



News Release

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For Immediate Release

CELEBRATION'S FOUR YEARS OF OPERATION BROUGHT OVER 496,000 NEW VISITORS TO GALVESTON ISLAND

Galveston, Texas...On Saturday, October 9, 2004, Carnival Cruise Line's *Celebration* will sail from the Port of Galveston for the final time. The *Celebration* will be replaced on October 22, 2004 by the larger 2,052 passenger *Ecstasy*.

The *Celebration* has been a regular visitor to Galveston Island for the past four years and since the inception of operations on September 30, 2000, the ship has brought over 496,000 visitors to Galveston to sail on 294 voyages.

"We are truly saddened that our beloved *Celebration* will depart our facilities for the last time today," stated Steven M. Cernak, Galveston Port Director. "She has been here since the beginning of our cruise operations. We truly feel that Carnival and the *Celebration* played a key role in our success in the cruise industry and in being named the 18th largest cruise port in the world and the ninth largest cruise port in the United States, and that both significantly contributed to the \$600 million economic impact from cruise operations in the State of Texas in 2003. Carnival, the first cruise line to take a chance on the market in Galveston, has emerged as a true partner with the Port of Galveston."

The Texas cruise market is comprised of a seven-state area with a population in excess of 30 million people. Within Texas lie two of the largest metropolitan statistical areas in the U.S. – Houston and Dallas. Marketing studies undertaken by Carnival Cruise Lines confirmed the strength of the marketplace for cruise passengers. Original estimates included 50 percent "drive-to" passengers aboard *Celebration*. Actual bookings indicated "drive-to" passengers in the 80 + percent range, additional confirmation of the strength of the cruise passenger market in the seven-state area.

Designated a port in 1825 while Texas still belonged to Mexico, the Port of Galveston is a wholly owned utility of the City of Galveston. The port is located on the upper Texas coast at the mouth of Galveston Bay, just 30 minutes steaming time from the open sea and provides facilities to handle containers, dry and liquid bulk, break bulk, Ro-Ro, refrigerated and project cargoes and cruise passengers.

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