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1500th BANK JOINS PROMONTORY NETWORK
Biloxi Bank Can Offer up to \$30 Million in FDIC Insurance Coverage

Palm Desert, CA – (Feb. 20) – Promontory Interfinancial Network today announced that Community Bank, Coast, in Biloxi, MS, became the 1500th bank to join the Network since its inception in January 2003.

“Community Bank in Biloxi has built a reputation for offering superior service,” said Steve Kinner, Senior Managing Director at the financial services company, which is based in Arlington, VA. “It is a pleasure to welcome it to the Network.”

The \$300-million asset bank -- a member of the American Bankers Association (ABA) -- has five offices in the Gulfport-Biloxi area. Kinner announced that the bank joined the Network at the American Bankers Association National Conference for Community Bankers. The ABA endorsed CDARS in 2003.

Banks that are members of the Promontory Network offer its unique, premier service, CDARS (pronounced “cedars”). With CDARS, banks can offer a customer up to \$30 million in Federal deposit insurance coverage.

“CDARS is the ‘Number One’ deposit gathering tool for community bankers, according to a recent survey that was released at this conference,” Kinner added. “Twenty one percent of the community bankers responding to that survey, conducted every year by the *ABA Banking Journal*, said they are using CDARS.

“More than one out of six FDIC-insured institutions in America today are members of the Promontory Network,” Kinner said.

Promontory waived its customary implementation fee for the Biloxi bank to join the Network because it participates in the \$1 Billion Gulf Coast Rebuilding Challenge, an unprecedented effort to channel long-term, private-sector funding to the Gulf Coast to promote rebuilding in the storm-ravaged region. Corporations and other organizations participating in the program benefit the devastated area by simply depositing money – eligible for up to \$30 million in FDIC insurance -- into local community banks in the region.

(MORE)

CDARS – a deposit placement service -- is also known as the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service.

When a customer places a large deposit with a Network Member, the bank arranges for the placement of funds into certificates of deposit issued by other Network banks, in increments of less than \$100,000 to ensure that both principal and interest are eligible for full FDIC protection. From the bank customers' point of view, CDARS is one-stop shopping. Regardless of the number of CDs they receive, customers work with only one bank, sign only one agreement, and receive one interest rate and one account statement.

Deposits placed through CDARS meet the pass-through insurance coverage guidelines established by the FDIC. The Bank of New York handles all recordkeeping for the CDARS service.
