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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hoover-Price Planetarium at the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum to Host Event for Rare Daylight Celestial Occurrence

Canton, Ohio... On Monday, November 11, weather permitting and using a SAFE solar filter, you can watch the planet Mercury cross the solar disk in daylight. The Hoover-Price Planetarium at the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum will have safe transit telescope viewing from 8:30 AM to 1:04 PM on the Monument Plaza. This is a very rare event. The next Transit of Mercury, visible from North America, isn't until May 7, 2049.

When one celestial body crosses in front of another it is called a transit. Mercury orbits the Sun at an average distance of 36 million miles while Earth is nearly three times as far. Mercury takes 88 days to orbit the Sun, so three to occasionally four times a year, Mercury passes between the Sun and Earth. Thirteen to fourteen times a century we can see Mercury transit the Sun. The last Transit of Mercury was on May 9, 2016.

Mercury will begin its passage at 7:35 AM or first contact. At 7:37 AM Mercury's entire disk will appear against the Sun's or second contact. For the next 5 hours and 25 minutes, the small black circle will cross the Sun's sphere. The halfway point will be at 10:19 AM. Mercury touches the Sun's right edge, or third contact, at 1:02 PM. The transit ends at 1:04 PM with fourth contact.

The best way to view the Transit of Mercury will be through a SAFE solar filtered telescope. Remember that telescope optics have several configurations so you may not see mercury move from left to right as your eyes would see. Filtered binoculars will work but Mercury will appear tiny.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum is located at 800 McKinley Monument Dr NW in Canton. The Keller Gallery is the Museum's temporary exhibition space and features a variety of topics each year. The Museum also includes the McKinley National Memorial, McKinley Gallery, Street of Shops, The Stark County Story, Discover World, and the Hoover-Price Planetarium. The Museum is open Monday – Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

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