

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 20, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 11, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 96

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

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

(Coauthor: Senator Yee)

September 10, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 96—Relative to Korean-American Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as amended, Hayashi. Korean-American Day.

This measure would proclaim January 13, 2010, 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 ~~Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Utah~~ *Montana,*
24 *Oregon, Utah, and Washington*; and

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

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

39 WHEREAS, While the first Korean immigrants to the United
40 States fought and sacrificed to establish themselves, their children

grew up to be patriotic citizens, many of whom went on to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and to make other important contributions to mainstream American society; and

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

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

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

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

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby proclaims January 13, 2010, as Korean-American Day; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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