Rodger Rees BIO

Rodger Rees, Galveston Wharves Port Director and CEO, oversees the fourth most popular cruise port in North America, located on one of the nation's top 40 cargo waterways. This self-sustaining city entity generates more than 14,000 jobs and has an estimated annual state economic impact of $2.1 billion.

Since Rees took the helm in January 2018, the Port of Galveston has grown its business, increased revenues 79 percent, developed and implemented a 20-Year Strategic Master Plan, and executed public-private partnerships to build two new cruise terminals. A $125 million cruise terminal, in partnership with Royal Caribbean International, opened in 2022. A fourth terminal to serve MSC Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line opened in November 2025.

The port also was awarded $42.3 million in state grants in 2023, the largest grant amount in the port's history, to fund critical cargo and transportation projects. The port is leveraging the state grant and cruise revenues to fund a phased $105 million cargo infrastructure improvement project beginning in mid-2024. In 2023 and 2024, Rees successfully guided the port through over $210 million in municipal bond financings.

The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce honored Rees as its 2022 Galvestonian of the Year for positively contributing to the betterment of the region's business community. In addition, the Houston Business Journal named Rees one of the most admired CEOs in the Houston metroplex in 2023. Rees serves on the board of directors of the Texas Department of Transportation Port Authority Advisory Committee, as well as Texas Ports Association board vice chairman and representative for the Upper Texas Region.

Rees previously served as deputy executive director and chief financial officer for Port Canaveral, the world's second busiest cruise port.

Rees spent his early years in Tennessee and is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. In addition, he is a Certified Public Accountant, licensed in the state of Georgia, with over 25 years of executive management in private and public arenas. Rodger and his wife, Luci, have two sons, one attending Texas A&M University – College Station and one at Ball High School in Galveston.