

Contact:

John W. Tietjen
Chief Financial Officer
Sterling Bancorp
Tel: (212) 826-8555
Fax: (212) 421-0438

Andrea M. Billick
Public Relations
The Ruth Group
Tel: (646) 536-7001
abillick@theruthgroup.com

NY GIANTS AND STERLING NATIONAL BANK TEAM UP TO BENEFIT CANCER RESEARCH

All Star Evening at Mickey Mantle's Raises Funds for Two Leading Foundations



March 15, 2001-NEW YORK- Sterling National Bank, a subsidiary of Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL) and players from the New York Giants hosted a charity fundraiser at Mickey Mantle's Restaurant last night, raising contributions for cancer research. The event was one of a series of Sterling-sponsored fundraisers to benefit charitable causes.

The evening featured past and present members of the New York Giants, including Bart Oates, Jim Burt, OJ Anderson, Joe Morris and Billy Ard. Money was raised through ticket sales as well as the live and silent auction of

items such as all expense paid trip for two to a Giants away game, two passes to the Sports Illustrated swimsuit party and autographed Giants memorabilia.

All proceeds from the event will benefit The Colleen Giblin Foundation, an organization to fund children's neurological and cancer research and the Octoberwoman Foundation for breast cancer research at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

Sterling National Bank has maintained a strong commitment to raising funds for charitable causes, predominantly supporting organizations in the greater New York community. "Sterling National Bank is proud to team up with the New York Giants and Mickey Mantle's Restaurant to support cancer research," said Louis J. Cappelli, Chairman of Sterling Bancorp. "This event is part of our ongoing effort to give back to local communities and support global causes." The company's philanthropic agenda has consisted of not only the sport charity fundraisers but has continuously supported the financial needs of non-profit organizations and assisted them in effectively meeting their banking and financing requirements.

This is the third annual sport charity fundraiser sponsored by Sterling National Bank. Sterling National Bank's philanthropic agenda has consisted of not only the sport charity fundraisers but it has continuously evaluated the financial needs of non-profit organizations and assisted them in effectively meeting their banking and financing requirements. This event could not have been possible without the charitable efforts of the following supporters:

- Sterling National Mortgage
- David Berdon & Company
- Forest Electric
- KPMG
- Neuberger Berman

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Sterling Bancorp (NYSE: STL) is a banking and financial services company with assets of \$1.3 billion. Its principal banking subsidiary is Sterling National Bank, founded in 1929. Sterling provides a wide range of products and services, including commercial lending, asset-based finance, factoring/accounts receivable management, international trade financing, commercial and residential mortgage lending, equipment leasing, trust and estate administration and investment management services. Sterling has operations in the metropolitan New York and Washington, DC areas, as well as Virginia and other mid-Atlantic states and conducts business throughout the U.S. More information is available on the company's Website, <http://www.sterlingbancorp.com>.

The Octoberwoman Foundation is dedicated to supporting breast cancer gene research at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. Its funds are raised by events and direct contributions. For more information, contact: Judy DiBella 201-391-0792, or write the foundation at P.O. Box 546, Park Ridge, NJ 07656. Visit our web site: www.octoberwoman.org

The Colleen Giblin Foundation raises funds to find cures for the many children who suffer from neurological diseases and cancers of the brain and spinal cord. The Foundation supports the Colleen Giblin Laboratories at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, which has assembled one of the most promising research teams ever to specialize in childhood neurological diseases. For more information, or to become a volunteer, contact Meg Minassian, Executive Director, at (201) 262-2463; or visit our website at www.colleengiblinfound.org

Mickey Mantle's, America's legendary sports themed restaurant, located on New York City's famous Central Park South has been serving New Yorkers and tourists from around the world since 1998. The Daily News rates their world-renowned hickory smoked ribs #1 in New York. The establishment serves lunch and dinner and offers special event banquet services on and off the premises. The restaurant has a long-standing commitment to the New York Community and has hosted charity fundraisers netting over \$12 Million dollars. For more information please contact Larry Tart, Director of Special Events. Mickey Mantle's Restaurant, 42 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019 or at (212)-688-7777