

## HONOR FOR DIPLOMAT WHO CONFRONTED GENOCIDE



*Ambassador Kenneth Quinn speaking at the International Wheat Congress in St. Petersburg, Russia, 2010*

London: February 4, 2019

The *Steven Krulis Champion of Humanity Distinguished Service Award* recognizes those who have contributed significantly to the prevention of genocide and to promoting values of humanity. Originally called the Aegis Award, it has been given only once before – to L Gen Romeo Dallaire of Canada in 2002.

The Award will be presented to Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn at a ceremony on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, hosted by Lord Alton of Liverpool in the House of Lords, London. Separate events highlighting Ambassador Quinn's achievements will also be held in Rwanda on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> and at the UK National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Nottinghamshire, England on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Award recognizes Ambassador Quinn's service over several decades in confronting and countering genocide, especially in relation to the

people of Cambodia, and thereby championing values of humanity globally

The Award especially recognizes Ambassador Quinn's role, before anyone else, in identifying and speaking up about the genocidal policies and actions of the Khmer Rouge, which sadly fell on deaf ears; in leading the Iowa SHARES campaign that rushed life-saving food, medicine, doctors and nurses to alleviate the suffering of thousands of survivors after the genocide; and then in the 1990s, as U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, he developed an effective strategy to eradicate the remaining 25,000 Khmer Rouge in the country.

Lord Alton said, "The motto on my coat of arms reads, 'choose life', and this is what this award represents – those that have chosen pathways of life, through confronting and countering genocide through their humanity, providing a role model and inspiration to others."

Dr. Smith said, "It is truly remarkable to have someone who played such a leading role in responding to the humanitarian fallout of a genocide, in this case the genocide in Cambodia. He raised the alarm some two years prior to the genocide starting. Imagine if we had listened; imagine a world where we had used our ethical intelligence to invest in early prevention. Then, years later, he developed an ingenious way to eradicate the remnants of the perpetrators of this mass murder. That is exceptional."

Ambassador Quinn said, "I am truly humbled to be recognized with this Award, named in memory of Steven Krulis. The incomparable suffering of the millions of victims of genocide in the 20th century is an indelible stain on human history. I want to express my most profound gratitude to Dr. James Smith and the Aegis Trust for this extraordinary honor that they are bestowing upon me, and my unending admiration for all that the Aegis Trust is doing to ensure that future genocides do not occur again in the 21st century or beyond."

Thomas Krulis, son of Steven Krulis, said, "Our family very much appreciates that my father's life is being honored. He was a great man, who survived the horrors of Auschwitz and the Holocaust, teaching me

what it is to be a champion of humanity. We survived and prospered because of his humanity and the humanity of others. To my dad, may you be comforted in the knowledge that in your memory something really positive has begun.”

Ambassador Quinn currently serves as president of the World Food Prize Foundation in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

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I was honored to be there when my good friend Ambassador Quinn was being awarded this honor in Kigali, Rwanda.

Congratulations Ken, for such well deserved recognition

*Ruth*