



News Release

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For Immediate Release

NORTHWEST TO FLY GRAND RAPIDS – WASHINGTON D.C. NONSTOP *Nation's capital to become Northwest's newest nonstop destination from Grand Rapids*

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. – (February 10, 2005) – Northwest Airlines today announced that it will begin offering the only daily nonstop service between Grand Rapids' Gerald R. Ford International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, beginning May 2, 2005.

"Our new flight will provide business and leisure travelers destined for Washington with the convenience and comfort of nonstop service," said Phil Haan, executive vice president of international, alliances and information technology at Northwest Airlines and chairman of NWA Cargo. "Northwest's comprehensive network, competitive fares and convenient hub airports have made us the leading choice of travelers in Grand Rapids, the state of Michigan and throughout the Heartland of America."

The new flight will be operated by Northwest Airlink partner Mesaba Airlines with a 69-seat Avro RJ85 regional jet (ARJ), with 16 seats in first class and 53 seats in coach class.

Grand Rapids is Northwest's second largest Michigan market. The airline offers 14 larger "mainline" jet aircraft flights from Grand Rapids, including eight to its Detroit WorldGateway hub, five to its hub at Minneapolis/St. Paul and one to its Memphis hub. Northwest also operates nonstop service seasonally from Grand Rapids to Orlando and Tampa, Fla., providing the only nonstop service between Grand Rapids and those popular Florida destinations.

Customers currently holding tickets for travel May 2 or beyond on connecting itineraries from Grand Rapids to Washington will be able to change to Northwest's new nonstop service without paying an administrative change fee, provided changes are made by March 31, 2005.

"I am pleased that Northwest Airlines is adding this new, direct service between Grand Rapids and Washington," said Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids. "Providing this point-to-point service will be a boon to travelers from West Michigan who want to visit our Nation's Capital, as well as serving as a faster and more efficient link for business travelers between these two areas."

NORTHWEST HAS BEEN SERVING MICHIGAN SINCE 1945

Northwest is the number one carrier in Michigan, serving a total of 12 cities, including Detroit, Alpena, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, Muskegon, Pellston, Saginaw/Bay City, Sault Ste. Marie and Traverse City – along with its Northwest Airlink partners. Northwest is the leading airline in all of these cities.

NORTHWEST CONNECTS THE HEARTLAND TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Northwest offers 27 flights from Washington Reagan National Airport to a total of six nonstop destinations including Des Moines, Iowa (beginning March 1), Detroit, Indianapolis, Memphis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Northwest also offers nonstop service from Washington Dulles International Airport to Detroit, Lansing, Mich., Memphis and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Northwest's new Grand Rapids-Washington service will be available for sale beginning Saturday, February 12 via the Internet at www.nwa.com, by telephone at Northwest Airlines Reservations at 1-800-225-2525 or through travel agencies.

New Grand Rapids – Washington Service*

<i>Flight number:</i>	<i>Departs:</i>	<i>Arrives:</i>
NW 3496	8:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<i>*Operates daily except Sunday</i>		

New Washington – Grand Rapids Service*

<i>Flight number:</i>	<i>Departs:</i>	<i>Arrives:</i>
NW 3497	6:25 p.m.	8:35 p.m.
<i>*Operates daily except Saturday</i>		

Northwest Airlines is the world's fourth largest airline with hubs at Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, Tokyo and Amsterdam, and approximately 1,500 daily departures. Northwest is a member of SkyTeam, an airline alliance that offers customers one of the world's most extensive global networks. Northwest and its travel partners serve more than 900 cities in excess of 160 countries on six continents. A 2004 J.D. Power and Associates study of airports ranked Minneapolis/St. Paul, one of Northwest's largest hubs, fourth among large domestic airports in overall customer satisfaction.

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For more information pertaining to Northwest, media inquiries can be directed to Northwest Media Relations at (612) 726-2331 or to Northwest's Web site at www.nwa.com.