
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 203 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, KIM, MALAGARI, GUENST, KINSEY, SANCHEZ,
ROTHMAN, RYAN, McNEILL, SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, MILLARD,
WARREN, HILL-EVANS, DELLOSO, GUZMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, NEILSON
AND ROWE, MAY 11, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
MAY 11, 2022

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 19, 2022, as "Korean-American Citizenship Day"
2 in Pennsylvania to celebrate the first naturalization of a
3 Korean-American citizen in 1890.

4 WHEREAS, The influence of naturalized or natural-born
5 citizens of Korean-American heritage may be observed in all
6 facets of American life, including politics, industry,
7 entrepreneurship, volunteerism, the arts and education; and

8 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1890, Philip Jaisohn became the first
9 Korean immigrant to acquire United States citizenship and
10 established himself as a pioneer for Korean-American history;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Jaisohn was a Korean political refugee who made
13 his home in Media, Pennsylvania, and made Philadelphia a central
14 overseas base for supporting Korean independence; and

15 WHEREAS, Inspired by the First Continental Congress and
16 Second Continental Congress of the United States held in
17 Philadelphia, Mr. Jaisohn, Syngman Rhee, the first president of

1 the Republic of Korea, and Han Kyong Jung organized the First
2 Korean Congress in Philadelphia, where they proclaimed the
3 Korean Declaration of Independence from April 14 through 16,
4 1919; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Jaisohn was a noted champion of the Korean
6 Independence Movement in America and established the Korean
7 Information Bureau to publish the Korea Review for the cause of
8 political and religious freedom in Korea and East Asia; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Jaisohn and Reverend Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins
10 founded the League of Friends of Korea that was organized in 21
11 American cities, as well as in London and Paris, with 25,000
12 members to educate the general public, the community and
13 government leaders about the aspirations of Korean people for
14 independence; and

15 WHEREAS, First-generation Korean immigrants established
16 America as a new home and naturalized to establish a new
17 homeland for their children and future generations of Korean
18 Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, The year 2022 marks the 132nd anniversary of the
20 first United States citizenship granted to a Korean-American
21 individual and Korean Americans will come together on June 19 to
22 celebrate this day as "Korean-American Citizenship Day"; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, Korean-American citizens live throughout the
24 United States and are part of a vibrant, growing Korean-American
25 community in the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community is making important
27 contributions in distinguished career fields, including law,
28 medicine, business, education, architecture and the arts; and

29 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made significant contributions
30 to the economic vitality and fabric of the United States and the

1 global marketplace in all facets of government, for-profit
2 business, not-for-profit business and the academic community;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made history by winning
5 elections as naturalized citizens or natural-born citizens
6 throughout the country at Federal, State and local levels of
7 political office; and

8 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community has designated June
9 19, 2022, as "Korean-American Citizenship Day" to commemorate
10 the first step of the long and prosperous journey to United
11 States citizenship of Korean Americans in the United States;
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
14 recognize June 19, 2022, as "Korean-American Citizenship Day" in
15 Pennsylvania; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly support the goals and
17 ideals of "Korean-American Citizenship Day" and support
18 immigrants becoming naturalized citizens and encourage active
19 civic participation; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge all Americans to
21 observe "Korean-American Citizenship Day" in order to celebrate
22 naturalized Korean Americans and to have a greater appreciation
23 of their invaluable contributions to the United States; and be
24 it further

25 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly honor and recognize the
26 132nd anniversary of the first United States citizenship granted
27 to a Korean immigrant, a resident of this Commonwealth.