



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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P R E S S E V E N T

Ceremony to Mark Non-Stop Flights to Myrtle Beach from Springfield set for Thursday, May 21, 2009.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS..... Thursday, May 21st marks the inaugural flight of non-stop service from Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on Direct Air. The inaugural flight will depart Springfield at 7:00 p.m. and arrive in Myrtle Beach at 9:45 p.m. eastern. The Thursday flight begins the twice-weekly schedule of Direct Air's non-stop service to Myrtle Beach every Thursday and Sunday from Springfield.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be at Capital Airport to celebrate the initiation of the new passenger service at 6:15 p.m. in the airport terminal. Members from the Springfield Airport Authority Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau will be on hand for the ceremony. In addition, Direct Air president, Ed Warneck, will arrive in Springfield on the in-bound flight and make remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

More than 70 passengers are booked on the first flight out of Springfield along with local radio contest winners and WMAY news editor, Jim Leach. The DC-9 jet is expected to be nearly full upon its departure Thursday evening. "The central Illinois community has once again shown its support for direct, non-stop jet service to popular leisure destinations by purchasing more than 1500 tickets to fly Direct Air since we announced the service a few months ago," said Mark Hanna, Executive Director at Capital Airport. "We're off to a good start."

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