



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

1401 Highway 62-65 North  
P O Box 550  
Harrison, AR 72602

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Dabbs Cavin/President  
Chris Wewers/COO  
Sherri Billings/CFO  
870.741.7641**

**FIRST FEDERAL BANCSHARES AND FIRST FEDERAL BANK  
ANNOUNCE THE ELECTION OF FITZ HILL  
AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**HARRISON, AR** (September 22, 2011): First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc. (NASDAQ: FFBH) (the “Company”), the holding company for First Federal Bank (the “Bank”), today announced that the Board of Directors of the Company and the Bank elected Dr. Omon Fitzgerald (“Fitz”) Hill to serve as a member of the Board. Richard N. Massey, the Chairman of the Board, said, “We are excited that Dr. Fitz Hill will bring his experience as a trusted leader and institution-builder to First Federal. He is a wonderful addition to our Board.”

Dr. Hill is an Arkansas native and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, where he received bachelor degrees in Communications and Physical Education. He received a Masters degree in Student Personnel Services from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he served as a graduate assistant football coach in 1988. In 1989, he began working on the staff of the Arkansas Razorbacks as a graduate assistant. Dr. Hill earned a Bronze Star for his service in the United States Armed Forces when called to serve in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The veteran returned to his coaching and counseling duties at Arkansas for the 1991 football season, and he served on the Razorback coaching staff for five different head coaches, through the 2000 football season. In May of 1997, Hill earned a Doctorate of Education degree from the University of Arkansas. He served as head football coach of the San Jose State Spartans from 2001 to 2005. From 2005 to 2006, Dr. Hill led the Ouachita Baptist Opportunity Fund in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, as its Executive Director.

From 2006 to the present, Dr. Hill has served as thirteenth President of Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock. During his tenure, Arkansas Baptist College has grown from fewer than 200 to more than 1,100 students and raised more than \$23 million to update the institution’s facilities. He has also served as advisory director to a financial institution.

**About First Federal Bancshares**

First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc. is a unitary savings and loan holding company for the Bank. The Bank is a community bank serving consumers and businesses in North-central and Northwest Arkansas with a full range of checking, savings, investment, and loan products and services. The Bank, founded in 1934, conducts business from 18 full-service branch locations, one stand-alone loan production office, and 29 ATMs located in North-central and Northwest Arkansas. For information on all the products and services the Bank offers, visit [www.ffbh.com](http://www.ffbh.com) or contact the Bank’s Account Information Center at 870-365-8329 or 866-AIC-FFBH toll free or by email at [aic@ffbh.com](mailto:aic@ffbh.com).

#####

The attached photograph of Dr. Hill is courtesy of C. Waynette Traub.

