REPORTED DEATHS

Shigemi Honma, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture at Michigan State University, died in East Lansing, Mich., on 31 May 2005. Honma was born 14 Feb. 1920 in Haina, Hawaii. He served for about 3 years with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team of Nisei soldiers in World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He earned a BA at Cornell University in 1949 and a PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1953. He then took a position as assistant horticulturist at the University of Nebraska, where he made the first successful interspecific hybrid between common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and tepary bean (*P. acutifolius*). This permitted

the transfer of the tepary bean's resistance to common bacterial blight to the hybrid. The work was published in the *Journal of Heredity* (47:217) in 1956. The paper is one of the most cited references in bean literature and won Honma the Meritorious Service Award from the Bean Improvement Cooperative in 1975. The hybrid was subsequently used by Dermot Coyne of Nebraska and other breeders to incorporate this resistance into *P. vulgaris*.

Honma moved to Michigan State University as an assistant professor in 1955 and was named full professor in 1966. He retired in 1986 after a distinguished career as a breeder of vegetable crops, during which he released four cauliflower, two celery, three lettuce, nine pepper, and six tomato cultivars. Much of his effort was directed toward improving resistance to fungal, bacterial and viral diseases. Two of the cauliflower cultivars—Self-Blanch and Stovepipe—were designed to reduce the labor required to tie up the leaves to shade the head and avoid greening. He co-authored with Sylvan Wittwer two books, *Greenhouse Tomatoes—Guidelines for Successful Production* and *Greenhouse Tomatoes, Lettuce and Cucumbers*, and published more than 100 scientific and popular articles on vegetable cultivar improvement.

Honma received invitations from both U.S. and international institu-

tions to present lectures on his work. The Department of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota invited him to present the Distinguished Alumni Lecture there in April 1981. During 1981–82, he represented the USDA and Michigan State University in establishing cooperative exchanges of scientific information with Bulgarian scientists and was invited to lecture on vegetables for the Royal Project in Thailand.

He is survived by his wife, Isao, and two children, Alan and Valerie (Kennedy). Burial will be in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. Those wishing to do so may send contributions in his memory to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30161, Suite 119, Southfield, MI 48076-9775.

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