



For Immediate Release

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Port of Galveston Moves Up the Ranks as Major Economic Contributor to North America's Cruise Industry

GALVESTON, Texas (August 26, 2010) –Texas is switching places with Alaska and gaining the edge over Hawaii as a major contributor to North America's cruise industry according to a report published by Cruise Lines International Association(CLIA). Texas' economic contributions are driven primarily by cruise operations from the Port of Galveston.

“Texas was one of 10 states to account for 78% of the industry's direct domestic purchases and 80% of the total employment and income impacts”, said the report by Business Research and Economic Advisors (BREA).

With just over \$1 billion in direct spending and 15,541 jobs paying \$788 million in income, Texas accounted for 6.1 percent of the industry's direct expenditures. Though the impacts in Texas declined from 2008, the state ranking rose from fifth to third as the declines in Alaska and Hawaii were higher. The Port of Galveston embarked 395,000 passengers, a 4.8 percent increase.

The Port of Galveston, Texas' only major cruise port, serves as the primary point of embarkation for cruises to the western Caribbean and welcomed 484,000 passengers and crew visits in 2009, which is 2.4 percent of all passenger and crew visits in the United States. These visits are

estimated, according to CLIA, to contribute \$34.7 million in passenger and crew onshore spending, or nearly \$ 72 per person per visit.

Next year will prove to be even better for Galveston's cruise business, with the arrival of three new cruise ships. The *Carnival Magic*, the newest addition to the Carnival Cruise Lines cruise fleet will offer 7-day cruises to the Caribbean out of Galveston starting in November 2011. *Carnival Triumph* will move from New Orleans to Galveston to operate year-round, running four and five-day Caribbean cruises starting in October 2011. Also the Port will see the repositioning of Royal Caribbean International's *Mariner of the Seas* to Galveston in November 2011. The *Mariner of the Seas* will replace the *Voyager of the Seas* in the seasonal seven day rotation, offering Texas vacationers two roundtrip seven-night western Caribbean itineraries through April 2012.

Home porting these three ships represents the largest-ever capacity commitment by the cruise industry to Texas. These deployments are expected to carry over 1 million passengers annually from Galveston.

"The Port of Galveston is committed to remaining in the top 20 cruise home-ports worldwide. With the addition of these ships we will continue to strengthen our existing relationship with the cruise industry and increase the economic impact and benefits to the local community, Texas, and North America," said Steven M. Cernak, Port of Galveston Port Director.

The Port of Galveston is Texas' gateway for cruise sailings and international trade. The Port of Galveston serves as the primary point of embarkation for cruises to the western Caribbean and handles over 800,000 cruise passengers annually. The Port is a self supporting enterprise fund with operating revenues of approximately \$21 million. It does not rely on tax dollars for operations.

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