



COMMONWEALTH BANKSHARES, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Edward J. Woodard, Jr., CLBB, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, P.O. Box 1177, Norfolk, Virginia 23501, Phone: (757) 446-6904 or ewoodard@bocmail.net

**Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc., Norfolk, VA, Announces the Election of
Raju V. Uppalapati to its Board of Directors**

Norfolk, Va. – (September 24, 2007) – (NASDAQ: CWBS) Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc. today announced the election of Raju V. Uppalapati to its Board of Directors. Mr. Uppalapati is a serial entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in Real Estate, Hospitality Management, Financial Management and Business start-ups. He is the Chairman and CEO of RAVA Group of companies and CEO and partner of BD&A Realty & Construction, Inc., one of the largest Real Estate Developers in Eastern North Carolina. In addition, he is the founder of several successful business start-ups involved in Real Estate, Hospitality, Financial, Venture Capital and Technology sectors. Mr. Uppalapati brings to the Board a wealth of experience and knowledge of financial and business management. He received his MA in International Management from the University of Texas, Dallas, and his MBA from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Uppalapati is a past Director/Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, and he has served on many other professional and charitable organizations. Mr. Uppalapati currently lives in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, with his wife and two children.

About Commonwealth Bankshares

Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc. is the parent of Bank of the Commonwealth which opened its first office in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1971, creating a community bank that was attuned to local issues and could respond to the needs of local citizens and businesses. Over the last three decades, the Company's growth has mirrored that of the communities it serves. Today, Bank of the Commonwealth has seventeen bank branches strategically located throughout the Hampton Roads and Northeastern North Carolina regions and an extensive ATM network for added convenience. The Company continues to grow and develop new services, such as Online Banking and a Corporate Cash Management program and at the same time, maintain the longstanding commitment to personal service. Our slogan conveys our true corporate philosophy: "When you bank with us, you bank with your neighbors." Bank of the Commonwealth offers trust services through a division of the Bank, insurance services through its subsidiary BOC Insurance Agencies of Hampton Roads, Inc., title services through its subsidiary Executive Title Center, mortgage funding services through its subsidiary Bank of the Commonwealth Mortgage and investment related services through its subsidiary, Commonwealth Financial Advisors, LLC.* Additional information about the company, its products and services, can be found on the Web at www.bankofthecommonwealth.com.

*Securities and Insurance Products are: not insured by FDIC or any Federal Government Agency ; May Lose Value ; Not a Deposit of or Guaranteed by the Bank or any Bank Affiliate. Securities and insurance offered through BI Investments, LLC, member NASD and SIPC. BI Investments is associated with Bank of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth Financial Advisors, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of the Commonwealth. This press release contains forward-looking statements. Words such as "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "should," "will," variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management's current beliefs as to the expected outcomes of future events and are not guarantees of future performance. These statements involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict with regard to timing, extent, likelihood and degree of occurrence. Therefore, actual results and outcomes may materially differ from what may be expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause a difference include, among others: changes in the national and local economies or market conditions; changes in interest rates, deposit flows, loan demand and asset quality, including real estate and other collateral values;

changes in banking regulations and accounting principals, policies or guidelines; and the impact of competition from traditional or new sources. These and other factors that may emerge could cause decisions and actual results to differ materially from current expectations. Commonwealth Bankshares, Inc. undertakes no obligation to revise, update, or clarify forward-looking statements to reflect events or conditions after the date of this release.

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