

Old Republic Announces Regular First Quarter Dividend of 17 Cents

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CHICAGO, Feb. 26 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Old Republic International Corporation (NYSE: ORI) announced today that its Board of Directors approved the payment of the regular quarterly cash dividend of 17 cents per common share. The dividend is payable on March 13, 2009 to shareholders of record on March 4, 2009.

The latest cash dividend payment is set at the higher rate initially approved for the second quarter of 2008. The rate reflects the Board of Directors' current evaluation of the capital needs of Old Republic's insurance subsidiaries and of the indicated earnings sustainability of its General Insurance segment.

About Old Republic

Chicago-based Old Republic International Corporation is an insurance holding company whose subsidiaries market, underwrite and provide risk management services for a wide variety of coverages primarily in the property and liability, mortgage guaranty, and title insurance fields. One of the nation's 50 largest publicly owned insurance organizations, Old Republic has assets of approximately \$13.2 billion and shareholders' equity of \$3.7 billion or \$15.91 per share. Its current stock market valuation is approximately \$2.1 billion, or \$9.14 per share. Cash dividends have been paid without interruption for the past 68 years, and the dividend rate has been increased in each of the past 26 years.

For the latest news releases and other corporate documents on Old Republic International visit www.oldrepublic.com

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