

2024 -- H 8292

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LC005990
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MAY 21, 2024, AS "KOREA DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian,
Chippendale, Edwards, Ackerman, Azzinaro, Tanzi, and McNamara
Date Introduced: May 21, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The cornerstone of Rhode Island's founding principles is acceptance and
2 equality for the numerous beliefs and various cultures that make our State and this Country so
3 great, and thus proud to be the home of numerous ethnic communities; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's Korean American community imparts a rich history and
5 vitality through their presence. Our State's identity and strength is reflected in the traditions and
6 observances celebrated by its various cultures and populations; and

7 WHEREAS, Korea emerged from the ashes of the Korean War in 1950 to become a
8 nation that has achieved and succeeded as a leader in democracy and economic development in
9 Asia; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, South Korea has risen as a cultural and inspiring powerhouse
11 globally with the widespread diffusion of Hallyu and the emergence of KPOP music, tourism and
12 worldwide love of Korean cuisine as part of the Korean Wave; and

13 WHEREAS, The sacrifices and dedication of Korean War veterans from the State of
14 Rhode Island contributed to the establishment of the enduring Republic of Korea-United States
15 (ROK-US) alliance in 1953, rooted in common values of freedom and democracy and evolving
16 into a Global Comprehensive Strategic Alliance; and

17 WHEREAS, Under the tenure of Kim Jae-hui, the Consul General of the Republic of
18 Korea in Boston, there has been a greater mutual understanding, outreach, and cooperation
19 between Korea and Rhode Island that has matured and been strengthened in the Ocean State; and

20 WHEREAS, Economically, South Korea is an important trade partner for Rhode Island

1 with exports of \$41 million (USO), making it one of the top fifteen exporters for the State; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition, the Korean American Association of Rhode Island (KAARI)
3 was founded in 1975, with the desire to celebrate and share Korean culture with Rhode Island.
4 The organization is dedicated to promoting friendship, welfare, and education among its
5 members, and contributes to beneficial cultural exchanges and international goodwill between
6 Koreans and Americans in our State; and

7 WHEREAS, The Korean community in Rhode Island is an essential element in our
8 State's journey towards understanding, mutual respect, and common purpose for all people, and is
9 a vital component in our State's economic health; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 celebrates May 21, 2024, as "Korea Day" in the State of Rhode Island. We furthermore extend
12 our deepest respect and appreciation to the Rhode Island Korean community for all that it has
13 contributed to the rich diversity of our State and New England as a whole; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Korean American Association of Rhode
16 Island and to Kim Jae-hui, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Boston.

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