

PORT OF GALVESTON RECOGNIZES 1,000,000th CRUISE PASSENGER

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

The 1,000,000th passenger was the Lippincott family from Spring, Texas. The family included parents Mark and Carla and children Taylor, Mackenzie and Logan. The family was 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.