



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

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SOUTH TEXANS TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY TALL SHIPS EXPERIENCE

“Port Corpus Christi Announced Sail South Texas 2010”

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS – Port Corpus Christi is bringing an unprecedented Tall Ship experience to South Texas for an unforgettable Independence Day Celebration. The event will be hosted at Naval Station Ingleside from July 1 to July 5, 2010. Port Corpus Christi Chairman Mike Carrell and Sail South Texas President Richard Durham, made the formal announcement of the event on ***Tuesday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.*** at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Drive and ***at 5:30 p.m. at the Plaza Club***, 100 W. Houston, Suite 2100, ***San Antonio, Texas***

Sail South Texas 2010 will mark a unique combination of regional, national and international celebrations—the bicentennial of independence from Spain for the home countries of three of the visiting ships, the United States Fourth of July observance, and the official transfer of the Naval Station Ingleside to Port Corpus Christi. *“We are very proud to bring the Tall Ship experience to South Texas on a larger scale than ever before. Our community will have the opportunity to celebrate and learn not only about the Tall Ships, but also about the countries they represent.”* Said Mike Carrell, Chairman of the Port Corpus Christi Commission.

As part of the announcement, Chairman Carrell highlighted the official participation of the United States Coast Guard Academy ship “Eagle,” the “Cuauhtémoc” from Mexico, the “Esmeralda” from Chile and the “Capitan Miranda” from Uruguay. These remarkable vessels are used by each country’s Navy to train its officer cadets and sail with crews of about 300 officers and cadets.

Beginning this month, these ships will participate in “Velas de Sudamerica 2010” a celebration of independence for most South American countries. The fleet will depart Brazil, sailing around the southern continent, making port of calls at each host country. The tour will culminate in Vera Cruz, Mexico just prior to its only United States port of call at Corpus Christi Bay. The invited Tall Ships will gather here to celebrate and share their history, culture and friendship.

Sail South Texas 2010 also announced today that HEB Supermarkets is the event Presenting Sponsor. The event will now be known as “Sail South Texas 2010 Presented by HEB.” **Sail South Texas 2010** is made of more than 20 committees made up of area volunteers planning a series of exiting events around the visit of the Tall Ships. The crew will also have the opportunity to visit area attractions and museums, live the cowboy experience South Texas style at the world famous King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas, visit the beaches in Port Aransas and participate in a Soccer tournament and clinics with area Soccer teams. Other sponsors of the event are the City of Ingleside (hosting city), RVE Engineering, Inc., and the City of Port Aransas.

Sail South Texas 2010 is an international event hosted by Port Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Buccaneer Commission to open the doors of its newest facility at Ingleside to area citizens and visitors. Free to the public, the Tall Ships experience celebrates national independence, culture, music, food and folklore of the participating countries. For more information, you can visit www.sailsouthtexas2010.com

The primary economic engine of the Coastal Bend, Port Corpus Christi is one of the 10 largest ports in the United States in total tonnage. The Port’s mission statement is to “serve as a regional economic

development catalyst while protecting and enhancing its existing industrial base and simultaneously working to diversify its international maritime cargo business.” Strategically located on the western Gulf of Mexico, with a straight, 45’ deep channel, the Port provides quick access to the Gulf and the entire United States inland waterway system. The Port delivers outstanding access to overland transportation with on-site and direct connections to three Class-1 railroads and uncongested interstate and state highways. The Port is protected by a state-of-the-art security department and an award-winning Environmental Management System. With outstanding management and operations staff, Port Corpus Christi is clearly “*More Than You Can Sea.*”