

## **North East Bancshares, Inc. Shareholders Approve Merger with F.N.B. Corporation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North East, PA – (September 22, 2005) At a special shareholders meeting held Tuesday, September 20, 2005, shareholders of North East Bancshares, Inc., overwhelmingly voted in favor of the merger with F.N.B. Corporation (NYSE: FNB).

"The shareholders of North East Bancshares, Inc., have expressed confidence that this merger is in the best interests of all involved," said F.N.B. Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer Stephen J. Gurgovits. "As part of a larger organization, shareholders, employees, and customers of North East Bancshares, Inc.'s, banking affiliate The National Bank of North East, will reap the rewards of lower costs, a more extensive array of financial services, and a shared commitment to customer service unparalleled in our region."

All regulatory approvals for the merger were granted in advance of Tuesday's shareholder vote. The merger of The National Bank of North East will be completed at the close of business on October 7, 2005.

About North East Bancshares, Inc:

North East Bancshares, Inc., parent company of The National Bank of North East, is a \$69 million financial services company founded in 1908. The company operates four banking and lending offices in Erie County, Pennsylvania.

About F.N.B. Corporation:

F.N.B. Corporation, headquartered in Hermitage, PA has total assets of \$5.7 billion. F.N.B. is a leading provider of banking, wealth management, insurance, and consumer finance services in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, where it owns and operates First National Bank of Pennsylvania, First National Trust Company, First National Investment Services Company, LLC, F.N.B. Investment Advisors, Inc., First National Insurance Agency, LLC, and Regency Finance Company. It also operates consumer finance offices in Tennessee.

Mergent Inc., a leading provider of business and financial information on publicly traded companies, has recognized F.N.B. as a Dividend Achiever. This annual recognition is based on the Corporation's outstanding record of increased dividend performance. The Corporation has consistently increased dividend payments for 32 consecutive years.

The common stock of F.N.B. Corporation trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FNB. Investor information can be obtained on F.N.B.'s website at [www.fnbcorporation.com](http://www.fnbcorporation.com).

This press release of F.N.B. Corporation and the reports it files with the Securities and Exchange Commission often contain "forward-looking statements" relating to present or future trends or factors affecting the banking industry and specifically the financial operations, markets and products of F.N.B. Corporation. These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. There are a number of important factors that could cause future results to differ materially from historical performance or projected performance. These include, but are not limited to: (1) a significant increase in competitive pressures among depository institutions; (2) changes in the interest rate environment that may reduce interest margins; (3) changes in prepayment speeds, loan sale volumes, charge-offs and loan loss provisions; (4) less favorable than expected general economic conditions; (5) legislative or regulatory changes that may adversely affect the businesses in which F.N.B. is engaged; (6) changes in the securities markets or (7) risk factors mentioned in the reports and registration statements F.N.B. Corporation files with the Securities and Exchange Commission. F.N.B. undertakes no obligation to release revisions to these forward-looking statements or to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this release.

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