

ATLANTIC CAPITAL BANK

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Douglas L. Williams
President and CEO
(404.995.6050)**

ATLANTIC CAPITAL BANK DECIDES CAPITAL PURCHASE PROGRAM FUNDS ARE NOT NEEDED Agrees to Participate in the FDIC's Transaction Account Guarantee Program

--Bank possesses sufficient capital; is actively lending to qualified borrowers--

Atlanta, Georgia, December 18, 2008 - Atlantic Capital Bancshares, Inc., parent of Atlantic Capital Bank (Atlantic Capital) announced today that it has determined not to apply for funds available through the Capital Purchase Program, part of the U.S. Treasury's Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP). The Capital Purchase Program is designed to provide U.S. financial institutions with capital and increase the flow of financing to U.S. businesses and customers.

"We are pleased that Atlantic Capital Bank currently has the capital resources to opt out of the U.S. Treasury's Capital Purchase Program," said Doug Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic Capital Bancshares. "Atlantic Capital Bank is one of the most generously capitalized banks in the United States and has sufficient capital to grow and maintain that distinction for the foreseeable future. Additionally, we are actively lending to qualified borrowers, so none of the reasons for the Capital Purchase Program apply to Atlantic Capital." said Williams.

Although Atlantic Capital Bank has elected to opt out of the TARP program, it will participate in one portion of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program which consists of two components: (1) the Debt Guarantee program under which the FDIC will guarantee newly-issued senior unsecured debt of insured depository institutions and their holding companies; and, (2) the Transaction Account Guarantee program which provides unlimited guarantees of certain non-interest bearing transaction accounts through December 31, 2009.

Atlantic Capital has chosen to participate in The Transaction Account Guarantee component. As a result all non-interest bearing transaction account balances at Atlantic Capital will be fully guaranteed by the FDIC until the expiration of the program.

About Atlantic Capital Bank

Atlantic Capital Bank was formed in May 2007, with initial capitalization of \$125.3 million, making it the largest independent *de novo* bank in U.S. history. At September 30, 2008, Atlantic Capital Bank's tier 1 leverage ratio was over 30% compared to the regulatory minimum of 5% for a well capitalized institution. The Bank is designed to serve the diverse financial needs of growing middle market companies, commercial real estate developers and affluent individuals and families. For more information, visit www.atlcapbank.com.

Important Cautionary Statement about Forward-Looking Statements

We make forward-looking statements in this press release that are subject to risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements include information about our capital resources, sources of financing, growth prospects, our election not to participate in the capital raising programs described above, our participation in the Transaction Account Guarantee program, guarantees on our non-interest bearing accounts and other financial items that are based on our beliefs as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to us. Also, when we use the words "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "estimate," "may," "will," "should," "would," "could," "project," "predict," or similar expressions, we are making forward-looking statements. Many possible events or factors could affect our future capitalization, sources of financing, financial results and performance. This could cause our capitalization, need for financing, results or performance to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Management believes that these forward-looking statements are reasonable; however, you should not place undue reliance on such statements and we cannot guarantee you that these expectations actually will be achieved. These statements are based on current expectations and speak only as of the date of such statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of future events, new information or otherwise. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by our forward-looking statements include the following:

- our lack of operating history;
- our dependence on key personnel and our need to hire and retain additional personnel;
- our rapid growth;
- our initial lack of profitability and the risk that we may not effectively implement our business strategy;
- changes in the interest rate environment that may reduce operating margins;
- the inability to obtain additional capital on terms favorable to us;
- worse than expected economic or business conditions;
- the dependence of our business on technology;
- the Bank's lack of loan loss experience may result in our underestimating our allowance for loan losses; and
- legislative or regulatory changes.