



Port E-News

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Carnival's *Holiday* Visits the Port of Galveston

On Tuesday, September 14, 2004, the Port of Galveston was notified due to the forecasted impact of Hurricane Ivan, Carnival Cruise Lines was considering bringing the *Holiday* to Galveston as an emergency call on Thursday, September 16, 2004 instead of returning to her homeport of New Orleans.

Carnival confirmed these plans on Wednesday, September 15th. At that time they intended to bring in the 1,452-passenger *Holiday* to take on provisions, discharge passengers with airplane reservations out of Houston, and allow the remaining passengers to leave the ship to visit Galveston Island. Based on the hurricane forecast at that time and its projected impact on New Orleans, the *Holiday* was scheduled to leave on Friday morning at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Area businesses were notified of these plans at that time and the response was astounding. The Port of Galveston staff worked with many local business partners to turn this potential opportunity into a successful event for all involved.

Ted Deyo of the Historic Downtown Strand Partnership and Mary Jo Naschke of the Strand Merchants Association promptly notified their memberships and made plans to greet the visitors and pass out Strand visitor information.

John Zendt of Moody Gardens made the generous decision to provide transportation to their facility and discount tickets for *Holiday's* passengers.

Gina Spagnola of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce and Chris Woolwine of the Park Board of Trustees provided assistance with notifications of the ship's arrival to pertinent Galveston businesses and organizations.

The Port notified *The Galveston County Daily News* who contacted Carnival Cruise Line about the port-of-call visit and printed a front-page article about the ship's visit. The *Gulf Coast E-News* included information about the ship's visit in its article about Hurricane Ivan.

But as is the case with the weather, things change. New Orleans did not take the major storm hit that was originally projected and the Mississippi River was expected to open to vessel traffic earlier than had been anticipated. We are very thankful that our friends and relatives in New Orleans and our counterparts at the Port of New Orleans were spared from a major disaster from Hurricane Ivan.

Weather changes can effect businesses in many ways and that is what happened on Thursday with Carnival Corporation. The prudent business decision was made early Thursday morning to return to New Orleans with passengers that had not already made flight arrangements out of Houston. The ship took on the supplies that were previously ordered for the ship's visit and returned to sea for the voyage to New Orleans.

The Port of Galveston is very thankful to those Galveston businesses and residents that planned to welcome the visitors off the *Holiday*. Everyone was so very generous when notified that passengers were going to be in Galveston for an unexpected visit...and so very understanding when Carnival Cruise Lines made the business decision to return their customers to their original debarkation port.

We would hope that if the situation were reversed and Galveston found itself in the path of a hurricane, the good people of New Orleans would welcome our cruise ships and their passengers with the same enthusiasm that was demonstrated in Galveston during the past several days.

We hope that this email is useful. If however you do not wish to receive such notices in the future, please reply including "unsubscribe" in the subject line. We will take your name off the list and send you an e-mail to confirm this.