

## Decorated humanitarian still serving

FIRST OF TWO PARTS

### Wahlert/Loras grad Quinn keeps eyes focused on The Prize

By Steve McMahon  
Witness Staff Writer

DES MOINES — Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, Ph.D., one of the most decorated Foreign Service officers of his generation, has certainly led an intriguing, adventurous life.

In every assignment during his 32-year Foreign Service career, he was either blown up, shot at, wounded or under terrorist threats. In the Philippines, he was assigned six bodyguards for his personal protection.

He managed to persevere through it all, always keeping his eyes on the prize.

Today, at age 68, now retired from Foreign Service, he is focusing on a different prize — The World Food Prize.

Since Jan. 1, 2000, he has served as president of the World Food Prize Foundation, a Des Moines-based organization that annually awards The World Food Prize to outstanding individuals whose breakthrough achievements fight world hunger.

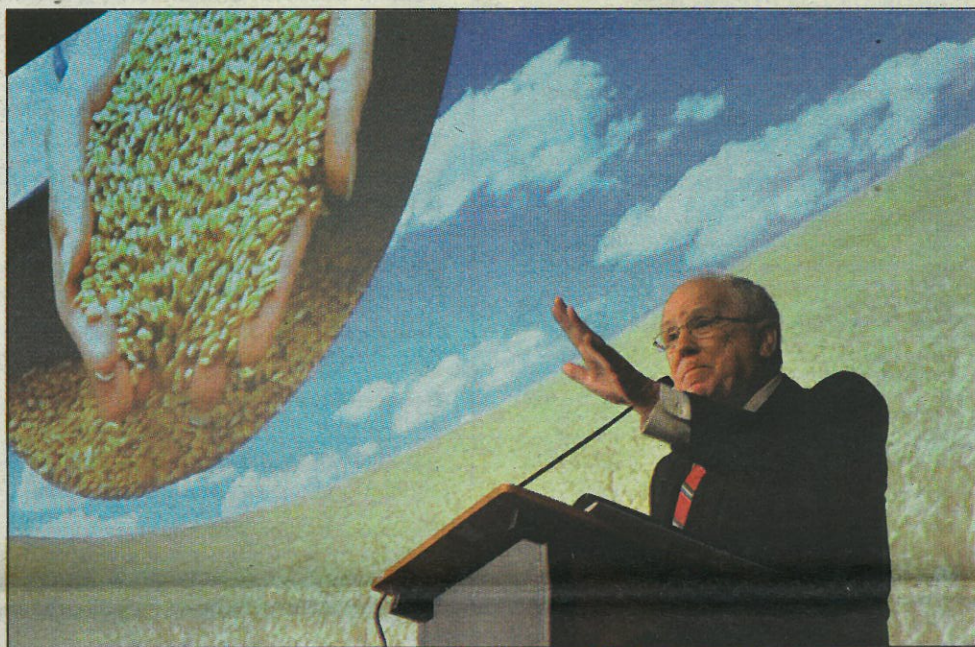
He jets around the world to consult on food production and take the foundation's message to farmers everywhere. He and his wife Le Son have three adult children.



### THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

#### Preserving a legacy

Quinn is currently overseeing the completion of a museum honoring a man who's been a strong inspiration — the late Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, founder of the foundation. The \$29.8 million restoration project will transform the 110-year-old Des Moines Public Library Building into the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates. (Please turn to Page 3)



Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, gave the Norman Borlaug Memorial Address at the International Wheat Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in June 2010. The conference was the largest meeting on wheat ever held. Dr. Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his significant achievements in wheat production; his work is credited with saving over a billion lives around the world. (Photo courtesy of World Food Prize Foundation)

## Historic exhibit coming to Dubuque

### Display will tell stories of women religious

DUBUQUE — The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and Clarke University have announced that "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America," a traveling exhibition featuring the untold stories of the innovative, action-oriented women who played such a significant role in shaping the nation's social and cultural landscape, will make its way to the museum from Feb. 18-May 22, 2011.



Locally, the major exhibit is sponsored by Conlon Construction. Nationally, "Women & Spirit" is a project of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), which is touring the exhibition. LCWR is an association of leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the U.S. It represents about 90 percent of women religious in the U.S.

"Throughout history, women religious have been known as strong leaders with

an amazing ability to affect positive change in our nation," said Clarke President Joanne M. Burrows, SC, Ph.D.

"As a Catholic institution, our sponsorship of this national exhibit allows us to honor the legacy of the sisters and their historical and present-day impact on our region of the country."

This exhibit is a milestone compilation of artifacts and multimedia presentations revealing a new perspective of American

history with many inspiring stories. It tells the story of the Sisters of Charity who nursed both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

And, the story of Mother Alfred Moes, founder of the Rochester Franciscans, who built St. Mary's Hospital, and convinced Dr. William Worrall Mayo and his sons to staff it.

That "partnership" was the beginnings of The Mayo Clinic. There is also the story of Sister Ignatia Gavin, the "angel" of Alcoholics Anonymous, who was instrumental in the designation of alcoholism as a disease.

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## Decorated humanitarian (Con't. from p. 1)

The target date for completion is October 2011 — the 25th anniversary of Borlaug starting the World Food Prize.

"It's magnificent both inside and out," Quinn told Iowa Congressman Tom Latham, who represents Iowa's 4th Congressional District, in a recent televised interview, "The Congressional Report." "It will be a wonderful anniversary present for Norm and a great treasure for our community."

### Iowa roots

Quinn is a graduate of Wahlert Catholic High School, 1960, and Loras College, 1964, both in Dubuque.

Shortly before he began attending high

school, he moved to Dubuque with his family. They were members of St. Columbkille Parish, where Quinn played on the Holy Name League baseball team and coached junior high school athletics.

For Quinn, passing the Foreign Service exam was the start of his distinguished career as a Foreign Service officer, beginning in 1967.

"That wonderful event changed my life," he said. "For about three hours, a kid from Iowa can be on a par with those people from Harvard, Yale and Princeton."

### Seeds, roads

He was assigned to South Vietnam as a rural development advisor in the Mekong

Delta, 1968-74.

His experiences there taught him some valuable lessons.

"I saw the incredible power of agriculture and rural roads," he said. "It was our most powerful weapon in destroying the insurgents."

### Khmer Rouge toppled

Later, while serving as U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, 1996-97, his strategy of agricultural enhancements and rural roads was again instrumental, this time in defeating the Khmer Rouge — whom he describes as "the greatest terrorist murdering thugs of the second half of the 20th century."

"They killed two million Cambodians out of seven million in just four years," Quinn said. "They still had control of most of the countryside. I had \$11 million of American assistance. I used it to build roads. I bought all the road-building equipment I could. We built the roads out into the Khmer Rouge areas and in 1999 the last Khmer Rouge surrendered. We destroyed the terrorist organization."

"Rather than being in the diplomatic salons of Europe, being out in the villages, out on rural roads, that's what I was about."

*Next week: Cresco native Dr. Borlaug believed in biotechnology.*

## Quinn has earned the following awards:

- Secretary of State's Award for Heroism and Valor for his efforts to protect Americans exposed to danger in Cambodia, plus four lifesaving rescues in Vietnam.
- U.S. Army Air Medal for combat operations in Vietnam. Believed to be the first civilian to receive this award.
- Superior Honor Award for his role in identifying and prosecuting persons engaged in espionage.

- Meritorious Honor Award for his role in assisting Indochina refugees.
- Treasury Department Commendation for the arrest of an international counterfeiter and terrorist.
- Presidential Distinguished Service Award for reshaping policy toward Vietnam and Cambodia and for accounting for POW/MIAs.

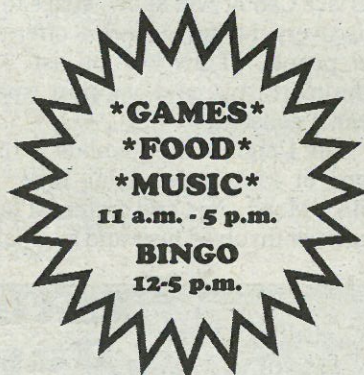
- Department of Defense Award for Distinguished Civilian Service and National Guard Bureau Eagle Award.
- Arnie Raphael Award for exemplary service in mentoring Junior Foreign Service Officers.
- American Foreign Service Association Rivkin and Herter Awards for intellectual courage in challenging policy (three times).

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# St. Wenceslaus CZECH GOULASH DAY SUNDAY, SEPT. 26

10:30 Czech Folk Mass  
music by Czech Plus Band

12-1 p.m. Czech Plus Band  
1-3 p.m. Mike Lasack &  
His Rhythm-Aires  
3-5 p.m. Iowa Accordion Club



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### Blessed Sacrament, Waterloo

Sept. 19: Fall festival 2010 "Faith Kickoff," 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Roast pork dinner served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults, \$8; children 5-9, \$5; children 4 and under, free. Cash raffle, children's games, bingo, crafts, baked goods.

### Sacred Heart, Osage

Sept. 26: Fall festival, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the school gym. Serving a turkey & ham dinner with all the trimmings from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kids and adult games, silent auction, raffle, baked goods, religious items and more.

### St. Joseph, Preston

Sept. 26: Kalmes' & ham dinner served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in parish hall. Mass at 10 a.m. with special music. Raffles, silent auction, country store, bingo, kids' games and more. Carryouts available.

### St. Patrick, Cedar Falls

Oct 3: Fall festival, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Silent auction, bake sale, book sale, pumpkin patch, children's games and more.

### St. Joseph the Worker, Dubuque

Oct. 3: Octoberfest. Rhody's chicken and beef dinner served 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Craft corner, silent auction, games and more.

### St. Francis (Barclay), Dunkerton

Oct. 3: Fall dinner. Serving barbecued beef and ham dinner from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults: \$7; senior citizens: \$6.50; children 5-10: \$4; preschoolers: free. Raffles, games for all ages, country store with arts and crafts.

### Immaculate Conception, Riceville

Oct. 3: Fall festival. Roast beef and ham dinner, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in church basement. Adults: \$8, children 3-12: \$4; under 3: free. Carryouts available. Country store, raffles, kids games. Elevator access available.