FFA Convention Builds Leadership For America

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — true to its chosen theme, the 66th National FFA Convention celebrated "Leadership for America." The Municipal Auditorium served as the hub of activities Nov. 11-13, when FFA members from across the country flocked to Kansas City to experience the world's largest annual student gathering and enhance their leadership skills. A record 31,583 members, teachers,

and guests attended the convention.

During the opening reflections program, singer Lee Greenwood inspired the crowd with his words and music, including his hit song, "God Bless the USA." During other sessions, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and Senator Larry Craig addressed the audience and former FFA member John Thompson, survivor of a ser-

ious farm accident, spoke on the importance of farm safety.

FFA members participated in the multitude of convention activities including competing in contests, receiving awards, attending leadership workshops, and honoring sponsors who make possible the extensive offering of FFA programs. The Honorary American FFA Degree, Distinguished Service Award, and VIP citations were awarded to businesses and individuals who support the organization. The American FFA Degree was conferred upon 1,276 members.

In transacting the official business of the organization, delegates voted against a proposal for regional realignment of states, and they moved to revoke the charter of the District of Columbia FFA Association. The delegates also suggested a review of the policy

allowing nomination of national officers from the floor as well as the establishment of a new agricultural communications contest.

Other distinguished speakers included Miss America Kimberly Clarice Aiken, CNN reporter John Holliman, cowboy poet Baxter Black, and former national FFA

officer Coby Shorter.

Five former members were installed as FFA Achievers for out-

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