

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 110

Introduced by Assembly Members Wilk and Kim
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chau, and Williams)
(Coauthor: Senator Nguyen)

January 4, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 110—Relative to
Korean-American Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 110, as introduced, Wilk. Korean-American Day.

This measure would proclaim January 13, 2016, 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

1 organizations and Korean-language publications were established;
2 and

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, The 1965 amendments to the federal Immigration
31 and Nationality Act (Public Law 89-236) opened the door for a
32 new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United States. Since
33 its enactment, Korean Americans have become one of the fastest
34 growing groups of Asian Americans in the United States. In 1960,
35 approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry lived in the United
36 States, and by 1970, that number increased to 69,130. By 1980,
37 the number of people of Korean ancestry living in the United States
38 increased over fivefold to 354,593, and by 1990, that number more
39 than doubled, increasing to 798,849. In 2010, it was estimated that
40 1,706,822 people with some Korean ancestry lived in the United

1 States, representing more than a sixty-sevenfold increase since
2 1960; and

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

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

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

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
22 hereby proclaims January 13, 2016, as Korean-American Day; and
23 be it further

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