

## **Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc., Norfolk, VA, Announces the Appointment of its North Carolina Advisory Board Members**

**January 26, 2008**

*Norfolk, VA, January 26 / (NASDAQ: CWBS)* – Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc. today announced the appointment of its North Carolina Advisory Board Members. Serving on the Advisory Board will be Mr. Frank Gajar of Port O’ Call Restaurant, Mr. Clifton H. “Moe” Moore of Griggs Lumber, Mr. Daniel Khoury of Vandeventer Black, and Mr. Raju Uppalapati of RAVA Group. These are respected businesspeople that are very active and well regarded in the community.



Mr. Gajar received a bachelors degree in Economics from Cornell University and a MBA in finance from the University of North Carolina. Following his five year military service as a helicopter pilot he was a financial analyst with Norfolk Southern Railroad for seven years. Mr. Gajar currently is the owner of the Port O’ Call Restaurant and has been for the past 32 years. He is Treasurer and a Board member of the Dare Education Foundation and is a Board member of the Dare County Board of Health.

Mr. Moore served in the Army as an MP and after WWII attended East Carolina University where he received a B.S in Business and a A.B. in History. Mr. Moore has been with Griggs Lumber & Produce Company, Inc. since 1954 and has served as secretary/treasurer, co-owner and president until successfully selling the company to Carter Lumber Company. Mr. Moore has served on the Board of Trustees at East Carolina University, the original Planning Board for Currituck County, Stockholder Lumbermens Merchandising Corp and the Board of Education for Currituck County. In addition, he was President of the North Carolina Potato Association, a Member of the National Potato Council, President of Duck Woods Country Club from 1967-1969, serving on the Board for 20 years, a Member of Duck United Methodist Church, President of the 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Company in Lower Currituck County and the State of N.C. Operation Commission for 3 terms.

Mr. Khoury is a partner with Vandeventer Black and concentrates his law practice in commercial law, real estate transactions, international business and municipal law. He earned a B.S. from Ohio State University and a J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law. He is a Board-Certified Specialist in Real Estate Law for Business, Commercial and Industrial Transactions. Mr. Khoury is a member of the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association and is a member of the North Carolina Board of Legal Specialization. He has served as section chair of the Bar Association's Real Property Council, on the Real Property Curriculum Committee, and the Commission on Public Trust. As a councilor for the North Carolina State Bar, he was named to the Executive Committee and served as state ethics chair. He was a member of the North Carolina Board of Continuing Legal Education, where he served as Accreditations Committee chair and vice chair of the board. He has been a faculty member and lecturer of the North Carolina Bar association Real Estate and Residential Real Property seminars and is an Attorney Affiliate Member of the North Carolina Bankers Association. Currently, Mr. Khoury serves as Manteo Town Attorney and President of the Manteo Preservation Trust.

Mr. Uppalapati is a serial entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in Real Estate, Hospitality Management, Financial Management and Business start-ups. He is the Chairman and CEO of RAVA Group and CEO and partner of BD & A Realty & Construction, Inc., one of the largest Real Estate Developers in Eastern North Carolina. In addition, he is the founder of several successful business start-ups involved in real estate, hospitality, financial, venture capital and technology sectors. Mr. Uppalapati received his MA in International Management from the University of Texas, Dallas and his MBA from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. He is a past Director/Treasurer of Outer Banks Tourism Board, Director/Treasurer and Vice Chairman of Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce and has served on many other professional and charitable organizations.

Edward J. Woodard, Jr., CLBB, Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, commented, "We are very pleased to have these esteemed individuals as part of our team. Bank of the Commonwealth is embarking on a significant new period of growth on the Outer Banks and throughout Northeastern North Carolina. We currently have branch facilities in Waves on Hatteras Island, and Powells Point in Currituck County. Our Moyock branch is currently under construction with plans to open this spring. In addition, we just broke ground on our newest office in Kitty Hawk last week, with plans of opening this summer. This new branch in Kitty Hawk, our 19<sup>th</sup> location and our 4<sup>th</sup> location in Northeastern North Carolina, represents our commitment to the area and our belief in the people of Kitty Hawk and the Outer Banks. Our commitment goes beyond building a new facility, but also to building value-added relationships with our customers and the community."

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#### About Commonwealth Bankshares

Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc. is the parent of Bank of the Commonwealth which opened its first office in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1971, creating a community bank that was attuned to local issues and could respond to the needs of local citizens and businesses. Over the last three decades, the Company's growth has mirrored that of the communities it serves. Today, Bank of the Commonwealth has seventeen bank branches strategically located throughout the Hampton Roads and Northeastern North

Carolina regions and an extensive ATM network for added convenience. The Company continues to grow and develop new services, such as Online Banking and a Corporate Cash Management program and at the same time, maintain the longstanding commitment to personal service. Our slogan conveys our true corporate philosophy: “When you bank with us, you bank with your neighbors.” Additional information about the company, its products and services, can be found on the Web at [www.bankofthecommonwealth.com](http://www.bankofthecommonwealth.com).

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