

Legislation Text

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Proclaiming January 13, 2023 as Korean American Day in Philadelphia to Celebrate and Commemorate the Proud Heritage of Korean Americans and their Invaluable Contributions to Enhance the City's Culture, Economy, and the Founding Ideals of Independence and Democracy.

WHEREAS, The first wave of Korean immigrants to the United States, comprised of 102 people, arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 13, 1903. Today, nearly 2 million people of Korean descent live throughout the United States and are part of a vibrant, growing Korean American community; and

WHEREAS, The Centennial Committees of Korean Immigration and Korean Americans have designated January 13th of each year as Korean American Day to commemorate the first step of the long and prosperous journey of Korean Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush issued a Proclamation recognizing January 13, 2003 as the anniversary of Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States. The proclamation called upon all Americans to observe the anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring contributions of Korean immigrants and their descendants, especially their courageous service in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and other wars to defend and uphold our American values; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the United States Congress adopted Senate Resolution 283 and House of Representative Resolution 487, which both supported the goals and ideals of Korean American Day; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Census data, the Korean American community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area has grown to exceed 42,000 members. Korean Americans own many retail stores, provide various cultural opportunities, and are making important contributions in several distinguished career fields such as law, government, medicine, business, education, architecture, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, Significant exchanges between Korea and Philadelphia are ever increasing, and the friendship between the two has been characterized by a shared love of freedom, dedication to peace, and building of prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, these ties have deepened with the establishment of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, The year 2023 marks the 70th anniversary of the alliance between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, The Korean American community will hold the 10th annual South Korean flag raising ceremony outside Philadelphia City Hall followed by a special 10th Anniversary "Korean American Day" gala on January 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The celebratory event will be a reflection of more than a century long history of Korean American community-building with notable honorees, speakers, and musical artists along with special guests from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware in attendance; and

WHEREAS, The Korean American community wishes to provide a meaningful opportunity to foster an understanding of the many achievements of the Korean American community which have been intrinsically woven in the American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby proclaims January 13, 2023 as Korean American Day in the City of Philadelphia to celebrate and commemorate the proud heritage of Korean Americans and their invaluable contributions to enhance the City's culture, economy, and the founding ideals of independence and democracy.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Philadelphia in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the alliance between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.