



Photos attached

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Monarch Bank Promotes Lynette P. Harris to Chief Financial Officer

CHESAPEAKE, Va., May 13, 2009 – (NASDAQ: MNRK) The Board of Directors of Monarch Financial Holdings, Inc. and Monarch Bank announced the promotion and election of Lynette P. Harris to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Monarch Bank. She was also promoted to Chief Accounting Officer for Monarch Financial Holdings, Inc., the parent of Monarch Bank.

“Lynette has been an invaluable asset to Monarch since she joined us and we look forward to her excelling in this new role,” stated Brad E. Schwartz, Chief Executive Officer of Monarch Bank.

Harris has 29 years of accounting and banking experience and has been with the company since 2004. She previously served as First Vice President and Controller for Monarch Bank. Harris has an undergraduate degree from Virginia Wesleyan College and also attended Old Dominion University. She is a certified public accountant.

About Monarch Bank

Monarch Financial Holdings, Inc. is the one-bank holding company for Monarch Bank. Monarch Bank is a community bank with two offices in Chesapeake, four offices in Virginia Beach, and two offices in Norfolk, Virginia. OBX Bank, a division of Monarch Bank, operates one office in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Services are also provided through over fifty ATMs located in the South Hampton Roads area and the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and “Monarch Online” consumer and business internet banking (monarchbank.com and OBXBank.com). Monarch Mortgage and our affiliated mortgage companies have twelve offices with locations in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach (2), Fredericksburg, Suffolk, and Richmond, Virginia as well as Rockville (2), Waldorf, Crofton and Greenbelt, Maryland. Our subsidiaries/divisions include Monarch Bank, OBX Bank, Monarch Mortgage (secondary mortgage origination), Coastal Home Mortgage, LLC (secondary mortgage origination), Home Mortgage Solutions, LLC (secondary mortgage origination), Virginia Asset Group, LLC (investment and insurance solutions), Real Estate Security Agency, LLC (title agency) and Monarch Capital, LLC (commercial mortgage brokerage). The shares of Monarch Financial Holdings, Inc. are publicly traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol “MNRK”.

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