



Washington Federal Savings

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Federal Names Roy Whitehead New Chairman

Seattle – September 25, 2006 – Washington Federal, Inc. (Nasdaq: WFSL) announced today that Roy M. Whitehead will succeed Guy C. Pinkerton as chairman of the board of directors of Washington Federal, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Washington Federal Savings.

The appointment of Whitehead, age 53, represents another step in the orderly transition of leadership of the organization, which began upon his appointment as executive vice president in 1998, president in 1999, and chief executive officer in 2000.

“I am especially pleased to be able to complete the transfer of the company leadership to people with the qualities of Roy Whitehead and his management team,” said Pinkerton. “Since he joined us in 1998, we have benefited from Roy’s expertise and financial wisdom and have seen first-hand his dedication to Washington Federal and his work ethic. No one is more committed to fulfilling his responsibilities to the company and its stockholders. I am confident his contributions as chairman and his leadership will maintain the company as one of America’s outstanding financial institutions.”

Whitehead has 31 years of experience in the industry with both thrifts and banks. Before joining Washington Federal, he served as regional vice president with Wells Fargo Bank. Previously, he was president of First Interstate Bank of Colorado (now Wells Fargo), was area president for First Union in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, and spent 13 years in Texas banking, where he began his career. He holds a degree in business administration and finance from the University of South Carolina and is a graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking.

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Pinkerton, who joined Washington Federal in 1965 and was a leading figure in the financial development and growth of Washington Federal, will continue as a director.

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, Texas and Colorado. Established in 1917, the Company reported \$8.8 billion in assets and \$5.3 billion in deposits as of June 30, 2006.

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