



Honoring a Father's Dream

GIVING BACK TO OTHERS WAS ENGRAINED IN JOHN RUAN III FROM AN EARLY AGE, AS WAS A SOLID WORK ETHIC WHEN HE BEGAN WORKING AT AGE 14 FOR THE TRUCKING COMPANY HIS FATHER BUILT DURING THE THICK OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

When John Ruan III took over the reins as CEO of the now 79-year-old Ruan Transportation Management Systems (RTMS) in 1998, he assumed undoubtedly more responsibility than guiding one of the largest trucking companies in the United States. Along with his new leadership responsibilities came an unwavering commitment to philanthropic efforts in Iowa and around the world.

The Ruan family's philanthropic legacy is visible throughout the Greater Des Moines community. And, while founder John Ruan supported many charities throughout his lifetime, his greatest passion was providing continuous support for the World Food Prize, established in 1986 by Dr. Norman Borlaug.

When the original sponsor of the World Food Prize withdrew its support in 1990, Ruan stepped in as its sponsor and later permanently endowed the prize with \$10 million to ensure its tenure in Des Moines. Ruan and Dr. Borlaug worked together to develop a symposium that attracts the best and brightest in agriculture to Des Moines every October, as well as a youth institute that brings students to the event and sends them to research centers abroad to gain firsthand experience in global agriculture. The pinnacle of the symposium each year occurs when John Ruan III presents the World Food Prize to the laureates in a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol.

THE VISION

Even before he developed his passion for the prize, John Ruan had a love for agriculture, and he founded Iowa Export-Import Trading Company, which was designed to expand international markets for products grown, processed or manufactured in Iowa. Then, in the early 1980s, he aspired to construct an agriculturally based

world trade center tower in Des Moines that would make Iowa the agribusiness capital of the world. He envisioned that it would house agribusiness and farm-related firms.

Unfortunately, despite tireless efforts, Ruan could not close the deal on the Iowa world trade center, primarily due to funding issues.

A VISION ACHIEVED

Nearly 20 years later, in 2001, Ruan III took a fundamental step as chairman of the World Food Prize Foundation to make his father's vision of Iowa as the international capital of agriculture a reality. He pledged \$5 million to pave the way for the lease and \$29.8 million renovation of the former downtown Des Moines Public Library building to transform it into the permanent home of the World Food Prize organization and a place where visitors can learn about Iowa's agricultural and humanitarian history and related global issues.

"In the decade that John Ruan III has guided the World Food Prize as chairman, the organization has achieved its greatest stature, with its \$250,000 annual award now referred to by heads of state as the 'Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture' and its international symposium lauded as the 'premier conference in the world on global food

THE FORMER DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RENOVATED AND IS NOW THE HOME OF THE DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG WORLD FOOD PRIZE HALL OF LAUREATES.

security," said Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation. "I am extremely grateful to John Ruan III for giving me the opportunity to work with him in building this organization into a great asset for Des Moines and the entire state of Iowa."

A FAMILY'S HERITAGE

While the elder Ruan began the family's philanthropic heritage with his commitment to the World Food Prize and other local charitable organizations, Ruan III has expanded his family's strong altruistic and humanitarian roots, overseeing the John Ruan Foundation Trust, which funds arts, cultural and civic projects in Des Moines.

Due to his success in the transportation and banking sectors and his commitment to advancing corporate citizenship ideals, in June 2011, Ruan

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— U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Donohue

III was named chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation with more than 3 million business members. "John possesses an unwavering commitment to free enterprise and civic-mindedness," said Chamber President and CEO Tom Donohue. "I can't think of a more appropriate person to serve as chairman during the Chamber's centennial celebration in 2012. You won't find anyone more loyal and dedicated to the Chamber and to the people, principles and causes he believes in."

Janis Ruan, Ruan III's wife, has spearheaded many community initiatives, including the Fleur Drive Beautification Project, Downtown Streetscape Beautification, the Ingersoll Avenue restoration and the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden capital project, to which the Ruans made a sizeable donation. She has also been instrumental in planning the new public garden being planted west of the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates.

"Millions of people across the world have benefited from the efforts of the entire Ruan family," said Suku Radia, president and CEO of Bankers Trust. "The organizations and initiatives they've spearheaded and wholeheartedly support provide a myriad of opportunities for others and even save lives."

DEDICATION

In a way, in October 2011, Ruan III and his family carried out his father's vision of Iowa becoming the agribusiness capital of the world. The former downtown Des Moines Library building was restored to its former glory and its doors opened to diplomats, international business leaders, ambassadors, heads of government from the world over and agricultural innovators with one common goal: to free the world from hunger by developing and promoting sustainable agriculture.

As a commemoration to John Ruan, the Hall of Laureates, which is designed to achieve LEED Platinum Certification for green energy efficiency, features a statue of the pivotal supporter in the garden. Inside the building is the Ruan Laureate Room, from which the Ruan Center in downtown is visible from the Hall's location along the Principal Riverwalk, and which includes a portrait of Ruan, as well as his beloved piano. The Ruan Laureate Room is also available for lectures and social events, as are other rooms in the building.

"Like the century-old library, the Ruan family is an iconic treasure with second and third generations who returned to the Des Moines area to provide leadership to the Ruan companies and preserve John Ruan's legacy and, in particular, the legacy of giving back. The Ruan family inspires all of us to be better citizens," said Steve Zumbach, a partner at Belin McCormick Law Offices and longtime adviser to the Ruan family.



JOHN RUAN III (RIGHT) HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOR THE PAST DECADE. HE IS PICTURED HERE PRESENTING THE 2011 WORLD FOOD PRIZE TO LAUREATES LUIZ INÁCIO LULA DA SILVA (LEFT) AND JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR (MIDDLE).

Radia and Zumbach also noted that Ruan III was a close confidant to his father, and it was he who strongly encouraged Ruan to leave a significant bequest to the Foundation to support charitable causes, unusual for a second-generation heir.

Although John Ruan passed away in 2010 and was not here to see the restoration and building dedication of the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates for himself, he would be proud. And, this historic landmark will stand as a constant reminder of his life, passion and legacy.

