



## Port E-News

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### **PORT OF GALVESTON RECOGNIZES 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> CRUISE PASSENGER**

On Sunday, May 30, 2004, the Port of Galveston celebrated the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> passenger to sail from the Port of Galveston since the beginning of year-round cruises from Galveston Island in September 2000.

The 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> passenger was the Lippincott family from Spring, Texas. The family included parents Mark and Carla and children Taylor, Mackenzie and Logan. The family were passengers on Royal Caribbean International's *Rhapsody of the Seas*. They were recognized by City and Port of Galveston officials, and Galveston tourism interests. The Historic Wyndham Properties presented complimentary two-day accommodations at the Hotel Galvez, the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau presented VIP packages from area restaurants and attractions, and the Port presented a recognition plaque and a gift basket for the family to take with them on board their cruise. Royal Caribbean provided a certificate for a future cruise.

Since the opening of Galveston's first cruise terminal in September 2000, the Port of Galveston has been a home port to two major cruise lines which offered sailings on three year-round cruise ship operations and one seasonal cruise operation. Carnival Cruise Lines offers 4- and 5-day sailings on the *Celebration* which will be replaced by the *Ecstasy* in October 2004 and 7-day sailings on the *Elation*. Royal Caribbean International is now offering 7-day sailings on the *Rhapsody of the Seas* and completed seasonal sailings last month.

In the fall and winter cruise season of 2004/2005, two additional cruise lines will offer seasonal sailings from Galveston Island. In November, 2004, Celebrity Cruises will begin 11- and 12-day sailings through May 2005 on the *Galaxy* and, also in November, 2004, Princess Cruises will begin 7-day sailings through April 2004 on the *Grand Princess*.

By the end of 2004 when Cruise Terminal No. 2 is completed, the Port of Galveston will have invested \$35 million in Galveston's cruise facilities.

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