

House Resolution 985

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Glanton of the 75th, Marin of the 96th, Nguyen of the 89th, Holcomb of the 81st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring February 6, 2018, as Korean American Day at the state capitol;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the influence of Korean Americans may be observed in all facets of American
4 life, from politics to industry, entrepreneurship to volunteerism, the arts, sports, and
5 education; and

6 WHEREAS, on January 13, 1903, the arrival of 102 pioneer immigrants to the United States
7 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 armed forces of the United States during World War I, World War II, and the conflict in
15 Korea; 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 as a result of strong family ties, robust community support, and
20 countless hours of hard work; and

21 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made significant contributions to the economic vitality
22 of the United States and the global marketplace; and

23 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have invigorated businesses, nonprofit and other
24 nongovernmental organizations, government, technology, medicine, athletics, arts and
25 entertainment, journalism, churches, academic communities, and countless facets of
26 American life; and

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

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

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

35 WHEREAS, prominent organizations and leaders have helped the Korean American
36 community in Georgia to thrive, including the Korean American Foundation led by President
37 Michael Park, the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta led by President Il Hong
38 Kim, the National Unification Advisory Council led by Eric Kim, the Korean Consulate of
39 Atlanta led by the Honorable Consul General Young Yun Kim, the Korean American
40 Coalition led by Caroline Um, the many Korean American Trade Associations in Georgia,
41 and others; and

42 WHEREAS, for their outstanding contributions to community service, civic engagement, and
43 cross-cultural education, we honor and thank Mrs. Shreve Lee, Mr. Baik Kyu Kim, Mrs. Chai
44 Won Kim, Councilman John Park, and Ms. Stephanie Cho for their steadfast support for the
45 Korean American community in Georgia; and

46 WHEREAS, the 2018 Korean American Day marks the 115th anniversary of the first Korean
47 immigrants to the United States.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
49 the members of this body recognize and honor February 6, 2018, as Korean American Day
50 at the state capitol.

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