
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 151 Session of
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INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, BROWNE, LAUGHLIN, FONTANA, ROBINSON,
ARGALL, STREET, YUDICHAK, GORDNER, HUTCHINSON AND J. WARD,
JUNE 25, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 25, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering the Korean War, often referred to as the Forgotten
2 War, and the heroic efforts of the fellow Americans whose
3 sacrifice set the precedent of our nation's global presence
4 and adherence to freedom.

5 WHEREAS, The Korean Peninsula was ruled by imperial kingdoms
6 for centuries and later occupied by Japan at the conclusion of
7 the Russo-Japanese War; and

8 WHEREAS, With Korea having been colonized by Japan in 1910,
9 the Korean Peninsula remained Japanese territory until the
10 aftermath of World War II in 1945; and

11 WHEREAS, Japan's defeat in World War II destabilized and
12 divided the Korean Peninsula between the United States and the
13 Soviet Union backed by China; and

14 WHEREAS, In August 1945, the United States created a
15 temporary divide that assigned the Soviet Army and its communist
16 regime control of the area 38 degrees North; and

17 WHEREAS, Further, a military government, supported by United
18 States Armed Forces, controlled the region South of that

1 latitude; and

2 WHEREAS, This temporary divide created what is still known
3 today as the 38th Parallel; and

4 WHEREAS, The Cold War between the United States and the
5 Soviet Union further deteriorated efforts to foster common
6 ground among Korean nationalists, heightening tensions and
7 uncertainty in the region; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1948, the United States requested that the United
9 Nations convene a vote of all Koreans to determine the future of
10 the Korean Peninsula; and

11 WHEREAS, This vote was rejected by the North, which led to
12 the formation of the Communist-backed Democratic People's
13 Republic, known as North Korea, and the Western-aligned Republic
14 of Korea, known as South Korea; and

15 WHEREAS, The two nations claimed sovereignty over the entire
16 peninsula setting the stage for an unavoidable conflict; and

17 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops invaded South
18 Korea storming across the 38th Parallel, an action swiftly
19 condemned by the United Nations that demanded immediate
20 cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal back to the 38th
21 Parallel; and

22 WHEREAS, On June 27, 1950, the United Nations Security
23 Council passed a resolution recommending members provide
24 military assistance to South Korea given North Korea's refusal
25 to withdraw; and

26 WHEREAS, This decision by the United Nations prompted
27 President Harry S. Truman to send American forces into action
28 for containment measures; and

29 WHEREAS, President Truman stated, "Communism has passed
30 beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and

1 will now use armed invasion and war"; and

2 WHEREAS, On July 1, 1950, the first United States ground
3 combat troops, the Army 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Division
4 and 24th Infantry Division, arrived in Korea; and

5 WHEREAS, On July 7, 1950, the United Nations Security Council
6 recommended all forces engaged in the Korean conflict be placed
7 under the command of the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, General Douglas MacArthur was then named Commander
9 of all United Nations forces in Korea; and

10 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of General MacArthur, Allied
11 Forces attacked the North Koreans from both directions in the
12 infamous battle at Inchon Landing; and

13 WHEREAS, In that battle, the United States' troops captured
14 the port on September 15, 1950, paving the way for the American-
15 led United Nations troops to retake Seoul on September 26, 1950;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, General MacArthur's strategy of a wider war included
18 a war against China which was in stark contrast to President
19 Truman's position of a more limited war and created a point of
20 contention between the two leaders; and

21 WHEREAS, In defiance, General MacArthur took a hardline
22 stance stating that there is no substitute for victory against
23 international communism; and

24 WHEREAS, This statement by General MacArthur resulted in
25 President Truman relieving the general of his duties on April
26 11, 1951; and

27 WHEREAS, In July 1951, President Truman and his new military
28 commanders began peace talks at Panmunjom, South Korea, with
29 both sides agreeing to adhere to the 38th Parallel but
30 disagreeing on whether prisoners of war should be forcibly

1 repatriated; and

2 WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, following two years of cease-fire
3 negotiations, an armistice was signed by North Korea and South
4 Korea which allowed prisoners of war choice of domicile; and

5 WHEREAS, The armistice also drew new boundary lines near the
6 38th Parallel and created a two-mile wide demilitarized zone
7 (DMZ) to serve as a buffer between the two nations; and

8 WHEREAS, The Korean War was fundamentally a civil war; and

9 WHEREAS, An estimated 5 million soldiers and civilians lost
10 their lives in one of the bloodiest conflicts in modern times;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, With the establishment of the DMZ partition,
13 approximately 10 million Koreans were separated from their
14 families, creating a quandary of a nation divided even today;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Nearly 40,000 Americans died and more than 100,000
17 were wounded in the Korean War; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate remember the Korean War, often
19 referred to as the Forgotten War, and the heroic efforts of the
20 fellow Americans whose sacrifice set the precedent of our
21 nation's global presence and adherence to freedom.