



**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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## **FIRST FEDERAL EXECUTIVES WIN PATRIOT AWARDS**

*Harrison, Ark., March 2009* – First Federal Bank is pleased to announce that Larry J. Brandt, Chief Executive Officer, and Jeff Brandt, Executive Vice President/Eastern Division, each received a Patriot Award from the Arkansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

“The Patriot Award was created to recognize individuals who provide support and cooperation to employees who have answered their nation’s call to serve,” said Joseph Didden, Employer Outreach Representative with the Arkansas ESGR. “The recipient has to be nominated by a citizen warrior. The award then recognizes their extraordinary support of the employee’s service in the Arkansas National Guard and Reserve.”

Larry and Jeff were nominated by Lad Langley, First Federal’s Facility Engineer. Langley is currently First Sergeant with the combat engineer soldiers of the 688th Army Reserve unit based in Harrison.

“First Federal has always supported me in my Army Reserve activities,” said Langley. “They have also been very supportive during my two deployments to Iraq.”

Didden, along with Elvis Ery, the local Veteran’s Representative for the Arkansas Department of Work Services, presented the awards.

### **About ESGR**

As the 1.3 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions with America’s borders and beyond, the Arkansas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) serves as a resource for the employers of citizen warriors. ESGR provides education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employers. For more information about ESGR outreach programs, visit the Web site at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) or call Joseph Didden at 870.424.0264.

### **About First Federal Bank**

First Federal is a community bank serving consumers and businesses in Northcentral and Northwest Arkansas with a full range of checking, savings, investment, and loan products and services. The Bank, founded in 1934, has \$795.2 million in assets as of December 31, 2008, and conducts business from 20 full-service branch locations, one stand-alone loan production office, and 31 ATMs. First Federal Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc., whose stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol FFBH. For information on all the products and services we offer, visit us on the web at [www.ffbh.com](http://www.ffbh.com) or contact our Account Information Center by phone toll free at 866-AIC-FFBH (870.365.8329 Harrison area) or by email at [aic@ffbh.com](mailto:aic@ffbh.com).

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