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FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/  
Form 8-K  
January 20, 2010

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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):  
January 12, 2010

THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

-----  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MISSISSIPPI  
-----  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

33-94288  
-----  
(Commission  
File Number)

64-08621  
-----  
(IRS empl  
Identific

6480 US Highway 98 West  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

39402  
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(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (601) 268-8998

Not applicable  
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(Registrant's former address of principal executive offices)

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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; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

Director Ralph T. Simmons has announced that he is retiring from the Board of Directors of The First Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company"), effective January 1, 2010. First Bancshares thanks Mr. Simmons for his service to the Company and wishes him well. A copy of a letter from Mr. Simmons is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

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

(c) Exhibits.

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99.1 Letter from Director Ralph T. Simmons announcing his retirement from the Board of Directors of The First Bancshares, Inc.

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**Ralph T. Simmons**  
1808 7th Ave.  
Laurel, MS 39440

January 12, 2010

Board of Directors  
The First, A National Banking Association  
The First Bancshares, Inc.  
P. O. Box 15549  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404

Gentlemen:

Please accept this as request for Director Emeritus status and retirement from the Board of Directors of The First, A National Banking Association and The First Bancshares, Inc, which is effective January 1, 2010. After more than ten years of dedicated service to the bank, the company and its shareholders, I will be focusing on other commitments. I have enjoyed my time on the boards and look forward to continued service as Director Emeritus. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ralph T. Simmons

Ralph T. Simmons

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SIGNATURES

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

Dated: January 20, 2010  
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THE FIRST BANCSHARES, INC.

By: /s/ Donna T. Lowery  
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Name: Donna T. Lowery  
Title: Chief Financial Officer