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For immediate release

Ouachita dedicates AllCare Field House in honor of Sen. Percy Malone's support of Tiger football

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

December 20, 2016

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ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Honoring Arkansas Sen. Percy Malone for his contributions to the Ouachita Tigers football program, university officials unveiled signage for AllCare Field House during a Dec. 12 dedication service.

Sen. Malone, a longtime supporter of Ouachita Baptist University and Tiger athletics, is an Arkadelphia pharmacist and businessman. He has served in both the Arkansas Senate and Arkansas House of Representatives.

Expressing appreciation to Sen. Malone for providing a generous lead gift for renovations to the field house, Head Coach Todd Knight said recent gifts have provided for improvements to the field house's team meeting room, weight room, locker room, offices and related projects.

"Every dime that goes into this building will be well spent," Knight emphasized, "not just for these kids and these coaches, but for kids for many years to come who walk into this field house. Thank you from our coaches and our players and a bunch of players to come. It's going to make a difference."

Athletic Director David Sharp noted that Coach Knight's vision and leadership, combined with the gifts of Sen. Malone and other donors, "will impact so many young men's lives across this university and across this state and that's what's important."

"Sen. Malone has been impacting this football program for 50 years," Sharp added. "This gift will influence for many, many years the lives of football players and student-athletes here."

Describing Sen. Malone as "a man of genuine Christian commitment" and "holy grit," Ouachita President Ben Sells said Sen. Malone and his wife, Donna, are committed to children and making a positive difference in their lives. He expressed appreciation for Sen. Malone's deep ties to Ouachita and his example as a successful businessman and community leader.

Responding to the words of appreciation, Sen. Malone said, "I'm overwhelmed, but I'm not speechless. I'm really, really touched and moved by this."

Citing the Ouachita coaching staff's commitment to teaching their players "to feel proud of who they play with and to have the pride to help each other and use that energy for good," Sen. Malone said, "I've always admired that about Ouachita.

"It's been a wonderful relationship and I wish Godspeed and God bless all of you," he concluded. "I'm honored and gratified that you have honored me this way."