

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
March 01, 2006

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **February 27, 2006**

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**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Washington**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**0-20800**  
(Commission File Number)

**91-1572822**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(509) 458-3711

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  
  - o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.**

(b) Effective February 27, 2006, Thomas H. Boone has retired from the Sterling Financial Corporation ( Sterling ) Board of Directors. Mr. Boone will continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Sterling s wholly owned subsidiary, Sterling Savings Bank.

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On February 28, 2006, Sterling Financial Corporation issued a press release announcing a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.06 per share of common stock. The text of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) The following exhibit is filed herewith:

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Exhibit Description</b>
99.1	Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated February 28, 2006.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
(Registrant)

March 1, 2006  
Date

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne  
**Daniel G. Byrne**  
Executive Vice President, Assistant Secretary, and

