



## **Award Citation for Aaron Bushnell**

Know all ye by these presents that Aaron Bushnell is hereby awarded the Corner-Brightener Candlestick, presented by Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence, on this Second Day of November, 2024, in Washington, D.C.

Senior Airman (SRA) Bushnell became a martyr when he walked up to the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., on February 25, 2024, while livestreaming himself as he approached. He then self-immolated in the most extreme form of protest against what Israel is doing to Palestinians. He was 25 years old and had been on active duty since May 2020, according to the service.

He had stated as he approached the embassy:

“My name is Aaron Bushnell, and I am an active-duty member of the United States Air Force. I will no longer be complicit in genocide. I’m about to engage in an extreme act of protest but, compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizer, it’s not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal.”

-Aaron Bushnell’s final message

In an earlier on-line post, later identified as from SRA Bushnell, he’d written: “I have been complicit in the violent domination of the world and I will never get the blood off my hands.”

In advance of this act, Aaron Bushnell posted this message on his Facebook page:

"Many of us like to ask ourselves, “What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide?”

It is to be deplored that such despair overwhelms a person of conscience as Aaron was. But it must be seen as he being an additional victim of the “violent domination of the world,” now in the form of an ongoing genocide by Israel, with bi-partisan U.S. complicity.

SRA Bushnell is the 21<sup>st</sup> awardee of the Sam Adams Award for Integrity in Intelligence. His distinguished colleagues include Daniel Ellsberg, Julian Assange and Craig Murray, who have all paid heavy prices for truth-telling. But Senior Airman Aaron Bushnell paid the highest price, a price we wish no one to pay. But in endless U.S. wars for the purpose of the “violent domination of the world,” it is inevitable that servicemembers of conscience will feel the righteous despair that Aaron Bushnell wrote of: “I will never get the blood off my hands.” Aaron didn’t commit suicide. He was murdered, by those directing the “violent domination of the world,” for which he took the most extreme measure to avoid complicity for, and in protest against!