

FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES

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**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES OF ARKANSAS, INC. ANNOUNCES A QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND

Harrison, Arkansas – August 25, 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 an \$.18 (eighteen cent) cash dividend on the common stock of the Corporation payable on September 24, 2003 to the stockholders of record at the close of business on September 9, 2003.

Larry J. Brandt, President/CEO of the Corporation, stated, "This will be our 27th consecutive cash dividend and we are pleased to increase it 12.5% from sixteen cents to eighteen 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 69th year, conducts business from 16 offices in Northcentral and Northwest Arkansas. At June 30, 2003, the Corporation had total assets of \$699.1 million, total liabilities of \$627.0 million and stockholders' equity of \$72.1 million.