



National FFA Organization  
6060 FFA Drive  
P.O. Box 68960  
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

P: 317-802-6060  
F: 317-802-6061

[www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

## Fred McClure Urges FFA to Make the Most of Every Day

By Rachel Rudnick

Fellow FFA Member and past national officer Frederick D. McClure brightened the 9<sup>th</sup> and final session of the week as the keynote speaker for the 81<sup>st</sup> annual FFA National Convention Saturday afternoon at Conseco Fieldhouse.

McClure was president of the Texas FFA Association, National FFA Secretary from 1973-1974 and also the Student Body President at Texas A&M University. He is now the managing partner at the Washington, DC office of Sonnenschien, Nath and Rosenthal, LLP.

McClure offered a plethora of useful advice for all in attendance at the 9<sup>th</sup> session. His powerful message centered around the notion of ‘what’s mine is ours’ and the concept of having a personal bank account of 86,400 seconds each day to take full advantage of. Unlike AT&T<sup>®</sup>, life does not come with roll-over minutes.

*“You can’t draw on the future,”* said McClure. *“You must live in the present with only today’s deposits.”*

McClure also touched on the convention theme “Step Up and Stand Out.” He discussed the value and longevity of honor and the endless benefits of making a difference. He discussed the influence of important people in his life and encouraged the audience to heed the advice of these individuals and to not be afraid to make difficult choices.

*“The true measure of a person is not power, prestige, or even prosperity, but what you leave behind,”* said McClure. *“The true measure is if you stepped up and made a difference.”*

McClure admitted that without his experience in the FFA, he would not have made many of the personal and professional decisions he has made along the way. He said many of

the skills he acquired in his vocational education are still useful in his extracurricular activities in Washington, DC.

The final adage offered by McClure was one of the most powerful of his presentation. He explained that time will not wait, and life must be treasured every year, day, hour, minute and even second. He explained that how individuals choose to spend this time is up to them, but left the audience reeling by closing his speech with one final inquiry:

**“What are you going to leave behind?”**

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The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

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