News Release

For more information contact:
Dennis J. Zember Jr.
Executive Vice President & CFO
(229)-890-1111

AMERIS BANCORP ANNOUNCES 51% INCREASE IN SECOND QUARTER EARNINGS

AMERIS BANCORP (Nasdaq:ABCB), Moultrie, Georgia, and Edwin W. Hortman, Jr., President and CEO of Ameris Bancorp, today announced earnings for the quarter ended June 30, 2006. Ameris's second quarter 2006 earnings were $5.3 million, an increase of $1.8 million, or 51.43%, from the second quarter of 2005. Diluted earnings per share for the second quarter of 2006 were $.40, an increase of $.11, or 37.93%, over the same quarter a year ago. Earnings for the year to date ending June 30, 2006 were $10.4 million, or $0.79 per diluted share, an increase of 31.67% in diluted earnings per share when compared to the same period in 2005.

Ameris's second quarter performance was highlighted by the following significant items:

- Profitability Improvement: Return on average assets and return on average equity was 1.23% and 14.60%, respectively, for the second quarter of 2006.

- Balance Sheet Growth: Total assets for the second quarter were $1.78 billion, an increase of $478.2 million, or 36.64%, over the second quarter of 2005.

- Net interest income increased 40.61% over the same quarter in 2005, due to strong growth in earning assets and control of deposit costs.

- Non-recurring, pre-tax loss to restructure a portion of the investment portfolio of $315,000, or $0.02 per diluted share.

- Asset Quality improvements continued with non-performing assets down 13.27%, compared to levels at December 31, 2005.

- Efficiency ratio improved to 57.97% in the second quarter of 2006, compared to 62.84% in the same quarter of 2005.

- Announcement, subsequent to quarter end, of agreements for transfer of certain banking operations to result in one-time pre-tax gain of approximately $3.1 million, or $0.15 (net of tax) per diluted share.

Profitability

Return on assets for the second quarter of 2006 improved to 1.23%, compared to 1.10% for the same quarter in 2005. Return on equity for the same period improved to 14.60%, compared to 11.29% for the second quarter of 2005. Return on assets and return on equity were 1.21% and 13.78%, respectively for the year to date period in 2006, compared to 1.12% and 11.55% in 2005. Continued growth in earning assets, control of deposit costs, improvement in operating efficiency, and minimal loan charge-offs continue to fuel the Company's profitability.

Net Interest Income Expansion

Net interest income expanded in the second quarter to $17.7 million, an improvement of 40.6% over the same quarter in 2005. The Company's net interest margin was 4.48% in the second quarter of 2006, compared to 4.30% for the same quarter in 2005. The Company's net interest margin was 4.43% for the year to date period ending June 30, 2006, compared to 4.38% in 2005.

Yields on earning assets climbed to 7.56% during the second quarter of 2006 compared to 6.35% for the same quarter in 2005. Loan and investment yields benefited from rising short term interest rates, and the loan portfolio comprised a larger percentage of earning assets than in the past. Loans represented 80.55% of the Company's average earning assets during the second quarter of 2006, compared to 78.57% for the same quarter a year ago.

Deposit costs increased during the quarter, due to the interest rate environment as well as to aggressive deposit acquisition campaigns in several of the Company's growth markets. Even with an aggressive posture on rates in some markets, the Company's base of core deposits has been less rate sensitive and is a significant contributor to the improving net interest margin.

Balance Sheet Growth

Total assets at June 30, 2006 were $1.78 billion, an increase of $478 million, or 36.64%, over total assets reported at the same time in 2005. Strong growth in assets in many of Ameris's markets combined with the First National acquisition in December 2005 contributed to the increase. Ameris's internal growth rate in loans, excluding acquisitions, was 18.1% when compared to balances at June 30, 2005.

Deposits grew at a slightly slower pace than loans, increasing to $1.45 billion at June 30, 2006, compared to $1.04 billion at June 30, 2005. Deposits at quarter end represented 89.56% of our total funding compared to 88.30% a year ago. Excluding the deposits acquired in the First National transaction, the Company's growth rate in deposits was 16.5% when compared to June 30, 2005 balances. The Company has continued its efforts to improve deposit growth to a level that can match the attractive growth in loans. This focus includes prioritizing sales goals and initiatives, better measurement of expectations and various other strategies to improve deposit growth rates. Focused efforts in all markets have been supported by aggressive sales and media campaigns in key markets where growth potential is considered to be good, including Jacksonville, Florida.

Credit Quality and the Provision for Loan Losses

The provision for loan losses in the second quarter of 2006 amounted to $901,000, compared to the $753,000 recorded in the second quarter of 2005. The Company's allowance for loan losses was 1.76% and 1.72% of total loans at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The increased loan loss provision expense related primarily to loan growth experienced in the quarter as loan net charge-offs were again minimal. Annualized net charge-offs as a percentage of loans for the second quarter was 0.05%, compared to 0.07% for the same quarter in 2005. Year to date net charge-offs as a percentage of loans through June 30, 2006 were 0.03%, compared to net recoveries of 0.02% for the same period in 2005.

Non-performing assets as a percentage of total loans and foreclosed assets were $9.3 million, or 0.70%, as a percentage of loans and foreclosed assets at June 30, 2006, compared to $10.7 million, or 0.90%, as a percentage of loans and foreclosed assets at December 31, 2005. Non-performing assets decreased $1.4 million from December 31, 2005, reflecting primarily from a decrease in non-accrual loans.

Efficiency Improvements

Ameris's efficiency ratio continued to improve, mostly through strong gains in revenue. The Company's efficiency ratio improved to 57.97% during the second quarter of 2006, compared to 62.84% in the second quarter of 2005. Non-interest income (excluding the loss on investment sales) increased 8.4% to $3.9 million, compared to $3.6 million for the same quarter in 2005. Increases in service charges on deposit accounts were responsible for most of the increase, moving higher by 11.5% compared to the same period in 2005.

Non-interest expense increased to $12.3 million during the second quarter of 2006, an increase of 21.4% over the same quarter in 2005. Increased advertising and marketing expenses, professional fees and the merger of First National late in 2005 accounted for the majority of this increase. The Company anticipates little improvement from the current level of efficiency as efforts to build and staff additional branches in several growth markets will likely replace most of the savings generated from improvements in its existing operational structure.

One time Gain

In a press release dated July 13, 2006, Ameris announced various definitive agreements for the transfer of certain limited banking operations to three unrelated financial institutions. As a result, the Company anticipates a pre-tax gain of approximately $3.1 million, or $0.15 (net of tax) per share. The transactions are subject to various regulatory approvals and are expected to close before December 31, 2006.

Ameris Bancorp is headquartered in Moultrie, Georgia, and has 42 locations in Georgia, Alabama and northern Florida.

****
***

Ameris Bancorp Common Stock is quoted on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol "ABCB". The preceding 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.*