



News Release

For More Information Contact:

Chad Kauffman

Executive Director

501.562.4653 (office)

501.804.2754 (mobile)

For Release: May 27, 2011

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ATTENDS EVENT IN LITTLE ROCK

*Former President Attends Garden Dedication and Tenth Anniversary Celebration
at The First Tee of Central Arkansas*

May 27, 2011; Little Rock, Ark. – Today, **The First Tee of Central Arkansas** celebrated its tenth anniversary in Little Rock. President George W. Bush took part in the celebration with the dedication of a garden in honor of Harriet and Warren Stephens for their support of The First Tee of Central Arkansas.

The garden area is located near the first tee and will serve as a beautiful gateway to the golf course, which features a full size nine-hole course and a par three course. As part of the ceremony, a plaque was unveiled that will be placed in the garden. Harriet and Warren Stephens have been the driving force to keeping the organization viable since the death of Jack Stephens in 2005.

The Stephens' involvement with The First Tee of Central Arkansas began with Jack Stephens. Mr. Stephens served as a trustee of the national The First Tee organization. He also served as chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club.

For five years, Warren Stephens has hosted a tournament at Alotian Golf Club featuring golf legends such as Phil Mickelson, Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods, Ben Crenshaw, Jack Nicklaus and others. The proceeds from the tournament were dedicated to several local initiatives including The First Tee of Central Arkansas. The last tournament was held in 2010.

Over the past ten years, The First Tee of Central Arkansas has served over 10,000 young people from all walks of life. The organization has focused its efforts on children who would not otherwise have been exposed to the game of golf and its positive values.

The ceremony included Joe Barrow, Chief Executive Officer of The First Tee national organization. Mark McBryde, an executive of Stephens, Inc. served as emcee of the event. Jennifer Welch, a golfer for Arkansas State University, who began playing golf as a child at The First Tee of Central Arkansas was also on hand to offer her appreciation to the Stephens family.

George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, is serving as Honorary Chairman of The First Tee nationally. He succeeds his father, George H.W. Bush, who previously served in the position since the inception of The First Tee in 1997.

Individuals may contribute to the endowment fund by calling 562-GOLF or visiting www.TheFirstTeeLittleRock.org or follow the First Tee of Central Arkansas on Facebook.

Background:

The First Tee of Central Arkansas is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

- **Background:** In April of 2001, Former President George H.W. Bush came to Little Rock to honor Jack Stephens, Chairman of Stephens Inc. at the dedication of The First Tee of Central Arkansas. Other dignitaries on hand included: golf legends Arnold Palmer, the late Byron Nelson, PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem, National Director of The First Tee, Joe Barrow and others.
Mr. Stephens was honored for his generous contributions to the game of golf and for being the founding trustee of the national The First Tee organization. At that time, he was also chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club.
- **Fast forward 10 years:** Mr. Jack Stephens passed away in 2005 and Harriet and Warren Stephens have been the driving force to keep The First Tee of Central Arkansas viable. For five years, Warren hosted a tournament at Alotian Golf Club featuring gold legends such as Phil Michelson, Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods, Ben Crenshaw, Jack Nicklaus and others. The proceeds from the tournament were dedicated to several local initiatives including The First Tee of Central Arkansas. The last tournament was held in 2010.
- Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, is serving as Honorary Chairman of The First Tee nationally. He succeeds his father, George H.W. Bush, who previously served in the position since the inception of the The First Tee in 1997.
- Also attending will be Joe Barrow, chief executive officer of The First Tee national organization
- “First of all we want to honor the support and generosity of Harriet and Warren Stephens, whose ten year commitment has been instrumental in the building and opening of The First Tee in 2001,” said Mark McBryde, a Stephens Inc. executive and The First Tee of Central Arkansas board member. “Secondly, these proceeds will be added to the endowment fund for The First Tee of Central Arkansas. Through the vision of Jack Stephens ten years ago, The First Tee became a reality and because of the ten year commitment of Harriet and Warren, we have been able to create and maintain one of the premier The First Tee programs in the country.”
- Over the past ten years, The First Tee of Central Arkansas has served over 10,000 young people from all walks of life. The organization has focused its efforts on children who would not otherwise have been exposed to the game of golf and its positive values. In particular they target youth from lower socioeconomic neighborhoods, minorities, children with disabilities and those who have parents who are deployed military.

The event is closed to the public. Supporters and friends of The First Tee have been invited to attend the dedication.