

FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES

FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

of Arkansas, Inc.

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FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES OF ARKANSAS, INC. ANNOUNCES A QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND

Harrison, Arkansas – May 22, 2001 - (NASDAQ NMS:FFBH) First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc. (the “Corporation”), a unitary savings and loan holding company for First Federal Bank of Arkansas, FA (the “Bank”) announced today that its Board of Directors at their meeting this morning, declared an \$.11 (eleven cent) cash dividend on the common stock of the Corporation payable on June 22, 2001 to the stockholders of record at the close of business on June 7, 2001.

Larry J. Brandt, President of the Corporation, stated, “Our strong capital base and continued profitability afford us the opportunity to pay another consecutive quarterly cash dividend. Such action demonstrates our commitment to and confidence in our future prospects.”

The Bank, in its 67th year, conducts business from 16 offices in Northcentral and Northwest Arkansas. At March 31, 2001, the Corporation had total assets of \$694.7 million, total liabilities of \$620.4 million and stockholders’ equity of \$74.3 million.