



Washington Federal Savings

Washington Federal, Inc.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON FEDERAL DECLARES 96th CONSECUTIVE CASH DIVIDEND

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – The Board of Directors of Washington Federal, Inc. (NASDAQ-WFSL), parent company of Washington Federal Savings, today announced a quarterly cash dividend of 20.5 cents per share. The dividend will be payable January 12, 2007 to common stockholders of record on December 29, 2006.

This is Washington Federal's 96th consecutive quarterly cash dividend.

Washington Federal Savings provides residential real estate loans, checking, money market accounts and certificates of deposit through 124 offices in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Texas. Established in 1917, the Company reported \$9.1 billion in assets and \$5.3 billion in deposits as of September 30, 2006.

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