



News Release

Contact:
Judy Slocum
Port of Galveston
409-766-6119
jslocum@portofgalveston.com

For Immediate Release

PORT OF GALVESTON WELCOMES *SPLENDOUR OF THE SEAS*

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL OFFERS 10- AND 11-DAY CRUISES

Four Cruise Ships Now Sail From Galveston Island

Galveston, Texas...November 11, 2002...The Port of Galveston announces the beginning of cruise service from Galveston Island to the Panama Canal and the Caribbean on Royal Caribbean International's *Splendour of the Seas* from Galveston's newly-refurbished second Cruise Terminal.

The *Splendour* will make seventeen sailings from the Port of Galveston from November 2002 through April 2003. The cruises will alternate between ten-night Caribbean cruises and eleven-night Panama Canal cruises.

"Galveston has turned Texas into a cruise industry player," stated Donald L. Schattel, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston. "Who would have thought that just three short years ago

there were no cruise ships calling on a regular basis. Now when you travel down Harborside Drive or visit the shops, restaurants and attractions of the downtown district, a cruise ship is usually visible towering above our Cruise Ship Terminals.”

Splendour of the Seas is the second Royal Caribbean cruise ship to sail from the Port of Galveston and the first to sail from newly-opened Terminal No.2. The *Rhapsody of the Seas* sails to Mexico and the Caribbean every Sunday on a seven-day itinerary.

"The growth of our cruise operations at the Port of Galveston has been nothing short of fantastic," stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. "With the opening of Cruise Terminal No. 2 and the first sailing of our fourth home-ported cruise vessel, we have established Galveston as the fastest growing cruise port in Texas and quite possibly in the whole Gulf of Mexico.

“Royal Caribbean International's *Splendour of the Seas* is commencing 10-night Caribbean cruises and 11-night Panama Canal cruises at our new terminal and we could not be happier, Cernak added. “In addition to our already established calendar of cruise ships in port on every Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, this will add cruise visits every fourth Friday, and two ships will be in port every fourth Monday.”

Since the beginning of regular cruise operations in September 2002, approximately 386,000 visitors have sailed from Galveston Island. The cruises of the 1,800-passenger *Splendour of the Seas* will add thousands of visitors to cruise statistics.

The U.S. cruise industry generates \$7.8 billion in nationwide economic impact each year, according to a study released in 2001 by Business Research & Economic Advisors, a Pennsylvania-based firm.

The Port of Galveston is located on the upper Texas coast at the mouth of Galveston Bay, just 30 minutes steaming time from the open sea. This ideal location boasts facilities to handle all types of cargo including containers, dry and liquid bulk, breakbulk, Ro/Ro, refrigerated and project cargoes, and cruise passengers. The Port is a significant contributor to the strong economy of the Galveston-Houston, Texas marketplace. Annual business through the Port totals approximately \$12 million with an estimated economic contribution to the region of over \$125 million.

The Port of Galveston is a landlord port, owned by the City of Galveston and managed by a City Council-appointed Board of Trustees.

POG-2002-12