



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECB Names J. L. “Lee” Bunch III as Vice President and Commercial Market Executive

Wilmington, N.C. – Charles Evans, Senior Vice President and Commercial Banking Executive for The East Carolina Bank (ECB), announced that Lee Bunch has been named Vice President and Commercial Market Executive for the Wilmington area.

“Lee’s experience and community involvement makes him an excellent choice for our growing presence in the Wilmington market,” stated Evans. “This strategic positioning will prove beneficial as we continue to grow in this solid market and give our business clients the right resources they need to support their business and the local economy.”

Bunch began his career in the hospitality business and moved into the financial services industry in 1997. In 2005 he was named Vice President and Market Executive with Bank of Wilmington. Most recently, he provided commercial financial services for First Federal, where he held the role of Vice President and Commercial Client Manager.

“I am proud to be working with The East Carolina Bank team,” stated Bunch. “Excellence in Community Banking (ECB) is my joy and belief. I am excited to be bringing this expertise to customers in southeastern North Carolina.”

Bunch is a graduate of UNC Wilmington with a BS degree in Business Administration and an MBA. He is a member of Grace United Methodist Church downtown and serves on the Finance Committee. Bunch is also an Eagle Scout serving on the Governing

Executive Board of the Cape Fear Council Boy Scouts of America, and he is Treasurer & Committee Representative for both Cub Scout Pack 225 and Boy Scout Troop 225. Additionally, Bunch serves on the UNCW Greek Advisory Board and is Alumnus Advisor for Kappa Sigma International Fraternity. As founder of the Southeastern NC Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, he currently serves as Treasurer and is Treasurer of the Pender County Ducks Unlimited Chapter.

A native of eastern North Carolina, Bunch and his wife, Iva, have a ten year old son, Logan, and a six year old daughter, Ali.

About ECB Bancorp, Inc.

ECB Bancorp, Inc. is a bank holding company, headquartered in Engelhard, North Carolina, whose wholly-owned subsidiary, The East Carolina Bank, is a state-chartered, independent community bank insured by the FDIC. The Bank provides a full range of financial services through its 25 offices covering eastern North Carolina from Currituck to Ocean Isle Beach and Greenville to Hatteras. The Bank also provides Mortgage, Wealth Management, and Insurance Services through the Bank's licensed agents. The Company's common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol "ECBE". More information can be obtained by visiting ECB's web site at www.MyECB.com.

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Lee Bunch
Vice President
Commercial Market Executive
Wilmington, NC area