
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 149 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, KIM, MADDEN, VENKAT, PICKETT, KINSEY,
HILL-EVANS, GUENST, SCHLOSSBERG, KHAN, HADDOCK, McNEILL,
SANCHEZ AND MENTZER, JUNE 12, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 12, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 19, 2023, 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
18 the Republic of Korea, and Han Kyong Jung organized the First

1 Korean Congress in Philadelphia, where they proclaimed the
2 Korean Declaration of Independence from April 14 through 16,
3 1919; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, The year 2023 marks the 133rd anniversary of the
19 first United States citizenship granted to a Korean-American
20 individual and Korean Americans will come together on June 19 to
21 celebrate this day as "Korean-American Citizenship Day"; and

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made significant contributions
29 to the economic vitality and fabric of the United States and the
30 global marketplace in all facets of government, for-profit

1 business, not-for-profit business and the academic community;
2 and

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

7 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community has designated June
8 19, 2023, as "Korean-American Citizenship Day" to commemorate
9 the first step of the long and prosperous journey to United
10 States citizenship of Korean Americans in the United States;
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize June
13 19, 2023, as "Korean-American Citizenship Day" in Pennsylvania
14 to celebrate the first naturalization of a Korean-American
15 citizen in 1890; and be it further

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

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and
26 recognize the 133rd anniversary of the first United States
27 citizenship granted to a Korean immigrant, a resident of this
28 Commonwealth.