

Another relatively recent and important addition to NIST's work has been its Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award program that has helped thousands of organizations to improve their overall performance. The Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence have been used by tens of thousands of organizations and they have been called the "single most influential document in the modern history of American business."

The once-troubled \$7 billion U.S. printed wiring board industry, with its 200,000 jobs, was turned around by a research project co-funded by NIST's Advanced Technology Program. The joint venture led to dramatic efficiencies in research and development, accelerated research, and produced significant technological advances. ATP has played a key role in pushing ahead emerging critical technologies.

NIST's work extends to national security. During military conflicts, NIST was called on to perform numerous tasks, ranging from development of a synthetic substitute for rubber to improving submarine communications to helping design the "Bat," the first fully automated guided missile to be used successfully in combat. Important initial research on the atomic bomb was carried out by NIST, which served as a central control lab for determination of the properties of uranium.

Like industry and our security forces, consumers also count heavily on NIST. For example, withdrawals from automated teller machines are among the billions of dollars worth of electronic data transaction that have been secured for many years with the first publicly available data encryption standard, issued by NIST in 1977. Today, NIST is coordinating the development of an even more powerful successor standard.

Today, patients receive accurate radiation doses in disease diagnosis and treatment today thanks to NIST radiation measurement and standards activities under way since the 1970s. NIST's contributions to the safe medical use of radiation began many years ago. It included efforts to help bring about the 1931 X-ray safety code, which set guidelines for protective devices for patients and operators.

The U.S. death rate from fires declined by 50 percent between the early 1970's and late 1990's, in large part because smoke detectors are now installed in 95 percent of homes. NIST made this improvement possible by developing, with Underwriters Laboratories' participation, the first fire performance standard for smoke detectors and recommendations on number, type and placement of the extinguishers.

It is clear that over its first 100 years, NIST has become part of the fabric of the U.S. economy and society. Our homes, factories, laboratories, hospitals, schools, police and fire departments, and military all have benefitted from NIST's technical handiwork. NIST's importance to this country is

as true today as at any time in the agency's 100 year history.

Now we must look to the future as we celebrate this highly valued institution. Science, technology and society obviously have been transformed over the century and NIST's challenges are changing, too.

What's next for NIST? As science and technology advance, the need for new and more accurate measurements also grows. To meet the exacting needs of electronic manufacturers, for example, NIST researchers have developed methods for counting electrons, one by one. And to open the frontier of nanotechnology, where feature sizes are hundreds and even thousands of times smaller than the diameter of a human hair, they are devising molecular rulers, derived from interatomic spacings in perfectly ordered crystals.

Standards have become crucial for efficient business entry into emerging technologies. Standards have also become a tool of other nations for creating mercantile trade barriers. NIST's role in setting sound global technology standards is becoming critical to U.S. performance in the global economy.

Information Technology security is fundamental to our electronic infrastructure, and NIST is addressing those challenges with special attention to helping other government agencies to improve the security of their systems.

With tough global competition and a growing productivity gap compared with larger manufacturers, small firms will sorely need even greater the access to a nationwide system of technical and business assistance offered by NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

The Baldrige criteria for organizational improvement are just taking hold in the education and healthcare sectors, and manufacturers and service firms continue to find these evolving criteria to be effective guideposts to help them meet increasing customer demands for excellence.

The new technologies fostered over the past decade by NIST's cost-sharing of high-risk research through the Advanced Technology Program, will be emerging at a quickening pace over the next several years as companies turn these enabling technologies into marketplace offerings.

As NIST moves into its second century, it is clearly committed to working with industry, building the science, technology and business infrastructure needed to ensure future economic prosperity and a higher quality of life for all Americans. We are building a new economy in this century that is based on innovation. NIST is playing an important role in support of the private sector, in building that new economy.

As with our predecessors a century ago, it is the responsibility of this body to support NIST in meeting those challenges. As NIST celebrates its centennial and looks forward to even greater accomplishments, let us in this body reaffirm our commitment to creating

new generations of science, technology, economic growth and security. Congress has played an important role in NIST's first century of success. Now as NIST begins its second century of service to U.S. industry and all Americans, it is Congress' responsibility to keep this treasure a strong resource that will help prepare us for the century ahead.●

HONORING THE FAMILY OF KAYLA ROLLAND

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there is a family in my home State of Michigan who is to be honored for its courage. The family of Kayla Rolland, the little girl who was shot by her first-grade classmate, has been a source of inspiration to all families who have lost loved ones in gun tragedies.

Despite her own suffering, Kayla's mother, Veronica McQueen, found the strength to speak out to all Americans about her family's tragedy at the Million Mom March. The memory of Kayla and Mrs. McQueen's words of courage helped lead thousands of families from our State to march in Washington for sensible and safe gun laws.

Mrs. McQueen continues to speak out with hope that she can prevent another family from suffering what her family has suffered. Last weekend, as family and friends gathered together to memorialize the one year shooting death of young Kayla, Mrs. McQueen, said:

I pray to God that by being here and sharing with you our sorrow and grief in some way we have made people more aware of gun and school safety and common sense gun laws and to protect our children from guns and, hopefully, save children from what happened to my special little angel, Kayla. This is so important to us.

It has been a very horrible year for all of us. The pain will not go away. I miss her more as time goes on, but Kayla's behind me. Her spirit is driving me on to help save other children from gun violence, and I hope and pray you all will—help save our children.

In a few days, it will be one year since I lost a piece of my heart with Kayla's death. Please—mother, fathers, sisters, brothers, everywhere—please never forget how my baby died.

Let's always put our children first and speak out for their safety.

I regret that I could not be at the memorial service for Kayla, but I want to assure Mrs. McQueen and her family that I stand by her words and her mission. Kayla will always be in my thoughts and prayers and hopefully she will be the spirit that guides us all to put the safety of children first.

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the exceptional men and women of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, a premiere Federal law enforcement agency and protector of the U.S. mail. Founded by Benjamin Franklin, the Nation's first postmaster general, it is one of the oldest Federal law enforcement agencies. The Postal