

## EVENT

# A Night to Make Asian Americans Proud

## The 2014 Asian American Engineers of the Year Banquet

By Roger S Dong

On March 1, 2014 the San Francisco Chapter of the Chinese Institute of Engineers (USA), a 96 year old organization of Chinese engineers from around the globe, which promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), hosted their annual Asian American Engineer of the Year banquet to honor the best Asian American (AA) engineers.

The event was headed by Dr. Larry Wang, Chairman, 2014 CIE AAEOY Committee and Dr. John Xie, the CIE National Council Chair. Honorees were selected by executive managers in major American engineering corporations, and national government research laboratories. In tribute, the Chairman, Chinese American Heroes presented the CAH Certificate of Honor to the CIE for its long time avocation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in America to Vice Chair Dr. Tony Liu.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Ching Wu "Paul" Chu, a hero on the Chinese American Heroes (CAH) website, who is a Chinese immigrant from Hunan, China, a world renown physicist, and winner of the President's National Medal of Science, who gave a brief history of superconductivity which benefited many in the audience who did not understand superconductivity or the significance of superconductivity.

The guest speaker for the event was Mr. John Chiang, Comptroller for the state of California, who is also a hero in the CAH. Chiang, an immigrant from Taiwan, has received many awards for public service, described as the state of California's Controller during the recent



financial crisis in California used carefully designed cash management strategies to keep the California afloat, but also still pay its bills. Standard and Poor praised Chiang for his prudent judgment financial management, and the State's Municipal Bond Advisor stated that "State Controller Chiang has been a hero of sorts to us during California's recent distress, because he did just what he was suppose to do to protect bondholders."

This year the twenty-two honorees represented major American engineering corporations included IBM, General Motors, Texas Instruments, Siemens, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, SanDisk, and the federal research and engineering organizations in the US Navy, the US Army and Sandia National Laboratory .

The engineering achievements of the honorees were profound, extensive, and of great engineering significance.

The honored Asian American scientists and engineers were each introduced by their supervisors to over 600 corporate and federal government attendees who described in detail each honoree's contributions greeted by thunderous applause as each awardee's achievements were described to the audience.

Twenty- two (22) superstar Asian American engineers were recognized and honored for their exceptional achievements, including six (6) women. In a world dominated by male engineers, the 6 female honorees had to have made very special engineering achievements.

The individual contributions of each of the 22 Asian American engineers are extraordinary. Few Americans are aware of these very significant achievements to our nation and our national security. We are all very proud of the awesome contributions of every one of this year's honorees.

The following five engineers and a summary of their exception work is described below as follows:

Ms. Geeth Chettiar, from Lockheed Martin, who is Director, Software Excellence in Aeronautics, has been with Lockheed for 23 years and has made notable contributions for the C-130 "Hercules" workhorse transporter, F-16 "Fighting Falcon" fighter jet, the state of the art F22 "Raptor" stealth fighter jet and the current F-35 "Lightning II" 5th generation multi-purpose fighter jet.

Mr. Anh N. Vu, a US Navy engineer, is an immigrant from Vietnam. He is a US Navy civilian test pilot who heads an organization of 580 professionals who test and evaluate every aspect of the Navy's F-A 18 fighter jet, the current tactical fighter for the US Navy and the Marine Corps.

Mr. Richard Watanabe, Northrop Grumman, a 17 year veteran who is the lead systems engineer providing technical oversight for implementing technologies to significantly increase the Navy's fleet readiness and reduce Total Ownership Costs. He is the operational manager for more than 30 engineers who provide engineering, logistics and maintenance for the state of the art, Littoral Combat Ship, the DDG-1000, and the US Coast Guard National Security Cutter.

Mr. Chyau Shen, an immigrant from Taiwan, is the Director of the Special Surveillance Programs, Naval Air Systems Command. His technical expertise in remote sensors, navigation architecture, laser radar and reconnaissance/surveillance serve remote surveillance projects throughout the Department of Defense.

Dr. Weidong Song, born in northern China, is a Boeing composite materials engineer. He is reportedly a prolific innovator and holds multiple patents in nanoparticle technology and electric space propulsion.

The contributions of the other 17 engineers will be published in a longer report in May at [www.chineseamericanheroes.org](http://www.chineseamericanheroes.org).

Significantly notable was that the vast majority of the engineers were immigrants. Here is the amazing statistical breakdown of the 22 star engineers, 8 out of 9 Chinese engineers were born in China, 2 out of the 5 Indian engineers were born in India, all four (4) of the Vietnamese engineers were born in Vietnam, two Taiwanese engineer were both born in Taiwan, and all three of the Japanese engineers were native born Americans. Would you believe that 15 of the 22 award winners are immigrants? Little wonder that statistically 60% of all the inventions in America have been innovations by either 1st or 2nd generation Americans.

Congress must fully consider how talented immigrants should not be deterred from coming to America to attend the best universities in the world. We are the fools if we don't know what is good for America.

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