

**MAGNOLIA STATE BANK SELECTED TWO YEARS IN A ROW AS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO
WORK BY MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS JOURNAL**

Receiving this recognition two years in a row didn't happen by chance. "Our employees continue to be the driving force for our success," said Thomas E. Brown, Chairman of the Board of Magnolia State Bank (MSB). Headquartered in Jasper County, Magnolia State Bank understands that the employees are the greatest public relations tool it has, and the strong message of employee-centered, community focused continues to resonate across Mississippi. "Magnolia State Bank has received this award a total of 3 times, first in 2009 and back-to-back in 2011 and 2012."

"Our success is the sum of small efforts repeated by our employees day in and day out," Brown said. "Of our 99 employees, over half of our employees were hired from other banking institutions. Magnolia has 30 employees with over 780 years of banking experience. That is a tremendous asset for Magnolia State Bank and our customers. We put that experience to work every day for our customers. I've always understood that it's our employees that fuel this engine and it all begins in the hiring process," Brown added. "In any business, you end up with what you start with and we have made an extra effort to hire people with a strong work ethic."

Magnolia State Bank has grown tremendously since the first branch opened in 1975 but the company has not forgotten the commitment it made to the community. Recently, Deputy Tony Stiles, Jones County Sheriff's Department, was injured in the line of duty. Magnolia State Bank immediately became involved with efforts to collect money for medical expenses through its Hope Fund. Customers and the general public can easily make donations to the Hope Fund through any Magnolia State Bank branch. All the proceeds deposited are given to the family to help cover their

expenses. “We have seen such an outpouring of support for Deputy Stiles,” said Brown. “Our employees and customers are truly concerned about their community and making sure we help make Mississippi a better place.”

Charlotte Aycock, Human Resources Director, understands the importance of providing a quality work environment for its employees. “At Magnolia State Bank, we understand that family friendly companies improve loyalty. That carries over from the pride employees take in their jobs to the type of service customers receive. Being among the best certainly starts at the top, and Mr. Brown should earn his own award. He is so understanding and makes sure that our employees put families first just as he does. Magnolia State Bank offers a generous benefits package for employees and ensures that someone not having enough accumulated time off doesn’t stand in the way in times of serious illness or family emergencies.”

“Our employees continue to realize that MSB is one of the best places to work because: the overall atmosphere is excellent; employees are treated like family; management understands the needs of its employees in balancing work and family; employees support each other during good times and sad times; and bank compensation and benefits rival the best,” said Aycock.

Brown knows that loyalty is important, not just from your employees but from your customers. “It is just as important as perks and salaries to know that your employer “has your back” in times of need, and MSB does.”

President & CEO Marcus Robinson understands the importance of relationships. It was his relationship with Thomas Brown that brought him to MSB. “I can clearly say the reason the bank is where it is and it can be is summed up in two words: Thomas Brown,” according to Marcus Robinson. “I came to work here based on my relationship with Thomas Brown.” With 27 years of banking experience, Robinson was named president and CEO of Magnolia State Bank in 2009.

In November 2011, Magnolia expanded by opening its first branch in Flowood, following the acquisition of Advantage Mortgage. “This addition to Magnolia State Bank was a perfect fit. The banking business in Flowood was built around the mortgage operation, much like we did successfully in Hattiesburg through our acquisition of Prime Mortgage in 2009. We are very pleased that we can now offer our customers these extended services beyond the traditional mortgage offerings,” said Robinson.

Magnolia State Bank once again received the 5 Star rating, highest rating given to U.S. banks, from BauerFinancial. Bauer Financial has been reporting on the stability, strength and performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983.

The bank was chartered in 1975 as Jasper County Bank with its one office located in Bay Springs. In 1976, a branch was opened in Heidelberg, in 1989, a Taylorsville office was added and one was opened in Laurel in 2005. Two years later, MSB opened a branch in Petal. In 2009, MSB completed the purchase & merger of Prime Mortgage Company of Hattiesburg, one of the premier mortgage companies in South Mississippi. Brown stated that the Prime Mortgage purchase was a perfect fit due to it being a family owned business for 20 years, organized and professionally operated by Dick and Wanda Munton. That same year MSB opened a bank in the same office with Prime Mortgage Company, and also hired Robinson as president and CEO.

Thomas Brown was elected president and CEO in 1979 and in 1999 he was elected chairman of the board. In year 2000, to position itself for growth and expansion into other market areas in Mississippi, the bank’s name was changed from Jasper County Bank to Magnolia State Bank.

Because of its excellent growth, consistent outstanding performance and contributions to the communities it serves, Magnolia State Bank has received much recognition and excellent

ratings from regulatory authorities, performance review organizations and local government officials. The bank has 99 employees, \$250 million in deposits, \$205 million in loans and \$280 million in assets.