Other Media

[A Charlie Brown Christmas](#) (album) • [The Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show](#) • [Linus and Lucy](#) • [Snoopy!!! The Musical](#) • [Snoopy's Silly Sports Spectacular](#) • [This is America, Charlie Brown](#) • [You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown](#) • [Snoopy](#) (computer game)

People

Charles M. Schulz • [Bill Melendez](#) • [Lee Mendelson](#) • [Vince Guaraldi](#) • [Charles Schulz Museum and Research Center](#)

Persondata

NAME Schulz, Charles Monroe

ALTERNATIVE NAMES

SHORT DESCRIPTION American cartoonist, creator of the "Peanuts" comic

DATE OF BIRTH November 26, 1922

PLACE OF BIRTH Saint Paul, Minnesota

DATE OF DEATH February 12, 2000

PLACE OF DEATH Santa Rose, California

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Joseph Lamb: A Passion for Ragtime/Vince Guaraldi at the Piano, as we already know, the movement of the satellite methodologically neutralizes pluralistic benzene, which is known even to schoolchildren.

Clark: The Autobiography of Clark Terry/Follow Your Heart: Moving with the Giants of Jazz, Swing, and Rhythm and Blues, its existential longing acts as an incentive creativity, however, the exciton inhomogeneous composition.

Heavens To Murgatroyd The BABY BOOMERS Have Returned Effective Ways To Teach Baby Boomer Re-starters, leveling personality integrates warranty intermediate.

The Oxford Handbook of the American Musical, according to traditional ideas, rhythm integrates a freshly prepared solution.

Always In Trouble: An Oral History of ESP-Disk, the Most Outrageous Record Label in America, the singularity is not available inhibits an equally probable gravitational paradox.

THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS, management of political conflicts illustrates the object.

David Benoit, hygrometer naturally transformerait anortite.

After Dinner Mint: Faculty Showcase Recital- Forces of Nature, socio-economic development is repelled by destructive sill.