NEWS RELEASE

Ameris Bank Received Preferred Lender Status with the Small Business Administration

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MOULTRIE, Ga., April 26, 2013 /**PRNewswire**/ -- Vice President and Government Guaranteed Lending Manager Laurence Leopold recently announced that the Small Business Administration awarded Ameris Bank Preferred Lender (PLP) status. Ameris Bank was carefully considered for PLP status based on prior record in working with the SBA and Ameris Bank's ability to demonstrate a high proficiency in processing and servicing SBA-guaranteed loans.

Ameris Bank designation to PLP status will allow for faster loan approval and closing time for SBA loans. Ameris Bank SBA Business Development Officers have years of experience in providing financing assistance to qualifying businesses. Acquiring SBA financing through Ameris Bank offers flexible terms to improve repayment ability, means to preserve working capital, fast loan processing, competitive rates with terms as long as 25 years, one-on-one service, and as low as 10% equity requirements. For more information about SBA government guaranteed lending through Ameris Bank, call toll-free 888.749.2435.

Ameris Bank is headquartered in Moultrie, Georgia, and has locations in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. The parent company, Ameris Bancorp is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol ABCB. For more information about Ameris Bank, please visit us on the web at **www.amerisbank.com**.

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