



## Washington Federal Savings

Washington Federal, Inc.  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **WASHINGTON FEDERAL INCREASES CASH DIVIDEND BY 5.26%**

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – The Board of Directors of Washington Federal, Inc. (NASDAQ-WFSL), parent company of Washington Federal Savings, today announced a 5.26% increase in the Company's quarterly cash dividend to 20 cents per share from 19 cents per share. The dividend will be payable July 15, 2005 to common stockholders of record on July 1, 2005. This will be Washington Federal's 90<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarterly cash dividend.

Roy M. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer of Washington Federal, Inc., commented, "We are pleased that the Company's performance warrants another cash dividend increase. This is the 40<sup>th</sup> such increase since Washington Federal began publicly trading in 1982 and underscores management's confidence in the Company's future prospects." Based on today's closing price of \$23.23, the dividend yield now stands at 3.44%.

Washington Federal Savings provides residential real estate loans, checking, money market accounts and certificates of deposit through 121 offices in seven western states. Established in 1917, the Company reported \$7.6 billion in assets and \$4.7 billion in deposits as of March 31, 2005.

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