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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Washington Financial Celebrates Community Banking Month**

WASHINGTON, PA- April marks Community Banking Month. The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) and Washington Financial Bank recognize the importance of community banks in the United States.

“Community banks are integral to their communities and engage in community reinvestment and development on a daily basis— one of our key missions is to ensure our local communities are vibrant and thriving,” said R. Michael Menzies, ICBA Chairman.

As the primary source of lending for small businesses and farms, community banks provide loans that benefit the neighborhoods where their customers live and work. “We understand the needs of small business owners because community banks are small businesses,” Menzies said. “Community banks are vital to small businesses, providing funding for their expansion and innovation. Small businesses have been and will continue to be critical for new job creation and economic growth in our nation.”

Like many community banks, Washington Financial’s Board and management team are made up of local citizens who want to advocate the interests of the towns and cities where they live and work. Washington Financial strives to build lasting relationships with its customers and works hard to deliver superior customer service.

“At Washington Financial, we operate under a different definition of ‘Relationship Banking’ than most” said Brian J. Smith, President and CEO of Washington Financial Bank. “Our customers truly are our primary focus. We demonstrate that each day by providing exceptional service and including them in every special we offer.”

Washington Financial is the only locally owned and managed financial institution headquartered in Washington County. With over 110 years of history, an exceptionally strong financial position, the latest in technology and a staff of 150+ strong committed to its definition of relationship banking, Washington Financial is very well positioned to meet the financial needs of business and retail customers. It’s banking that’s in your best interest.

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