



News Release

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**AMERIS BANCORP REPORTS
FIRST QUARTER 2010 RESULTS**

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AMERIS BANCORP (NASDAQ-GS: ABCB), Moultrie, Georgia, today reported a net loss available to common shareholders of \$2.3 million, or \$0.17 per share, for the quarter ended March 31, 2010, compared to a net loss of \$1.3 million, or \$0.10 per share, for the first quarter of 2009.

Significant Increase in Pre-tax, Pre-Credit Income

“Our efforts to increase the Company’s pre-tax, pre-credit income during the past few years have been successful and have been mostly adequate in providing the cushion we need to earn our way through this economic cycle”, said Edwin W. Hortman, Jr., President and CEO. During the first quarter of 2010, the Company’s pre-tax, pre-credit income increased 41.5% when compared to the same quarter in 2009 and 9.6% when compared to the fourth quarter of 2009. Higher levels of net interest income were a large contributor but reduced employee costs and other cost saving initiatives were material as well. As of quarter end, approximately 85% of the anticipated savings or revenue enhancements from the Company’s previously announced “Project 2010” have been decisioned and implemented.

Net Interest Income and Net Interest Margin

Net interest income during the first quarter of 2010 totaled \$20.4 million, an increase of \$3.4 million, or 20.3%, compared to the same quarter in 2009. Similarly, the Company’s net interest margin increased during the first quarter of 2010 to 3.92%, compared to 3.21% during the same quarter of 2009. Yields on earning assets declined to 5.36% in the first quarter of 2010 compared to 5.57% during the first quarter of 2009. This decline was more than offset by savings in the Company’s cost of funds, which declined 1.05% from 2.45% during the first quarter of 2009 to 1.41% during the first quarter of 2010.

Capital Resources

The Company’s capital resources remain strong and improved at the consolidated level. Tangible common equity to tangible assets improved during the first quarter of 2010 to 5.97%, compared to 5.86% at the end of 2009. Ameris Bank’s Tier 1 capital ratio declined slightly to approximately 9.29% at March 31, 2010, compared to 9.62% at the end of 2009. Commenting on the Company’s capital resources, Mr. Hortman said, “We are very serious about strengthening and preserving our shareholders’ capital base. Our capital ratios at this stage of the economic cycle are encouraging, but I am most proud of the fact that we have increased our tangible book value by 6.4% during the past year. We have accomplished this by

being opportunistic when the time is right while being realistic about credit costs and dealing with them as they materialize.”

Stabilizing Credit Quality

Non-performing loans declined during the first quarter of 2010 by \$6.5 million, or 6.7%, to end the quarter at \$89.6 million when compared to the end of 2009. This decline was possible because of success in the foreclosure and resolution process and also from a significant slowing of problem loan formation when compared to the fourth quarter of 2009. These positive trends were muted to some degree by additional provisions that were related to valuations and to problem loan expense (real estate taxes and insurance primarily) on the Company’s position in other real estate.

The Company’s provision for loan losses during the first quarter amounted to \$10.8 million, a decline of \$5.7 million when compared to the fourth quarter of 2009. At the end of the first quarter of 2010, non-performing assets increased slightly to \$122.4 million, compared to \$117.7 million at the end of 2009. Net charge-offs on loans during the first quarter of 2010 decreased to \$13.0 million when compared to \$22.6 million during the fourth quarter of 2009. Commenting on the Company’s credit quality, Mr. Hortman said, “Uncertainty about real estate valuations and activity has eased and we are beginning to see several positive signs materialize. However, we have a lot of work remaining to reduce our book of non-performing assets and the related credit costs.”

Ameris Bancorp is headquartered in Moultrie, Georgia. At the end of the most recent quarter, it had 53 locations in select markets in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina.

This news release contains certain performance measures determined by methods other than in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). Management of Ameris Bancorp (the “Company”) uses these non-GAAP measures in its analysis of the Company’s performance. These measures are useful when evaluating the underlying performance and efficiency of the Company’s operations and balance sheet. The Company’s management believes that these non-GAAP measures provide a greater understanding of ongoing operations, enhance comparability of results with prior periods and demonstrate the effects of significant gains and charges in the current period. The Company’s management believes that investors may use these non-GAAP financial measures to evaluate the Company’s financial performance without the impact of unusual items that may obscure trends in the Company’s underlying performance. These disclosures should not be viewed as a substitute for financial measures determined in accordance with GAAP, nor are they necessarily comparable to non-GAAP performance measures that may be presented by other companies. Tangible common equity and Tier 1 capital ratios are non-GAAP measures. The Company calculates Tier 1 capital using current call report instructions. The Company’s management uses these measures to assess the quality of capital and believes that investors may find them useful in their evaluation of the Company. These capital measures may or may not be necessarily comparable to similar capital measures that may be presented by other companies.

This news release contains statements that constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The words “believe”, “estimate”, “expect”, “intend”, “anticipate” and similar expressions and variations thereof identify certain of such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the dates which they were made. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Readers are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties and that actual results may differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and are referred to the Company’s periodic

filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for a summary of certain factors that may impact the Company's results of operations and financial condition.