



CONNECTICUT CRUISE SHIP TASK FORCE
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19 March 2010

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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PRINCESS CRUISES TAPS CONNECTICUT'S PORT OF NEW LONDON FOR CALL IN SEPTEMBER

(Stonington, CT) What is nearly a thousand feet long, is over 100 feet wide, weighs thousands of tons, traveled hundreds of miles to get here, carries over 3,000 passengers and 1,200 crew, and will put thousands of dollars into the local and state economy?

Princess Cruises upscale cruise ship *m/s Crown Princess* is the correct answer. New in 2006, this beautiful cruise ship will bring passengers to discover Connecticut's Port of New London and the surrounding area.

Cruising as part of the Canada/New England itinerary, *m/s Crown Princess* will make her first-ever port call in the state on Saturday, September 18, 2010 and the ship will berth at the Admiral Harold E. Shear State Pier. Due to Homeland Security and U.S. Coast Guard regulations, the pier and surrounding area is off limits to the public. Great viewing of the ship's arrival and departure can be had from New London's Waterfront Park, Fort Trumbull and from Ft. Griswold State Park in Groton.

When *m/s Crown Princess* enters the Thames River at approximately 7:00 am she will be greeted by the Thames Towboat Company's tug *m/s Patricia Ann* who will salute the cruise ship using fire monitors to spray water hundreds of feet into the air. The Nutmeg Fife & Drum Corps will greet passengers as they arrive at the pier - as they've done for every cruise ship to arrive here since the first in September 2002. The ship will depart from New London at approximately 4:00 pm.

m/s Crown Princess is one of seventeen beautiful cruise ships of the Princess Cruises fleet and was christened in June 2006 in New York City with former Love Boat Captain, actor Gavin MacLeod as emcee. The ship is 952 feet in length, weighs in at 113,000 gross tons, is 118 feet wide, has a draft of 26 feet, is 195 feet high, carries 3,070 passengers, 1,200 crew members and has a top speed of 23 knots.

Passengers will explore downtown New London, Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, the Essex Steam Train, the USS Nautilus Submarine Museum, Fort Trumbull, Fort Griswold and more.

Plans are to have New London's historic Union Railroad Station again take on an additional role in this port-call. Aside from being the Amtrak passenger station it will also fill the role of the Welcome Center for the ship's passengers.

A First-Call Ceremony is planned aboard the ship with state and local officials honoring the ship's arrival here for the first time with a state plaque and proclamations. Governor Rell will be invited to take the leading role in this ceremony.

"This is the only firm commitment we have so far of cruise ships coming into the state for 2010, but we are still actively recruiting cruise lines. Last month we visited MSC Cruises in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and presented our port and the area to them. The response from the executives we visited was very positive". said George Cassidy, Executive Director of the Connecticut Cruise Ship Task Force.

Jay Baird, a marketing executive for Logistec USA also attended this meeting. Logistec USA manages the State Pier for the State of Connecticut.

Goff & Page Company of Providence, RI, ship agents for Princess Cruises have been holding this date with both Logistec USA and the Connecticut Cruise Ship Task Force as a "possible" port-call since late last year. Goff & Page representatives made it official at a meeting at State Pier in New London this morning.