Gorman-Rupp employees rose to meet economic challenges, such as taking the initiative to devise a method of reducing the production costs of fiberglass pump station enclosures without affecting quality.

The economy slowed and Gorman-Rupp responded by unveiling the nutating pump, a special-purpose small pump used in health care applications; additional energy-efficient, self-priming centrifugal pumps; a series of lightweight portable pumps and high-pressure pumps with the first digital-control panels.

Toward the end of the decade, Gorman-Rupp acquired Patterson Pump Company, which enabled the Company to offer a premier line of large volume centrifugal pumps and pumps for fire protection. Gorman-Rupp also acquired the International Pump Technology Company.

After engineering a prototype engine-driven pump that met the strict “quiet” requirements of the U.S. Army’s Rapid Deployment Force, they ordered 312 of them—with shipments to be completed in just seven months. Gorman-Rupp employees and suppliers went to work and achieved the tight deadline.

The Company’s ability to get the job done was the reason Gorman-Rupp pumps were the first on-site for cleanup of the 1989 Alaskan oil spill. Gorman-Rupp ended 1989 with the highest sales in the Company’s history.