

# **FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES**

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**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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

**Harrison, Arkansas - February 24, 2003** - (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 a \$.16 (sixteen cent) cash dividend on the common stock of the Corporation payable on March 25, 2003 to the stockholders of record at the close of business on March 10, 2003.

Larry J. Brandt, President/CEO of the Corporation, stated, "This will be our 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive cash dividend and we are pleased to increase it 14% from fourteen cents to sixteen cents for this quarter. 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 69<sup>th</sup> year, conducts business from 16 offices in Northcentral and Northwest Arkansas. At December 31, 2002, the Corporation had total assets of \$679.9 million, total liabilities of \$610.6 million and stockholders' equity of \$69.3 million.