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| **Mr. David Johnson**G:\FFA SAVE\hall of fame KEEP HISTORY\HOF SPEECHES_files\Johnson.jpg          "Thank you very much.  Good afternoon everyone."          "I'm honored to be a part of this 75th anniversary celebration and pleased to share a few thoughts on what FFA means to me, as well as the agribusiness industry.  As I look around this room and recognize many of the industries in the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame - I'm humbled to be a part of this distinguished group.  I say that because of your leadership that has supported and promoted the goals of FFA and you're the leaders who have dedicated your careers to make such a positive difference in the lives of so many young people.  Yes, you are truly the who's who of Minnesota agriculture."           "Mary Buschette will you assist me for a moment?"  (Puts on FFA Jacket)           "I can't come close to Lee Sandager's distinguished career, but I wear my FFA Jacket with great pride!  I cherish the memories, starting with the Taylor's Falls FFA Chapter that I was a part of over 50 years ago.  The vision, the FFA leadership; has not only endured the test of time, but continues to gain momentum today.  My participation in FFA activities, such as State Soil Judging Contests, led me to major in Soil Science and ultimately to a 40 year career in agribusiness.  The many practical things I learned in FFA, such as parliamentary procedure, has been extremely helpful throughout my entire career."          "Folks, allow me to take a few minutes and share two FFA experiences that have been meaningful to me--  One of the crisis we fare in agriculture is a Human Resource Crisis.  Not having enough capable, qualified people to meet the needs of Precision Agriculture and all the latest technologies.  As a result of the declining population in rural America, I was privileged to be a part of establishing a Ag High School in the Twin Cities.  It's a charter school - the Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy - located in Little Canada and is now in its third year and 156 students are FFA members.  In fact, 68 of them are at the State Convention this week.  These students are pleased and surprised about the careers and potential opportunities in Ag and Food Sciences.  Many are excited about going to the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences.  I was particularly pleased to hear on young man say 'I want to get into Ag Education.'  Well, all of this momentum hasn't happened by accident.  In addition to the fine leadership at the Academy, its due in part to the students receiving training on the St. Paul Campus.  We have received tremendous help and cooperation - they have witnessed the enthusiasm you have created and they want to be a part of it!  The goal of the school it to double the enrollment when facilities are available to meet the student needs."          "A second experience that's been rewarding was serving the on the National FFA Foundation Sponsors Board.  This board is made up of several executives of the major agribusiness firms across the entire United States.  These people give unselfishly of their time because they remember what FFA has meant to them and they want to give something back!  This year, the National FFA Foundation will raise in the neighborhood of $8 Million and as you all know, the money goes for student programs."          "As I reference the agribusiness industry, I'd be remised if I didn't say thank you on their behalf.  A sincere 'thanks' to the high school, technical school, and university educators for training the students that serve this industry so well.  Minnesota graduates are in great demand!"          "Alan Greenspan recently talked about the significant productivity gains in the field of agriculture.  In my opinion, FFA deserves a great deal of the credit!  You are the people responsible - It's your determination, your values, your priorities, that have truly inspired our youth to be the leaders in agriculture."           "In closing, my friends you live the words of Winston Churchill, who said, 'You make a living by what you get, But you make a life by what you give.'  Thank you." |

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| **Mr. Lee Sandager**G:\FFA SAVE\hall of fame KEEP HISTORY\HOF SPEECHES_files\Sandager.jpg          "Sixty years ago, only 16 years after the founding of the FFA, a Minnesota farm boy, a member of the FFA was hoping to become an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.  Later upon attending the University for this training he was inspired by a large elderly white haired and wise professor whole goal-oriented philosophy of agriculture education was 'Take the high school farm boy from where he is to where he ought to be.'  Girls and urban youth were not a part of the Ag education and FFA organization at that time.  Never the less the focus of this philosophy was not in teaching subject matter of agriculture as much as teaching the student, be it boy or girl, to achieve an objective."          "Upon graduation and beginning his teaching career, this young man was counseled and advised by a caring, wise, and experienced superintendent in his school who, frequently at the end of the day, came to the Ag room and shared his knowledge.  One of his conversations centered around 'teaching is not like laying bricks where you can see your results at the end of the day.'  He shared his story of one of his students who was drifting along at a 'C' level when change suddenly occurred in his sophomore year of high school.  His achievement changed to an 'A' level in all of his subjects for the remainder of his high school career.  He went on to college to earn a PhD in nuclear physics, subsequently making significant contributions to the wartime 'Manhattan Project' in splitting the atom.  After the end of the war, this former student make a special trip to his small town of origin to pay his respects and to tell the superintendent what his class had done for him.  He reported, 'You said something in my sophomore year that changed my attitude and my entire life.  Teacher can, and do, influence students where results are seen throughout many years of their career."          "This young ag teacher had opportunities to see this happen in over thirty years of 'taking the boy (and girl) from where they are to where they ought to be,' with a philosophy that provided guidance and focus on personal and career development as life's objectives.  Having lived most of his life in the community where he taught and advised the FFA he had opportunity to see many students earn proficiency awards, State FFA and American FFA degrees, as well as continue their education and to begin their careers.  He saw FFA members become leaders as responsible citizens serving in various community organizations.  He saw them as members of school boards, church councils, and taking part in charitable activities.  Some became leaders in government as commissioners and city mayors."          "Upon leaving teaching following a thirty year career, a second career in international agricultural development provided new challenges working in several countries the world over, however rewarding this work was he never found the personal satisfaction that was provided in working with the best of our American youth here in rural America.  Results of effort, although not always immediate were frequently seen over time."          "Following retirement, this now elderly man has been asked to do voluntary work for USAID in countries of Africa, Asia, and Europe.  One assignment was to assist a young African entrepreneur in developing a farm seed marketing and distribution business in Uganda.  He needed a new hybrid corn to distribute countrywide.  Upon staying at a hotel in Kenya while working and advising this Ugandan they were able to meet with an area sales manager for the Pioneer International Seed Company based in Kenya.  Upon learning about Pioneer's hybrids developed for the central highlands of East Africa, the sales rep produced a notebook of results of twenty some seed corn trials that had been conducted in the schools of central Kenya.  He went on the say, 'Our best trials have been conducted by teachers and students in local schools.'  He continued, 'about 25 years ago there was an American advisor to one of Kenya's teacher training institutions who taught students in this procedure and now you can see these results.'  I proudly told him, 'I'm that American.'  Yes, the results of our work are not always immediate.  Sometimes it is found to be significant and of value years later."          "On another recent voluntary assignment for USAID I was asked to assist people in a rural part of Russia in developing their agricultural and rural community as they transformed to a free democratic society.  Capitalizing on 60 years of experience since I was an FFA member, and subsequently and advisor, I was able to analyze their problems and to provide recommendations.  They were influenced by a goal oriented philosophy of guiding young people in 'taking them from where they are to where they ought to be.'  With modifications I borrowed from the paged of your blue and gold 'FFA Manual' to establish a similar organization for their rural youth to develop their farms and agricultural careers.  Furthermore, similar experiences in leadership, cooperation, and community service would contribute to develop their emerging democracy.  What could be better?" |

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| **Ms. Kim Beck LippertG:\FFA SAVE\hall of fame KEEP HISTORY\HOF SPEECHES_files\Hall o1.jpg**         "Thank you so much for this honor.  I am truly humbled to be nominated for this award.  Considering all of the people who are deserving of recognition for that they have done for the FFA and for what they continue to do for FFA members.  FFA was and continues to be a family affair for me.  My special guests today including my dad, Jerry Beck, who as a Veteran's Ag Teacher working in Perham, MN in the summer of 1972 talked me into taking my first Ag class; I met my husband, Dan, a 1977-78 state officer, through the FFA; and our son Tom, who competed in the General Livestock contest today.  Thanks for being here!"          "I was also very fortunate to have inspiring, hard working and dedicated ag teachers with Arnold Rethemeier at Perham High School and Doug Hanson and Dave (Bisson) Schafer at Willmar High School.  John Thell was especially helpful to me in my early years of teaching.  Thanks to all of you for what you did for me.           "Inspired by my first teachers, my parents, and the great teachers I had throughout my school years, I became a teacher of ag education at a postsecondary level.  An organization for postsecondary agriculture students, directly related to FFA exists for my students called PAS.  Now...All teachers have those students that are "diamonds in the rough."  That's what I especially enjoy about teaching -- uncovering the rough spots to help someone shine.  PAS, like FFA does exactly that for my students.  The experience of teaching and working with PAS members has taught me that we can never underestimate the value of a single successful experience for our students, whether it's being the top fruit salesperson, being elected to a local office, or doing well in a career development event.  Success breed confidence.  Confidence breeds success.  That's what FFA did for me and many of you in this room.  That's what it will continue to do for students in the next 75 years as well."            "I have always enjoyed reading words of wisdom that help keep me focused on my goals or what happens in my daily work.  As a state FFA officer, these kinds of things became the ammunition for banquet speeches and vesper programs.  I still collect these things, as my kids attest to...in fact, I pulled this little mini-sermon off my refrigerator before I came down today...It says, 'What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?'            "That's the question I leave for the Minnesota FFA Organization, today.  As a state organization, if we knew we could not fail, how would that philosophy improve the programs we create for kids and FFA chapters?  If we knew we could not fail as teachers of agricultural education, how would that change the way we try to reach kids in the classroom?  And FFA members present here this afternoon, If you knew you could not fail, how would that change the goals you have set for yourself?"            "In 2004, agricultural education continues to be challenged by such things as the lack of funding for technical education, changing student demographics, rapidly changing technology, and the agricultural industry itself.  What would we attempt to do to deal with these situations if we knew we could not fail?"            "While few of us in this room will be attending the state FFA convention of 2079...I still have faith in the creed that Arnie Rethemeier taught me as a ninth grader that 'American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will state solid for my part in that inspiring task.'            "Dad, Arnie, Doug, and John -- you all exerted that kind of influence on me.  You represent parents and ag teachers across Minnesota who approach their jobs as though they will not fail - you have provided experiences that led to success for me and thousands of other agricultural students.  On behalf of those students, I thank you for what you have done for us and challenging my generation and future students to stand solid for that inspiring task."  |

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