

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Kim

December 1, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 3—Relative to Korean-American Day.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 3, as introduced, Kim. Korean-American Day.

This measure would proclaim January 13, 2015, as Korean-American Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On January 13, 1903, the history of Korean  
2 immigration to America began, when 102 courageous Korean men,  
3 women, and children landed in Hawaii after venturing across the  
4 vast Pacific Ocean aboard the S.S. Gaelic; and  
5 WHEREAS, The hopes of these Korean immigrants for America,  
6 the land of opportunity, were quickly hindered by social, economic,  
7 and language barriers of unforeseen magnitude; and  
8 WHEREAS, These Korean immigrants did not falter in their  
9 pursuit of the American dream. Through tenacious effort and  
10 sacrifice, they established a new home in a new land and educated  
11 their Korean-American children; and  
12 WHEREAS, Between 1904 and 1907, approximately 1,000  
13 Korean Americans entered the United States mainland from Hawaii  
14 through San Francisco, where the first Korean-American political  
15 organizations and Korean-language publications were established;  
16 and

1 WHEREAS, Many Korean Americans left San Francisco,  
2 primarily to become farmworkers. Some Korean Americans  
3 combined their money and resources to lease farmland near the  
4 towns of Dinuba and Reedley in the San Joaquin Valley and in the  
5 Sacramento Valley. Dozens of other Korean Americans served as  
6 wage laborers for mining companies and as section hands on the  
7 railroads in Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, The Japanese occupation of Korea prevented  
9 further Korean immigration into the United States. However, many  
10 Korean Americans desired to establish families in the United States,  
11 despite the new limitations on immigration. As a result, a picture  
12 bride system was established, which delivered approximately 1,000  
13 new Korean immigrants to Hawaii, and 100 more to the Pacific  
14 Coast of the United States mainland, before 1924; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco remained the center of the  
16 Korean-American community during this period, but there was a  
17 gradual migration of Korean Americans from San Francisco and  
18 the surrounding rural areas to southern California. As more  
19 employment opportunities opened up, a new, burgeoning  
20 community of Korean Americans began to thrive in the Los  
21 Angeles area; and

22 WHEREAS, While the first Korean immigrants to the United  
23 States fought and sacrificed to establish themselves, their children  
24 grew up to be patriotic citizens, many of whom went on to serve  
25 in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and  
26 to make other important contributions to mainstream American  
27 society; and

28 WHEREAS, The 1965 amendments to the federal Immigration  
29 and Nationality Act (Public Law 89-236) opened the door for a  
30 new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United States. Since  
31 its enactment, Korean Americans have become one of the fastest  
32 growing groups of Asian Americans in the United States. In 1960,  
33 approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry lived in the United  
34 States, but by 1970, that number increased to 69,130. By 1980,  
35 the number of people of Korean ancestry living in the United States  
36 had increased over fivefold to 354,593, and by 1990, that number  
37 more than doubled, increasing to 798,849. In 2007, it was estimated  
38 that 1,555,293 people with some Korean ancestry lived in the  
39 United States, representing more than a sixtyfold increase since  
40 1960; and

1 WHEREAS, With diligence, fortitude, and an enduring belief  
2 in the American dream, Korean immigrants have helped to turn  
3 emergent areas within the State of California into thriving and  
4 respectable communities, while raising their children to be  
5 productive Korean Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have become an integral part  
7 of mainstream American society and have made important  
8 contributions as Californians in the fields of finance, technology,  
9 law, medicine, education, sports, media, the arts, the military, and  
10 government, as well as other areas; and

11 WHEREAS, As the Korean-American community prepares for  
12 a new era and creates new history, Korean Americans must instill  
13 in younger generations the proper appreciation for the courage and  
14 values of their forefathers, a deep sense of their roots, and pride  
15 in their own cultural heritage so that they may better contribute to  
16 the great State of California, rich with ethnic and cultural diversity;  
17 now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
20 hereby proclaims January 13, 2015, as Korean-American Day; and  
21 be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
23 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.