



PRESS RELEASE

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CORPUS CHRISTI IS GETTING READY TO HOST THE “A.R.C. GLORIA” JUNE 6-9 *“The Naval Academy Tall Ship From Colombia, South America Visits Corpus Christi As Part* *Of HEB-Sail Corpus Christi-2006”*

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS –(April 26, 2006) The Port of Corpus Christi Authority, The Buccaneer Commission and the HEB-Sail Corpus Christi 2006 Committee are in the final preparation phase to proudly present the very first Tall Ship experience to the area community. The event will be hosted at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center from **June 6 to June 9, 2006** and will highlight the “**A.R.C. Gloria**”, the Naval Academy Tall Ship from Colombia, South America.

The Port of Corpus Christi and the Buccaneer Commission, as a result of a visit by a non-profit group known as Op-Sail or Operation Sail, formed *Sail Corpus Christi* in 2003. Established by President Kennedy, Op-Sail is based in New York City with its mission to promote sail training and goodwill among nations. Op-Sail is known worldwide and its Executive Director has endorsed *Sail Corpus Christi*. “*We are very proud to bring the first Tall*

*Ship experience to Corpus Christi and South Texas. Our community will have the opportunity to learn not only about Tall Ships, but also about the country that will be represented,” said **Richard S. Durham, President of Sail Corpus Christi.***

The **A.R.C. “Gloria”** will stop in Corpus Christi, Texas coming from Tampa, Florida on her way to Veracruz, Mexico. The **A.R.C. “Gloria”** is the Colombian Naval Academy Tall Ship School, with a length of 249Ft, a draft of 16Ft-4Inches and a rig length of 131 Ft and brings a crew of 10 officers, 70 students, 37 Sub-officers, 3 Marines and 10 Civilians and its own music band. The **A.R.C. “Gloria”** not only represents the Colombian Government Naval Institution but also its people. She showcases the richness of the arts, culture, geography, tourism and commercial opportunities of Colombia. The **A.R.C. “Gloria”** was built in 1966 and she was named after Mrs. Gloria Zawadsky de Revéiz, wife of the past Colombian Minister of Defense General Revéiz Pizarro. Colombia is a country well known around the world for its music, people, coffee, precious emeralds and flowers.

HEB is the title sponsor for *Sail Corpus Christi 2006* and has 18 committees made up of area volunteers that are planning a series of exciting events throughout the visit of **“A.R.C. Gloria”**. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday June 7 through Friday June 9, public tours will be offered in the mornings and early afternoons. Different activities will highlight the Colombian Culture at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center. Everyday, while the **“A.R.C. Gloria”** is in town, visitors will have the opportunity to taste some of Colombia’s greatest food, listen and learn how to dance to its famous music and admire some of its art and crafts. In addition, visitors will be able to admire the variety of flowers Colombia exports and with the support of the Colombian National Federation of Coffee Growers, attendees will be able to smell and taste Colombia’s world famous coffee and learn more about other products that Colombia export to the United States.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 6, the arrival of the **A.R.C. “Gloria”** will be welcomed by community leaders, local officials and the Colombian Ambassador to the United States and former Colombian President, the Honorable Andres Pastrana, the Colombian General Consul in Houston, The Honorable Maria Cristina Chirolla and the Colombian Naval Attaché in Washington, Captain Pablo Romero.

On Wednesday, June 7, the business community will have the opportunity to learn about business opportunities with Colombia offered by **PROEXPORT-USA** (the Colombian Government Trade Bureau agency for USA). The business sessions will conclude with a luncheon with the Ambassador of Colombia to the United States and former President of Colombia, the Honorable Andres Pastrana, as a keynote speaker. The Ambassador will talk about the status of the Free Trade Agreement between Colombia, Canada and The United States. *“We are very proud to be the first tall ship to visit Corpus Christi during its inaugural Sail Corpus Christi event. As a representative of the Colombian Government, this is a great opportunity for us to showcase our country, its culture and what we offer to the world to South Texas,” said Captain Pablo Romero, Naval Attache, Embassy of Colombia, Washington D.C.*

On a separate agenda, the Sail Corpus Christi committee is finalizing the activities for the crew of the **“A.R.C. Gloria”**. The members of the crew will have the opportunity to choose from many activities. They will be able to visit area attractions, the Corpus Christi Army Depot and the Corpus Christi Naval Base, the beaches in Port Aransas, enjoy shopping and participate in a Soccer tournament and clinics with area Soccer teams.

The HEB Sail Corpus Christi 2006 event tickets are on sale on our website www.ccsail.com. Ticket availability is limited to the number of patrons the ship can

accommodate so advance purchases are strongly recommended. Tickets will be priced at \$10 for dockside viewing only and \$26 for ship boarding. Nearby parking is available for \$5 per vehicle with free shuttle service to and from the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center. For more information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Vicky Lewis, Event Manager, Buccaneer Commission at 361.882.3242.

WHAT: THE HEB SAIL CORPUS CHRISTI 2006

WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 6 – FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006

WHERE: CONGRESSMAN SOLOMON P. ORTIZ INTL CENTER
402 HARBOR DRIVE

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