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FIRST RELIANCE BANK NAMED ONE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S FASTEST-GROWING COMPANIES 2004

November 9, 2004 Florence, SC- First Reliance Bank is one of 25 companies from across the state ranked in the Top 25 for *South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies 2004*, co-sponsored by Elliott Davis, LLC, the largest CPA firm headquartered in South Carolina, and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. First Reliance Bank, the only bank in the state to achieve the top 25 recognition, was ranked at number 16. *South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies* is the state's first recognition initiative that focused on the achievements of emerging privately and publicly-owned businesses and their contribution to the state's economy.

First Reliance Bank received the *South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies* Top 25 Achievement Award at a special reception and luncheon hosted by Elliott Davis and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce on Friday, November 5th in Charleston, South Carolina. The invitation-only event coincided with publication of the 2004 *South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies* list, as part of a major feature in the annual *South Carolina Business* magazine. Accepting the award on behalf of First Reliance Bank was Sherree Baumgardner, Marketing & Special Projects Manager.

"We are honored to be recognized for such a notable achievement. While our long term strategies position us for continued growth, we would not have been successful in reaching our goals thus far without the contributions and support of each member of the First Reliance Bank team." said First Reliance Bank President and CEO, Rick Saunders.

Nominees for *South Carolina's Fastest-Growing Companies 2004* represented a cross section of the state's businesses in terms of years in business, size, industry sector, geographical location and more.

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