



The First Acquires FMB Bank – Expands to Georgia

HATTIESBURG, MS and Monticello, FL, November 1, 2018 –The First, A National Banking Association, has announced its holding company, The First Bancshares, Inc., has completed the acquisition of FMB Bank, which serves the Florida panhandle and southern Georgia. The First is now serving customers in sixty-seven locations in five states - Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Georgia and further strengthens the bank's commitment to the Tallahassee area market.

The combined Company, has approximately \$3.0 billion in total assets, \$2.5 billion in total deposits and \$2.0 billion in total loans.

M. Ray "Hoppy" Cole, President & Chief Executive Officer of First Bancshares and The First, commented on today's announcement saying, "The First is a bank that started in Mississippi with a few friends who wanted a true community bank focused on relationships and taking care of business one customer at a time. We modeled that commitment as our bank acquired other community banks across the Gulf South. Today The First and FMB bank have become one with that same hometown commitment to our Tallahassee and Georgia customers."

Cole went on to say, "Our Florida and Georgia customers will continue doing business with their hometown bankers enjoying a full array of financial services now backed by the strength of a community bank with \$3 billion in assets."

About The First

The First Bancshares, Inc., headquartered in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, is the parent company of The First, A National Banking Association. Founded in 1996, the First has operations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. The Company's stock is traded on NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol FBMS. Information is available on the Company's website: www.thefirstbank.com.

The First is a safe, sound, profitable and growing bank with a strong capital base, having achieved 72 consecutive quarters of profitability. It is because of this commitment that The First earned a 5 Star Rating (the highest given) by BauerFinancial, "the nation's bank rating service."

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