

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 110

Introduced by Assembly Members Wilk and Kim

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(Coauthor: Senator Nguyen)

January 4, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 110, as amended, 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,

1 women, and children landed in Hawaii after venturing across the
2 vast Pacific Ocean aboard the S.S. Gaelic; and

3 WHEREAS, The hopes of these Korean immigrants for America,
4 the land of opportunity, were quickly hindered by social, economic,
5 and language barriers of unforeseen magnitude; and

6 WHEREAS, These Korean immigrants did not falter in their
7 pursuit of the American dream. Through tenacious effort and
8 sacrifice, they established a new home in a new land and educated
9 their Korean-American children; and

10 WHEREAS, Between 1904 and 1907, approximately 1,000
11 Korean Americans entered the United States mainland from Hawaii
12 through San Francisco, where the first Korean-American political
13 organizations and Korean-language publications were established;
14 and

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, While the first Korean immigrants to the United
37 States fought and sacrificed to establish themselves, their children
38 grew up to be patriotic citizens, many of whom went on to serve
39 in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and

1 make other important contributions to mainstream American
2 society; and

3 WHEREAS, The 1965 amendments to the federal Immigration
4 and Nationality Act (Public Law 89-236) opened the door for a
5 new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United States. Since
6 its enactment, Korean Americans have become one of the fastest
7 growing groups of Asian Americans in the United States. In 1960,
8 approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry lived in the United
9 States, and by 1970, that number increased to 69,130. By 1980,
10 the number of people of Korean ancestry living in the United States
11 increased over fivefold to 354,593, and by 1990, that number more
12 than doubled, increasing to 798,849. In 2010, it was estimated that
13 1,706,822 people with some Korean ancestry lived in the United
14 States, representing more than a sixty-sevenfold increase since
15 1960; and

16 WHEREAS, With diligence, fortitude, and an enduring belief
17 in the American dream, Korean immigrants have helped to turn
18 emergent areas within the State of California into thriving and
19 respectable communities, while raising their children to be
20 productive Korean Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have become an integral part
22 of mainstream American society and have made important
23 contributions as Californians in the fields of finance, technology,
24 law, medicine, education, sports, media, the arts, the military, and
25 government, as well as other areas; and

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

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
35 hereby proclaims January 13, 2016, as Korean-American Day; and
36 be it further

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

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