

**Exhibit 99**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STAGE STORES BOARD DECLARES QUARTERLY CASH DIVIDEND**

HOUSTON, TX, February 26, 2010 - Stage Stores, Inc. (NYSE: SSI) today announced that its Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of five cents per share on the Company's common stock, payable on March 24, 2010 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 9, 2010.

Stage Stores, Inc. brings nationally recognized brand name apparel, accessories, cosmetics and footwear for the entire family to small and mid-size towns and communities through 758 stores located in 39 states. The Company operates its stores under the five names of Bealls, Goody's, Palais Royal, Peebles and Stage. For more information about Stage Stores, visit the Company's web site at [www.stagestoresinc.com](http://www.stagestoresinc.com).

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