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Introduced by Senator Pan

January 7, 2016

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 92—Relative to Korean-American Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 92, as introduced, Pan. 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  
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

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

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

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, With diligence, fortitude, and an enduring belief  
39 in the American dream, Korean immigrants have helped to turn  
40 emergent areas within the State of California into thriving and

1 respectable communities, while raising their children to be  
2 productive Korean Americans; and

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

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

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
17 hereby proclaims January 13, 2016, as Korean-American Day; and  
18 be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.