



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PUNTA GORDA AIRPORT TO HOLD ALLEGIAN'T APPRECIATION CELEBRATION**

*Two Allegiant travel vouchers to be raffled off to event attendees*

**PUNTA GORDA, FL** (June 22, 2017) – The Punta Gorda Airport will hold an Allegiant Appreciation Celebration in conjunction with the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Thursday, June 29 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the departure area of the Bailey Terminal. Punta Gorda Airport is proud of its continued growth due to Allegiant, as well as Cheney Brothers, Western Michigan University, all other airport tenants, and the local community.

Allegiant recently announced an additional five cities to Punta Gorda Airport's nonstop flight service roster: Rochester, New York; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Flint, Michigan; Newburgh, New York; and St. Cloud, Minnesota. These new destinations, which bring the total number of Punta Gorda destinations to 39, are part of Allegiant's "Get Away Your Way Every Day" summer program.

Guests who share travel tips and stories on Allegiant's [Sunseeker](#) blog will be entered into the daily giveaway drawing for a chance to win a \$200 travel voucher. In honor of Allegiant's summer program and the airport's continued air service growth, Punta Gorda Chamber will raffle off two Allegiant travel vouchers during the event, valued at \$250 each. All attendees who are present during the raffle are eligible to win, except for Punta Gorda Airport staff and staff family members.

During the event, Shane Simmons, president of Cheney Brothers, will be recognized for the company's continued support of the general aviation community and the Punta Gorda Airport. Jim Williams, director of flight operations for WMU-Punta Gorda, and Dennis Wright, Charlotte Campus president of Florida SouthWestern College, will also be in attendance and recognized.

The event is open to the public. Additional guests in attendance include local businesses, Punta Gorda Chamber members and airport tenants. Some Chamber members will don elaborate "Kentucky Derby style" hats in honor of the recent addition of service to the Louisville International Airport.

The event will also include a "ROCKING in Punta Gorda" treasure hunt for attendees to discover river rocks decorated by airport staff's children. Event attendees are welcome to take these rocks with them as they travel to Allegiant destination cities and share on social media where and how far the rocks traveled.

May's passenger count of 97,304 marked the 43rd consecutive month the airport has seen an increase in year-over-year monthly traffic. Due to the relationship with Allegiant and strong support from the local community, the airport has experienced substantial passenger growth over the past year.

**About Punta Gorda Airport**

The Charlotte County Airport Authority, governed by five elected commissioners, owns and operates the Punta Gorda Airport, located at 28000 Airport Road, five minutes east of I-75, Exit 161. The Airport Authority is a nontaxing entity and operates as an enterprise fund, totally supported by revenue generated from its operations, including rental car concession, parking, fuel sales and hangar, building and land leases. In 2016, the Airport Authority was awarded Florida Department of Transportation's Outstanding Commercial Service Airport of the Year Award in recognition of Punta Gorda Airport's superior achievement. Punta Gorda Airport provides quick and easy access to Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sarasota, Naples, Punta Gorda, Englewood and all of Southwest Florida. For more information, visit [www.flypgd.com](http://www.flypgd.com).

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