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Banking Commissioner Congratulates Organizers of Bank of Houston, Houston, Texas

Texas Banking Commissioner Randall James congratulated the organizers of Bank of Houston, Houston, Texas, on the bank's opening on March 24, 2005. Located in the Tanglewood area, Bank of Houston is the second state-chartered de novo bank to open in 2005, the centennial year for the Banking Department., and the first new Houston bank since 2003. The bank's initial capital totals over \$12,000,000, but this is expected to increase by several million dollars shortly after opening.

The newly chartered bank is led by an experienced team comprised of Chairman W. Donald Brunson, President and CEO James D. Stein and VP and Cashier Margaret A. Thigpin, whom together offer more than 90 years of banking expertise. The team has deep roots in the local community and is joined by a strong Board of Directors comprised of John T. Culp, James R. Hunt, John L. Kendall, Donald L. Poarch, Myles G. Sherman, Robert J. Signorelli, Dan Silvestri and R. Scott Yarish, M.D.

The bank will provide a full line of traditional banking services to consumers, professionals and small businesses located in the area with a strong emphasis on personal service. President Stein commented, "We are a Houston bank, locally owned and operated for the primary benefit of Houstonians. We are excited about the future of Houston and look forward to the opportunities ahead. As an organization, we are resolute regarding our commitment to incomparable personal service for our customers."

Commissioner James stated, "Bank of Houston exemplifies the characteristics which we have found result in a successful bank: capable and committed management, successful locally-grounded directors, and a strong capital base. I welcome Bank of Houston to the state-chartered banking system."

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