

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 218

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 9, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Declares January 13 of each year as Korean American Day in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** declaring January 13 of each year as Korean  
2       American Day in New Jersey.  
3  
4    **WHEREAS**, On January 13, 1903, 102 courageous Korean immigrants  
5       arrived in the United States initiating the first wave of Korean  
6       immigration to America; and  
7    **WHEREAS**, These pioneering Korean immigrants faced tremendous  
8       social and economic obstacles as well as language barriers in  
9       America; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, First generation Korean immigrants established a new  
11       home in a new land through resilience, tenacious effort, and  
12       immense sacrifice, which became the bedrock for their children and  
13       future generations of Korean Americans; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, Korean Americans have made significant contributions to  
15       the economic vitality of the United States, and the global  
16       marketplace; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, The contributions of Korean Americans to the United  
18       States include achievements in engineering, architecture, medicine,  
19       the arts, and writing; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, Korean Americans have made enormous contributions to  
21       the military strength of the United States and served with  
22       distinction in the Armed Forces during World War I, World War II,  
23       the Vietnam conflict, the Korean conflict, and subsequent military  
24       conflicts across the globe; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, Korean Americans have built and strengthened the alliance  
26       between the United States and the Republic of Korea; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, The Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the  
28       United States designated January 13th of each year as “Korean  
29       American Day” to honor the first step of the long and prosperous  
30       journey of Korean Americans in the United States; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, President George W. Bush proclaimed a celebration of the  
32       100th anniversary of the first arrival of Korean immigrants in 2003,  
33       and, in 2005, the United States House and Senate passed resolutions  
34       to encourage observing Korean American Day on January 13th; and  
35   **WHEREAS**, More than 168,000 New Jersey residents can claim Korean  
36       ancestry; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey residents of Korean descent have contributed  
38       immensely to the development of music, art, food, and enterprise  
39       across the State; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for this State to  
41       commemorate the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the  
42       United States, and to recognize the invaluable contributions Korean  
43       Americans have made to this State and to the United States; now,  
44       therefore,  
45  
46       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
47       *State of New Jersey:*

## AJR218 BERGEN

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1. January 13 of each year is declared to be “Korean American Day” in New Jersey to commemorate the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States, and to recognize the invaluable contributions Korean Americans have made to this State and to the United States.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe “Korean American Day” with appropriate activities and programs.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

This joint resolution declares January 13 of each year as “Korean American Day” in New Jersey.

On January 13, 1903, 102 courageous Korean immigrants arrived in the United States initiating the first wave of Korean immigration to America. These pioneering Korean immigrants faced tremendous social and economic obstacles as well as language barriers in America. They established a new home in a new land through resilience, tenacious effort, and immense sacrifice, which became the bedrock for their children and future generations of Korean Americans.

Korean Americans have made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the United States, and the global marketplace. Korean Americans have also made enormous contributions to the military strength of the United States and served with distinction in the Armed Forces during World War I, World War II, the Vietnam conflict, the Korean conflict, and subsequent military conflicts across the globe.

President George W. Bush proclaimed a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first arrival of Korean immigrants in 2003. Then, in 2005, the United States House and Senate passed resolutions to encourage observing Korean American Day on January 13th across the nation.

With over 168,000 New Jersey residents able to claim Korean ancestry, this State should commemorate the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States, and recognize the invaluable contributions Korean Americans have made to this State and to the United States.