

SPLENDOR OF THE SEAS SAILS FROM THE NEW CRUISE TERMINAL

Royal Caribbean International doubled its cruise ships at the Port of Galveston in November 2002 with the initiation of 10 and 11-day sailings of the *Splendour of the Seas* to Mexico, the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

“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.”

"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.

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.