

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 5, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 21, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 12, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Kim

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Wilk)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Williams, and Wood)

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Gaines, Huff, Liu, Nguyen, Nielsen, Pan, Vidak, and Wieckowski)

December 1, 2014

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 3, as amended, 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

17 WHEREAS, Many Korean Americans left San Francisco,
18 primarily to become farmworkers. Some Korean Americans
19 combined their money and resources to lease farmland near the
20 towns of Dinuba and Reedley in the San Joaquin Valley and in the
21 Sacramento Valley. Dozens of other Korean Americans served as
22 wage laborers for mining companies and as section hands on the
23 railroads in Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington; and

24 WHEREAS, The Japanese occupation of Korea prevented
25 further Korean immigration into the United States. However, many
26 Korean Americans desired to establish families in the United States,
27 despite the new limitations on immigration. As a result, a picture
28 bride system was established, which delivered approximately 1,000
29 new Korean immigrants to Hawaii, and 100 more to the Pacific
30 Coast of the United States mainland, before 1924; and

31 WHEREAS, San Francisco remained the center of the
32 Korean-American community during this period, but there was a
33 gradual migration of Korean Americans from San Francisco and
34 the surrounding rural areas to southern California. As more
35 employment opportunities opened up, a new, burgeoning

1 community of Korean Americans began to thrive in the Los
2 Angeles area; and

3 WHEREAS, While the first Korean immigrants to the United
4 States fought and sacrificed to establish themselves, their children
5 grew up to be patriotic citizens, many of whom went on to serve
6 in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and
7 to make other important contributions to mainstream American
8 society; and

9 WHEREAS, The 1965 amendments to the federal Immigration
10 and Nationality Act (Public Law 89-236) opened the door for a
11 new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United States. Since
12 its enactment, Korean Americans have become one of the fastest
13 growing groups of Asian Americans in the United States. In 1960,
14 approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry lived in the United
15 States, but by 1970, that number increased to 69,130. By 1980,
16 the number of people of Korean ancestry living in the United States
17 had increased over fivefold to 354,593, and by 1990, that number
18 more than doubled, increasing to 798,849. In 2007, it was estimated
19 that 1,555,293 people with some Korean ancestry lived in the
20 United States, representing more than a sixtyfold increase since
21 1960; and

22 WHEREAS, With diligence, fortitude, and an enduring belief
23 in the American dream, Korean immigrants have helped to turn
24 emergent areas within the State of California into thriving and
25 respectable communities, while raising their children to be
26 productive Korean Americans; and

27 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have become an integral part
28 of mainstream American society and have made important
29 contributions as Californians in the fields of finance, technology,
30 law, medicine, education, sports, media, the arts, the military, and
31 government, as well as other areas; and

32 WHEREAS, As the Korean-American community prepares for
33 a new era and creates new history, Korean Americans must instill
34 in younger generations the proper appreciation for the courage and
35 values of their forefathers, a deep sense of their roots, and pride
36 in their own cultural heritage so that they may better contribute to
37 the great State of California, rich with ethnic and cultural diversity;
38 now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California

- 1 hereby proclaims January 13, 2015, as Korean-American Day; and
- 2 be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.