

House Resolution 841

By: Representatives Park of the 107th, Hong of the 103rd, Au of the 50th, Marin of the 96th, Gilliard of the 162nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 13, 2024, as Korean American Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the influence of Korean Americans may be observed in all facets of American
4 life including law and politics, businesses and nonprofits, entrepreneurship and volunteerism,
5 and the arts, sports, and education; and

6 WHEREAS, on January 13, 1903, the arrival of 102 courageous immigrants to the United
7 States initiated the beginning of Korean immigration to the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, these pioneer Korean immigrants faced tremendous social and economic
9 obstacles as well as languages barriers in America—the land of opportunity; and

10 WHEREAS, the first generation of Korean immigrants established a new home in a new land
11 through resilience, tenacious effort, and immense sacrifice, which became the bedrock for
12 their children and future generations of Korean Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, members of the early Korean American community served with distinction in
14 the United States Armed Forces during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the
15 Vietnam War; and

16 WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, thousands of Koreans, fleeing from war, poverty, and
17 desolation, came to the United States seeking opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, Korean Americans, like immigrants to the United States before and after them,
19 have taken root and thrived because of strong family ties, robust community support, strong
20 moral character, and hard work; and

21 WHEREAS, the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States include the
22 invention of the first beating heart operation for coronary artery heart disease, development
23 of the nectarine, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, and achievements in engineering,
24 architecture, medicine, acting, singing, sculpture, and writing; and

25 WHEREAS, the population of Korean Americans in Georgia has increased 95 percent in the
26 last decade, making them an important and integral part of communities across this state; and

27 WHEREAS, more than 100,000 Korean Americans call Georgia home, and Korean is the
28 third most spoken language in the State of Georgia; and

29 WHEREAS, prominent organizations and leaders have helped the Korean American
30 community in Georgia to thrive, including the Korean American Association of Greater
31 Atlanta led by Simon Lee, the Federation of Korean Associations Southeast USA led by
32 Andrew Hong, the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council led by Young Rok Oh, the Korean
33 Veterans Association Southern Regional Chapter USA led by Kyung Sub Jang, the Korean

34 American Chamber of Commerce led by Justin Han, the Korean American Coalition of
35 Metro Atlanta led by Sarah Park, the Southeast United States Chamber of Commerce led by
36 Jae Kim, the Korean Consulate of Atlanta led by the Honorable Consul General Sangpyo
37 Suh, and many others; and

38 WHEREAS, for their outstanding contributions to community service, civic engagement, and
39 cross-cultural-education, we honor and thank Brookhaven Mayor John Park; former Lilburn
40 Councilwoman Yoon-mi Hampton; Natalie Cho—Executive Committee Board Member on
41 the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce; Paul Oh—Director of Public Policy and Community
42 Affairs for the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce; Sang Ho Na; and Jay Eun for their steadfast
43 support of the Korean American community in Georgia; and

44 WHEREAS, with more than 130 Korean companies active in Georgia, approximately \$14.5
45 billion of foreign direct investments have been made, enhancing the Republic of Korea and
46 the State of Georgia's economic ties and partnership; and

47 WHEREAS, the 2024 Korean American Day marks the 121st anniversary of the first Korean
48 immigrants to the United States.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body recognize January 13, 2024, as Korean American Day at the state
51 capitol.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
53 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
54 public and the press.