

GALVESTON'S CRUISE GROWTH CONTINUES

The Port of Galveston has received confirmations that will increase the number of passengers and cruise ships at The Texas Cruise Ship Terminals on Galveston Island in the future.

Royal Caribbean International (RCI) announced the return of the 1,800-passenger *Splendour of the Seas* to Galveston Island for four and five-day cruises during the winter season of November 2005 through April 2006 and again from November 2006 through April 2007.

"The Port was informed last year of the decision to replace the *Splendour of the Seas* with a ship from RCI's sister brand, Celebrity Cruises," stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. "The Port was honored to have Celebrity's *Galaxy* homeported here for the winter season of 2004. Now the port is pleased to be able to announce the decision not only to have *Galaxy* in the Port of Galveston for the winter season of 2005, but also to welcome back RCI's *Splendour of the Seas*. Both of the vessels compliment each other and allow Galveston to offer a truly diverse offering for the cruise traveler."

Secondly, Princess Cruises has announced the decision to return for another winter cruise season from Galveston Island. After a successful season from November 2004 through April 2005, Princess informed the Port of Galveston of their plans to bring the 2,600-passenger *Grand Princess* back for an additional season. Princess Cruises will now add November 2006 through April 2007 to their original commitment for two winter seasons in 2004/2005 and 2005/2006.

"These announcements will further strengthen Galveston as the No. 1 cruise homeport in the Gulf of Mexico as the Board of Trustees takes further steps to capture additional business opportunities," continued Cernak. "Galveston is home port to the two largest cruise operators in the world; Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line which serve Texas and the southern part of the United States through Galveston. Carnival is offering four, five and seven-day cruises year-round and Royal Caribbean International is offering seven-day cruises. And now Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Princess Cruises are offering a variety of four, five, seven, ten and eleven-day cruises on a seasonal basis."