

News Release

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

For Immediate Release

SMITH NAMED NEW CRUISE TERMINAL MANAGER

Galveston, Texas...January 15, 2004...H. L. “Bubba” Smith has been promoted to the position of Cruise Terminal Manager for the Port of Galveston. Mr. Smith has twenty-four years of experience in the port industry and has served in several capacities since his hiring in 1980.

Mr. Smith will be directly responsible for all aspects of operations at The Texas Cruise Ship Terminals on Galveston Island including the management of customer relations, operations, maintenance, logistics, and safety and security programs.

“We are pleased that we were able to promote from within, having Mr. Smith already in place to handle the operations of our cruise terminals,” stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. “The fact that he is a long time employee of the port and has a varied background in port operations will prove invaluable as we continue to attract new cruise business and handle hundreds of thousands of new visitors each year at our cruise terminals.”

Galveston is now homeport to three year-round cruise vessels including Carnival Cruise Lines’ *Celebration* and *Elation* and Royal Caribbean International’s (RCI) *Rhapsody of the Seas*, and one seasonal RCI vessel, *Splendour of the Seas*. In October 2004, Carnival will reposition *Ecstasy* to replace the smaller *Celebration*, in November 2004, Celebrity Cruises will replace the *Splendour* with a seasonal itinerary on the *Galaxy* and Princess Cruises will offer different seasonal packages on the *Grand Princess*.

On a regular basis, one cruise ship is in port every other Monday, Thursday, and Saturday and two ships are in port on Sundays. Additionally, seasonal vessels are in port every 11 to 12 days into March 2004, then changing to 4- and 5-day cruises through April.

Mr. Smith has been the Assistant Cruise Terminal Manager/Harbormaster since 2002. Prior to that time, he worked in both the Operations and Marketing Departments.

Mr. Smith replaces Michael J. Mierzwa who was promoted to Director of Operations and Facilities.

The Port of Galveston is completing a major expansion project at Galveston's Cruise Terminal Complex. When Cruise Terminal No. 2 is complete in mid-2004, the Port will have invested approximately \$35 million in Galveston's cruise facilities.

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