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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Washington Federal Announces Cash Dividend and Authorizes an Additional 5 Million Shares for Repurchase

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – The Board of Directors of Washington Federal, Inc. (NASDAQ-WAFD), today announced a quarterly cash dividend of 13 cents per share. The dividend will be payable on May 29, 2015 to common stockholders of record on May 14, 2015. This will be Washington Federal's 129<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarterly cash dividend.

Washington Federal also announced the authorization of an additional 5 million shares that may be repurchased under Washington Federal's share repurchase program. Fiscal year-to-date, the Company has repurchased 3.9 million shares or 4.0 percent of the shares that were outstanding at the beginning of the year at an average price of \$21.44. The last authorization of 10 million shares was made in September 2013, and has 1.1 million shares remaining authorized to be repurchased.

Washington Federal, Inc. is the parent company of Washington Federal, a national bank that operates 247 branches in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. Established in 1917, the bank provides consumer and commercial deposit accounts, insurance products, and financing for small to middle market businesses, commercial real estate and residential real estate, including consumer mortgages and home equity lines of credit. As of March 31, 2015, the Company reported \$14.6 billion in assets, \$10.7 billion in deposits and \$2.0 billion in stockholders' equity.

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