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Invocation

Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies
Florida Southern College
March 6, 2015

Loving and Wise God,

You have given each of us the opportunity to shape our community, our businesses, our families, and our lives. When God created the world he declared, " I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."

It became then our decision how we would use the good gifts that God had given us. Like the potter we decide the use. Like the grower, we decide how the land and its yield will be used.

Today Lord, we give you thanks for our Florida Citrus Hall of Fame inductees, all of whom have used the time, talents and resources you placed in their lives for good. Today we honor their hard work, vision, accomplishments and innovations.

Thank you, Lord, for the remarkable contributions these men have made to the citrus industry and just as importantly to their community. Thank you that they have not only served as leaders in the industry, but have also been faithful churchmen, community leaders, husbands, fathers and grandfathers.

We thank you Lord for these men who have given much of their time and lives to shape the citrus industry and their communities for good, using the opportunity given to them as a blessing to all.

As the Apostle Paul wrote., "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." Thank you for these men who have sown generously, often during challenging times. May their hard work and ingenuity, may their dedication to their calling, may their faith in the good gifts of the earth serve as a legacy, inspiration and reminder for us all.

They have reminded us that what we do today will be what we are known for tomorrow. May we who honor these men, have the good sense to not waste the opportunities you give to each of us, to remember, as their lives have shown us, that our decisions will affect our lives, the lives of our children and our children's children.

Lord, bless our nation and all who are gathered here today. May your peace fill our hearts, may your wisdom infuse our decisions, and may our hands produce that which is pleasing to you. It is in Jesus' name that we pray,

Amen.