

## House Resolution 21

By: Representatives Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Rich of the 97<sup>th</sup>, Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>, Nguyen of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing January 13, 2021, as Korean American Day in Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on January 13, 1903, the arrival of 102 courageous immigrants to the United  
3 States initiated the beginning of Korean immigration to the United States; and
- 4 WHEREAS, these pioneer Korean immigrants faced tremendous social and economic  
5 obstacles as well as language barriers in America– the land of opportunity; and
- 6 WHEREAS, like immigrants to the United States before and after them, Korean Americans  
7 did not falter in pursuit of the American Dream; and
- 8 WHEREAS, through resilience, tenacious effort, and immense sacrifice, they established  
9 a new home in a new land, which became the bedrock for their children and provided future  
10 generations of Korean Americans an opportunity to thrive; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the 1965 amendments to the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act (Public  
12 Law 89-236) opened the door for a new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United  
13 States; since its enactment, Korean Americans have become one of the fastest growing  
14 groups of Asian Americans in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Korean American Day is celebrated on January 13 of each year to  
16 commemorate the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States and honor the  
17 immense contributions of Korean Americans to every aspect of American society; and

18 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made important contributions to the fields of academia,  
19 politics, finance, technology, law, medicine, education, sports, media, the arts, the military,  
20 and government, as well as other areas; and

21 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made significant contributions to the economic  
22 strength, vitality, and prosperity of the United States and the State of Georgia; and

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

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

27 WHEREAS, prominent organizations and leaders have helped the Korean American  
28 community in Georgia thrive, including Stephanie Cho, executive director of Asian  
29 Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta; Chaiwon Kim, CEO and president of the Center for  
30 Pan Asian Community Services; Michael Park, president of the Korean American  
31 Foundation; Charles Yoon Kim, president of the Korean American Association of Greater  
32 Atlanta; Eric Hung Ryul Kim, president of the National Unification Advisory Council;  
33 Byung II Choi, president of the Federation of Korean Associations SE; Sarah Park, president  
34 of the Korean American Coalition; Eunsook Choi, CEO and president of the Korean  
35 Television Network; Kun Park, president of Radio Korea; Shreve Lee, president of the  
36 Hanbok Tech Institute USA; Yong Chun Cho, president of the Korean Vietnam Veterans

37 Association SE; Simon Hong Lee, president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce  
38 GA - Atlanta; the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea led by the Honorable Consul  
39 General Young-Jun Kim; and others; and

40 WHEREAS, for their outstanding contributions to community service, civic engagement, and  
41 cross-cultural education, we honor and thank Mr. Baik Kyu Kim; Michelle Kang of the Asian  
42 American Action Fund - Georgia; Jason Park, attorney at law; James Woo of Asian  
43 Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta; and many others for their steadfast support for the  
44 Korean American community in Georgia.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
46 the members of this body recognize January 13, 2021, as Korean American Day in Georgia.

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