

Prolific Inventor and Philanthropist Dies, Leaves Legacy through the Knowles Teacher Initiative

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Moorestown, N.J., January 9, 2020 – Carl Harry Knowles, Founder and Board Chair Emeritus of the Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles Foundation, who founded Metrologic Instruments in 1968 and ran the company for over 40 years, died peacefully on January 7, 2020. He was 91 years old.

“Harry’s boundless enthusiasm, seemingly limitless energy, and focused dedication to task were an inspiration to all of us at the Knowles Teacher Initiative, and he will be sorely missed,” said **Lawrence Tint**, Board Chair, Knowles Teacher Initiative. “We remain dedicated to the cause he championed, and we will continue to work hard to improve mathematics and science teaching in America.”

Harry’s passion and love for science and math led to not only his success as an inventor and entrepreneur but also inspired his generosity to establish a foundation (now called the Knowles Teacher Initiative) in 1999 to transform math and science education in the United States. He recognized the critical importance of quality science and mathematics teaching to our nation’s well-being and economic competitiveness and chose to invest in teachers. Through this legacy he has profoundly shaped the lives of hundreds of teachers and hundreds of thousands of students. A recent and very generous **multi-year pledge and intent to give** from Harry and his wife **Dr. Lucy Balian Rorke-Adams** has ensured stability for the foundation and his legacy and will allow thousands more teachers to become leaders in educational improvement.

“We are deeply saddened by the loss of our founder and will be grieving him for a long time. Even before Harry achieved great success at Metrologic, he dreamed of and planned for the eventual creation of the Knowles Teacher Initiative. The impact he has had on the world is truly inspiring, both as an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. It is an honor to share in his legacy through the work of the Knowles Teacher Initiative,” stated **Nicole Gillespie**, President and CEO, Knowles Teacher Initiative.

Harry Knowles was among the nation’s most prolific inventors. He was inducted

into the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame in 1995. His inventions and developments include: the basic concepts underlying “Moore’s Law” (1964); the 2N2222 “Star Transistor”, still an active design (1961); the first hand-held bar code scanner intended for retailers (1975); and the first mini-slot scanner for non-supermarket retailers (1985).

From 1962 to 1967, prior to founding Metrologic, Harry Knowles directed Westinghouse’s micro-chip operations. From 1958 to 1962, he led R&D at Motorola Semiconductors, where he directed Motorola’s advanced transistor and integrated circuit operations. At Motorola, he implemented some of the world’s first high-speed wire bonding, die bonding, computerized testing, and other volume production techniques. From 1953 to 1958, Harry Knowles was part of Bell Telephone Laboratories, where he published original concept papers on the design of Zener Diodes and on the theory of Hyper-Abrupt PN Junctions. While at Bell Labs, he directed efforts on the UHF transmitter transistor for the nation’s first satellite, Project Vanguard, as well as the digital Germanium Mesa Transistor that was the predominant component in the late 1950s and 1960s generation of computers.

In 1968, Harry Knowles founded Metrologic Instruments. Metrologic became a leader in advanced bar code scanners and a pioneering force in the data capture industry, eventually registering more than 600 patents.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Harry Knowles earned a BS in Physics from Auburn University, and an MS in Physics from Vanderbilt University. In May 2008, Auburn University awarded Harry Knowles an honorary doctorate. He has lived in Medford, New Jersey with his wife, Lucy Rorke-Adams, since 2013.

Memorial services will be held at The First Presbyterian Church, 101 Bridgeboro Rd, Moorestown, New Jersey at 11:00 a.m. on January 18, 2020. Individuals can share memories of Harry, reflections on his legacy and words of condolence for his family at rememberingharry@knowlesteachers.org.