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*The Bank that Puts You First.*

## **First Bank & Trust Company Ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the Nation by U.S. Banker Magazine**

**Abingdon, Virginia June 8, 2009** First Bank & Trust Company, a diversified financial services firm today announced ranking results from a report on financial institutions throughout the nation.

First Bancorp, Inc., parent company of First Bank & Trust Company has again made U.S. Bankers' *Top 200 Community Banks* list. The entire report was recently published in the June 2009 issue of U.S. Banker and was based on banks and thrifts with less than \$2 billion in assets as of Dec. 31, 2008. Rankings were based on a three-year average return on equity, and reflect First Bank & Trust's historic earnings performance. Financial institutions that ranked in the top 200 nationally followed the golden rule, according to Alan Kline of U.S. Banker magazine, "Slow and Steady Wins the Race". Favorable credit quality and performance earnings ranked First Bank & Trust *15<sup>th</sup> in the Nation*. Findings from the national report resulted in First Bank & Trust Company being ranked **the #1 bank** in Virginia and Tennessee.

First Bank & Trust Company has 20 offices throughout southwestern Virginia, northeast Tennessee, the New River Valley and Shenandoah Valley regions. The Bank is primarily considered a lending bank with a strong philosophy of putting money back into the communities it serves in an ongoing effort to support economic development.

William H. Hayter, President and CEO stated, *"First Bank & Trust values the relationship of belonging to a community. This recent national ranking demonstrates our dedication to the economic development of the communities we serve, and to our customers who have been responsible for our tremendous growth for the past 30 years."*

### About First Bank & Trust Company

First Bank & Trust Company, one of the top community banks in the United States, is a diversified financial services firm with office locations in southwest Virginia, northeast Tennessee, and New River and Shenandoah Valleys. Financial objectives are addressed by offering free checking products for personal and business accounts, and assessing lending solutions managed by mortgage, agricultural and commercial lending divisions. Comprehensive financial solutions are available through trust and brokerage service representatives.

### About U.S. Banker

U.S. Banker provides 40,000 C-suite and executive-level bankers with analysis and commentary on the industry players, financial and economic market trends, regulations, business strategies, and innovations reshaping the banking and financial services landscape.

For more information, visit [www.firstbank.com](http://www.firstbank.com) or contact Nicole Franks [nfranks@firstbank.com](mailto:nfranks@firstbank.com)