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TO: Academy members and friends
FROM: Brian and Wayne Reynolds
SUBJECT: 1979 Banquet "Progress Report" #1

WAYNE R. REYNOLDS
Managing Director
August 24, 1978

From our new national headquarters -- as listed above -- it is our pleasure to report that the 1978 Salute to Excellence weekend brought together another exciting pantheon of celebrated achievers from the great fields of endeavor. Joining the guests of honor in the weekend "retreat" were nearly every Patron of the Academy, 12 invited members of the Awards Council -- including Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Judge John J. Sirica, Lowell Thomas, Helen Hayes, Dr. Edward Teller, General Jimmy Doolittle, Cloris Leachman, Louis Nizer, Admiral James Stockdale, Col. Harland Sanders, and Edward Asner (who served as the narrator for the Golden Plate awards presentations) -- and a record-setting 370 most outstanding high school honor students from across the country, including 40 national champion honor youths who each received our Golden Eagle Award.

(Nine of the guests of honor have joined our Awards Council...including Clark Clifford, CIA Director Stansfield Turner, FBI Director William Webster, General Omar Bradley, Gordie Howe, Tom Landry, Judge Frank Johnson, Jr., and Olivia de Havilland (whose Banquet of the Golden Plate remarks were perhaps the most unforgettable in the history of the American Academy of Achievement).)

(At the Friday evening outing on the Green estate...where Col. Sanders and Kentucky Fried Chicken hosted the informal meal...the wildly enthusiastic students gave a series of 12 standing ovations to honored guests of the Academy -- particularly Debby Boone and Steve Cauthen (who received their Golden Plates that evening) and symposium speakers Admiral Turner and Miss de Havilland.)

As reflected in the enclosed montage of news stories about the 17th annual "gathering of the greats," Danny Scholl again electrified the audience when he closed the Banquet with his incomparable rendition of "The Impossible Dream."

Our special thanks for extraordinary service during the Salute program also is extended to Bill Elmer, Roy Richards, Bob Green, Nicholas F. Brady, and narrator Spence Kinard.

New Academy officers -- elected at the annual meeting of the Board of Sponsors on the morning after the Banquet -- are: Board Chairman Harry Merlo, Chairman of Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, President Wallace Rasmussen, Chairman of Beatrice Foods Co. Vice President Peter Kiewit, Chairman of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc.

Chairman Merlo and the new Executive Committee will meet in Los Angeles on August 31 regarding plans for the 1979 Banquet weekend at Salt Lake City, June 21-23; discussion of a national telecast; and consideration of Chicago and Los Angeles as Banquet sites.