

cheers.

Life is full of celebration.

Share your announcements through Wahlert Catholic Eagle Updates at

[holyfamilydbq.org/eagleupdates](http://holyfamilydbq.org/eagleupdates).



Charlie '02 & Hope Freund welcomed baby girl Eloise Kathleen on January 8, 2018.

ALUMNI CAREER NEWS

 Nicole (Beaver) Gantz '93, has been made a partner at Honkamp Krueger P.C.

 Ryan Burbach '05, has been made a partner at Honkamp Krueger P.C.

Stephanie Dalton '05 has joined Great River Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (in practice with her dad, Mike Dalton '78)

Steven May '70 retired in December, 2017

ALUMNI MARRIAGES

Beth (Miller) '09 Married Andrew McFadden on Oct. 21, 2017

ALUMNI BIRTHS

Tommy '03 & Kate (Gross) '03 Lange welcomed baby boy William on Dec. 20, 2017

Maria (Kalb) '09 & Scott Schemmel welcomed baby girl Grace Elizabeth on March 10, 2018

Katie (Lange) '99 & Chris Lenart welcomed baby girl Sophie Mae on Feb. 5, 2018

IN MEMORIAM

September, 2017–March, 2018

1960s

Mary Ann (Timmerman) Runde '60  
Stanley Schroeder '60  
Madonna McElmeel '62  
Dale Droessler '63  
Merlin Schuster '63  
Sarah (Sullivan) Willging '63  
Mary (McCarthy) Braem '64  
David Mills '64  
Robert Schuster '64  
Susan (Reisch)Tebbe '64  
Bonnie Maiers '65  
John Fury '65  
John Shanahan '66  
Michelle Clemens '67  
David Grant '68

David Manders '69  
Joseph Pillard '69

1970s

Bruce Noel '71  
Curt Vrotsos '71  
Robert Leick '72  
Stephen Livens '72  
Terry Richards '72  
John Cody '73  
Michael Schroeder '73  
David Freiburger '74  
Russell Gaherty '75  
Ann (Udelhofen) Oglesby '76  
Karen Timpe '76  
Cathy Bishop '78

Jeffrey Fitzgerald '78

1980s

Elizabeth DeGree-Mueller '81  
Charles Lavacek '84  
Roberta (Thill) Wolbers '85  
Pamela (Hansen) Coleman '86

1990s

Heather (Neal) Davis '91

Passing the test changed my life forever!

Q:What has been most fascinating along the way?

A: The places I have gone and the people I have met. Throughout my career, I have lived in and traveled to numerous countries. Among the many world leaders and international figures I have met, the three most inspiring individuals that I have encountered during my career have been: Dr. Norman Borlaug, the founder of the World Food Prize; Governor Robert Ray of Iowa; and Corazon Aquino, the President of the Philippines. Each cared deeply about alleviating the plight of suffering people and each showed extraordinary courage in facing extremely difficult circumstances.

Q:What have you carried with you from your Wahlert Catholic High School experience?

A: I am so incredibly proud to be a Wahlert grad! My senior year at Wahlert was the most memorable, impactful experience of my entire education from first grade through my Ph.D. Feeling the pride and excitement of walking into that new building for the first time in August 1959 was thrilling. To have been chosen as the Cadet Colonel to lead the ROTC Battalion, being a member of Ed Colbert's first basketball team, receiving the Bausch and Lomb Science Award as the top science student and serving as yearbook editor are all indelible memories of my senior year.

I have carried lessons from Wahlert with me throughout my career. Whenever I have encountered humanitarian crises around the globe, whether war victims in Vietnam, refugees from Indochina, Cambodian survivors of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime or malnourished, food insecure smallholders across Africa, the moral foundation inculcated in me at Wahlert and throughout my Catholic education always impelled me to do all that I could to alleviate human suffering.

To this day, I make reference in speeches to one of the most powerful examples of intellectual integrity that I have ever witnessed. It came during the last seconds of the first ever Wahlert-Senior basketball game on the Wahlert court in 1960. Even though we were ranked third in the state and seemingly destined to make it to the finals, we were trailing Senior by one basket. My close friend John "Fingers" Delaney '60 launched a desperate three-quarters length shot just as the final buzzer sounded.

Miraculously, the shot banked in, apparently tying the score and sending the Wahlert students into a frenzy. Then, the referees, uncertain whether Fingers had released the shot before the buzzer, turned to the official scorer, Wahlert physics teacher Bob O'Connell, for the final verdict. It was really close, but Prof. O'Connell never hesitated in declaring the shot no good. My heart still aches whenever I think back to that moment, but I know he made the correct call. He provided a lesson of a lifetime about honesty and integrity.

I regularly attend Wahlert state tournament games (along with my good friend Attorney General Tom Miller '62). I have seen the Golden Eagles win several state championships, but that 57-55 loss to Senior still hurts.

I remember wonderful teachers like Fr. Jim Chapman and Fr. Tom Carpenter; Bernie O'Connor and especially Sister Columba, who inspired me toward science.

*The World Food Prize Foundation has a unique program to inspire high school students to education and careers in STEM subjects and confronting hunger around the globe. Our Iowa Youth Institute each spring provides the initial experience that can lead to international internships in Asia, Africa and Latin America. I invite Wahlert students to participate. Those interested can contact Kelsey Tyrrell at [kyrrell@worldfoodprize.org](mailto:kyrrell@worldfoodprize.org). –Ken*

# Amb. Kenneth Quinn '60

AFTER SERVING AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA, QUINN NOW SHARES HIS EXPERTISE AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE, THE FOREMOST INTERNATIONAL AWARD RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE INCREASED THE QUALITY, QUANTITY OR AVAILABILITY OF FOOD IN THE WORLD.



Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

KNOW SOMEONE WE SHOULD FEATURE? OUR ALUMNI ARE OUT THERE DOING BIG THINGS AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! SUBMIT YOUR SUGGESTION FOR THE "ALUMNI WORTH KNOWING" SPOTLIGHT AT [HOLYFAMILYDBQ.ORG/EAGLEUPDATES](http://HOLYFAMILYDBQ.ORG/EAGLEUPDATES).



Q:Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A: After graduating from Wahlert in 1960, I attended Loras College, graduating with a degree in Political Science in 1964. Then, it was on to Milwaukee for an M.A. at Marquette, followed by three years at the University of Maryland working toward a Ph.D. in international relations.

From 1967 to 1999, I had a 32-year career as a State Department diplomat – serving in Vietnam during the war; at the United Nations in Austria, at the US embassy in the Philippines and on Henry Kissinger's National Security Council staff at the White House. From 1996 to 1999, I served as U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia.

Highlights along the way include:

- Being the only civilian to receive the Army Air Medal for taking part in combat helicopter operations during my six years in the Vietnam War;
- Having my ambassadorial residence in Cambodia hit by a rocket and ringed in automatic weapons fire while my wife and I covered our three children with our bodies (thankfully, no one was hurt);
- Serving as the interpreter in Vietnamese for President Ford in the White House;
- Negotiating access to prisons in Vietnam and Russia to search for POW/MIAs.

At my retirement ceremony, I was presented with the State Department award for Heroism and Valor for five life-saving rescues I carried out in Vietnam during the war; and for protecting American citizens from extreme danger during the civil war in Cambodia in the 1990s.

From 2000 to the present, as president of the World Food Prize, I have endeavored to build this \$250,000 annual award, so it is considered the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture." Founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, the goal of our Foundation is to eradicate hunger in the world.

In 2014, I received the Iowa Medal, our state's highest civilian honor; previously presented to only 22 persons in the last 70 years. Other recipients include President Herbert Hoover; Vice-President Henry Wallace and Professor George Washington Carver. I am so very proud to be a Wahlert grad on that list of distinguished Iowans.

Throughout my experience, nothing has been more important or meaningful than marrying my wife Le Son Nguyen, whom I met in Vietnam, having three children and watching them grow up.

Q:What led you on your career path?

A: The inspiration for my career as a diplomat came from President John F. Kennedy. I recalled him saying during an interview that if he had not gone into politics, he would have pursued a career in the Foreign Service. It seemed an impossible long-shot since only around 200 individuals were selected by the State Department each year out of about 15,000 who took the entry exam (most of them from places like Harvard, Princeton and Yale—and not Dubuque). Still, I gave it a try, and all that academic preparation at Wahlert and Loras College paid off.



Read the full interview with Ambassador Quinn about his fascinating life and career on our blog: [holyfamilydbq.org/blog](http://holyfamilydbq.org/blog)