



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Steven E. Wilson
Chief Financial Officer
(304)424-8704

United Bankshares Declares First Quarter Dividend

PARKERSBURG, WV--United Bankshares, Inc. (NASDAQ: UBSI) today announced that the board of directors declared a first quarter 2005 dividend of 26¢ per share for shareholders of record as of March 11, 2005. This is a 4% increase over the 25¢ paid in the first quarter of 2004.

The dividend payout of approximately \$11.2 million on 43.0 million shares is payable April 1, 2005. The year 2005 is expected to be the 32nd consecutive year of dividend increases to United shareholders. The annualized 2005 dividend of \$1.04 equates to a yield of approximately 3.1% based on recent UBSI market prices.

United earlier today announced record earnings for the fourth quarter and year of 2004. Fourth quarter earnings were \$25.5 million or 58¢ per diluted share while earnings for the year 2004 were \$97.8 million or \$2.22 per share. United's earnings performance produced an annualized return on average assets of 1.60% and an annualized return on average shareholders' equity of 15.90% for the fourth quarter of 2004. For the year of 2004, the return on average assets was 1.55% and return on average shareholders' equity was 15.56%.

United Bankshares stock is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Market System under the quotation symbol "UBSI".