



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FDIC APPROVES DEPOSIT ASSUMPTION OF MERCHANTS MARINE BANK, PORT ISABEL, TEXAS

The Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has approved the assumption of the deposit liabilities of Merchants Marine Bank, Port Isabel, Texas, by Firstbank, Los Fresnos, Texas.

The failed bank's sole office will reopen on Friday, March 17, 1989, as a branch of Firstbank and its depositors automatically will become depositors of the assuming bank, subject to approval by the appropriate court.

Merchants Marine Bank, with total assets of \$28.7 million, along with its affiliate, Island Bank, South Padre Island, Texas, was closed on Thursday, March 16, 1989, by Kenneth W. Littlefield, Texas Banking Commissioner, and the FDIC was named receiver.

Firstbank will assume about \$27.9 million in 4,600 deposit accounts and has agreed to pay the FDIC a purchase premium of \$505,000. It also will purchase certain of the failed bank's loans and other assets for \$19.2 million. To facilitate the transaction, the FDIC will advance about \$8.2 million to the assuming bank and will retain assets of the failed bank with a book value of about \$9.5 million.

The Board of Directors approved the deposit assumption under its authority to do so whenever it determines that such a transaction will reduce the potential loss to the FDIC.

The FDIC will recover a portion of its outlay through the liquidation of assets not transferred to the assuming bank. In this respect, the FDIC notes that its claim will have priority over the claims of nondepositor creditors and shareholders of the closed bank.

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