FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP ANNOUNCES $50 MILLION INCREASE TO SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES, November 25, 2026: Cathay General Bancorp (the "Company", Nasdaq: CATY), the holding company for Cathay Bank, announced that the Company has received regulatory approval for an increase to its existing share repurchase program by $50 million, which increase was previously approved by the Board of Directors, authorizing the Company to repurchase up to an aggregate of $200 million of the Company's common stock. The share repurchase program, as increased, will expire on April 23, 2027, the same expiration date as the original program.

Earlier this year, on April 23, 2026, the Company announced the adoption of a $150 million share repurchase program. As of today, the Company has repurchased 1,407,189 shares of its common stock at an average cost of $61.86 per share, leaving approximately $113 million in remaining availability under the share repurchase program after giving effect to the increase.

The share repurchases may be made from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing, price and volume of the share repurchases will be determined by the Company's management based on its evaluation of market conditions, relevant securities laws and other factors. Repurchases may also be made under a Rule 10b5-1 plan, which if adopted would allow stock repurchases when the Company might otherwise be precluded from doing so under insider trading laws. The share repurchase program may be suspended, terminated or modified at any time for any reason, including market conditions, the cost of repurchasing shares, the availability of alternative investment opportunities, liquidity, and other factors deemed appropriate. These factors may also affect the timing and amount of share repurchases. As of the date of this release, the Company has approximately 65,720,263 shares of common stock outstanding.

ABOUT CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Cathay General Bancorp is a publicly traded company (Nasdaq: CATY) and is the holding company for Cathay Bank, a state-chartered bank. Cathay General Bancorp's website is at www.cathaygeneralbancorp.com. Founded in 1962, Cathay Bank offers a wide range of financial services and currently operates over 60 branches across the nation in California, New York, Washington, Texas, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Nevada, and New Jersey. Overseas, it has a branch in Hong Kong, and representative offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, and Ho Chi Minh City. To learn more about Cathay Bank, please visit www.cathaybank.com.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information in this press release contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on

current expectations and are subject to a number of factors that could cause actual events to differ materially from those anticipated, including without limitation fluctuations in the market price of the common stock, regulatory, legal and contractual requirements, other uses of capital, the Company's financial performance, market conditions generally or modification, extension or termination of the share repurchase authorization by the board of directors. Forward-looking statements are based on beliefs and assumptions using information available at the time the statements are made. The Company cautions you not to unduly rely on forward-looking statements because the assumptions, beliefs, expectations and projections about future events may, and often do, differ materially from actual results. You should consider the above uncertainties as well as the precautionary statements included in the Company's filings with the SEC, including without limitation the "risk factors" section of its Form 10-K. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as to the date on which it is made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect developments occurring after the statement is made.