

Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino descent who served with great distinction during World War II. We should all take great pride in the fact that justice was done in the end, and that we moved beyond earlier prejudices. In fact, another unique feature of American society is that our system almost always manages to right itself in the end.

As we enter a new century, there are many things America can learn from its citizens of Chinese descent. Chinese Americans can help us understand and influence the culture of China as we work to encourage the growth of democracy and human rights there. Our culture would also be well served to look to the high place education, tradition and family ties occupy in many Chinese American families.

I hope this year's National Convention of Chinese Americans focuses on these issues. I am honored to welcome the Convention to the great state of Georgia, home to many Chinese Americans.

IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT E.
BAIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert E. Baier, Ph.D. Dr. Baier is being presented with an Outstanding Engineer Award from the Cleveland State University Alumni Association. This distinguished man has brought both pride and recognition to his alma mater and to his northeast Ohio community.

Dr. Baier graduated from Cleveland State University in 1962. He furthered his higher education by attending the State University of New York at Buffalo. He graduated from this distinguished institution with his Ph.D. in Biophysical Sciences. Currently, Dr. Baier is the Director/Professor at the Industry/University Center for Biosurfaces.

Robert is particularly known for his work on artificial organs and devices for use in heart surgery. His innovation and scholarly pursuit of original research has benefited the lives of many. In his endeavors, he became a founding fellow for the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring and applauding Dr. Robert E. Baier for his many contributions to science. He has served his community well, and I congratulate him on these outstanding achievements.

IN HONOR OF GARY OERTLI

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional leader in my district, Mr. Gary Oertli. For the past five years, Mr. Oertli has dedicated himself to the faculty, staff and students of Shoreline Community College serving as the college's president. Mr.

Oertli will step down as president at the end of June.

Under the direction of Mr. Oertli, Shoreline Community College has been revitalized. With his commitment to a diverse campus community, Mr. Oertli created the college's Multicultural/Diversity Education Center and helped establish the college as a national leader in multicultural education.

During his tenure as president, Mr. Oertli has advanced Shoreline Community College locally, regionally and nationally. The college's job-ladder partnership program, begun during Mr. Oertli's presidency, was recently named best college-based welfare-to-work program in the nation. Community colleges are truly the "peoples' colleges" because they provide a needed alternative to four-year institutions, offer educational and vocational instruction at low cost, and truly recognize the worth of every student. Mr. Oertli's work demonstrates his belief in this sentiment.

In addition to the leadership he exudes on campus, Mr. Oertli has also been recognized as a leader in the community as well. During his time at the college, Mr. Oertli enjoyed an excellent working relationship with district legislators, and with his direction, the college secured funding for a major library renovation and technology center.

Mr. Oertli has also been working closely with me as I try to secure funding for the Puget Sound Center, an exciting joint venture that teams community colleges, elementary and secondary schools, and high-tech centers to pool resources and provide high-tech training for our young people.

While I am confident that Shoreline Community College will continue to be an exceptional and innovative institution, the college will indeed lose a remarkable educator. I am proud to have an exceptional leader like Mr. Gary Oertli in my district and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his commitment to education.

CONGRATULATING JACK STONE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack Stone for receiving the 2000 Distinguished California Agriculturalist Award. Mr. Stone, a native of Kings County, has given us a lifetime of service and dedication to agriculture in our state.

In 1940, Mr. Stone started a small farming project near Five Points. He sold the farm in 1942 and married his wife Hilda. He then spent the next four years in the Army Corps of Engineers, where he retired as a Captain. Mr. Stone returned to farming in 1946 and started J.G. Stone Land Company, growing grain and cotton.

Mr. Stone was selected to be president in 1972, four years after being appointed to the Westland's Water District board of directors. During his time as president he led the district through years of challenges. These include two severe droughts, the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982, the Kesterson Reservoir con-

trovery, and the CVP Improvement Act of 1992. He retired in 1993, after 21 years of service with the Westlands board.

Mr. Stone has served on numerous boards of community, farming, academic, and water-related organizations. He has been president of the National Cotton Council of America, the chairman of its Producers Steering Committee, a member of the International Cotton Advisory Committee, and president of the Western Grower's Association. He has also won numerous awards such as: the 1995 Kings County Agriculturalist of the Year, the 1995 American Society of Agronomy Honor for Distinguished Contributions to the Advancement of Human Welfare and the Enhancement of California Agriculture, and induction into the Cotton Hall of Fame in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Jack Stone for receiving the 2000 Distinguished California Agriculturalist Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him many more years of continued success.

THE RETIREMENT SECURITY
ADVICE ACT

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for the past several months, the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations has held a series of bipartisan hearings examining the changes in the financial world since the 1974 passage of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and looking for ways for American workers and retirees to take advantage of the economic opportunities created since then. To most people in 1974, personal savings meant a bank account. Now it means 401(k)s, IRAs, annuities, mutual funds, and a whole range of investment products that go well beyond what was available to the average American 25 years ago. Economists predict that this year, for the first time, nearly 50 percent of all Americans will have invested in some form of equity.

Moreover, in the past 25 years, the number of workers covered by a defined contribution plan has increased 35 percent, from 12 to 42 million. The explosive growth of defined contribution plans has left employees with the responsibility for investment decisions that many are ill equipped to make. ERISA creates barriers that currently prevent employers and investment intermediaries from giving individualized investment advice to plan participants.

The drafters of ERISA were preoccupied with the problems of defined benefit plans, where the participant has no responsibility for investment decisions. Only a small fraction of plan assets in 1974 were in defined contribution world. Today the picture is very different—almost all new plan formation is taking the form of defined contributions plans, especially 401(k) plans. A typical 401(k) plan offers a range of stock and bond portfolios from one or more of mutual fund companies, banks, and insurance companies. The plan participant makes his or her own investment selections. Part of what many employees find attractive