

**For release:  
December 13, 2002**

**Contact:**

**Charles B. Henderson  
(314) 444-8311**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the application by Mercantile Bancorp, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, to increase its ownership from 19.86 percent up to 29.00 percent of New Frontier Bancshares, Inc., St. Charles, Missouri, and thereby indirectly increase its ownership of New Frontier Bank, St. Charles, Missouri.

\* \* \*