

Remarks on Presenting the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in  
Crystal City, Virginia  
*April 6, 2001*

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for that kind introduction, and thank you for agreeing to serve your country once again. My friend Don Evans couldn't make it, but we have a pretty darn good replacement with Norm Mineta.

Dr. Wood, thank you very much, sir, for your leadership. You may wonder why Dr. Wood has got such white hair. My mother's on his board. *[Laughter]* And if she were here, she would say she has white hair because of me. *[Laughter]*

I'm thrilled to see the Baldrige family. Thank you all for being here, and thank you for staying with this award. They tell me you never miss, Midge, and that's important.

I want to congratulate the winners who are here, the CEO's, the leaders, the employees, the rowdy Texans. *[Laughter]*

*[At this point, the audience whistled and cheered.]*

I rest my case. *[Laughter]* It's an honor to be here.

Before I begin, I would like to update you on the situation in China. Earlier this morning I talked with General Sealock, who once again visited with our crew for about an hour today and reports that they are doing just fine. They are housed in officers' quarters, and they are being treated well. We're proud of these young men and women who are upholding the high standards of our Armed Forces. We know this is a difficult time for their families, and I thank them for their patriotism and their patience. We're working hard to bring them home through intensive discussions with the Chinese Government, and we think we're making progress.

And now to the business at hand: It's an honor to be here, to be a part of an

award ceremony that has stood the test of time. And the reason why is that it's based on principles such as high standards, quality, and excellence.

The philosophy of Malcolm Baldrige and the Baldrige Awards make clear that everyone in an organization has a voice, a philosophy which trusts everyone with responsibility. Quality comes from giving people the tools and training their jobs require, the authority they need to do their work the way they think is best, the dignity that comes with knowing that their views matter. To do good work, we need great workers. And great companies, such as those represented here, treat great workers with respect and fairness.

The Baldrige way is good business. The hypothetical Baldrige Index, a stock market index composed of the shares of those Baldrige winners that are publicly traded, has outperformed the S&P 500 for 7 years in a row. As the example of Los Alamos National Bank shows, caring for our communities is a form of quality, as well. And that quality will be rewarded with customer satisfaction and customer loyalty.

The Baldrige quality message is coming to health care and to education. Health care and education were added as categories in 1999. I realize there are no winners yet, but 25 organizations applied in '99 and 19 more in the year 2000. I look forward to presenting the first Baldrige Award in these categories soon.

We thank the Baldrige Foundation, the examiners, the judges, the foundation members, all the volunteers who work so hard. And thank you for your devotion to the highest ideals of American business.

These efforts do justice to the memory of an extraordinary man, Malcolm Baldrige, one of this country's outstanding public servants. He served as Commerce Secretary

at a time when many doubted that American goods could compete in world markets. He dedicated himself to proving the doubters wrong. He succeeded, and America is stronger thanks to him and the award established to honor him.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. In his

remarks, he referred to Secretary of Transportation and former Secretary of Commerce Norman Y. Mineta; Michael Wood, president, Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Inc.; Margaret “Midge” Baldrige, widow of Malcolm Baldrige; and Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing.

## Remarks on Presenting the Horatio Alger Awards

*April 6, 2001*

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House.

Wayne, thank you very much for your kind remarks. It is a real honor for me to be here to congratulate the 105 national scholars, to thank the universities who are going to match the scholarship money that you all have raised, and to thank the award recipients and congratulate you for the example you’ve set for America.

Before I begin, I want to say I’ve got a little news I’d like to report. I’m really pleased to report that the United States Senate just moments ago passed a budget that funds our Nation’s priorities and allows for over \$1.2 trillion of meaningful, real tax relief for the American people.

The House has already passed \$1.6 trillion of tax relief. Now the House and Senate will work to find common ground between these two budget plans, and the result will be the largest tax relief in decades. The fact that both Houses of Congress have committed to provide significant relief is good for the American people, and it’s good for our economy.

When the House and Senate complete their work, they will have paved the way so the American people can receive an across-the-board income tax reduction, a doubling of the child credit, relief from the marriage penalty, and the elimination

of the death tax. This budget also wisely increases spending on education, funds priorities like Medicare and Social Security, and pays down a record amount of debt.

I applaud today’s action and congratulate the Republicans and Democrats who helped make it happen.

And I’d like to congratulate this year’s recipients. All of you have amazing stories of adversities overcome and great goals attained: The son of a Polish immigrant who started out in his father’s burlap bag business and is now the chairman and CEO of two major corporations; a man who in his youth helped support his family, right here in the Washington area, and then went on to become the founder of America Online; a young woman who mortgaged the family house for money to start her business and now runs a major construction company; a managing partner of a baseball team—and I know how much he suffers—*[laughter]*—two well-respected leaders from my home State of Texas; a successful son of a preacher, now chairman and CEO of Lanier Worldwide, Inc.; one of you began work at age 8 to help your mother sustain the family because of illness of your father, and he is here proudly as the chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae; and finally, the CEO and president of Burger King, who experienced tough times but overcame