

NOMINATION FOR AFBF
2012 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Name of Nominee: Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

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Spouse's Name: Le Son Quinn

Number of years nominee has served agriculture: 43

Particular fields of agriculture in which nominee has been active

- Over a 43-year time span, while an American diplomat and as head of the World Food Prize, demonstrating the critical connection of agriculture to national security.
- Utilizing the powerful combination of agriculture and rural infrastructure to confront and defeat insurgents and terrorist organizations.
- For more than 10 years as President of the World Food Prize, preserving the legacy of America's greatest agricultural hero, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, including having Dr. Borlaug receive the Congressional Gold Medal, America's highest civilian honor.
- Building a "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" in the heart of America to recognize and inspire breakthrough achievements in increasing the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world.
- Addressing cutting-edge issues in global food security through his leadership of the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue symposium, which has been called "the premier conference in the world on global agriculture."
- Building awareness of the importance of biotechnology.
- Inspiring high school students to follow careers in food science and agriculture, by developing one of the most unique youth education programs in America.
- Partnering with the Iowa Farm Bureau to build the Iowa Hunger Summit, which he created, into one of the most innovative programs in America to confront hunger both at home and abroad.
- With the support of the United Soybean Board, Iowa Pork Producers, Iowa Corn Growers and Iowa Soybean Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau and FBL, successfully led the \$30 million campaign to create the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, to honor America's greatest agricultural hero.

Summary of accomplishments and contributions to agriculture: National in scope

Using agricultural development to defeat terrorism

It may be unprecedented for an American diplomat to be nominated for the American Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service Award, however there has rarely been a diplomat who has been so connected to agriculture both throughout his 32-year career in the Foreign Service, as well as in the 11 years following his retirement, during which he has led the World Food Prize Foundation.

While most new diplomats probably envision careers in chandeliered ballrooms in Europe, Ken Quinn's first assignment in the Foreign Service in 1968 was as a Rural Development Advisor in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War. Arriving shortly after the Tet Offensive with the Viet Cong insurgency raging, Ken Quinn was able to see firsthand the power of the new "miracle rice" which had been developed using Norman Borlaug's approach to agricultural productivity. When combined with upgraded rural roads, Ken saw that this powerful combination of agricultural technology and rural infrastructure was one of the most potent resources the U.S. government had in confronting and countering the deeply ingrained insurgency. More than even direct military action, this combination of new roads and new rice brought about dramatic change, as increased productivity and improved lives caused the Viet Cong political control to evaporate.

Twenty years later, Ambassador Ken Quinn employed this same formula to deal with the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. In 1990, 25,000 Khmer Rouge terrorists, led by the infamous Pol Pot, still controlled almost all of the Cambodian countryside. Their radical policies had led to the death of approximately two million Cambodians out of a total population of seven million.

Using his limited assistance budget, Ambassador Quinn targeted all of his funds on building rural roads and bringing enhanced agricultural technology to the countryside. Everywhere the new roads and rice went, the Khmer Rouge was weakened. In 1999, at the end of his tour as ambassador, the last Khmer Rouge surrendered. The most devastating genocidal regime of the second half of the 20th century had been completely destroyed thanks in significant measure to Ken Quinn's approach of utilizing enhanced agricultural technology and upgraded rural infrastructure.

A return to Iowa roots: A new challenge

After completing his assignment as American Ambassador to Cambodia, in 1999, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn returned to his home state of Iowa to become President of the World Food Prize Foundation.

Ambassador Quinn had been hand-picked for this job by two former winners of the American Farm Bureau Federation distinguished service award – Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug (1972) and Mr. John Ruan, Sr. (2000). Dr. Borlaug and Mr. Ruan had created the World Food Prize with the hope that it one day would come to be seen as the Nobel Prize for food and agriculture. Located in the American heartland, they intended that this award would inspire breakthrough achievements in increasing the quality, quantity and availability of food around the world.

After its first 14 years in existence, however, the World Food Prize had not attained the stature or impact which those two 85-year-old distinguished Americans had hoped it could. So they entrusted their legacy to Ambassador Quinn, and urged him to fulfill their vision.

Starting with a staff of just one person other than himself and an annual event that attracted only about 50 people from outside of Iowa for a half-day conference and ceremony, over the last 10 years Ambassador Quinn has built the World Food Prize and its associated programs into what Sir Gordon Conway has called “the premier conference in the world on global agriculture.”

Each October, on or around World Food Day (October 16), over 1,000 people representing 65 countries now travel to Des Moines for a week-long series of events that: highlight cutting-edge issues in food and agriculture; honor the newest World Food Prize Laureates; and provide great inspiration to more than 130 high school students from across America to pursue careers in agriculture, development and confronting hunger.

Building a Nobel Prize in Iowa

The World Food Prize main event consists of an extremely impressive ceremony held in the magnificent Iowa State Capitol, at which the \$250,000 annual Prize is presented to a Laureate who has made a Borlaug-like breakthrough achievement in producing more or better food. The World Food Prize is the only organization allowed to hold an event in the State Capitol. It resulted from Ambassador Quinn’s personal request to the Governor and the legislature.

The World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony, which Ambassador Quinn designed and which includes great pomp with herald trumpeters and a formal entry procession, has become the high point of the year in terms of recognizing exceptional achievements in diminishing hunger and expanding food production and availability. With ambassadors, ministers and laureates in the audience, it has been compared to the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Oslo and Stockholm. In fact, Dr. Borlaug said that the ceremony which Ambassador Quinn has created surpasses the one at which Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

All World Food Prize Laureates, who come from an array of countries around the world, return for this ceremony and enter the Chamber in formal procession. It is said that more life-saving achievement is assembled in Des Moines for this ceremony than anywhere else around the globe, making this event “the most significant observance of World Food Day held anywhere around the world.”

Creating the “Davos” of global agriculture and food security

In conjunction with the Laureate Award Ceremony, Ambassador Quinn has built what was a half-day gathering into a three-day conference – now called the World Food Prize “Borlaug Dialogue” – which brings together government officials, research scientists, deans of agriculture, farmers, agribusiness executives and NGO representatives for an amazing series of “conversations and exchanges” on the leading issues of the day.

For example, in the very first symposium Ambassador Quinn organized in 2000, he confronted head-on the issue of the role of biotechnology in feeding the poorest countries in the world. To this conference he brought representatives from Africa, India and China, all of whom made the critical point that biotechnology was for them not an environmental issue (as many Europeans argue), but rather a critical and necessary element if all the hungry people of the world are to be fed in the 21st century.

For the 2001 symposium, Ambassador Quinn selected the topic of “agroterrorism and bioterrorism.” What was remarkable is that he put this subject on the agenda for his conference three months *before* 9/11 – so that when the Borlaug Dialogue took place one month *after* 9/11, it was the *very first* conference held anywhere in the world on the terrorist threat to the U.S. food supply.

The acting head of the FDA, who spoke at the 2001 conference about “Food Terrorism,” later credited Ambassador Quinn with the fact that, “The ideas that were discussed at the World Food Prize provided the basis for actions taken by the U.S. government to protect America’s food supply in the immediate aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11.”

High-level participation

In subsequent years, the Borlaug Dialogue has addressed other critical issues such as: the global challenge of obesity and malnutrition; the need to mitigate threats to the global trading system; and the essential connection between agriculture and national security. In this way, it has attracted an amazing array of speakers, including: the Ministers of Agriculture of Afghanistan and Pakistan; hundreds of farmers from around the world; leading research scientists; former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan; and Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Of perhaps even greater significance is the fact that in 2009, Bill Gates chose the World Food Prize as the forum at which he would give his first ever speech about agriculture and his goal of continuing Norman Borlaug’s legacy by bringing the Green Revolution to Africa. Mr. Gates, who it can safely be said could have chosen virtually any forum anywhere in the world to make this inaugural presentation about agriculture, chose to do it at the World Food Prize. A senior Gates official explained why, by saying that Gates executives “regularly meet a more diverse array of individuals at the World Food Prize than at any other conference or gathering [they go to] anywhere in the world.”

Special Relationship with USDA

As the reputation of the Borlaug Dialogue has grown under Ambassador Quinn’s direction, so too has the level of participants. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made the World Food Prize one of its most important forums of the year, with regular participation by the Secretary of Agriculture and an array of other senior officials from both the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Former Secretary Mike Johanns thought so highly of the World Food Prize that he agreed to partner with Ambassador Quinn to build it into an ongoing extension of Dr. Borlaug’s legacy. Secretary Ed Schafer took this one step further by signing a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Ambassador Quinn, committing USDA to coordinate with the World Food Prize each year in developing and promoting programs of mutual interest.

Secretary Tom Vilsack has maintained and enhanced that relationship by inviting other Ministers of Agriculture to join with him in a special dialogue at the World Food Prize. In 2010, a joint invitation by Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Quinn brought the Ministers of Agriculture of Afghanistan and Pakistan to Des Moines for a critical dialogue on the important role of agriculture in helping confront the threat of Al Qaeda terrorism and the Taliban insurgency in both of those countries.

In addition, the World Food Prize has become the venue at which USDA brings together all of the Borlaug Fellows – young agriculture fellows from around the world – who are studying at Land Grant universities around the country. Started by USDA Secretary Ann Veneman in 2004, on the occasion of Norman Borlaug's 90th birthday, the World Food Prize has brought great attention and inspiration to this program.

Praise from American agriculture and agribusiness

American commodity groups have also praised the World Food Prize and Ambassador Quinn for the special event that has been created. For six years, the U.S. Grains Council and the American Corn Growers Association brought over 100 foreign officials (who regulate biotechnology) to the United States for a week-long symposium on biotechnology. The first of these annual events took place in Iowa and included participation in the World Food Prize symposium and Laureate Award Ceremony. At the end of the week, the foreign participants were so enthusiastic in their praise of what they had seen and heard at the World Food Prize that plans to rotate this tour through other states in subsequent years were cancelled, and the biotechnology tour was held every year thereafter in Iowa.

The then head of the U.S. Grains Council told Ambassador Quinn that his members firmly understood that their program would never have had the impact that it did, except for the World Food Prize involvement.

The United Soybean Board has a similar view of the importance of the World Food Prize. It has regularly brought delegations to Des Moines in October so they could take part in the various aspects of the World Food Prize. The World Initiative in Soy for Human Health (WISHH) has brought delegations from partnering organizations in Africa to the World Food Prize as well. The Soy Food Council annually brings an array of food editors to Des Moines to expose them to the World Food Prize.

Agribusinesses and food companies have likewise made the World Food Prize a central feature of their business and research efforts, bringing scientists and customers from around the world to Des Moines. The Global Harvest Initiative (including John Deere, ADM, Monsanto and DuPont) has released policy initiatives at the Borlaug Dialogue and featured its CEOs in sessions of the symposium.

Agriculture and U.S. national security

One of Ambassador Quinn's most distinctive accomplishments involved his persistent efforts to have very senior U.S. Government policy makers take cognizance of the critical importance that agriculture plays in assuring U.S. national security. At the time that Ambassador Quinn retired from the State Department in 1999 following a 32-year career as a Foreign Service Officer, it is safe to say that agriculture was not on the radar of many – if any – senior U.S. State Department or national security officials.

Ambassador Quinn began his efforts to demonstrate the important linkage that agriculture has to national security by building this topic into the World Food Prize symposium and at the same time bringing State Department and Defense Department officials to World Food Prize events. In the first three annual conferences he planned, Ambassador Quinn emphasized themes which made this connection, including:

- “Global Water Insecurity: From the Middle East to the Middle West” – to which he invited Israeli senior executives, as well as individuals from the West Bank, Egypt and other Middle East countries;

- The threat of agroterrorism and bioterrorism to the American food supply; and
- The critical importance of biotechnology and rural roads in confronting terrorism and insurgencies.

Later he devoted an entire Borlaug Dialogue to “Food, agriculture and threats to U.S. national security” – which included a panel on potential instability from food shortages, led by the Counselor of the U.S. National Intelligence Council.

Cabinet-level involvement

The Department of State was so impressed by these linkages that beginning in 2004, the Secretary of State agreed to host the annual World Food Prize Laureate Announcement Ceremony in its diplomatic reception rooms in Washington, D.C. Secretary of State Colin Powell presided at that first event and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continued this tradition by being the host in 2010.

These events have become the place at which the Administration makes announcements of significant new initiatives linking agriculture and foreign policy. For example, in 2009, Secretary of State Clinton announced that the new Administration would be developing a policy on global food security, with agriculture as a central component. In 2010, Secretary Vilsack unveiled a new research initiative within USDA, named in honor of Dr. Norman Borlaug, as part of the Administration’s “Feed the Future” policy. At an earlier conference, Secretary Vilsack publicly commended Ambassador Quinn for the important role that he and the World Food Prize have played on these issues in conjunction with USDA.

In 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates invited Ambassador Quinn to join a small and select group of ten U.S. agriculture and agribusiness leaders for a joint session on the linkages of agriculture, food security and national security. During that private discussion over several hours, Ambassador Quinn noted the critical importance that both Dr. Borlaug and he attributed to the impact that rural roads and biotechnology can have in countering terrorism and insurgency. Secretary Gates responded to Ambassador Quinn by saying, “All of my commanders in Afghanistan tell me the same thing: That where the road ends, the insurgency begins.”

This exchange between Secretary Gates and Ambassador Quinn could be traced back to their service together on the National Security Council, and Mr. Gates’ subsequent appearance as a keynote speaker at the 2006 World Food Prize.

In 2005, Andrew Natsios, then the head of USAID, spoke at the World Food Prize symposium. During his dialogue with Ambassador Quinn, Mr. Natsios said that in keeping with Ambassador Quinn’s persistent emphasis on rural roads, USAID was now building a large circular highway linking many remote areas of Afghanistan, because he had come to see the importance of infrastructure to both agricultural development and increased security.

World Food Prize events organized by Ambassador Quinn have also led to other significant developments in relation to international cooperation and agricultural research. At a World Food Prize luncheon in 2004, Ambassador Quinn reminded his guests (including the head of USAID, the President of the Association of U.S. Land Grant Colleges and Universities and the Deputy Ambassador of India) of the significant relationship which existed in the early 1960s between American agricultural research institutions and

universities in India. This provoked an intense follow-on discussion at the table and later significant exchanges in diplomatic channels.

A year later, this kernel of an idea had developed into the Agricultural Knowledge Initiative (AKI), which President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed during the President's State Visit to India in 2005. The AKI initiated a series of new relationships between U.S. Land Grant institutions and Indian agricultural universities.

Summary of accomplishments and contributions to agriculture: State and local in scope

Even though a significant part of Ambassador Quinn's focus at the World Food Prize has been international and national, he has been equally attentive to ensuring that the World Food Prize has an impact on the Midwest, the state of Iowa and his home community of Des Moines. He has sought to accomplish this in several distinct programs which are aimed at promoting economic development and educational opportunities for young people.

Promoting Economic Development

Ambassador Quinn has worked very closely with agribusinesses and Iowa commodity groups in order to make the World Food Prize programs as useful as possible to those entities, as they seek to promote their products. As a result, many of these organizations bring potential customers, research scientists, foreign government officials and sales executives to Iowa for business meetings and then to attend the World Food Prize events. In 2007, Ambassador Quinn organized a Biofuels Expo as part of the Borlaug Dialogue, so that Iowa companies could present factual information to hundreds of foreign visitors and guests. In addition, the DuPont/Pioneer Biotechnology Advisory Board regularly meets at the World Food Prize, as does Truth About Trade & Technology, which brings farmers who use biotechnology from all around the world. This interaction often leads to important and fruitful business opportunities.

This approach of connection and cooperation has been enormously effective, as can be attested to by the leaders of such companies. For example, the Chairman of Kemin Industries said that his company gets back \$5 for every dollar they give to support the World Food Prize. Perhaps more significantly, these companies and organizations have demonstrated through their generous contributions to the World Food Prize, just how much they value Ambassador Quinn's and the World Food Prize's efforts. When Ambassador Quinn took over the World Food Prize in 2000, it had four co-sponsors. In 2010, it had eight-four. Included among World Food Prize donors are: ADM, John Deere, Monsanto, DuPont/Pioneer, Bunge, Novus, Kemin, Elanco, General Mills, Cargill, Land O'Lakes, The United Soybean Board, Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers and West Central, a biofuels company.

Building the "Crown Jewel of the Iowa high school experience"

The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute was an exceptional innovation started by John Ruan and Dr. Norman Borlaug. Their hope was to inspire young people to pursue education and careers in food science and agriculture. When initiated in 1994, it brought 13 young Iowa high school students in contact with World Food Prize Laureates and other agricultural experts.

When Ambassador Quinn assumed leadership of the World Food Prize five years later, only about 25 Iowa high school students attended each year. Ambassador Quinn was determined to build upon the legacy of Mr. Ruan and Dr. Borlaug and to expand this program around the entire State of Iowa. Through a sustained effort to be in contact with virtually every high school in the state, the number of participants has more than tripled so that now the full complement of 80 spaces in the program are regularly filled by students from every corner of Iowa. In addition, each school sends one high school teacher, who also benefits from a special continued education element that Ambassador Quinn and his staff have built into the Global Youth Institute.

Beginning in 2007, the World Food Prize Foundation has been endeavoring to build the Global Youth Institute into a national program with the ultimate aim of attracting students from every state and region in the country. They are building this endeavor through a close partnership with Land Grant colleges and universities, 4-H and FFA. In 2011 the total number of attendees at the Global Youth Institute will reach 130 students (plus 130 teachers). The ultimate goal is to reach an overall figure of 160 annual student attendees from across Iowa and America in the next several years.

Dr. Borlaug called the Global Youth Institute “my favorite part of the World Food Prize,” and he regularly complimented Ambassador Quinn on what he had done to take this idea to its ultimate possibilities. Under his leadership of the World Food Prize, over **1000** students from **26** states and **175** different high schools have participated in the Global Youth Institute.

Amazing international internships for high school students

Of perhaps even greater impact than the Global Youth Institute, are the Borlaug-Ruan International Internships for high school students, which the World Food Prize sponsors each summer. This program sends graduates of the Global Youth Institute for eight-week assignments at leading international agricultural research centers in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Taiwan and Turkey.

In Ambassador Quinn’s first year, only two students were able to participate in this program. Since then, he has worked to steadily expand these exceptional opportunities so that by 2011, there were 18 Borlaug-Ruan Internships with two more planned to be established in the next year. To date, more than 160 high school students have taken part and accumulated an amazing record of accomplishments, both during their placements and well into the future after their internships have ended. Five have been Intel National Science Competition finalists, and others have gained entry to some of the most competitive science and agricultural research programs in America. Many have gone on to graduate school in science, agricultural science, medicine and development. Virtually all of the Borlaug-Ruan Interns, when returning to the United States, say this program which brought them face-to-face with issues of hunger and the need for agricultural development in very poor areas “has been a life-changing experience.”

USDA Wallace-Carver Internships

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was so impressed by this program that he asked Ambassador Quinn to propose ideas that would allow a special connection to be established for Borlaug-Ruan Interns with his USDA college internship program. In the summer of 2011, Secretary Vilsack inaugurated the USDA

Wallace-Carver Internship program, with 15 former World Food Prize international interns filling positions in the USDA Agricultural Research Service. This program will expand to over 100 USDA internships in 2012 and hundreds more in 2013.

Iowa Hunger Summit – A Partnership with the Iowa Farm Bureau

In his interest to appeal to groups and individuals across the full spectrum of food and agriculture, Ambassador Quinn started a new adjunct event to the World Food Prize called the Iowa Hunger Summit. It is a day-long event, open to the public free of charge, with an aim of gathering representatives of all Iowa non-profit, civic, agricultural, social and religious organizations that are in any way involved in combating hunger both at home and abroad.

Ambassador Quinn and his staff make available meeting space and invite any organization to create its own session in order to highlight a particular aspect of the issues of poverty and hunger. The centerpiece of the event is the Hunger Luncheon, at which only the foods used by Iowa entities to feed hungry people are served. Ambassador Quinn convinced the three former Governors of Iowa (Republicans Robert Ray and Terry Branstad and Democrat Tom Vilsack) to be the honorary co-chairs of the event.

The Hunger Summit has drawn an amazing attendance, with over 500 people each year for what has been called an inspiring event to keep the issue of hunger front and center. This event has such far-reaching impact around the state that the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation has committed to being its main sponsor for the next five years. Iowa Farm Bureau President Craig Lang stood with Ambassador Quinn to make this announcement in 2010. They pledged to work together during this time to build the Hunger Summit into one of the most significant events of its kind anywhere in America.

As with most of the World Food Prize programs that Ambassador Quinn directs, interest in the Hunger Summit quickly spread outside the state. As a result, participants from both coasts and most of the states surrounding Iowa have traveled considerable distance to participate in the Hunger Summit. Some are making it a focal point for other meetings that they wish to hold, of their broad membership. For example, in 2007, the National Alliance Against Hunger board met in Des Moines and then attended the Hunger Summit, with the leaders of Bread for the World, Mazon (the Jewish response to hunger) and America's Second Harvest all participating. On that same occasion, representatives of all of the Presidential candidates vying for the 2008 Presidential nomination and the Iowa caucuses took part in a joint panel highlighting their candidate's commitment to dealing with hunger and emphasizing that this is in fact a bipartisan issue.

Hoover-Wallace Dinner: Preserving Iowa's agricultural and humanitarian heritage

Continuing the theme of bipartisanship in dealing with hunger, in 2004 Ambassador Quinn started a new event in Iowa called the Hoover-Wallace Dinner. He enlisted the then Governor, both of Iowa's senators, all of its federal Congressmen and the entire bipartisan leadership of the Iowa Legislature to be co-sponsors for this dinner, which honors Iowa's humanitarian and agricultural heroes (particularly former President Herbert Hoover, who took food to feed 900 million people in Europe at the end of World War I; and Henry A. Wallace, who was the first to bring American agricultural technology to countries outside our borders).

This event, which draws 500-600 people annually, ensures that Iowans will not forget the critical role that agriculture has played in their state's history, nor the state's humanitarian response to disasters around the globe. All proceeds from the dinner go toward supporting the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute.

Preserving and enhancing the legacy of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

Ambassador Quinn counts it as one of the great privileges of his life that he was able to work so closely with Dr. Borlaug for ten years. Having seen firsthand the dramatic impact of the Green Revolution in the Mekong Delta in 1968, he was anxious to do all that he could to ensure that Dr. Borlaug's enormous contributions to humanity were recognized. Ambassador Quinn noted that Dr. Borlaug was so humble that very few people, even in his home state of Iowa, knew of his prodigious life-saving achievements. Ambassador Quinn was determined to change that.

Norman Borlaug / World Food Prize Day

As a first step, working with the Democratic Governor of Iowa and the Republican leaders of the state legislature, in 2001 Ambassador Quinn convinced them to establish a special day of recognition in Iowa for Dr. Borlaug. For only the second time in Iowa's more than 160-year history, the legislature enacted an official Day of Recognition in honor of an individual, when it made October 16 "Dr. Norman E. Borlaug / World Food Prize Day" in Iowa. (The other day of recognition was for Herbert Hoover, as a former President of the United States.) Each year this event is celebrated in schools around the state, to which Ambassador Quinn has donated biographies of Dr. Borlaug's life, as well as an annual poster about him.

Minnesota soon followed Iowa's lead and indeed, in 2004, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution making October 16 "Dr. Norman E. Borlaug / World Food Prize Day" in America.

Congressional Gold Medal

For more than two years, Ambassador Quinn worked with the members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation to achieve the ¾ vote of both the House and Senate to award the Congressional Gold Medal, America's highest civilian award, to Dr. Borlaug. In 2006, this joint resolution passed and in July 2007, President Bush and the bipartisan leadership of the Congress presented America's highest honor to Dr. Borlaug in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. Dr. Borlaug was lauded as "the man who saved a billion lives," and "the man who has saved more lives than any other person who has ever lived."

In all of the history of the USA, only six persons have been awarded the "trifecta" of the Nobel Peace Prize, the President's Medal of Honor and the Congressional Medal of Honor: Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Norman Borlaug was the sixth, thanks to Ken Quinn's efforts.

The World Food Prize Hall of Laureates – A lasting monument to Norman Borlaug and American agricultural leadership

As another significant step, Ambassador Quinn has led a \$30 million campaign to transform the historic century-old former central library building in Des Moines into the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates. To date, he has raised over \$29 million and restoration work will be completed in October 2011. Once

completed, this revitalized architectural treasure will serve as a museum and convocation center recognizing the extraordinary agricultural achievements of Dr. Borlaug, the World Food Prize Laureates and the role of American agriculture in leading the single greatest period of food production and hunger reduction in all human history.

The Hall of Laureates will serve as the new home of the Borlaug Dialogue, the epicenter of an annual gathering drawing the greatest scientists and leaders from around the globe to consider the most critical issues in food security. As such, it will be a place of inspiration for individuals from around the world, as well as for young students just beginning their education and careers. From the exhibits and artwork, they will learn about Dr. Borlaug's achievements and the importance of increased agricultural production, if the global population of over 9 billion will be able to be fed in the 21st century.

Ambassador Quinn has signed a 100-year lease on this property, which was designed in the 19th century, so that at the beginning of the 22nd century, Dr. Borlaug's legacy will still be inspiring individuals to confront hunger and poverty.

Carrying Dr. Borlaug's message after his death

While not an agricultural scientist himself, Ambassador Quinn spent ten years working closely with Dr. Borlaug and came to know many of his accomplishments as well as his dreams. When Dr. Borlaug was too ill to testify before the Senate Agricultural Committee, Ambassador Quinn took his place. Initially feeling out of place as he sat on a panel with the head of the American Soybean Association and the president of BIO, Ambassador Quinn soon had all of the Senators leaning forward across their desks as he recounted Dr. Borlaug's dream that one day biotechnology would allow the identification of the gene in rice that prevents it from being affected by rust disease, and the transplanting of it into wheat in order to finally eliminate that scourge that Dr. Borlaug spent his life fighting against.

Three days before Dr. Borlaug passed away, Ambassador Quinn traveled to Dallas for a last visit with him. Dr. Borlaug was extremely weak, but he urged Ken to continue his efforts to build the World Food Prize into all that it could be. Ambassador Quinn, holding Dr. Borlaug's hand, promised him that he would.

Following Dr. Borlaug's death in September 2009, Ambassador Quinn has undertaken speaking engagements around the globe to carry on Dr. Borlaug's legacy and highlight his mission. An inspirational speaker, he has traveled to India, Africa, Japan and Russia to deliver addresses to a variety of audiences, recounting Dr. Borlaug's lessons and urging them to continue to emulate Dr. Borlaug's life-long commitment of connecting science and research to farmers.

In October 2010, the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue had for its theme Norman Borlaug's very last words – "Take it to the Farmer." In a sense, these words sum up Dr. Borlaug's amazing life, as well as Ambassador Quinn's mission to continue his work in building the World Food Prize into what Norman Borlaug and John Ruan dreamed it could become – "the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture."

Dr. Borlaug's statue in the U.S. Capitol

In 2011, Ambassador Quinn had another major accomplishment when, on a bipartisan basis, the Iowa State Legislature passed a unanimous resolution which the Governor signed, to place Dr. Borlaug's statue in the

U.S. Capitol. This is a historic decision clearly designating Dr. Borlaug as Iowa's greatest hero and, arguably, America's greatest agriculture figure.

Summary

It is most appropriate that Ambassador Quinn be presented the American Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service Award to Agriculture for his leadership in:

- Bringing global attention to the critical issues of global agriculture and the need for greatly increased food production in the 21st century through the Borlaug Dialogue;
- Building the World Food Prize to become recognized as "the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" around the world;
- Leading national security officials of both parties to see the critical importance of agriculture in keeping America safe, particularly from terrorist threats;
- Developing innovative programs that inspire high school students to pursue careers in food and agricultural science; and
- Leading the effort to preserve the legacy of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and ensuring that his spirit will be able to inspire future generations to pursue agriculture and the struggle against hunger and poverty for the next 100 years.

Ambassador Quinn has gone far toward fulfilling Norman Borlaug's and John Ruan's dreams, by building the World Food Prize into the premier award in the world for confronting hunger, and by making Iowa be seen as the "Hunger Fighting Capital of America and the World."

Honors received by nominee

When he retired from the U.S. State Department in 1999, Ambassador Quinn was one of the most decorated Foreign Service officers of his generation. Having served in a war zone and in countries exposed to violence and terrorism, he was shot at, wounded, blown up or under death threat in every foreign assignment he had. In Cambodia in 1997, his home was hit by a rocket with his entire family present (fortunately they all escaped unharmed). Ambassador Quinn's honors and awards include:

- The Secretary of State's Award for Heroism and Valor for his efforts to protect American citizens exposed to danger in Cambodia, as well as the four lifesaving rescues in which he participated in Vietnam;
- Being the only civilian ever to receive the U.S. Army Air Medal for his direct participation in military combat operations in Vietnam;
- A State Department Superior Honor Award for his role in identifying and successfully prosecuting two persons engaged in espionage against the United States;

- A Meritorious Honor Award presented at the White House for his role in evacuating refugees from Indochina at the end of the war;
- A Treasury Department Commendation for his role in directing the operation to capture a North Korean international counterfeiter and terrorist;
- The Presidential Distinguished Service Award – the highest recognition accorded career State Department officers – for his leadership in re-shaping policy toward Vietnam and Cambodia and for accounting for POW/MIAs;
- The Department of Defense Award for Distinguished Civilian Service and the National Guard Bureau Eagle Award for his critical support to the Iowa National Guard during an exceptionally difficult period;
- Being the only Foreign Service officer ever to have three times received the American Foreign Service Association Rivkin and Herter Awards for intellectual courage in challenging policy; and
- Under his leadership, the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh was the only three-time recipient (among all U.S. Embassies in the world) of the Director of Central Intelligence's Award for Exceptional Reporting.

Aug. 16, 2011
Date

State Farm Bureau: Iowa

By: Clay A. Long
President

