



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cruise Foundation Supports America's Veterans

Pinellas County, FL – The Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation (CICF) is proud to announce \$20,000 in recent donations to two Pinellas County organizations that support America's armed forces veterans. Contributions of \$10,000 each were made to Operation Helping Hand of Pinellas County and the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans Association of America.

Operation Helping Hand works in partnership with active-duty patients at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Patients and their families are provided emergency financial assistance and services by the group's volunteers.

Paralyzed Veterans of America works to maximize the quality of life for its veteran members and all people with spinal cord injuries and disease. All funds from the CICF donations will be used to provide direct services for veterans and their families.

"The industry is pleased to support Florida's armed services veterans. We salute both their service to our country and the sacrifices that they and their families have made to provide for our nation's security," said CICF Chairman James Border. "This is our way of saying, 'Thank you.'"

The cruise industry continues to be an important economic engine in Florida. Cruise lines spent nearly \$5.5 billion in Florida in 2005 and supported more than 128,000 jobs paying nearly \$4.8 billion in income.

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CICF members include:

American Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Costa Cruises, Crystal Cruises, Cunard Line, Disney Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, Princess Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Seabourn Cruise Line, SeaDream Yacht Club, Silversea Cruises and Windstar Cruises.

Cruise Lines International Association

The nonprofit Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is North America's largest cruise industry organization with a membership of 21 cruise lines, 16,500 travel agencies and 100 Executive Partners, the industry's strategic business allies. CLIA participates in the regulatory and policy development process while supporting measures that foster a safe, secure and healthy cruise ship environment. It also provides travel agent training, research and marketing communications to promote the value and desirability of cruise vacations.