



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

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SOUTH TEXANS TO CELEBRATE THE BIGGEST TALLSHIPS EXPERIENCE EVER ***“Port Corpus Christi and the Buccaneer Commission Announce Sail South Texas 2010”***

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS – (August 10, 2009) Port Corpus Christi and The Buccaneer Commission announce a special Tall Ship festival coming to the bay area. *Sail South Texas 2010* will take place at Naval Station Ingleside during the 2010 Fourth of July holiday. Port Corpus Christi Chairman Ruben Bonilla and Sail South Texas President Richard Durham will make a formal announcement on ***Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.*** at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Drive.

Sail South Texas 2010 will highlight a number of concurrent local, national and international celebrations. It will commemorate the official transfer of the United States Naval Station Ingleside to Port Corpus Christi, the bicentennial celebrations of independence of many Latin American countries and the 234th anniversary of the United States Independence. *“We are very proud to bring Tall Ships to South Texas on a larger scale than before. Our community will have the opportunity to celebrate and learn about Tall Ships and the countries they represent,”* **said Ruben Bonilla, Chairman of the Port Corpus Christi Commission.**

Chairman Bonilla will announce the official participation of Mexico's Naval Academy Tall Ship, *Cuauhtémoc*. The *Cuauhtémoc* was built for the Mexican Navy in the Celaya shipyards (Bilbao, Spain) and launched in July 1982. She was the last of four windjammers built by Bilbao shipyards (her predecessors were the *A.R.C. Gloria* for Colombia, the *Guayas* for Ecuador, and the *Simon Bolivar* for Venezuela). The *Cuauhtémoc* is named for the last Aztec emperor who was defeated by the conquistador, Herman Cortes, in 1525. The *Cuauhtémoc* is used by the Mexican Navy to train naval cadets and sails with a crew of 276.

Other Tall Ships that have been invited to participate are the *Libertad* from Argentina, *Esmeralda* from Chile, *Guayas* from Ecuador, *Cisne Branco* from Brazil, *Capitan Miranda* from Uruguay, *Eagle* from the United States, *Simon Bolivar* from Venezuela, *Juan Sebastian El Cano* from Spain, *Sagres* from Portugal and the *A.R.C. Gloria* from Colombia. These and other Tall Ships will be part of a grand regatta "Velas de Sudamerica 2010" commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary celebration of many Latin American countries. "Velas de Sudamerica 2010" begins next February in Brazil with port calls in Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Port Corpus Christi will be the only United States port the fleet will visit. Port Corpus Christi looks forward to this opportunity to celebrate and share our cultures, maritime history and friendship.

WHAT: Sail South Texas 2010 - Announcement

WHEN: Tuesday, August 11 at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Kleberg Room, Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center
402 Harbor Drive