

2015-J3109

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 13, 2016, as Korean American Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, In 2003, the United States Congress declared January 13th as Korean American Day, a day on which the contributions of Korean Americans should be recognized and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, Koreans immigration to the United States began in December of 1902 when a group of 102 Korean immigrants including men, women and children, embarked on a dangerous cross-Pacific voyage on the S. S. Gaelic to land in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 13, 1903; and

WHEREAS, During the next three years, approximately 1,000 Koreans entered the United States mainland through San Francisco, where their countrymen had established a new home, educated their children, and established the first Korean American political organizations and native language publications; and

WHEREAS, After becoming established on the West Coast, Korean Americans gradually migrated to the eastern United States as employment opportunities opened up and subsequent generations of Korean Americans established themselves in new communities; and

WHEREAS, Korean Americans have been patriotic citizens, serving with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces, fighting for their new homeland during World Wars I and II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War and in the Middle East conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Koreans fleeing economic turbulence and a hostile political environment, war, and political repression, entered the United States during the mid-20th Century; and

WHEREAS, As countless immigrants have done before them, these new Americans came searching for a better life and new opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The enactment of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 paved the way for a new wave of Korean immigrants who have since become one of the fastest growing groups of Asian Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since their arrival in the United States more than one hundred years ago, the outstanding contributions of Korean Americans have spanned every area of society and their rich culture, heritage and traditions have enriched the fabric of life in our country and contributed greatly to the quality of life for residents of New York; and

WHEREAS, New York State has the second largest number of Korean-owned businesses in the country and they generate nearly \$80 billion annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Many Korean Americans have chosen to live and work in Queens and through their hard work and tenacious effort have overcome culture and language barriers and helped create a thriving multi-cultural community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim January 13, 2016, as Korean American Day in the State of New York, honoring the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States and New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the Korean American Association of New York, and the Korean American Association of Queens.