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SERIES OF “REVIVAL AND REFLECTIONS” EVENTS TO MARK GALVESTON ISLAND’S FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE IKE, SEPTEMBER 8-13, 2009

GALVESTON ISLAND, TX. Not since the Great 1900 Storm has Galveston suffered as much destruction and devastation as when Hurricane Ike roared ashore during the early-morning hours of Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008. And once again, Galveston has demonstrated that its citizens’ enviable spirit, dedication and determination to regroup and rebuild – still thrives. To showcase this island community’s incredible resiliency and progress just one year after Hurricane Ike, a series of “Revival and Reflections” events will take place beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8 on the 109th anniversary of the Great 1900 Storm and continue through Sunday, Sept. 13, as Galvestonians, friends, visitors and supporters come together to celebrate “*Revival and Reflections... Marking the first anniversary of Hurricane Ike, September 8-13, Galveston Island, Texas.*”

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009

- United Way Annual Luncheon honoring first responders, local businesses and organizations that impacted and aided Galveston’s initial recovery. Moody Gardens Main Ballroom. Time-TBA.

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- “Revival and Reflections” activities commence – 5:30pm, Fort Crockett Park, 4700 Seawall Boulevard (next to 1900 Storm monument).
 - ◆ *Ofrenda* unveiling and dedication by Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas; Ike Anniversary Choir performance. (The *Ofrenda* is an exhibit, in the form of a wave-like structure, of Ike-related “offerings” - given in tribute or as a memorial - to the Gulf of Mexico for all that it gives us and can potentially take away. The public is encouraged to participate with individual “offerings.”)
 - ◆ Ceremonial Torch Lighting, followed by torch relay to the Strand. (Public encouraged to join in the “surge” at any point along the relay - culminating at Saengerfest Park.)
- Saengerfest Park – 7pm, 23rd and Strand. Festivities continue with Ike Anniversary choir, brass ensemble, multi-media presentation; “State of the City” update by Mayor Thomas.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009

- Ground-breaking Ceremony for Seawall Urban Park. 10:30am, Fort Crockett Park, 4700 Seawall Boulevard.

Wednesday-Friday, Sept 9-11, 2009

- Remembrance Concert, 6–8pm. Saengerfest Park (23rd & Strand). Entertainment scheduled to include music ensembles, dance, and choral groups.

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009

- “Ike” Quilt Exhibit, Poetry Reading, Dance ensemble - Time/location TBA.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009

- Galveston Island State Park Open House, 14528 Steward Road, 10am–1pm.
- Artists Studio Tours, 1-5pm. There will be eight artist studios on tour. Each studio will
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showcase the artist's work as well as each studio's post Ike renovations/refurbishment.

- Beachtown Open House –featuring Photo Exhibit of pre-and post-Ike photography, East Beach, 1–5pm.
- “Evening of Remembrance”. Historic Downtown Galveston between Strand and Postoffice streets, 6–10pm.
 - ◆ Live entertainment at Saengerfest Park, 23rd & Strand.
 - ◆ Photo displays throughout the multi-block district showcasing the area's revival and impact from the storm.
 - ◆ Showings of “Ike: The Documentary” and “The Great Storm”, 7pm. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice.
 - ◆ “Shine a Light” remembrance; first responders extinguish Eternal Flame. 10pm, Saengerfest Park.
 - ◆ Final Showing “Ike: The Documentary”, The Grand 1894 Opera House. (First responders will lead the public back to The Grand from Saengerfest Park for this final showing.)

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009

- Beachside Worship, Stewart Beach, Sunrise service, 7am.
- Neighborhood Gatherings – Pot luck luncheons and progressive dinners.
- Galveston Symphony Pops Concert, 7pm. Location -TBA.

Throughout this anniversary week of official City of Galveston-sponsored ceremonies and commemorations, several local ancillary events will be held by individual organizations. From Sept. 5-13, the **53rd annual Treasure Ball Pageant** will display 16 elaborate capes and trains representing popular Island attractions and saluting first responders. This “Salute to Galveston” exhibit will be on display at Moody Mansion Museum, 2618 Broadway. On Saturday, Sept, 12 at 8:30am, the **Galveston Historical Foundation** will host the “Galveston Rebirth Race”– a 5K

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Run/Walk through the streets of historic Galveston. To register online and for more information, visit www.galvestonhistory.org. Next, the Lone Star Flight Museum will present a “Hurricane Ike Anniversary Ride” event on Saturday from 9am-5pm. The Flight Museum is located next to Moody Gardens/Schlitterbahn. Saturday evening, the **Galveston Island Humane Society** will host a circus-themed “*Barkum and Bailey and Meowling Bros*” annual fundraising event at 8pm at the Galveston Island Convention Center. On Sunday afternoon, Sept. 13, the **Jesse Tree** in partnership with the **Junior League of Galveston County, Inc.**, will host a continuation of their “One in a Million” fundraising campaign beginning at 1pm, 25th and Seawall Boulevard.

Galveston Island took a direct hit from Ike. The storm’s 17-20-foot surge, in addition to winds over 110 mph, resulted in devastating damage. Over 75% of this 32-mile barrier island lay under water. Virtually all structures on the island were impacted to some degree - causing more than \$3.2 billion in damage to housing, infrastructure, beaches, places of worship, the medical center, local businesses and organizations, as well as tourism-related businesses and attractions.

Galveston’s commitment to come back better and stronger than ever before is now being compared to those heroic efforts Galvestonians made following the 1900 Storm. This past November, City Council appointed almost 300 community volunteers to serve on the City’s official Galveston Community Recovery Committee. Less than five months later, this diverse group of dedicated citizens – with over 6,000 volunteer hours invested - proposed 42 projects to City Council. Each project was created and designed to propel Galveston on its road to recovery. Focusing on the theme “one community, one island”, this hard-working group came together under the direction of Chairperson Betty Massey.

“We realized early on that virtually everything in Galveston needed to be fixed and that Ike left nothing in this community untouched,” Massey said. “We knew right away that we wanted - and needed - to be a stronger, more resilient, more sustainable community and to be in a better place

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than we were on September 13, 2008.”

To highlight the many “Revival and Reflections” events and activities planned to mark the first anniversary of Hurricane Ike, a 4-8 page full color newspaper “pull-out” supplement will be included in the *Galveston County Daily News*’ Sept. 6 edition. In addition, press kits are now being prepared that will be distributed to local, regional, and national media. To submit information about planned events and activities relating to the first anniversary, please contact Robyn Bushong at RBush1147@aol.com. To be included in the special “Ike” newspaper supplement, as well as to have collateral materials in the media press kits, information must be submitted no later than Thursday, July 30.

For more information about “Revival and Reflection” events to be held, call the Galveston Island Visitors Center at 888 GAL ISLE (888.425.4753), visit online at www.galveston.com, www.recoverygalveston.org, or email to info@galvestoncvb.com.

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