

Carole Brookins Letter Honoring Amb Clayton Yeutter's Annual KeyNote

IFAMA Buenos Aires June 25, 2018

Dear Hector, Johan, Francesco and all IFAMA colleagues, members and attendees,

I truly regret that I am not with you in person to deliver this first Clayton Yeutter Keynote Address at the IFAMA 2018 Buenos Aires Congress. Unfortunately, I slipped into a "pothole" that was on a broken street in NY Manhattan and am not able to travel. But my thoughts and heartfelt wishes are with you as IFAMA launches the first Clayton Yeutter commemorative Keynote Address.

Many of you have had the privilege of knowing Clayton Yeutter—whether in a brief conversation, at a conference, in negotiations or working together in a US Government agency. Some of us, especially IFAMA's President Hector Laurence, forged long lasting friendships with this extraordinary person who was one of the visionaries who founded IFAMA (IAMA).

Clayton K. Yeutter was first and foremost a Nebraska farmer. He ran the family farm in Eustis, Nebraska even as he worked to earn his undergraduate degree and then both a law degree and doctorate in Agricultural Economics (B.S., a J.D. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics) at the University of Nebraska.

Clayton's life was focused primarily on public service—with several key positions in the US Department of Agriculture, that culminated as Secretary of Agriculture from 1989-91. He played a critical role in shaping our world's agricultural policy as well as our global trade policy. He served as the US Trade Representative, serving as the US Ambassador and chief negotiator who forged the US Canada Free Trade Agreement, and engaged in negotiating the Uruguay Round Agreement both as USTR and then as US Secretary of Agriculture. The Uruguay Round reached an agreement that transformed the GATT into the WTO and established a system of rules for agricultural trade, non tariff barriers, Sanitary and phytosanitary disciplines, and domestic subsidies. Without Clayton Yeutter it is doubtful that we would have achieved this monumental agreement in the world's trading system. He served as well in senior US political roles as Counselor to President Bush in the White House and Chairman of the Republican National Committee. But he also served in the private sector as President of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, as a practicing lawyer and advisor to governments and on the boards of major international corporations.

Clayton was not only a visionary, he was a leader in the fullest sense and meaning of the word. His career engaged his energies and actions translating his enormous force of intellect and ideas into making things happen in policy affecting our world. He did more in 12 hours than many of us could even consider doing in a week or longer!! But, most of all, Clayton Yeutter was a friend and mentor to many of us in IFAMA. He had an "antennae" with friends and colleagues that touched many in meaningful and immediate ways--long before what we call social media today. If anyone today tried to replicate his "Friends" on Facebook, there would be so many in so many far away parts of our world that it would likely crash the entire operating system!!

Clayton always reached out to help friends in need and to respond immediately to calls for national or international service as needed. He was in his physical life a wise and astute counselor to many....and his wise counsel lives on today through those who have benefitted from his experience, his strategic thinking, his humor, his compassion and, above all else, his enormous humanity.

I hope, we should all hope, that establishing the IFAMA Clayton Yeutter Keynote Address will highlight visionary themes and topics that are impacting or will impact our industry's leaders today and future leaders. Our annual goal is to have a speaker who is a thought-leader from within or outside of our industry who will address a topic for you, our distinguished colleagues, and the emerging new forces of student leaders in agribusiness studies.

Clayton Yeutter's legacy lives in the spirit of IFAMA's Mission. He would be proud of all of you here today and I am sure is honored that you have created this Keynote Address in his name.

Thank you.

Carole

The Hon. Carole Brookins