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## SERVICE AWARDS GIVEN BY FIRST FEDERAL

*Harrison, Ark., May 2008* – John Paul Hammerschmidt, Senior Chairman of the Board of Directors of First Federal Bank, presented service awards to three of First Federal's senior executives on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at the monthly board meeting.

Larry Brandt, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, was honored for 35 years of service; Sherri Billings, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, was honored for 30 years of service; and Jeff Brandt, Executive Vice President/Eastern Division, was honored for 15 years of service.

"The years of service completed by our executive leadership is an example of the stability and longevity of First Federal," said Hammerschmidt. "I am pleased to recognize these three individuals for their commitment to our customers and the Bank's core values of INTEGRITY, COMMITMENT, EXCELLENCE, TEAMWORK, INNOVATION, and PROFESSIONALISM."

**Larry Brandt** has been with First Federal since May 1973, and has served in various management positions. His main responsibility is to successfully lead the Bank to achieve its vision, accomplish its mission, and implement the business plan.

He is an honor graduate from both Harrison High School and Arkansas Tech University; he also received a Master's degree from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, and is an alumnus of both the Savings and Loan Graduate School at Indiana University and the U.S. Army War College. He has been very active in local, state, and national organizations and is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. Brandt is also a Deacon at First Baptist Church and has done extensive mission work with the church. He and his wife Cathy have two sons, Dr. Jason Brandt and Jeff Brandt, and five grandchildren.

**Sherri Billings** is responsible for supervising the accounting and records management departments of First Federal and directing financial planning, budgeting, reporting, accounting practices, and recordkeeping. She began her career with the Bank in May 1978, and has held various positions during her tenure, including Treasurer and Senior Vice President. Billings is a Certified Public Accountant and a graduate of Harrison High School and the University of Central Arkansas.

She and her husband Mark attend First Christian Church, along with their two daughters, Addi, who works as a Marketing Assistant at First Federal, and Emily, a graduating senior at Harrison High School.

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**Jeff Brandt** is a fourth generation banker – his great-grandfather, Frank L. Coffman, Sr., was one of the original founders of the Bank in 1934. Brandt has served in a variety of capacities at First Federal since becoming a part-time Team Member in 1989, including appraiser, loan officer, and branch manager. He became full-time in May 1993. In his current role, he oversees nine offices in four counties.

Also following family tradition, Brandt served with the U.S. Army Reserve from 1993 to 2004, and was awarded a Bronze Star for outstanding performance during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His father retired as an Army colonel, and his two grandfathers served in World War II.

Brandt is a Distinguished Highest Honor graduate of Harrison High School, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, and a state-certified appraiser. In 2007, he was named to the *Arkansas Business* state-wide 40 Under 40 list. A former Eagle Scout, he volunteers with the Ozark District Boy Scouts and has served as District Chairman. He and his wife, Wendi, enjoy three children, Grace, Ella, and J. Henry. They are members of First Baptist Church of Harrison.

#### **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 \$829.1 million in assets as of March 31, 2008, and conducts business from 19 full-service branch locations, one stand-alone loan production office, and 30 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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