



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI

-MEDIA ADVISORY –

January 14, 2014

For more information contact:

PATRICIA CARDENAS

Dir. of Communications

361-885-6124 Direct

361-816-3621 Mobile

Patricia@pocca.com

Port Corpus Christi Commission Welcomes Two New Members

“New Appointees Fill the City of Corpus Christi Seats”

Corpus Christi, Texas – Port Corpus Christi Commission welcomes David P. Engel and Richard Ralph Valls, Jr., as the newest port commissioners. Engel and Valls were administered the oath of office by Nueces County Judge Lloyd Neal and officially sworn in as City of Corpus Christi appointed Port Commissioners today, Tuesday, January 14, at the first regularly scheduled Port Commission meeting of 2014. Along with Engel and Valls, Barbara Canales was also administered the oath of office by Judge Neal for a new term representing Nueces County.

David P. Engel was appointed to replace Chairman Mike Carrell who was currently serving his last term. Engel is a Southern Methodist University graduate with a Bachelors in Business Administration and a graduate of Harvard University “Owner President Master Program. He is the principal of Engel and Associates, LLC, has 40 years of experience in all areas of business management including; operations, acquisitions, divestitures, and financial performance improvement. Prior to forming his management consulting practice, David was President of Airgas Southwest, Inc., with branches in the states of Texas, New Mexico and Northern Mexico. Airgas Southwest, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Airgas, Inc. (NYSE: ARG), which is the largest distributor of welding supplies and packaged gases in the United States. Engel currently serves on the board of the Susser Holdings Corporation (NYSE: SUSS) and Susser Petroleum Partners (NYSE SUSP), The Fordyce Company, and he is part of the Advisory board for Heldenfel’s Enterprises, Inc. Engel is a past Chairman of the Corpus

Christi Regional Economic Development Commission, the CHRISTUS Spohn Health System and the Lexington Museum.

Richard Ralph Valls Jr., was also appointed by the City of Corpus Christi for a two year term to conclude Commissioner Robert Kostelnik's term who resigned last November. Valls was born in Laredo, Texas. He is a graduate from St Mary's University with a BBA Degree. Richard Ralph Valls Jr., is the third generation Valls family member to be involved in International Trade and became a licensed U.S. Customs Broker in 1989. He is the Owner/Vice President of Valls International, Inc., Advisor/Partner of Valls Ship Agencies, Inc., and Advisor/Partner of Valls Holdings, Ltd. Valls is active in civic and professional affairs currently serving as member of the Executive Board for Driscoll Children's Hospital Foundation Board, the Board of Directors of Foster Angels of South Texas and the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center.

Barbara A. Canales is a graduate of Corpus Christi's W.B. Ray High School, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston. Canales is a distinguished professional and active member of the South Texas community. She currently is a practicing attorney and partner of Mother Ocean, LLC. In addition to numerous past appointments, current boards and committees on which Barbara A. Canales is active include University of Texas at Austin College of Engineering Advisory Board; Ready or Not Foundation, President; Canales Foundation, President; Education is our Freedom Scholarship Foundation; Eagleford Shale Consortium Committee; and the South Texas Institute of the Arts Development Committee. She is also a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Corpus Christi Bar Association.

About Port Corpus Christi

As the primary economic engine of the Coastal Bend, Port Corpus Christi is the 5th largest port 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 "The Port of the Lone Star State." <http://www.portofcorpuschristi.com/>

*Port Corpus Christi is a member of **START (South Texas Alliance for Regional Trade)**, a collaborative effort that highlights business opportunities in South Texas in the manufacturing, energy,*

aerospace, international trade, military and other sectors and the related strategic support provided by Port San Antonio, Port Corpus Christi and Port Laredo. <http://www.southtexastrade.com/>

Come See Us on Social Media!

