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## **College Football Legend Lee Corso Named 2017 Walter Camp “Distinguished American”**

New Haven, CT – Former head coach and current college football analyst Lee Corso (Florida State University) is the 2017 recipient of the Walter Camp Football Foundation’s Distinguished American award.

*The Walter Camp “Distinguished American” award is presented each year to an individual who has utilized his or her talents to attain great success in business, private life or public service and who may have accomplished that which no other has done. He or she may have a record of dedication to mankind that should not pass unrecognized and a life that has been dedicated to the preservation of the American ideal. The recipient need not have participated in football but must be one who understands its lesson of self-denial, cooperation and teamwork, and one who is a person of honesty, integrity and dedication. He or she must be a leader, an innovator, even a pioneer, who has reached a degree of excellence that distinguishes him or her from contemporaries, as well as someone who lives within the principles of Walter Camp.*

Past recipients of the Walter Camp Distinguished American honor include nationally-respected sportscasters Pat Summerall (2004) and Verne Lundquist (2014), all-purpose television personality Regis Philbin (2003), former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue (1994), world-renowned entertainer Bob Hope (1985), former college coach Eddie Robinson (1982), and last year’s recipient, Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka.

“Lee Corso is a college football icon,” said Walter Camp Football Foundation president Michael Madera. “For close to six decades, his name has been synonymous with the game, either as a coach, or now as one of the most recognizable faces broadcasting the game. He has devoted his time to promoting the game he loves. His work goes beyond college football, as he has demonstrated by his efforts off the field.”

A native of Miami, Fla, Corso attended the Florida State University where he was a multi-sport standout (football and baseball). Corso held the school record for interceptions in a career; a mark that stood for nearly two decades. Corso graduated from FSU in 1957 with a degree in physical education.

Following his playing career, Corso entered the coaching ranks, and served as an assistant at Maryland and U.S. Naval Academy before being named head coach at University of Louisville in 1969. He recorded a 28-11-3 record in three seasons, and led the Cardinals to their first-ever bowl berth (1970 Pasadena Bowl).

Corso then moved to Indiana University and coached 10 seasons in the Big Ten Conference. He led the Hoosiers to the Holiday Bowl in 1979 and a number-16 final national ranking. Corso also served as a head coach at Northern Illinois (1984) and for one season in the now-defunct United States Football League (Orlando Renegades).

Following his coaching career, Corso became a college football analyst for ESPN, and an original member of its Emmy Award-winning Saturday College GameDay program. His catchphrase, 'Not so fast, my friend!' has been a staple of the show, as is his donning of the school's mascot headgear he thinks will win the game at the GameDay site each week.

Corso serves as Director of Business Development for Dixon Ticonderoga, a Florida-based manufacturer of writing and arts products, including its renowned No. 2 pencils (one of which he can always be seen holding on College GameDay).

He also serves as honorary chairman of Coaches Curing Kids' Cancer, a charity that raises money for pediatric cancer research through youth sports teams. In 2010, he was presented the National College Football Awards Association "Contributions to College Football Award," recognizing exceptional contributions to college football and a lifetime of achievement and integrity.

A current Florida resident, Corso and his wife, Betsy have four children and ten grandchildren.

*Walter Camp, "The Father of American football," first selected an All-America team in 1889. Camp – a former Yale University athlete and football coach – is also credited with developing play from scrimmage, set plays, the numerical assessment of goals and tries and the restriction of play to eleven men per side. The Walter Camp Football Foundation – a New Haven-based all-volunteer group – was founded in 1967. The organization's mission is to perpetuate the ideals of Camp and to continue the tradition of selecting annually an All-America team and honoring deserving individuals.*

### **Distinguished American recipients**

- 2017 – Lee Corso, Florida State University
- 2016 – Mike Ditka, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015 – Tim Shriver, Yale University/Special Olympics
- 2014 – Verne Lundquist, Texas Lutheran
- 2013 – Joe Theismann, Notre Dame
- 2012 – Tom Osborne, Hastings College/University of Nebraska
- 2011 – Floyd Little, Syracuse University
- 2010 – Chuck Bednarik, Pennsylvania
- 2009 – Robin Roberts, Southeastern Louisiana
- 2008 – Len Dawson, Purdue
- 2007 – Frank Broyles, Georgia Tech
- 2006 – Dick Vermeil, San Jose State
- 2005 – Arthur Blank, Babson
- 2004 – Pat Summerall, Arkansas
- 2003 – Bill Walsh, San Jose State
- 2002 – Regis Philbin, Notre Dame
- 2001 – New York City Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service Personnel
- 2000 – Gene Upshaw, Texas A&I
- 1999 – Bo Schembechler, Miami (Ohio)
- 1998 – Steve Young, Brigham Young
- 1997 – Steve Largent, Tulsa
- 1996 – Dick Ebersol, Yale

1995 – Keith Jackson, Washington State  
1994 – Paul Tagliabue, Georgetown  
1993 – Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C.  
1992 – Carm Cozza, Miami (Ohio)/Yale  
1991 – Alexander Kroll, Rutgers  
1990 – Tex Schramm, Texas  
1989 – Richard Kazmaier, Princeton  
1989 – Burt Reynolds, Florida State  
1988 – Y.A. Tittle, Louisiana State  
1987 – Weeb Ewbank, Miami (Ohio)  
1986 – Tom Landry, Texas  
1985 – Bob Hope  
1984 – Maj. Gen. Bill Carpenter, Army  
1983 – Tom Harmon, Michigan  
1982 – Eddie Robinson, Grambling State  
1981 – Harold “Red” Grange, Illinois  
1980 – Alexander Haig, Army  
1980 – George Halas, Illinois  
1979 – David “Sonny” Werblin, Rutgers  
1978 – James Crowley, Notre Dame