
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 125 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, HAYWOOD, COLLETT, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL,
HUGHES, FONTANA, KANE, CAPPELLETTI, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO,
MUTH, STEFANO, VOGEL, STREET AND COSTA, JUNE 1, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 1, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 19, 2021, as "Korean American Citizenship Day"
2 in Pennsylvania and supporting the goals and ideals of
3 "Korean American Citizenship Day."

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, from politics to industry,
7 entrepreneurship to 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, The year 2021 marks the 131st anniversary of the
13 first United States citizenship granted to a Korean American,
14 and Korean Americans will come together on June 19 to celebrate
15 this date as "Korean American Citizenship Day"; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, Korean-American citizens live throughout the
17 United States and are part of a vibrant, growing Korean-American
18 community; and

1 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community is making important
2 contributions in distinguished career fields such as law,
3 medicine, business, education, architecture and the arts; and

4 WHEREAS, Philip Jaisohn, a Korean political refugee who made
5 his home in Media, Pennsylvania, made Philadelphia a central
6 overseas base for supporting Korean independence; and

7 WHEREAS, Inspired by the First and Second Continental
8 Congress of the United States held in Philadelphia, Philip
9 Jaisohn, Syngman Rhee, who is the first President of the
10 Republic of Korea, and Han Kyong Jung organized the First Korean
11 Congress in Philadelphia where they proclaimed Korean
12 Declaration of Independence from April 14th to April 16th, 1919;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Philip Jaisohn was a noted champion of the Korean
15 Independence Movement in America and established the Korean
16 Information Bureau to publish the Korea Review for the cause of
17 political and religious freedom for Korea and the Far East; and

18 WHEREAS, Philip Jaisohn and Rev. Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins founded
19 the League of Friends of Korea that was organized in 21 American
20 cities as well as in London and Paris with 25,000 members to
21 educate the general public and community and government leaders
22 about the aspirations of Korean people on the independence for
23 Korea; and

24 WHEREAS, First generation Korean immigrants established
25 America as a new home and naturalized to establish a new
26 homeland for their children and future generations of Korean
27 Americans; 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 fields in government, for-

1 profit or not-for-profit business and academic communities; and
2 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made history by winning
3 elections as naturalized citizens or natural born citizens
4 throughout the country at Federal, State and local elections for
5 political office; and

6 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have designated June 19, 2021, as
7 "Korean American Citizenship Day" to commemorate the first step
8 of the long and prosperous journey to United States citizenship
9 of Korean Americans in the United States; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize June 19, 2021, as "Korean
11 American Citizenship Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate:

13 (1) Support the goals and ideals of "Korean American
14 Citizenship Day" and promote immigrants to become naturalized
15 citizens and to become active civic participants;

16 (2) Urge all Americans to observe "Korean American
17 Citizenship Day" in order to celebrate naturalized Korean
18 Americans and to have a greater appreciation of their
19 invaluable contributions made to the United States; and

20 (3) Honor and recognize the 131st anniversary of the
21 first United States citizenship granted to a Korean immigrant
22 of the United States.