

# Ken Hatfield to be keynote speaker for Bookcase Awards Ceremony

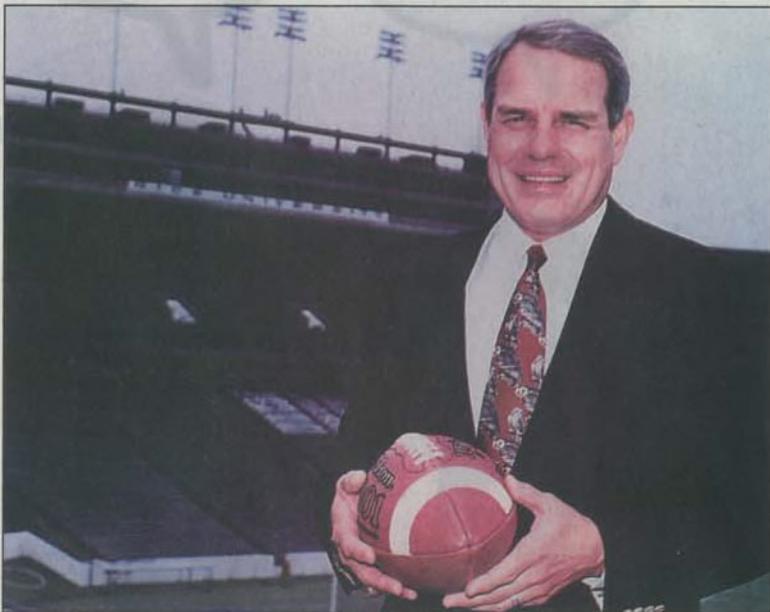
The keynote speaker for this year's Fifth Annual Awards Ceremony of the Conway Bookcase Project will be Ken Hatfield, former Arkansas Razorback football coach. In a statement released by Jim Davidson, founder and chairman of the project, he states, "Ken is the type of person we like to feature as he is an excellent role model for our children. He is a true winner and has his priorities in the right order."

Ken Hatfield has Conway family ties and his accomplishments on and off the field are legendary. Some of his accomplishments are: Co-captain of the 1964 National Championship Team (11-0); Academic 1st team All American - Arkansas; All Century Team; American Football Coaches & Bobby Dodd National Coach of the Year 1983; Houston Touchdown Club - Touchdowner of the year, 2002; American Football Coaches Association President 2004; 168 Division I wins as head coach at Air Force, Arkansas, Clemson and Rice; and active member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes since 1965.

"We are Building a New Generation of Readers" is the theme of this year's award ceremony. The literacy promoting project which began in 2005 targets children in low-income families. Personalized quality built oak bookcases are given to the children who attend the local Head Start Programs here in Conway. The students will receive the bookcases along with a starter set of books at the award ceremony set to take place on Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m. at the Faulkner County Library located at 1900 Tyler Street in Conway. The project is supported with funds given through voluntary contributions received from local community citizens.

Each year fifty bookcases are given away. To date the project has presented 200 bookcases. The Conway Bookcase Project was recognized by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe who presented the project committee, composed of community leaders in Conway, with a proclamation declaring the week of Oct. 12, 2008, as "Bookcase Literacy Week" in the state of Arkansas. On March 26, 2009, the project's founder and the committee were presented a joint resolution sponsored by Representative Linda Tyler and Senator Gilbert Baker. The resolution was presented at a special news conference which was held in the state capitol rotunda commended the Conway Bookcase Project and encouraged other communities in the state to begin their own "Bookcase for Every Child" project.

Illiteracy has become an increasing evident problem in our nation. Statistically about 44



Former Arkansas Razorback head football coach Ken Hatfield will be the keynote speaker for the Bookcase Awards Ceremony to be held April 26. SUBMITTED PHOTO

million American adults are functionally illiterate. Four out of every ten students in American schools will drop out before graduating. The goal of this project is to encourage parents to read to and with their children in the home environment. In 1955, 81 percent of parents read to or with their children. Today that number is around 21 percent. It is suspected that this lack of literary support at home may be one of the reasons so many students drop-out of school.

The uniqueness of this project lies in the fact that it is supported by a staff of volunteers who raise funds through the benefit of government grants or tax deductible contributions. The funds are raised at a "Literacy Banquet" which is held annually in the community. The entire community is invited to partake of a wonderful

meal where great local entertainment is provided. A complimentary copy of the book, "Learning, Earning & Giving Back" written by Jim Davidson, is included in the price of the ticket. Proceeds from the banquet are used to pay for building materials and expenses and to promote the starting of a similar project in other communities in Arkansas and other states around the country.

The Conway Bookcase Project Committee members are Chairperson Jim Davidson, Ken Ingram, Linda Hammontree, Mickey Cox, Jerry Glover, Stanley Russ, Amanda Moore, Larry Pillow, Linda Linn, Nancy Mitchell, Randall Aragon, Mary Boyd, Phyliss Fry and Ruth Voss. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony.