

# **BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Welcomes Spirit Airlines**

## **New Airline Adds to Airport's Growth, Success**

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport today welcomed the announcement that Spirit Airlines plans to start nonstop service to Fort Lauderdale and Dallas/Fort Worth on September 6, 2012. From those Spirit focus cities, travelers can connect to other destinations, including international markets in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

“We are pleased to welcome Spirit Airlines, which will offer additional flight options and low fares for our customers,” said Paul J. Wiedefeld, Executive Director of BWI Marshall Airport. “BWI Marshall has the longstanding reputation as the convenient, ‘easy come, easy go’ airport for the Washington-Baltimore region. The addition of Spirit bolsters that value for travelers in this market.”

Spirit Airlines promotes itself as an airline that offers ultra low base fares, with a number of optional travel services for a fee. Average domestic airfares at BWI Marshall are well-below the national average and among the lowest of any major U.S. airport, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

“Spirit has been providing low fares to Fort Lauderdale with connections to the Caribbean and Latin America from the Washington, DC/Baltimore area for nine years, and we look forward to better serving our customers from throughout the region at its premier low-cost airport – the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport,” says Mark Kopczak, Maryland native and Spirit’s Senior Director of Network Planning. “Our new location at BWI provides Spirit with better scheduling flexibility and the ability to add flights to more cities nonstop, which ultimately translates to better service and more low fare options for our customers. Spirit’s new nonstop service to Dallas/Fort Worth is a perfect example of the flexibility that BWI provides us.”

Spirit will offer twice daily roundtrip flights between BWI Marshall and Fort Lauderdale, and one daily roundtrip flight between BWI Marshall and Dallas/Fort Worth. The airline will operate from Concourse C at the Airport. Spirit will operate the flights using its 178-seat Airbus A320 aircraft.

Passenger traffic has grown steadily at BWI Marshall, with a new record set in 2011 with 22.39 million passengers. The first quarter of 2012 was the busiest first three months of any year in the Airport’s history.

### **Contact:**

Jonathan Dean  
410-859-7027