



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Shaun P. Merriman
941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Names W. Roy Owen Senior Vice President

September 12, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced today W. Roy Owen has joined the company as Senior Vice President and Manatee County Area Executive. In this capacity, he heads the commercial banking effort for Gateway Bank in Manatee County and will provide full relationship banking needs to our customers.

He joins Gateway Bank with twenty-eight years commercial lending and credit experience, including fourteen years in management positions with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

In making the announcement, Merriman stated, “Roy Owen is a fifth generation Manatee County resident with vast commercial banking and credit experience.” Merriman continued, “Due to his extensive understanding and experience in credit and lending over decades of varying economic times, Roy will be able to provide knowledgeable and time-tested guidance and advice to the business community of Manatee County.”

W. Roy Owen is a native of Manatee County and a graduate of Florida State University with a major in Finance.

Mr. Owen has served on a number of community boards and has been a member of Palmetto Rotary Club for eleven years.

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida: Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and consumer banking customers in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

The newly opened Manatee Avenue location is the second Gateway Bank location on the central west coast. The Manatee Avenue banking center is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West in Bradenton. Gateway Bank operates a full service banking location in the Center Pointe Plaza at 2033 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, one block east of South Washington Boulevard. The bank will open a third location at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road and University Parkway this fall.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett – Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. “Bud” Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Capital, LLC; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.; and Jan E. Smith, Jan Smith and Company.

Further information regarding Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO at 941-306-0105.

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