

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 9

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Krekorian, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)

January 7, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9—Relative to Korean-American Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 9, as amended, Hayashi. Korean-American Day.

This measure would proclaim January 13, 2009, 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 farm workers. Some Korean Americans
17 combined their money and resources to lease farm land 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 Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Utah; 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 to make other important contributions to mainstream American
2 society; and

3 WHEREAS, The Federal Immigration Act of 1965 opened the
4 door for a new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United
5 States. Since its enactment, Korean Americans have become one
6 of the fastest growing groups of Asian Americans in the United
7 States. In 1960, approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry
8 lived in the United States, but by 1970, that number increased to
9 69,130. By 1980, the number of people of Korean ancestry living
10 in the United States had increased over five-fold to 354,593, and
11 by 1990, that number more than doubled, increasing to 798,849.
12 In 2007, it was estimated that 1,555,293 people with some Korean
13 ancestry lived in the United States, representing more than a
14 sixty-fold increase since 1960; and

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

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

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

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
34 hereby proclaims January 13, 2009, as Korean-American Day; and
35 be it further

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

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